

# CITY OF ALBANY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

April 2010



AECOM



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**APRIL 2010**

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
ARB	California Air Resources Board
ATMA	Albany Transportation Management Association
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BART	Bay Area Rapid Transit
CACP	Clean Air Climate Protection
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CBTP	Community Based Transportation Planning
CCA	community choice aggregation
CCAR	California Climate Action Registry
CDD	Community Development Department
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGBC	California Green Building Code
CIP	Capital Improvement Projects
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CRA	California Resources Agency
CSA	Community-Supported Agriculture
CSI	California Solar Initiative
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EBMUD	East Bay Municipal Utility District
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EO	Executive Order
ET	evapotranspiration

FAR	floor area ratio
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration’s
FIRST	Financing Initiative for Renewable and Solar Technology
GHGs	greenhouse gas emissions
HPMS	High Performance Monitoring System
I-80	Interstate 80
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IPCC	United Nations International Panel on Climate Change
kWh	kilowatts hours
lb CO <sub>2</sub> /kWh	pound of CO <sub>2</sub> per kilowatt
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LID	Local Improvement District
MFR	multi-family
MMT CO <sub>2</sub> e	million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organizations
MT CO <sub>2</sub> e	metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
ppm	parts per million
PTOD	Pedestrian- and Transit-Oriented Development
PV	photovoltaic



RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
SB	Senate Bill
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SFR	single-family
TFCA	Transportation Fund for Clean Air
TLC	Transportation for Livable Communities
VMT	vehicle miles travelled



# Preface

## The Climate Action Plan

Albany's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was prepared in 2008–2009 by City staff and consultants, with considerable input from the public, and grant support from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Source Reduction and Recycling Board (StopWaste.org).

The CAP consists of a summary chapter and four technical chapters. The Summary Chapter defines climate change and its potential effects, outlines the actions the State and City are taking to address climate change, and describes how residents and business owners can participate in greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction efforts. The technical chapters detail the City's strategy to be consistent with applicable state regulation and provide guidance to City officials and departments charged with implementing the plan. They consist of the following:

- **GHG Baseline, Projections, and Targets** – This chapter presents what we know regarding Albany's current GHG emissions, projected future emissions for 2020 and 2050, and leadership action by the City Council to establish a reduction target.
- **Climate Action Strategies** – This chapter proposes strategies and measures the City can take to achieve its emissions reduction target.
- **Implementation** – This chapter discusses how the City will monitor the Climate Action Plan to ensure that the proposed strategies and measures achieve reduction targets, and describes available funding strategies.
- **Public Participation** – This chapter describes the role public participation played in the formulation of the CAP. The chapter specifically discusses the outreach methods used and summarizes the input provided.

## Public Input

Albany residents actively participated in the formulation of this CAP and were vital to its success. Community members provided valuable input that was used to select GHG reduction measures and assisted in the review and revision of the Plan. Community support for the CAP is critical to its success, and community members will continue to take an active role to both implement the plan and monitor its effectiveness over time.

A variety of outreach methods were used during plan preparation including meetings with Albany's Sustainability Committee, a web-based community survey, and workshops at Green Albany Day 2009. Draft measures were also made available through the City's website to interested parties.

The Sustainability Committee was the principal body for identifying, confirming, and validating community concerns and desires, and functioned as a conduit between the City, residents, property owners, and the business community in the formulation and review of Climate Action Plan strategies and measures. The group analyzed a full spectrum of community issues, opportunities, and challenges. Prior to release of the Administrative Draft CAP, the Sustainability Committee met four times to review and discuss: 1) the objectives of the CAP work program; 2) preliminary results of the community survey; 3) the GHG inventory, projections, and reduction targets; and 4) draft GHG reduction strategies and measures. Following release of the Administrative Draft CAP, the Sustainability Committee met twice to review the draft Plan. The committee provided valuable feedback that was incorporated into the Public Draft CAP. The City sponsored the first of two online climate action surveys between October 2008 and June 2009 to provide input for the CAP. City staff also



sponsored info tables at the Senior Center and Community Center and a booth at the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration to distribute paper copies of the survey. Over 160 responses to the survey were received. The survey consisted of 21 questions regarding transportation choices, home and business energy use, community shopping and services, renewable energy, water conservation, waste reduction, and sea level rise. The survey also asked residents to identify the level of support they would offer the City with regard to implementing mandatory requirements versus incentive-based programs to achieve GHG reductions. A second online survey was released with the public review draft of the CAP to assess public support for specific measures included in the plan.

The City conducted two community workshops in conjunction with Green Albany Day on May 17, 2009. The workshops focused on proposed GHG reduction strategies and measures to be contained in the Draft CAP. The workshop also allowed the public to provide comments on the draft strategies and measures.

