

SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABLE CITY PROGRAM

Adopted September 20, 1994

The City of Santa Monica recognizes that we live in a period of great environmental crisis. As a community, we need to create the basis for a more sustainable way of life both locally and globally through the safeguarding and enhancing of our resources and by preventing harm to the natural environment and human health. We are resolved that our impact on the natural environment must not jeopardize the prospects of future generations.

To pursue these goals, we adopt the following Guiding Principles:

1. **The Concept of Sustainability Guides City Policy**
Santa Monica is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy.
2. **Protection, Preservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment is a High Priority of the City**
Santa Monica is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts.
3. **Environmental Quality and Economic Health are Mutually Dependent**
A healthy environment is integral to the long-term economic interests of the City. In achieving a healthy environment, we must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the population.
4. **All Decisions Have Environmental Implications**
The City will ensure that each of its policy decisions and programs are interconnected through the common bond of sustainability as expressed in these guiding principles. The policy and decision-making processes of the City will reflect our environmental objectives.
5. **Community Awareness, Responsibility, Involvement and Education are Key Elements of Successful Programs/Policies**
Individual citizens, community-based groups and businesses must be aware of their impacts on the environment, must take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts, and must take an active part in community efforts to address environmental concerns. The City will therefore be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of environmental education opportunities in cooperation with schools, colleges and other organizations in the community.

6. **Santa Monica Recognizes Its Linkage with the Regional, National, and Global Community**

Local environmental problems and ameliorative actions cannot be separated from their broader context. This relationship between local issues and regional, national and global issues will be recognized and acted upon in the City's programs and policies. The City's environmental programs and policies should therefore be developed as models which can be emulated by other communities. The City must also act as a strong advocate for the development and implementation of model programs and innovative approaches by state and federal government which embody the goals of sustainability.

7. **Those Environmental Issues Most Important to the Community Should be Addressed First, and the Most Cost-Effective Programs and Policies Should be Selected**

The financial and human resources which are available to the City are limited. The City and the community should reevaluate its environmental priorities and implemented programs and policies annually to ensure that the best possible investments in the future are being made. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness should be based on a complete analysis of the associated costs and benefits, including environmental and social costs and benefits.

8. **The City is Committed to Procurement Decisions which Minimize Negative Environmental and Social Impacts**

The procurement of products and services by the City results in environmental and social impacts both in this country and in other areas of the world. The City must develop and abide by an environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy which emphasizes long-term values and will become a model for other public as well as private organizations. The adopted procurement policy will be applicable to City programs and services in all areas.

The Sustainable City Program is exemplified in four major policy areas. These major policy areas represent the focus of both current and future City programs which adhere to the guiding principles and strive to attain the specific targets which are established for each area. Each target represents a citywide objective unless specifically described as the target for the City as a municipal agency. The listed programs represent efforts by the City to become sustainable in its operations as well as promote sustainability in the community as a whole. A description of each policy area, its targets, and ongoing and proposed programs follows. **For each target, the base year is 1990 and the target year is 2000.** One of the important tasks which will receive focus during the program's first year is the development of baseline data and methodologies necessary to measure progress toward achieving the quantified targets.

I. RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Policy Goals: Promote the use of conservation technologies and practices and reduce the use of non-renewable resources. Develop local, non-polluting, renewable energy, water and material resources, and expand recycling technology in these areas.

