

Program SEED: Sustainability, Environment, and Economic Development



CITY OF ALBANY PROGRAM SEED

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A SUMMARY OF SERVICES, PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROJECTS

Date: October 2007

*Partnered together under Program SEED, Sustainability,
Environment and Economic Development can provide
green benefits for our Community.*



What is Program SEED?

- A comprehensive set of environmental initiatives to enhance environmental quality within the City including energy and carbon dioxide reductions, alternative modes of transportation, waste reduction, bay friendly landscaping, and toxics reduction.
- An integrated approach to economic development that includes sustainability, community development and economic gardening.

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Project/Program Index

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Background

The Albany City Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the "Clean and Green Task Force," a Council appointed task force of community representatives and local leaders in environmental and business issues. The Task Force Recommendations consist of initiatives to enhance environmental quality within the city including energy and carbon dioxide reductions, alternative modes of transportation, waste reduction, bay friendly landscaping, and toxics reduction.

As a result of the Clean and Green Task Force Recommendations, City Council voted to develop a Sustainability, Environment and Economic Development program, "Program SEED", in order to provide a more integrated approach to economic development that includes sustainability, community building, and "green" focused business retention, expansion, and attraction. A Sustainability Committee was also created to be advisory to the City Council on policies, programs, and issues promoting environmental sustainability in the City of Albany.

Precursors to the formal initiation of Program SEED include the "Green Albany" program, focused on greening efforts citywide, adoption of a green building ordinance, a citywide environmentally preferable purchasing policy, and the establishment of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to reduce greenhouse gasses 25% below 1994 levels by 2020.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT**Recycling/Organics Collection**

Franchise with Waste Management of Alameda County – 2004-2011, with optional extension for up to three additional years.

Residential/Multifamily: Curbside collection of commingled recycling, organics (food scraps), used oil.

Commercial: recycling included at no extra cost, organics provided at 50% subsidy

Status:

Ongoing

**Specialized Technical Assistance:
Commercial & Residential Sectors**

Multi-family: outreach team to multi-family units to increase recycling and organics services.

Commercial: outreach to businesses interested in obtaining recycling/organics services and adopting “green” practices.

Seeking grant from PG&E to provide increased outreach with Smartlights Team.

Status:

Multi-family: Phase 1: inventory of MFD services and issues. Phase 2: pursue grant with Stopwaste.org to conduct targeted outreach.
Commercial: recruiting businesses for program—Sushi Solano & Monteros in process.
Grant update in October

Special Collection Services

- Annual e-waste drop-off event (materials refurbished/reused/recycled)
- On-call bulky pickup

Status:

Albany High, 9/29/07.

Ongoing

Universal Waste Collection

Batteries: Drop-off locations for batteries provided at City Hall, Albany YMCA and Solano Stroll.

Public Education—other Universal Wastes to Berkeley, HHW Oakland

Status:

Ongoing

Universal Waste brochure to be developed and mailed out to community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Name of product or service

Describe the product, service, or event here. Include a brief description and any features.

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Status:

CITY POLICY & INTERNAL PRACTICES

Pedestrian Plan Plan for city to identify needs for pedestrians.	Status: Survey underway. Transportation staff.
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COMMUNITY SERVICES:
OTHER PROGRAMS

Carshare Locate a carshare pod within Albany. Possibly at University Village. 1 vehicle set aside for city staff during work hours.	Status: Meeting with carshare company and UC Village.
Clean Water Urban Runoff Describe the product, service, or event here. Include a brief description and any features.	Status: Ongoing program— mandated by RWQCB:NPDES permit
Climate Protection City Council adopted goal: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 2004 levels by 2020.	Status: Climate action plan under development. Will include Sustainability Committee/ Task Force recommendations. Pursuing grant from BAAQMD
Green Business Program Alameda County program—15 green businesses in Albany. City conducts inspections, promotes program, and provides annual contribution	Status: Ongoing
Urban Forestry Tree planting, pruning, volunteer program, community planting events, urban forestry task force.	Status: Urban forest coordinator staff position developed. New staff expected in October/November.

COMMUNITY SERVICES
EVENTS, OUTREACH, MEDIA**City Web & Cable**

New city website in process of being developed. Information posted on web & cable.

Status:

Initial meetings re. New website underway—process takes about 9 mo.

Citywide Garage Sale

Establish annual citywide garage sale coupled with a bulky collection following event by WM

Status:

Research stage—will require negotiations with WM. Goal: summer 2008

Climate Change Workshops

Describe the product, service, or event here. Include a brief description and any features.

Status:

Planning stages with Sustainability Committee

Environmental Education: Schools

Describe the product, service, or event here. Include a brief description and any features.

Status: 2nd year of contract underway. Lessons begin in September.

Green Library

“green” text section at Albany Library

Status:

Text list sent to Librarian

Newsletter

Citywide newsletter 2x/year, includes environmental topics

Status:

Ongoing

Volunteer Cleanup Events

Beach cleanups, creek cleanups, adopt-a-trail, storm drain stenciling.

Status:

Ongoing. 12 adopt-a-trail volunteers currently.

CITY POLICY & INTERNAL PRACTICES

75% Waste Diversion Goal

Goal established by City Council to divert material from landfill.

Status:

Goal adopted 9/2007. In practice for several years. Currently at 70%

City Green Business Certification

Describe the product, service, or event here. Include a brief description and any features.

Status:

Ongoing—examining how to certify city hall with upcoming retrofit.

Construction Ordinances

C&D debris recycling ordinance, green building ordinance, bay-friendly landscaping ordinance, water recycling ordinance

Status:

Implemented 2007

Demand/Response Energy

Energy minimized during peak demand.

Status:

Agreement submitted, pending action by PGE.

Eco Pass

AC Transit bus pass for city employees.

Status:

Researching feasibility. Transportation staff.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Policy approved by City Council. Requires city purchase environmentally-sound products.

Status:

Training being developed for purchasing staff.

Green Fleet

Identify opportunities to green city fleet vehicles. Promote use of bicycles for field work

Status:

Researching grants for green fleet with County.

IPM Task Force

Developing recommended policy on use of

Status:

Draft policy under review—Recreation Dept.