

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Energy

San José will conserve energy, reduce energy consumption per capita, and adopt renewable energy technologies so that, as the City develops, the City’s overall Carbon Footprint remains the same or is reduced. San José residents and businesses will have access to clean, renewable, and reliable energy (i.e., energy security).

Reduce Consumption and Increase Efficiency

Goal E-1 Reduce per capita energy consumption by at least 50% of 2008 levels by 2022 and maintain or reduce net aggregate energy consumption levels equivalent to the 2022 (Green Vision) level through 2040.

E-1 Energy Efficiency Policies

Policy E-1.1 Promote job and housing growth in areas served by public transit and that have community amenities within a 20-minute walking distance.

Policy E-1.2 Enhance existing neighborhoods by adding a mix of uses that facilitate biking, walking, or transit ridership through improved access to shopping, employment, community services, and gathering places.

Policy E-1.3 Require all new residential construction to be designed for zero net energy use by 2020 and all new commercial construction to be designed for zero net energy use by 2030.

Policy E.1.4 Require third-party-verified Carbon Footprint projections associated with construction and operation of new development during design review of development applications and as a prerequisite for any funding incentives.

Policy E-1.5 Implement the City’s Green Building Policies (see Green Building Section) so that new and existing construction fully implements industry best practices, including the use of optimized energy systems.

E-1 Energy Efficiency Actions

Action E-1.6 Replace 100% of the City’s traffic signals and streetlights with smart, zero emission lighting by 2022.

Action E-1.7 Require full costing analysis of energy-related carbon emissions as part of the discretionary review process for new development and renovation projects.

Action E-1.8 Measure annually the share of the City’s total Carbon Footprint resulting from energy use in the built environment, transportation, and waste management.

Renewable Energy

Goal E-2 Receive 100% of electrical power from clean renewable sources (e.g., solar, wind, hydrogen) by 2022 and to the greatest degree feasible increase generation of energy within the City to meet the City’s energy consumption needs.

E-2 Renewable Energy Policies

Policy E-2.1 Remove demand-side barriers to adoption of a diverse array of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Demand-side barriers include

- Cost
- Difficulty getting small-scale products to market
- Workforce availability
- Lack of public awareness about products’ needs and availability
- State/Fed policies not supporting a diverse array of technologies

Policy E-2.2 Lead globally in adopting technologies that transform solid waste and biosolids (i.e., the solids that remain after wastewater treatment) into useable energy.

Policy E-2.3 Support the installation of at least 100,000 solar roofs in San José by 2022 and at least 200,000 solar roofs by 2040.

Environmental Stewardship and Innovation

Goal E-3 Lead globally in renewable energy efficiency research and development, innovation, and urban-scale renewable energy generation.

E-3 Energy Stewardship/Innovation Policies

Policy E-3.1 Promote local innovation, research, development, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Policy E-3.2 Showcase and apply innovative technologies within San Jose, including developments that achieve maximum energy efficiency or net zero energy, and renewable energy systems that generate energy equal to or greater than that consumed on site.

E-3 Energy Stewardship/Innovation Actions

Action E-3.3 Utilize municipal facilities to showcase the application of outstanding, innovative, and locally developed energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices, to demonstrate the effectiveness of these

technologies and to highlight the City’s energy leadership.

- Action E-3.4 Host local competitions, high profile events, conferences, and symposia to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Action E-3.5 Monitor building industry and workforce needs and provide robust professional training opportunities, partnering with relevant local workforce and development industry partners.
- Action E-3.6 Train municipal code enforcement and development review staff in state-of-the-art HVAC and insulation industry standards, best practices, and resources to ensure buildings are constructed in compliance with those industry standards and best practices.

Energy Security

Goal E-4 Provide access to clean, renewable, and reliable energy for all San José residents and businesses.

E-4 Energy Security Policies

- Policy E-4.1 Require minimum renewable energy components generation capacity on affordable housing developments.
- Policy E-4.2 Promote availability of a variety of tools and services for implementing energy conservation and renewable energy generation, including financing districts, energy auditing, and energy efficiency retrofit services to all residents and business owners.
- Policy E-4.3 Explore neighborhood-based distributed energy generation as an enhancement or alternative to the traditional electric power system and to reduce the amount of energy lost in transmitting electricity over long distances.
- Policy E-4.4 Create partnerships and governance structures that improve the overall efficiency and reliability of energy production and supply. Explore the creation of a jurisdiction-wide energy utility.

E-4 Energy Security Actions

- Action E-4.5 Partner with public, private, and non-profit agencies on public outreach and education on energy efficiency programs and services.