Targets: Reduce energy usage 16%

Reduce potable water usage 20%
Reduce solid waste volumes at least 50%
Achieve 50% average postconsumer recycled and/or tree-free content in all City paper purchases
Convert 75% of the City vehicle fleet to reduced-emission fuels
Reduce wastewater flows 15%
Increase total number of trees on public property by 350

Programs:

SOLID WASTE

Curbside Recycling -- single family (ongoing)
Recycling Drop-Off Zones (ongoing)
Mini Recycling Zones -- multi-family (ongoing & proposed)
Business Recycling (ongoing & proposed)
Yard Waste Composting (ongoing & proposed)
Procurement Policies (ongoing & proposed)
Volume-Based Rates (ongoing & proposed)
Source Reduction (ongoing & proposed)
Advance Disposal Fees (proposed)
Market Development (proposed)
Demolition/Construction Debris Recycling (proposed)

WATER & WASTEWATER

Baysaver Toilet Retrofit Program (ongoing)
Retrofit Upon Sale Requirements (ongoing)
No-Net Water Gain from New Development (ongoing)
Water Re-use Projects (ongoing & proposed)
Urban Water Conservation Best Management Practices (ongoing & proposed)
Financial Incentives for Business Water Conservation (ongoing & proposed)
Water Efficient Landscape Requirements (ongoing & proposed)
Conservation-Based Rate Structure (ongoing & proposed)
Residential Grey Water Systems (proposed)
Landscape Water Efficiency Partnership Program (on-going & proposed)

ENERGY

City Facility Energy Efficiency Retrofits (proposed)
Public/Private Energy Efficiency Partnership (proposed)
New Construction Energy Efficiency Incentives (proposed)
Urban Tree Planting Program (proposed)
Comprehensive City Energy Policy (proposed)
"Urban Heat Island Effect" reduction program (proposed)
Electric Vehicle Public Charging Station Program (proposed)
Tropical Rainforest Wood City Purchase Ban (ongoing)

II. TRANSPORTATION

Policy Goals: Maximize the utilization of alternative forms of transportation, including walking, bicycling, public transit, and car-pools/rideshare. Develop innovative traffic policies which reduce negative impacts from vehicles and limit pavement area to the minimum necessary. Implement work schedules which reduce the number of employee commute days. Advocate for the regional development of public transportation systems.

Targets: Increase ridership on Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines (including shuttles) by 10%
Achieve average vehicle ridership of 1.5 for all employers with over 50 employees

Programs: City Traffic Management Program including 9/80 Work Schedule for City Employees (ongoing)
Business Traffic Management Programs (ongoing & proposed)
Innovative Public Transit Services including Santa Monica Bus Lines and Light Rail System (ongoing & proposed)
Bicycle Master Plan (proposed)
Telecommuting (proposed)

III. POLLUTION PREVENTION & PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

Policy Goals: Protect and enhance environmental health and public health by reducing or eliminating the use of hazardous and toxic materials by residents and businesses, minimizing the levels of pollutants entering the air, soil and water, and lessening the risks which environmental problems pose to human health. Ensure that no one geographic or socioeconomic group in the City is being unfairly impacted by environmental pollution.

Targets: Reduce the total volume of dry weather stormdrain discharges to the ocean 60%
Reduce consumption of hazardous materials, including pesticides, 15%
Cleanup and close 75% of all known Underground Storage Tank contamination sites

Programs: Control of Ozone-Depleting Chemicals (ongoing)
Water, Soil and Air Quality Testing/Monitoring (ongoing & proposed)
Household Hazardous Waste and Small Business Hazardous Waste Collection (ongoing & proposed)
Catch Basin Stencil Program (ongoing & proposed)
Hazardous Waste Minimization Programs (ongoing & proposed)
Illegal Dumping Enforcement (ongoing & proposed)
Urban Runoff Pollution Control Program (ongoing and proposed)
NPDES Permit Best Management Practices (ongoing & proposed)
Point of Sale Household Hazardous Materials Labeling (proposed)
City Toxics Use Reduction Policy (proposed)
Strengthened Hazardous Spill Emergency Response Capabilities (proposed)
Testing, Identification and Mitigation of Lead, Asbestos and other Hazardous Substances in the Community (proposed)
Dry-Weather Urban Runoff Reclamation Facility (proposed)
Reduced-Emission Fuels Policy for City Fleet (proposed)
Underground Storage Tank Management Program (on-going)
Noise Pollution Mitigation Program (on-going)
Environmental Audit Program for Public Facilities and Major Institutions (proposed)

IV. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Policy Goals: Encourage the development of compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented projects designed to maximize affordable housing, encourage walking, bicycling, use of existing and future public transit systems and creation of community gardens. Promote the growth of local businesses which provide employment opportunities to Santa Monica residents, including Santa Monica youth, and have positive environmental and social impacts. Facilitate education programs which enrich the lives of all members of the community.

