

**CITY OF ALBANY  
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 29, 2013  
TO: Sustainability Committee  
FROM: Claire Griffing, Sustainability & Transportation Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Annual Climate Action Plan Update

---

The following is intended to serve as an annual status update regarding current/ongoing CAP implementation projects.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update

Staff worked closely with Stopwaste.Org to conduct an update to the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The methodology changed slightly from the last inventory, but the overall findings concluded that greenhouse gas emissions have decreased slightly in the City since 2005.

Community Renewable Energy

The Sustainability Committee has been researching community renewable energy options, including Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA allows public agencies to procure electric power on behalf of electric power customers. In June 2012, the Committee asked Council to send a letter to EBMUD in support of work to research CCA feasibility. EBMUD's Board voted against further research in December. The Committee received a presentation from the active CCA Marin Clean Energy in March and made a recommendation to Council to encourage further research regarding joining their JPA.

RECO

Other Alameda County cities have had difficulty in implementing RECOs. Staff is continuing to support Stopwaste.Org's efforts to research RECO and the development of building energy benchmarking programs.

Energy JPA

The City Council approved a resolution to join the Energy Council JPA in March. The JPA will procure and administer funding for energy efficiency projects in Alameda County.

Renewable Energy at City Facilities

In coordination with the Small Cities collaborative, the City received a proposal for installation of solar panels on city facilities last year. Staff determined funding was available for the proposed project to install solar panels on the roof of the Childcare Center. The Albany City Council authorized staff to implement this solar installation and to pursue funding for the remaining projects. Staff has been working with Real Goods Solar to implement this project. The backstop at the baseball field was raised 10 feet to help prevent foul balls from hitting the solar panels. The project is currently stalled. The City may choose to reevaluate the project in the near

future, as the original goal was to obtain a solar lease as a demonstration project that the community could replicate.

#### Energy Action Plan

SEI conducted energy audits of City facilities in 2012 and assisted the City in preparation of an Energy Action Plan. The plan identifies key projects to improve energy efficiency at city facilities. The hope is that these projects may be implemented as part of other Capital Improvement Projects in future fiscal years.

#### Residential Energy Efficiency Incentive Program

The City continued to promote a residential energy efficiency incentive program through the existing Energy Upgrade California program. Homeowner workshops continue to be offered countywide. A workshop was held in Albany on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Marin Elementary.

#### Commercial Rebate Incentive for Energy Efficiency

The City worked with the Smartlights Program (a nonprofit funded by PG&E) to provide energy efficiency assessments and rebates for upgrades (lighting & refrigeration) to commercial businesses. Twenty-eight businesses completed retrofit work.

#### Countywide Ordinances – Single Use Bags & Mandatory Recycling

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (Stopwaste.Org) adopted the single use bag ordinance and mandatory recycling ordinance last year. The single use bag ordinance went into effect January 2013 in conjunction with a reusable bag campaign. The mandatory recycling ordinance went into effect July of 2012 and through a partnership with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC), the City was in full compliance by October 2012.

#### Green Building

The City established a Green Building Subcommittee comprised of members of the City's Planning & Zoning Commission and Sustainability Committee to provide input on the existing green building ordinance, identify updates, and customize the ordinance with energy conservation measures. The revisions include increasing the minimum point requirements, requesting additional submittal documentation, and collecting a fee for final inspection to insure compliance. Additional edits include changing the new commercial construction threshold to 10,000 sq. ft. for official LEED certification and allowing equivalency for renovation/construction more than 5,000 sq. ft. These revisions were approved by Council in April 2013.

#### Farmers Market

The Berkeley Ecology Center is operating the Albany Farmer's Market again this year. The market is scheduled to run from April through December.

#### Arts & Green Festival

In partnership with the City, the Sustainability Committee is producing the annual Albany Arts & Green Festival on Sunday, May 19th. The Festival celebrates Albany's commitment to the arts

and the environment with music, activities, demonstrations, and information booths displaying the activities of local environmental groups.

