

CITY + BUSINESS: TOGETHER REDUCING GHG'S

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at
www.cccclimateleaders.org



WHAT?

“After transportation, Businesses are the largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG’s) and working together with cities is going to be critical to reduce those GHG’s to comply with SB 32 recently signed by Governor Brown. SB 32 requires that GHG emissions are reduced to 40 % below 1990 levels by 2030.”

WHERE?

Local government best practices:

- The City of Emeryville’s Sustainability Action Plan <http://emeryville.org/1085/City-Sustainability-Action-Plan>; The Bay Area SunShares program for discounts on solar and electric vehicles: <http://emeryville.org/1115/Bay-Area-SunShares>; Climate Resilient Street Trees: <http://emeryville.org/1086/Climate-Resilient-Street-Trees> and sustainability website <http://emeryville.org/1053/Sustainability>
- Beacon cities in Contra Costa County include Richmond, San Pablo, Pittsburg, and San Ramon. Statewide list of cities who are participating: <http://www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-program-participants>.
- The City of Sonoma is offering loans to small businesses for energy efficiency and water improvements and as long as all criteria is met, the loans are forgiven over a period of time. City staff promote this whenever talking to businesses; [Sonoma Business Improvement Matching Funds Loan Program](#).
- A number of successful City business stories can be found at: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/case-studies>
- The City of Emeryville Energy Efficiency (E3) Program, is a voluntary energy audit program for commercial businesses <http://www.emeryville.org/1123/11769/Emeryville-Energy-Efficiency-E3-Program>
- The City of Benicia Business Incentive Program, download the [Brochure](#), enabled the City to benefit 23 businesses and make significant progress in reducing GHG emissions in the community. The city has received three prestigious awards for this program because of its unique approach to promoting both economic development and environmental sustainability in one program.
- The City of Hayward has a [“Your Environment”](#) section on their website, which is dedicated to fostering community involvement in reaching their Climate Action Plan goals. It includes resources, rebates and sustainability tips for businesses, and individuals. As well as details on all of the green initiatives being implemented in the city.
- Through partnering with the city of Fairfield and the California Enterprise Development Authority, Anheuser-Busch used tax-exempt industrial development bonds to help finance the installation of a Bio-Energy Recovery System (BERS) and a water reduction system. This renewable energy technology turns nutrients in brewing wastewater into renewable biogas. Resulting in an estimated savings of 865,000 therms and 488,000kWH per year. <http://ceda.caled.org/portfolio/anheuser-busch-city-of-fairfield/>
- The City of Richmond’s [revolving loan fund \(RLF\)](#) is a community based program with the goal of fostering local economic growth. It provides businesses with loans that can be used for renovations, new machinery, and equipment that often improves a business’ energy efficiency while simultaneously contributing to CAP goals. Cities should promote these financing mechanisms as a way for businesses to save money and reduce their energy footprint.



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TO LEARN MORE?

Resources:

- [REV Sustainability Circle®](#) in the East Bay, in partnership with PG&E who provides a generous subsidy to cover almost 50% of the cost. www.revsustainability.com Accelerate your Sustainability Impact Winner
- [Conscious Company Magazine!](#)
- The CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program recognizes small businesses (100 employees or less) that take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate friendly practices, and become more sustainable. The deadline to apply is the first Monday of November (November 7th). For additional information, please go to <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/small-business-awards>. www.CoolCalifornia.org also contains free business resources such as the Funding Wizard, a comprehensive database for grants, rebates and incentives. www.fundingwizard.arb.ca.gov
- The Air Resource Board's Office of the Ombudsman helps to provide small businesses and community activists with the necessary resources to participate in the development of California's air quality programs. Their website, <https://www.arb.ca.gov/ba/omb/omb.htm>, contains a variety of resources for businesses and individuals.
- REV is now a partner with the Institute for Local Government who oversees the Beacon Program, and with the League of California Cities. Here is a [Press Release](#) about the partnership.
- "Helping Cities Engage Their Business Communities for Prosperity" how to build more sustainably impactful relationships with your business community [Roadmap for Sustainability Engagement](#)
- Beacon Award application: http://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/emeryville_2016_best_practices_final_0.pdf
- Smart Lights Program: Smart Lights is designed to help small businesses become more energy-efficient. Smart Lights can help with comprehensive lighting retrofits, refrigeration tune-ups, controls, and seals replacement, and referrals to appropriate HVAC programs. Learn more here: <http://ebenergy.org/commercial-services/smart-lights-program/>
- The California Enterprise Development Authority (CEDA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), issues industrial development bonds (IDBs) for small- to medium-sized California manufacturers and non-profits that can be used for solar and energy conservation retrofits. <http://ceda.caled.org/financing-tools/>
- The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) works collaboratively with public and private partners to finance solutions for California's industries, that contribute to reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/index.asp>. For example, the Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program offers a sales and use tax exclusion to manufacturers that promote alternative energy and advanced transportation. <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/ste/index.asp>
- The California Environmental Protection Agency and its boards, departments, and offices offer funding opportunities authorized by legislation to assist public and private entities in the safe and effective management of environmental protection. On their website they provide a list with detailed information about the individual loan and grant programs currently offered. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/LoansGrants/>
- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are specialized community based financial institutions with a primary mission to promote economic development by providing financial products and services to people and communities underserved by traditional financial institutions, particularly in low income communities. Partnerships with local CDFIs could be leveraged to expand credit for energy improvements in low income areas of our community. <https://www.cdfifund.gov/awards/state-awards/Pages/state-result.aspx?state=CA&Name=California>