Targets: Provide 750 additional affordable housing units
Create 3 new community gardens

Establish partnership with local schools to create and implement a Sustainable Schools Program

Increase total public open space area by 15 acres

Programs:

Affordable Housing Programs (ongoing)

Local Economic Development Programs (ongoing & proposed)

Community Gardens Program (proposed)

Local Jobs Creation Program (proposed)

City-Sponsored Demonstration Projects (proposed)

Environmental Education Curriculum Development (on-going)

City Youth Employment Program (on-going & proposed)

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The strategy for implementation of the Sustainable City Program is outlined below. The underlying premise which guides the implementation strategy is that public education and public participation are preeminent values.

1. Define Program

- a. Disseminate Proposed Sustainable City Program to the City Council and to all appropriate City Boards and Commissions
- b. Begin compilation of a "State of the Environment" report for the City which will serve as an on-going instrument for measuring accomplishments
- c. Develop preliminary checklist similar to an Initial Study checklist to be utilized for evaluating major City decisions. The checklist would include environmental and socio-economic considerations for each action or policy. The checklist would encourage decisions that are future-oriented, consistent with the Sustainable City Vision and interconnected with other City programs
- d. Formulate criteria and establish benchmarks for measuring progress toward achievement of established goals

2. Raise Community Awareness and Initiate Community Networking Process

- a. Conduct public hearings/community workshops on the Sustainable City Program to solicit public input and support, and to assist neighborhood groups in identifying and prioritizing their specific areas of concern
- b. Meet with neighborhood groups, Chamber of Commerce, school district, Santa Monica College and other community representatives to solicit input and support
- c. Prepare and distribute public information materials on Santa Monica's Sustainable City program
- d. Utilize City Council Study Sessions and public hearings to communicate the program concepts

3. Integrate with City Policies and Programs

- a. Adopt Sustainable City Program as a guiding vision for the City. The vision Should be clearly and simply stated and serve to unify people throughout City government and in the community toward a common task
- b. Where appropriate, incorporate the Sustainable City Program into the City's General Plan and the Elements of the General Plan
- c. Adopt the checklist as a tool for implementing actions and policies in accordance with the Sustainable City Program. Identify and implement a method for incorporating the checklist into the decision-making process, including defining the types of decisions to which it would apply
- d. Establish Interdepartmental Working Group to coordinate integration of Sustainable City Program with City operations, activities and policies, and raise the awareness of City staff

4. Coordinate Implementation of Program

- a. Monitor and evaluate the application of the checklist to the City's decision-making processes and modify as necessary
- b. Measure specific indicators of progress toward achievement of goals and provide annual status report to City Council
- c. Communicate Sustainable City Program successes to other local governments and to state and federal government representatives
- d. Pursue non-City financial support for sustainable city programs, and develop medium-term and long-term financing strategies for the Sustainable City Program through a combination of existing fees and charges and new fees and charges based on equitable cost-sharing by the community. These financing strategies will incorporate a cost-effectiveness analysis of proposed programs which includes the consideration of environmental benefits and costs

5. Support On-Going Community Dialogue on Sustainability

- a. Disseminate information about Santa Monica's Sustainable City Program through existing media (newspaper articles, CityTV, Seascope, PEN, utility bill inserts, direct mail brochures, school and community group presentations). Develop new public information media for presentation and discussion of the Sustainable City Program (Santa Monica "Greenbook", curriculum for schools, Sustainable City Education Center, etc.)
- b. Sponsor community events/celebrations to raise awareness of Sustainable City Program
- c. Participate in regional/statewide networking activities
- d. Assess feasibility of establishing a Sustainable City Roundtable, comprised of Task Force on Environment members and representatives from Chamber Environment Committee, Housing Commission, Neighborhood Support Center, local environmental groups, and other appropriate individuals and groups to meet periodically and discuss/evaluate the City's progress toward its adopted program goals

