



Alameda County  
**SUSTAINABILITY**  
*Local Action, Global Impact.*

## A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH LOCAL ACTION

### ACTION



### LEADERSHIP



### FUTURE

**Leadership:** To preserve our world for current and future generations, we need leadership at all levels of government. In Alameda County, our Board of Supervisors provides clear vision and adopts forward-thinking policies.

**Action:** Every day, our County employees take action and build partnerships on many fronts, such as energy efficiency, clean energy, and sustainable transportation.

**Future:** Our actions create local green jobs, save energy and water, reduce waste and pollution, and save taxpayer dollars, helping to create a healthy, naturally beautiful place to live and work.

Bay-Friendly landscaping saves water.



## WHO WE ARE

The County of Alameda stretches from the eastern shores of San Francisco Bay to the East Bay hills to fertile Livermore wine country. Our 738 square miles are home to a richly diverse population of 1.6 million people who live in large urban centers (such as Berkeley and Oakland), smaller cities, suburbs, and rural communities. We provide a wide range of services to residents and businesses, such as library programs, law enforcement, fire protection, environmental protection, and health and family services.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

Alongside our goal of providing effective services to the community, Alameda County seeks to do our part to ensure a healthy environment for current and future generations. The Board of Supervisors has adopted visionary policies in areas such as green building and climate protection as well as a comprehensive Strategic Vision prioritizing Environment/Sustainability.

*A healthy environment: our health is linked to it, our economy depends on it, and it makes Alameda County a beautiful place to live. When the County delivers public services and shapes land-use policies, we affect local and global ecosystems. By integrating sustainable strategies into service delivery, County policies, and regional partnerships, Alameda County will prioritize the preservation and restoration of our ecosystems.*

— from Alameda County Strategic Vision



Public art is integrated into our green buildings. Photo: Sibila Savage



We have 13 large-scale solar installations.

## WE'RE TAKING STEPS THAT MATTER

Meaningful County actions help preserve quality of

### Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Lead 19 public agencies in a collaborative regional procurement to develop a projected 120 sites with 20 megawatts of renewable energy. (2013)
- Installed a first-of-its-kind smart grid at Santa Rita Jail to integrate clean energy produced by existing onsite solar, wind, and fuel cell with a new energy storage system to ensure a reliable energy supply. (2012)
- Retrofitted 7,000 streetlights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures, saving 1.7 million kilowatt-hours per year, reducing maintenance costs, and improving night visibility. (2012)
- Installed 13 large-scale solar power installations that generate 5.2+ million kilowatt-hours solar power annually, more than any local government in the nation. (2002 - 2013)

### Climate Protection Leadership

- Coordinate an inclusive, 20-agency partnership to implement Climate Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from County operations 15% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. (ongoing)
- Create healthier communities by implementing a 48-action Climate Plan for the unincorporated communities. (ongoing)

### Creek Restoration

- Restore wetlands and urban creeks to reduce flooding and provide wildlife habitat. (ongoing)



Creek restoration revitalizes County neighborhoods.



REACH Ashland Youth Center is LEED® Platinum certified.

Photo: Steve Whittaker

### Green Buildings and Communities

- Created healthy community buildings: U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum-rated Ashland Youth Center (2013) and Gold-rated Highland Hospital Care Pavilion (2013), Castro Valley Library (2009), and Juvenile Justice Center (2007).
- Provide energy efficiency and weatherization improvements in hundreds of homes of low-income residents each year. (ongoing)

## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

life and healthy communities. Highlights include:

### Green Purchasing

- Drive market transformation by purchasing goods and services that meet rigorous environmental specifications and specifying recycled-content materials for new construction. (ongoing)
- Lead a roundtable for local jurisdictions to promote green purchasing learning and implementation. (ongoing)

### Recycling and Reuse

- Introduced compost programs in 22 County facilities to decrease landfill waste by 35%. (2012-2013)
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost – including reusing furniture and recycling construction debris – with the goal of diverting 75% from landfills. (ongoing)



Recycling and reuse is a priority.



We are promoting electric vehicles.

