

SOLAR SCORECARD

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



WHY is it important for Contra Costa cities?

- The state of California has ambitious goals for the development of zero net energy buildings. The recent CA Energy Efficiency standards rulemaking is considering mandatory solar: 2019 energy standards and presentations.
- It is economically feasible: U.S. Solar Market Has Record-Breaking Year (in 2016), Total Market Poised to Triple in Next Five Years. Distributed PV saw significant growth in 2015, particularly in the residential sector, where total installed capacity rose much faster over the year than in the industrial or commercial sectors.
- Senate Bill 32 was passed in September of 2016 which requires the state board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. Increasing solar installations is a great way for cities to help meet this required goal, especially since many cities around the nation are committing to 100% renewable energy.

WHAT have other cities done to increase solar on rooftops?

- **Update City Codes:** Cities can modify Statewide mandatory requirements (CALGreen) to add more restrictive provisions based on local conditions as necessary, so long as they are found to be "cost-effective", or that the benefits outweigh the costs over the measure lifetime.
- **County wide initiatives:** local government officials and non profits often team together to take county wide Initiatives.
- **Expedited Permitting:** Concord, El Cerrito, and Richmond have expedited and/or streamlined solar permitting.
- **Partnerships:** San Pablo has a partnership with GRID Alternatives (company). Program reopens in August 2018. Lafayette is using SunShares which offers discounted solar starting at 15% below market rates.
- **Policy and Planning:** In order to expedite the adoption of solar technologies, the City of Fremont adopted an energy reach code that goes beyond the minimum provision of solar readiness to require the mandatory installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in new residential developments.
- **Financing Options:** Many cities are utilizing various PACE programs; gives property owners the option of financing energy efficiency, water efficiency and renewable energy improvements through a voluntary assessment on their property tax bills. Sonoma County's Energy Independence Program. They provide free solar consultations.

HOW else can your city increase solar installations?

Resources

- Bay Area Solar Photovoltaic Ordinance Toolkit, and How Smart Local Policies are Expanding Solar in America
- Local ordinances, including supporting materials. Model solar ordinance and other similar measures.
- CA Energy Commission Online Resource Center to help with energy standards compliance and has many external education resources
- Solar Resilient is easy to use, and a system owner can set multiple parameters. Users can compare solar options here.

Community Choice Energy

- The most common reason for jurisdictions to pursue CCA is to promote electricity generation from renewable energy sources and offer consumers a choice in purchasing electricity with opportunities for cost savings.
- MCE will provide service to 14 local governments in Contra Costa; Also cities can opt up to 100% renewables using MCE's Deep Green program.

Incentives and permitting

- [Solar panel incentives, rebates & tax breaks](#), and [Solar zoning and permitting](#).
- Efficient solar permitting for your jurisdiction [here](#).

City	Solar Installed (Megawatts)	Population	Watts Per Capita	Total PV Score	Per Capita Score
Brentwood	27.68	60532	457.3	1	1
Danville	16.59	44631	371.69	8	2
Clayton	3.67	11867	309.6	15	3
Lafayette	7.93	26103	303.68	13	4
Oakley	12.25	40622	301.46	10	5
Martinez	11.23	39259	286	11	6
Pleasant Hill	9.19	34853	263.65	12	7
Orinda	4.92	19470	252.49	14	8
Walnut Creek	17.18	69122	248.62	7	9
Antioch	26.89	110898	242.44	2	10
San Ramon	17.31	74639	231.88	6	11
Richmond	20.3	109813	184.83	5	12
Pittsburg	12.82	70679	181.44	9	13
Concord	22.24	128726	172.74	3	14
Moraga	2.73	17416	156.87	19	15
Contra Costa-Unincorporated	21.7	167781	129.34	4	16
Pinole	2.37	19293	122.58	20	17
Hercules	3.11	25360	122.48	16	18
El Cerrito	2.93	25400	115.39	18	19
San Pablo	2.93	30536	96.08	17	20

Source: PG&E

*Total Solar Installed Rank is a ranking based on most solar installations. Per Capita Rank is a ranking based on highest watts per capita.

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders recommends cities to continue increasing solar rooftops to reduce GHG emissions in California. Visit our website for more information on how other cities are increasing solar. www.cccclimateleaders.org





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