Appendix

SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABLE CITY PROGRAM: SUMMARY OF INDICATORS, BASELINE DATA AND TARGETS

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR	1990 (Actual)	1993 (Actual)	2000 (TARGET)
Energy Usage ¹ (non-mobile sources)	4.0 million Btus/year	4.0 million Btus/year	3.36 million Btus/year
Water Usage ²	14.3 million gallons/day	12.0 million gallons/day	11.4 million gallons/day
Landfilled Solid Waste ³	107,000 tons/year	105,400 tons/year	62,000 tons/year
Postconsumer Recycled/Tree Free Content of City Paper Product Purchases ⁴	Unknown	Unknown	50%
City Fleet Vehicles Using Reduced-Emission Fuels ⁵	Unknown	10%	75%
Wastewater Flows ⁶	10.4 million gallons/day	8.5 million gallons/day	8.8 million gallons/day
Trees in Public Spaces ⁷	28,000 trees	28,000 trees	28,350 trees
Ridership on Santa Monica Bus Lines ⁸ (including shuttles)	19.0 million	18.0 million	20.9 million
Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) of Employers with over 50 Employees ⁹	N/A	1.34 AVR	1.5 AVR

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR	1990 (Actual)	1993 (Actual)	2000 (TARGET)
Dry Weather Stormdrain Discharges to Ocean ⁰	500,000 gallons/day	350,000 gallons/day	200,000 gallons/day
Use of Hazardous Materials (citywide) ¹¹	Unknown	Unknown	15% reduction
Known Underground Storage Tank Sites Requiring Cleanup ¹²	N/A	25 sites	6 sites
Deed Restricted Affordable Housing Units ¹³	1,172 units	1,313 units	1,922 units
Community Gardens ¹⁴	2 gardens	2 gardens	5 gardens
Creation and Implementation of a Sustainable Schools Program ¹⁵	N/A	N/A	Implemented
Public Open Space ¹⁶	164 acres	164.8 acres	180 acres

1. The citywide energy efficiency target is based on preliminary analysis of overall energy usage in Santa Monica (electricity and natural gas) from all non-mobile sources. It is believed that the potential cost savings from energy efficiency to Santa Monica businesses and residents are substantial. As a result of the development of a comprehensive City energy policy over the next few months, the 16% target which is set forth in this document may be modified, based on a comprehensive cost-effectiveness analysis.
2. Water usage reduction of 20% by the year 2000 is believed to be an aggressive yet highly achievable target based on results of existing water efficiency programs and anticipated impact from planned programs. Currently, the costs associated with achieving increased water efficiency are about one-half the cost of purchasing the same amount of imported water.
3. The 50% solid waste diversion target for the year 2000 is currently mandated by state law (AB939). Santa Monica is already well on its way towards achieving the interim 1995 diversion target of 25%.
4. A recycled/tree-free content target for City paper purchases is not articulated in any current policy. Therefore, no data exists pertaining to the actual baseline. During the first year following adoption of the Sustainable City Program, a set of policies governing City paper purchases will be implemented and a tracking mechanism developed. It is important for the City

to promote, through its own policies, the purchase of recycled and/or tree-free paper to foster development of stronger markets and more favorable prices for these environmentally preferable paper products.

5. The 75% reduced emission fuels target is based on a preliminary analysis of the overall potential within the current City fleet. An aggressive conversion target by the City will both reduce damaging air emissions from fleet vehicles and demonstrate the City's leadership role vis a vis other agencies/institutions in the region. The City's current alternative fuels policy, which was adopted by City Council in 1993, will be undergoing a comprehensive review over the next few months. Once the updated policy is approved by Council, this target will be modified to ensure its consistency with the comprehensive policy.

