

StopWaste.Org “Green Packages”, CityFIRST and AB 811 Districts Frequently Asked Questions

What is the StopWaste.Org Green Packages project?

It is a county-wide program for improving the environmental performance of *existing* buildings and landscapes that maximizes the long-term benefits from the federal stimulus distributions to Alameda County jurisdictions.

What is included in the Green Packages?

The packages will include comprehensive green building measures and specifications for energy efficiency, water and resource conservation and indoor air quality/health. Green packages for single-family residential buildings are currently being developed. Additional green packages (small commercial, medium size commercial landscapes, multi family, etc.) will be developed based on funding availability.

What is the CityFIRST program?

CityFIRST is a program designed to allow property owners (residential and commercial) to install electric and thermal solar systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their buildings and pay for the cost over 20 years through an annual special tax or assessment on their property tax bills. A CityFIRST program will help property owners finance the energy efficiency portion of a Green Package.

What is an AB 811 District? What is the relationship between City FIRST and AB 811?

Last year, the State of California enabled all cities and counties to set up solar and energy efficiency financing programs using property tax assessments with the passage of AB 811. CityFIRST is simply a turnkey administration and financing program that allows cities and counties to implement an AB 811 financing district.

Are the StopWaste.Org Green Packages the same as an AB 811 district?

No. The Green Packages are not a financing district and do not include the formation of a financing district; they are a set of green building measures that can be used in a district. The Packages will establish the standards for qualifying energy efficiency projects in an AB811 district. They will also include non-energy measures that contribute to greenhouse gas reductions, resource conservation and occupant health

Do the Countywide Green Packages compete with CityFIRST?

No. The packages are complementary to a CityFIRST program. A CityFIRST program will help property owners finance the energy efficiency portion of a Green Package. The Green Packages will be supported by consumer outreach, professional training, quality assurance and tracking to ensure successful implementation. You can choose to participate in either program individually or participate in both to provide the most options for property owners.

Do the Countywide Green Packages replace other green building programs or city programs?

No. The packages are complementary to existing local programs. The budget for the Green Packages does not include funds for installation of the green retrofit measures. Existing redevelopment funds or other funding sources from the federal stimulus can be used to implement the green packages.

Why should we participate in the Countywide Green Packages?

The countywide program is intended to maximize the long-term benefits from federal stimulus funds and increase our competitiveness for additional funding. The Green Packages program will create standards and specifications for improving existing homes that are recognized by key industry stakeholders. Participating jurisdictions will benefit from economies of scale in program administration, procurement, installation, and marketing. By leveraging both public and private funding sources, the project will stimulate greater demand for green jobs in the local construction industry.

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