

City of San Francisco, California

An Eco-Friendly City Plan

In 2002, the City of San Francisco passed a resolution committing the city to an emissions reduction goal that goes beyond the Kyoto Protocol objectives. The resulting Climate Action Plan focuses the City's efforts on transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and solid waste management as the key areas that will have the greatest impact on climate change.

The City anticipates these four areas will greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, transportation strategies such as the increased use of clean-air vehicles and improved fuel efficiency will help reduce 37% of the City's GHG emissions. The City's goal is to reduce GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2012.

By increasing private sector incentives, direct installations, and technical assistance as well as strengthening codes and standards, the City anticipates that 31% of GHG reductions will be achieved through energy efficiency. Energy efficient actions such as installing LED traffic signals will help to reduce electricity use by an estimated 7.7 million kilowatt/hours that will save the city \$1.2 million per year.

Photo Credit: Media Bistro



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom (pictured above) said he "will provide the vision and work hard to make San Francisco a beautiful, well-planned city with excellent housing and transportation options."

Green Actions Snapshot

- Implemented water-efficient landscaping, wastewater management, and reduction of water use strategies
- Greened city fleet with more than 800 clean-air vehicles; one of the largest municipal alternative fuel vehicle fleets in the nation
- Created a mass transit fleet with 57% zero-emission vehicles; a goal of a completely zero-emission fleet by 2020

Estimated Yearly

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions:

Actual/Measured

801,000 tons of CO₂ from energy efficiency
963,000 tons of CO₂ from new transportation
550,000 tons of CO₂ from renewable energy
302,000 tons of CO₂ from solid waste

Projected/Future

60,000 tons of CO₂ by the year 2012 from the Green Building Requirements Ordinance

- Cost Savings:

Actual/Measured

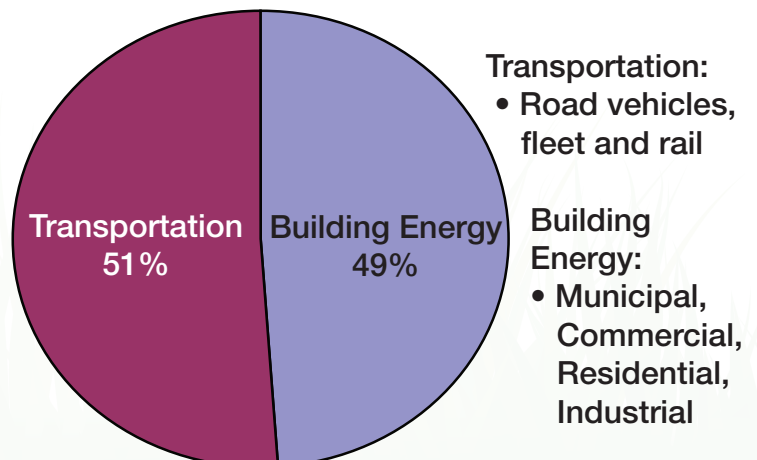
Since 2002, direct install and energy efficiency programs have reduced utility bills by over \$20 million for local businesses.

Projected/Future

\$44.6 million by 2027 from construction, (Mayor's Green Building Requirements. Economic Impact Report May 21, 2008)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

San Francisco emits over 9.1 million tons of CO₂ a year, with 51% produced by transportation and 49% produced by building energy. This data is from the CA Department of Transportation (1990).



What Action is San Francisco Taking to Use Renewable Energy?

Renewable energy programs that promote power production from solar, wind, biomass, ocean wave, and bay tidal current sources will help the City to reduce an estimated 548,000 tons of CO₂, which represents 21% of total estimated GHG reductions.

What Actions is San Francisco Taking to Recycle and Reduce Waste?

An expanded recycling program combined with methane capture at City-operated landfills will help to reduce 11% of estimated GHG reductions.

What Actions is San Francisco Taking to Build Green?

In 2008, San Francisco signed into law a Green Building Requirements Ordinance that was developed from a task force set up by the office of the mayor in 2007 to study and develop green building proposals for the City. The policy, described as one of the most far reaching green building policies in the U.S., imposes green building requirements on all newly constructed buildings in the City because building facilities are responsible for 49% of the city's GHG emissions.

According to the findings of the Task Force on Green Building for the City and County of San Francisco, the cumulative benefits of the ordinance through 2012 are approximately as follows: CO₂ emissions will be reduced by 60,000 tons, 220,000 megawatt hours of power will be saved, 100 million gallons of drinking water will be saved, wastewater and storm water will be reduced by 90 million gallons, construction and demolition waste will be reduced by 700 million pounds, the valuations of recycled materials will be increased by \$200 million, the number of automobile trips will fall by 540,000 and green power generation will be increased by 37,000 megawatt hours.

The City of San Francisco is making an effort to preserve the environment and be energy efficient through the Climate Action Plan and the Green Building Requirements Ordinance. The City is on its way to reaching its goal of reducing GHG levels to 20% below 1990 levels by 2012.

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Photo Credit: treehugger.com



San Francisco's efforts to use renewable energy will reduce an estimated 550,000 tons of CO₂.

"We must act now to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions or we will quickly reach a point at which global warming cannot be reversed."

-Gavin Newsom
City of San Francisco Mayor



Photo Credit: Justin Sullivan/ Getty Images

San Francisco's City Hall (pictured above) grows vegetables in an organic garden to promote efforts to reduce the city's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

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