

Climate Leadership *for* California's Future



Alameda County

SUSTAINABILITY

Local Action, Global Impact.



Regional Partnerships Tackle Sea Level Rise

Climate change causes sea levels to rise, leading to coastal flooding. With federal, state, and local partners, we are designing regional solutions to this problem that will minimize damage to our infrastructure, ecosystems, and economy. To help buffer the shoreline, we are partnering to restore 15,100 acres of former salt ponds on the south shores of San Francisco Bay. This is one of the most ambitious wetlands restoration projects in the country.

Photo above courtesy of Save the Bay. **Cover photos** (clockwise from top left): solar rooftop on County building, preschool participating in Green Child Care program, REACH Ashland Youth Center, REACH members.



“I drive a County EV because I work with people who live in areas with polluted air. I feel better knowing I’m not making someone’s asthma worse.”

— Cynthia Fong,
Alameda County Public Health Nurse

Innovative Leadership with Smart Sustainability Strategies

We have led our region and the country in sustainability and fighting climate change for the past 20 years. We have pursued millions in grant dollars to create smart government programs and developed strong state and federal partnerships to demonstrate the potential of clean technologies. To ensure a healthy future for Alameda County residents, our Board of Supervisors adopted an ambitious climate action plan. We are also designing strategies now to prevent the coming crisis of rising sea levels from harming our residents.

Access to Green and Affordable Electricity

We developed a community-governed regional energy authority, East Bay Community Energy, to offer our 550,000 households a greener electricity choice. A high percentage of the electricity provided will come from renewable sources. The authority also aims to reduce energy costs for residents and businesses by creating market competition.

Clean Air Through Next-Generation Electric Vehicle (EV) Programs

We led a partnership of 10 local governments in a project that purchased 90 EVs for government fleets and set up more than 50 charging stations. We are thinking ahead by testing new technology to make EV use even more efficient. Many EVs charge during the day when demand for electricity is high, causing utilities to turn on more-polluting power plants. To solve this, we are testing new software to reduce charging during high-demand periods.



Sustainability for a Strong Economy

Our programs boost the local economy and create jobs. Our solar projects generate as much green electricity as 3,000 homes would use, supporting our community's energy independence. We drive market transformation by purchasing goods and services that meet rigorous environmental standards. We also make sure our County purchases support local businesses.

Local and Green Business Programs Help Small Businesses Thrive

Our Small, Local, and Emerging Business program directs County dollars to local businesses. Our Green Business Program helps local businesses identify cost savings and gain a marketing edge by obtaining California Green Business certification. Over 550 Alameda County businesses and organizations are currently green certified, more than any other county. In 2016, these businesses saved over \$7 million by conserving energy and water.

Green Buildings Save Millions in Taxpayer Dollars

The cleanest energy is energy that is never generated. Energy efficiency retrofits in County buildings save about \$6 million each year while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Five of our County buildings are green certified LEED Gold or Platinum, the highest possible levels of LEED certification. We built five more buildings to the LEED Silver standard. These environmentally friendly facilities, including a library, hospital, and youth center, provide healthy places for the community to gather.

Leading by Example With the Most Solar of Any Local Government in the U.S.

Our commitment to solar energy began in the 1990s. We have long owned the most on-site solar power generation of any local government. Currently, the 13 solar projects on our buildings add up to 3.5 megawatts of installed capacity. These projects save our taxpayers about \$700,000 each year through reduced electricity costs. We are proud to support the solar industry in our county, which grew to more than 7,300 jobs in 2016.



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“Because Alameda County helped us become a certified Green Business, we learned about resources to do an energy efficiency upgrade. Now our utility costs are a thousand dollars less per month.”

— Reem and Ahmed Rahim,
Co-Founders of Numi Organic Tea

5 Major Achievements



1 Installed the nation's first advanced smart grid system, which enables our jail to operate off-grid if needed



2 Built Highland Hospital's LEED Gold certified Acute Care Tower, providing care to over 100,000 community members



3 Led green purchasing roundtables, which have spread green buying strategies to 35 local agencies since 2012



4 Reduced greenhouse gases from government operations to 15% below 2003 levels



5 Cut paper use by 25% from 2010 to 2016 by using digital technologies

Green Actions Making a Healthy Community

Our efforts make Alameda County a healthier place to live, work, and play. We have become a national model through our law to safeguard unused medications. Our programs help our children and youth grow into healthy, capable, and environmentally aware adults.

Teaching the Next Generation

Launched in 2012, our Green Child Care program has worked with 121 pre-schools and child care programs. Teachers and students learn how to manage waste better by recycling and composting. The program has educated more than 4,400 children and diverted 645 tons of waste from landfills.

Nation's First Medicine Take-Back Law Keeps Communities Safe

We passed the country's first drug take-back ordinance in 2012. This important program keeps harmful medications out of our waterways. It also protects children and other vulnerable people from accidentally overdosing. Our well-constructed law survived a multi-year legal challenge, and cities and counties across the country are now following in our footsteps.

LEED Platinum Youth Center Changes Lives

Since 2013, REACH Ashland Youth Center has provided 4,900 youth members ages 11 to 24 with free recreational and learning programs in a safe and beautiful space. The youth-driven center includes a career center, digital media lab, recording studio, weight room, and health clinic. Eligible members with young children can enroll them in the on-site child development center.

"REACH helped me develop as a dancer and martial artist. I've also learned how important it is for an athlete to have a healthy, balanced diet."

— Kevin Davis,
REACH Ashland
Youth Center Member

