

# Greenhouse Gas Reduction Best Practice Guide and Resources

## Best Practices Guides and Assistance

### **Flex Your Power Local Government Best Practices Guide**

Includes information on funding and approval, lighting, procurement policy, and case studies from seven local governments.

<http://flexyourpower.com/bpg/index.html?b=institutional>

### **Institute for Local Governments Best Practices Framework**

The Best Practices Framework offers suggestions for local actions in ten Climate Leadership Opportunity Areas, both in agency operations and the community at large.

[http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/26286](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/26286).

[BestPracticesFramework%20v5.0.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/26286/BestPracticesFramework%20v5.0.pdf)

### **U.S. Conference of Mayors, Energy & Environment Best Practices Guide**

The best practices document represents some of the many innovative ways Mayors and their cities approach complex energy and environmental issues. It includes case studies from over 50 cities on issues of municipal buildings, air quality, climate change, energy sources, housing, vehicles, fuels, and transit.

<http://www.usmayors.org/bestpractices/EandEBP07.pdf>

### **Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, Climate Action Handbook**

The Climate Action Handbook is a resource guide on climate protection created by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) with support from the City of Seattle and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Handbook includes sample actions and measures related to land use, transportation planning, energy efficiency, green building, waste

management and cost effective tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://seattle.gov/climate/docs/ClimateActionHandbook.pdf>

### **The Climate Impacts Group, Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments**

The purpose of Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments is to help you as a decision-maker in a local, regional, or state government prepare for climate change by recommending a detailed, easy-to-understand process for climate change preparedness based on familiar resources and tools.

<http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/fpt/guidebook.shtml>

### **California Air Resources Board, Local Government Operations Protocol**

The Local Government Operations Protocol is designed to provide a standardized set of guidelines to assist local governments in quantifying and reporting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with their government operations. The Protocol was developed through partnership among the California Air Resources Board (ARB), California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), in collaboration with The Climate Registry and dozens of stakeholders.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/protocols/localgov/pubs/pubs.htm>

### **Cool California, Local Government Toolkit**

The purpose of this Local Government Toolkit is to identify cost saving actions, financial resources, and case studies to assist local governments with achieving GHG emission reductions. The founding partners include State Government Agencies, Universities, and Next10, a nonprofit organization.

<http://www.coolcalifornia.org/>

**SCAG's Compass Blueprint** can also help local governments address environmental issues with a toolbox of GHG reduction strategies, GHG inventories for proposed projects, a Tipping Point Return on Investment tool with sustainability indicators, green building guidance, and access to partnerships with local utilities that provide financial incentives for energy efficient projects. Please see the Compass Blueprint website at <http://www.compassblueprint.org> to learn how SCAG can help your community become more sustainable.

## Carbon Footprint Calculators

### California Air Resources Board

The Carbon Calculator was designed specifically for California, and is offered in both English and Spanish language versions. It currently calculates households but they plan to expand it in late summer 2008. Partners include Next 10, the California Energy Commission, University of California Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and others. The calculator is online at <http://www.coolcalifornia.org>.

### California Climate Action Registry

The California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) Reporting Online Tool (CARROT) is the California Registry's greenhouse gas emission calculation and reporting software. The California Registry has developed this unique, web-based tool as the online companion to the Registry's protocols. All GHG emissions data is entered and managed via CARROT. It is used by California Registry members, verifiers, and the public. CCAR is also developing a reporting protocol for local governments. <http://www.climateregistry.org/>

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA has developed tools to help individuals (and households) reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take actions. Businesses and organizations interested in educating their employees and members about what they can do at home to help protect our climate can also use these tools.

[http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

Co-Benefits Risk Assessment Tool (COBRA) – The COBRA model is a screening tool used to: (1) approximate the impact of emission changes on ambient air pollution; (2) translate this into health effect impacts; (3) monetize these impacts; and (4) present the results in maps and tables.