### Community Outreach

The City has expanded online media outreach to include Nextdoor.com and Facebook. For regular updates, 'Like' the City of Albany Transportation & Sustainability Division's page at [www.Facebook.com/albanytransportation](http://www.Facebook.com/albanytransportation).

### Green Infrastructure

A rain garden was installed as part of the Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements at the intersection of Marin and Santa Fe Avenues during the summer of 2012. The San Francisco Estuary Project will install a rain garden on the eastern side of San Pablo Avenue between Marin and Dartmouth. This is part of a pilot project to develop green infrastructure to limit storm water runoff in seven cities along San Pablo Avenue. The project is fully funded and should be completed by fall of 2015.

### Active Transportation Plan

The Albany Active Transportation Plan was adopted in the Spring of 2012. The following projects are currently underway:

- The City obtained a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant (CMAQ) for the construction of the Marin-Buchanan Bikeway from San Pablo Avenue to the Buchanan bridge overcrossing. The project broke ground last fall, and when finish it will create a bike and pedestrian path that provides a link between the Marin Avenue bike lanes and the Bay Trail.
- The City obtained a Planning grant from Caltrans to develop a Complete Streets plan for Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue. "Complete Streets" are designed to make it easier and safer to walk, bike, ride the bus, and drive along San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street. A weeklong series of open studio sessions took place in December 2012 and final designs are expected to go to City Council in the summer of 2013.
- With funds from Measure B, the City has been able to partner Albany Strollers & Rollers, the Albany Unified School District, and local merchants to install additional bike racks at the swimming pool, Albany Middle School, the YMCA, the Community Center, and along Solano and San Pablo Avenues.
- Thanks to a Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant from Caltrans, the City implemented a pedestrian safety project at the intersection of Marin and Santa Fe Avenues in the summer of 2012. The project installed a new traffic signal with protected left turns, pedestrian bulb outs with curb ramps, bike racks at Marin Elementary School and solar speed feedback signs on Marin Avenue.
- The City's Safe Routes to School educational programs have expanded to the middle and high schools this year. Monthly Walk n' Roll to School Days have been held at all of the elementary schools and the middle school.
- Vehicle access was recently blocked to Buchanan Avenue at Pierce Street. A multi-use bicycle path was created on the west side of the 500 block of Pierce Street and will

continue through the future Pierce Street Park and connect to Cleveland Avenue and the Buchanan-Marin Bikeway.

- The City has worked with BART to ensure that the Ohlone Greenway will be striped with a separate right-of-way for pedestrians and cyclists after retrofit work is complete.
- All of the striping and signage projects identified in the Active Transportation Plan are expected to be completed by summer 2014. This accounts for about 65% of projects identified in the plan.

### Waste Reduction

- 15 solar compactors for trash and recycling were installed along Solano Avenue and another 2 in Memorial Park. They are currently being used to promote City events (and will be used for recycling outreach and pedestrian safety) and ad space will be sold to local businesses.
- Collection of household batteries expanded to multi-family units with cart service and bill insert was sent out the residents in November 2012. WMAC has collected 46lbs of CFLs from Albany residents in the curbside program since its inception in November 2011.
- Waste Management provided bagged compost for the City's Arts & Green Festival last May and at a separate event in August held in the parking lot at Golden Gate Fields. Both events will happen again in 2013.
- Outreach to residents was done through a series of bill inserts, website updates, Facebook posts, the City newsletter, Patch announcements, and flyers posted at City facilities.
- Waste Management partnered with the City to focus outreach to multi-family dwellings and the commercial sector. The City came into compliance with AB341 in September, 2012. Phase 2 of the County ordinance will require recycling and organics services for all businesses and multi-family dwellings and the City and WMAC have begun to focus on these outreach efforts.
- The School District voted to become a priority partner with Stopwaste.Org. City staff met with Stopwaste to develop a long-term plan for waste reduction in the schools.

### 2013 Priority Projects

The City has identified the following projects as priorities for CAP implementation in 2013:

- Research and pursue Community Choice Aggregation
- Research and encourage car share locations
- Research and encourage electric vehicle charging stations
- Research possibility for community shuttle service