### Transportation

- Use 178 hybrid vehicles and 24 all-electric vehicles (EVs); installed 40 EV charging stations, with more planned. (2013)
- Install traffic calming measures, bike lanes, new sidewalks, and trails to promote walking and biking. (ongoing)

### Water Conservation

- Install water-efficient fixtures in County facilities; use water-wise landscaping practices such as smart irrigation and drought-tolerant plants. (ongoing)



Preserving our world for future generations is a County priority.  
Photo courtesy of Friends of Five Creeks

Alameda County is building on its efforts with new climate protection, energy efficiency, and urban planning initiatives.

### Regional Renewable Energy Procurement (R-REP)

We are leading the largest municipal government procurement of renewable energy in the nation. The project includes 19 Bay Area public agencies that will develop more than 20 megawatts of clean power at over 120 government-owned sites such as community centers and libraries. This collaborative procurement drives down the costs of renewable power through economies of scale and standardized practices and will create over \$200 million in local economic activity.

### EV Corridor and Local Government Fleet Demonstration

As part of the Bay Area Electric Vehicle (EV) Corridor initiative, Alameda County has installed 40 EV charging stations, which will be free for public use until the end of 2014 to encourage the early adoption of plug-in hybrid and EVs. Alameda County is leading a collaborative initiative with nine other Bay Area governments to purchase 90 all-electric vehicles and 90 charging stations for municipal fleet operations as part of a national demonstration project.

### Sustainable Roadway and Trail Systems

Following the success of the Stanley Boulevard Safety and Streetscape Improvements Project – a benchmark for sustainable roadway design and reconstruction – the County is using the same methods on further renovations. Projects include new bike lanes and sidewalks and landscape with native trees, plants, and shrubs. Other green practices include recycled-water irrigation, recycled asphalt and concrete, low-energy LEDs in traffic signals and streetlights, and bio-swales to filter storm water runoff.

### Planning for Community Health and Wellness

The County Planning Department has begun the process of developing a Health and Wellness general plan element for the Ashland and Cherryland unincorporated communities. This new mandate will support the development of healthy and vibrant communities by ensuring that health impacts, social equity, and environmental justice are considered as part of land use and transportation decisions.

### Climate Action Plan

To implement our 80-action internal climate action plan, we are engaging employees in cross-agency teams and building capacity for collaborative solutions. These teams are working together to ensure that we deliver services in an effective and sustainable manner.



7000 streetlights were retrofitted with LEDs.



Renovated trails create a walkable community.

# JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



Our employee green ambassadors encourage the adoption of sustainable practices at work.

## OUR ACTIONS BENEFIT YOU

Sustainability actions already save taxpayers nearly \$8 million per year and create local green jobs.

Sustainability and energy efficiency efforts have also reduced County energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, while promoting clean air and water.



Some areas use goats instead of herbicides for weed control.



A smart grid and fuel cell were installed at Santa Rita Jail.



Shuttles promote clean commutes.



Cities learn about using recycled asphalt.

### Taxpayer Savings

Energy efficiency retrofits	\$6,500,000/yr
<i>(includes lighting, water and other retrofits)</i>	
Onsite renewable/ultra-clean power generation	\$ 900,000/yr
178 gas/electric hybrids & 24 all-electric vehicles	\$ 200,000/yr
<u>Office equipment &amp; furniture reuse</u>	<u>\$ 87,000/yr</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,700,000/yr</b>

### County Revenue Generation

Used equipment & furniture sales	\$ 141,000/yr
<u>Paper &amp; metals recycling</u>	<u>\$ 71,000/yr</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 212,000/yr</b>

### Leveraged Funding

In addition, we have leveraged over \$32 million in state and federal funding, including energy incentives and grants, for large scale energy conservation projects.

## WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The County's environmental sustainability efforts have garnered many awards, demonstrating that the County's efforts are on the right track.

County environmental awards include:

- 2013 17th Greenest Government Fleet in North America, *Green Fleet Magazine*
- 2012 Green California Leadership Award, Comprehensive Climate Action for Government Operations and Services
- 2012 California Transportation Foundation, Sustainable/Environmental Enhancement Program of the Year, Streetlight Retrofit Project
- 2011 Association of Bay Area Governments Growing Smarter Together Award, Preserving and Protecting the Environment, Castro Valley Creek Daylighting and Restoration Project
- 2008 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, Sustainable Practices/Facilities, Juvenile Justice Center

### For More Information

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