Mitigation Impact Screening Tool (MIST) – MIST is an easy-to-use software tool intended to provide qualitative assessments of the likely impacts of heat island mitigation strategies averaged at the city-scale. With MIST, city officials and planners can estimate how changes in surface reflectance and tree cover will affect local air temperatures, ground-level ozone and energy consumption. MIST includes data for over 240 cities. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/stateandlocalgov/analyticaltools.html>

### Zero Footprint

Zero footprint Cities is an online application that enables citizens to measure, manage and track their carbon footprint, and connect and collaborate with others who share similar environmental goals. Cities could use the information gathered by the application to inform green initiatives and city-wide challenges. The application also links to a marketplace of green products and services, as well as events and news, thereby promoting sustainable commerce. Participating governments include the City of Toronto, City of Seattle, City of Boulder, City of

Evanston, City of Vaughan, Ontario; and the State of Alabama.

<http://zerofootprint.net/>

#### **TerraPass**

TerraPass allows you to calculate your carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it with energy-saving products and ideas. You can also balance your emissions by funding clean energy and carbon reduction projects that help to fight global warming.

<http://www.terrapass.com/>

## **Local Resources**

#### **City of Irvine, Green Building Program**

The City of Irvine's Green Building Program has developed criteria for building or remodeling homes to become "Green Certified." Their website provides links to rebates, checklists and guidance for green buildings.

[http://www.cityofirvine.us/green\\_build.html](http://www.cityofirvine.us/green_build.html)

#### **City of Los Angeles, GreenLA**

This plan details innovative steps for city departments and agencies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create a more sustainable environment. It also outlines a process to facilitate emissions reductions by private businesses and residents throughout Los Angeles. The actions are designed to achieve ambitious reductions by 2030 (35% below 1990 levels by 2030).

[http://www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-AQD/GreenLA\\_CAP\\_2007.pdf](http://www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-AQD/GreenLA_CAP_2007.pdf)

#### **City of Manhattan Beach, Working Toward a Greater, Greener Manhattan Beach**

This comprehensive report documents the City's current environmentally

friendly practices and identifies other "best management" practices that the City can consider adopting to enhance its environmental programs. This report also identifies opportunities for resident involvement.

<http://www.citymb.info/index.aspx?page=1506>

#### **City of Pasadena, Green City Action Plan**

Approved by the City Council on September 18, 2006, the Green City Action Plan is a progressive list of environmental initiatives for the City to take in its quest to become a sustainable and green community and follows the framework of the United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords. The initiatives contained in the plan include developing a green fleet of city vehicles, using only environmentally friendly cleaning products in City buildings, and buying "green" goods where possible.

<http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/permitcenter/greencity/GreenActionplanWeb.pdf>

#### **City of Riverside, A Clean & Green Riverside**

In the summer of 2005, Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge appointed a Clean & Green Task Force to look into ways for the City to make residents' lives better by improving the City's appearance, making City practices more sustainable, and improving air quality.

<http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor/cleangreen.asp>

#### **Green County San Bernardino**

In August 2007, the Board of Supervisors launched Green County San Bernardino to spur the use of "green" technologies and building practices among residents, business owners and developers in the County. Additionally, Green County San Bernardino includes a public awareness component aimed at educating residents about steps they can take in their

daily lives to conserve resources and protect the environment.

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/greencountysb/>

### **South Bay Environmental Service Center**

Partnering with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, The Gas Company<sup>SM</sup>, Southern California Edison, West Basin Municipal Water District, the City of Torrance, and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) is the South Bay's local clearinghouse for energy efficiency, water conservation and environmental information—workshops, materials and outreach. SBESC assists public agencies including cities, schools, and special districts as well as businesses and residents of the South Bay to best utilize the many resources available to them through a wide variety of statewide and local energy efficiency and water conservation programs.

<http://www.sbesc.com/>

### **Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance**

Formed in July 2003, the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to approach the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in Ventura County. The Alliance website includes links to energy resources for residents, businesses, and public agencies.

<http://www.vcenergy.org/>