6. The targeted 15% reduction in wastewater flows is consistent with the 20% reduction target for water usage. There is not a one for one correlation between water usage reductions and wastewater flows since approximately 25% of total water use is for exterior purposes (landscaping, etc.). The 1993 actual wastewater flows were unusually low due to various non-recurring factors. The target for the year 2000 is therefore consistent with the anticipated impacts of current and proposed wastewater flow reduction efforts. Reduction in wastewater flows results in significant financial savings from avoided sewage treatment costs and avoided costs for purchase of additional sewage treatment capacity.

7. During the next year, it is anticipated that the City will strengthen its tree inventory data collection and reporting capabilities. In addition, a more complete analysis of the possible sites available for new trees will be undertaken in conjunction with a more thorough evaluation of potential resource allocation impacts from an expanded tree planting program for City departments.

8. A 10% increase in total ridership by the year 2000 should be achievable based on current projections and the City's/region's intense promotion of public transit alternatives to the use of private vehicles. The potential for increasing Santa Monica Bus Lines ridership is currently under assessment. The dip in ridership between 1990 and 1993 is believed to be attributable primarily to the economic recession.

9. No actual data is presented for 1990 as the City's Transportation Management Program Ordinance had not yet been implemented. The target for the year 2000 reflects Council adopted ordinance requirements.

10. This indicator assumes construction and start-up of the City's proposed dry-weather flow treatment/reclamation facility which will capture and treat dry-weather flows from the Pico Kenter and Pier storm drains. As the feasibility analysis for this treatment facility is completed over the next several months, a more accurate measurement of actual dry weather storm drain flows will be obtained which may result in a modification of the target. Reducing dry-weather storm drain flows will significantly decrease the discharge of pollutants into Santa Monica Bay.

11. No reliable data currently exists for this indicator. Nevertheless, it is believed that the indicator could be very important in determining whether the hazardous materials management and hazardous waste reduction programs implemented by the City are having a tangible impact in the community. Over the next several months an assessment will be carried out to ascertain whether current data collection and analysis difficulties can be overcome.

12. This indicator pertains to underground storage tank (UST) sites which are under the regulatory jurisdiction of the City. Since reliable data on the City's UST management program is not available for 1990, 1993 will be used as the base year. It is anticipated that more contaminated UST sites, in addition to the 25 which were known in 1993, will be identified between now and the year 2000. Therefore, it is expected that by the first year status report to Council on the Sustainable City Program a modified indicator on UST site cleanup which addresses the dynamic "moving target" nature of the indicator will have been developed.

13. This indicator is consistent with previously adopted affordable housing targets for the City and has been reviewed/endorsed by the City's Housing Commission. The actual numbers for 1990 and 1993 refer to the inventory of "publicly assisted" affordable housing in the City. All of these units are deed-restricted. An analysis will be undertaken during the next several months to identify any privately developed, deed-restricted affordable housing units which have come on line since 1990 and should be included in the totals.

14. The community garden target pertains to the development of gardens on City and/or school district sites. The initial activities in pursuit of this indicator will include an evaluation of available parcels within the City and outreach/survey efforts to determine the general level of interest for community gardens within various Santa Monica neighborhoods.

15. It is anticipated that the Task Force on the Environment, City officials and City staff will play a role of advising, facilitating and supporting the School District in the creation of a Sustainable Schools Program. Although preliminary discussions have taken place, no official position on this issue by the school district has yet been taken.

16. According to standards used by the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission, 2.5 acres of open space should be provided for every 1,000 City residents. Given Santa Monica's 1990 population of 86,905 residents, 217.26 acres of total open space is recommended for the City. A 180 acre target for the year 2000 is believed to be both aggressive and achievable based on the additional open space resources (including the Civic Center) which can be made available during the next five years. The total acreage numbers include dedicated public open space on private sites in the City.

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