

Climate Smart San José: Fact Sheet

What is Climate Smart San José?

Climate Smart San José is a plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ensure a long-term water supply. It makes San José one of the first large cities in America to develop a detailed plan to reach the GHG reduction targets of the Paris Agreement, which calls for limiting the rise in average global temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius.

It positions San José as a leader in the movement of more than 350 U.S. cities responding to climate change in the absence of federal action, and may serve as a model for other low-density cities.

The Good Life 2.0

Climate Smart San José is supported by the concept of the Good Life 2.0, a way of reframing sustainability to focus on the economic, health and cultural benefits of sustainability. Underlying the Good Life 2.0 is the idea that a sustainable city is a happier city, a place where people spend less time in traffic, walk and bike to work or the grocery store, and spend more time with friends and family.

Community action

The plan includes Community Playbooks for residents, businesses, building owners and developers that detail ways to improve resource efficiency in the areas of energy, mobility and water.

How Climate Smart San José achieves its goals

Climate Smart San José encompasses nine overarching strategies:

- Transition to a renewable energy future
- Embrace our California climate
- Densify our city to accommodate our future neighbors
- Make homes efficient and affordable for families
- Create clean, personalized mobility choices
- Develop integrated, accessible public transport infrastructure
- Create local jobs in our city to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Improve our commercial building stock
- Make commercial goods movement clean and efficient

Goals and methods

Bolstering these nine strategies are important methods and targets for resource efficiency and use reduction, including:

- Increase the city's use of renewable electricity
 - Example: San José Clean Energy, a community choice energy program starting up this year, aims to make 100 percent carbon-free electricity available as a baseline offering to all users by 2021.
- Electrification of natural gas uses in buildings
 - Example: Constructing zero net energy buildings and retrofitting existing commercial buildings will improve energy efficiency.
- Electrification of transport
 - Example: San José will increase the number of electric vehicles and public charging stations.
 - Example: Electrification of Caltrain
- Reduce the demand for energy across all sectors
 - Example: San José will absorb population growth – the city's population is expected to increase by 319,000 people by 2050, a 40 percent increase – through mixed-use densification in urban villages and focused growth areas. This approach will reduce vehicle use per capita, providing a foundation for GHG reductions.
- Reduce residential water consumption by 30 percent compared to 2009 levels

Implementation

Climate Smart San José is a people-focused plan. The City will act as an enabler for the community, providing guidance, resources and incentives.

Data

The plan is built upon a robust analysis of sources and uses of fossil fuels in San José as well as the city's current and projected carbon emissions.

Building on strengths

San José is already a sustainability leader, among the top 10 U.S. cities in:

- Number of hybrids and EVs in use (13,500)
- Number of EV charging stations
- Megawatts of solar installed (131 megawatts as of 2016)

- LEED certified buildings per capita
- Amount of cleantech venture capital

Community engagement

The City engaged with hundreds of community members and sustainability experts in formulating Climate Smart San José, holding 13 public meetings and six technical workshops since the beginning of 2017. The City also conducted an online public survey that garnered more than 2,200 responses.