

CALIFORNIA - LOCAL

Top10 Green Building Policies

California's cities and counties have been a driving force in the growth of green building practices across the state. The commitment to a sustainable built California radiates from local governments that have adopted public policies demonstrating green building leadership, community engagement, collaboration and imagination. As the number of local government commitments to green building continues to grow, we are proud to highlight our inaugural Top10 list by highlighting local green building policies that are shaping California communities and serving as national models. USGBC California is proud to have played a supporting role to these leading local governments. The eight USGBC statewide chapters and many branches that make up USGBC California look forward to continuing to support local government leadership facilitating the transformation of California's built environment.

Most Inspiring

The Sacramento Region for the Greenwise Action Plan

Since Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson announced the Greenwise Sacramento Plan in his 2010 State of the City address, hundreds of volunteers have devoted thousands of hours to turning a bold vision into reality through the Greenwise Joint Venture. Greenwise seeks to transform the Sacramento valley through three parallel efforts: active community and business engagement, a self-sustaining clean economy, and a transformation to the greenest region in the country.

Most Market Transforming

Alameda County for providing resources and incentives for building green since 2001

The Alameda County joint-powers authority, StopWaste.org, consists of 14 cities and the County itself accelerating rapid adoption of green building policies and programs in the Bay Area region. Since 2001, StopWaste.org has provided green building education, grants and technical assistance to help drive down the cost of certification and showcase leadership from the public sector. Alameda County has assisted or given out grants and services totaling more than \$3.5 million to civic and non-profits projects, provided training seminars and scholarships to hundreds of city/county staff and established ordinances that advance LEED in every municipality in Alameda County. These policies and programs continue to drive deeper commitments to building green across the county.

Most Visionary

Los Angeles for adopting one of the first green building ordinances that helped start a city-wide green building movement

In 2002, the City of Los Angeles established one of the earliest ordinances committing to an all city-owned and city-funded construction projects of 7,500 square feet or larger to earn LEED certification. This legislation paved the way for extensive market growth and activity beyond the original scope of the policy. The city reaffirmed its commitment to green building with a 2008 ordinance, which is the largest, most aggressive municipal green building plan of any large city in America, the plan calls for a greenhouse gas reduction of 35 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, a goal that exceeds the Kyoto Protocol.

Best Role Model

The City of San Francisco for advancing a comprehensive package of green building policies and incentives

San Francisco has a comprehensive suite of green building policies that has catalyzed an evolving, sophisticated and successful green building industry. In 2004, San Francisco passed an ordinance requiring municipal projects (new, existing or tenant improvements) greater than 5,000 sq ft to earn LEED Silver certification (increased to LEED Gold in 2012). To engage the private sector, the San Francisco Planning Department in 2006 initiated priority permitting for new and renovated buildings that achieve LEED Gold or higher. And, most recently, San Francisco passed the Existing Commercial Buildings Energy Performance Ordinance of 2011 requiring all buildings over 10,000 sq ft to track and report energy use annually and to complete an energy efficiency audit every five years. San Francisco is one of only a handful of U.S. cities with mandatory benchmarking and disclosure policies.

Best Residential Partnership

Western Riverside County Council of Governments (WRCOG) for partnering with property owners to provide financing for home energy retrofits

The Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) Program in Western Riverside County partners with the community by providing \$325 million in financing for residential and commercial property owners to conduct energy efficiency and water conservation retrofits. The low interest rate financing was intended to spark the local economy, create green jobs and reduce both ratepayer utility expenses and greenhouse gas emissions. The program has been estimated to create more than 3,000 jobs locally. HERO will also position the sub-region as a leader in green building, improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions via a coordinated, large-scale effort in one of the fastest-growing areas of the United States.

Best Leadership by Example

Oakland for its inclusive approach to building green by working with local green building organizations to grow the area's green building practice

When Oakland passed Ordinance's No. 12658 in 2005 and No. 13040 in 2010, the City set forth extensive green building standards for municipal, residential and non-residential buildings, and also for affordable housing. The 2005 ordinance further promotes the proliferation of green building knowledge and expertise through local organizations like Build It Green and provides free technical assistance, green building guidelines and public promotion for qualified projects.

Most Collaborative

Palm Desert for implementing a plan to reduce energy usage by 30 percent

As part of the City's five-year goal to cut energy usage by 30 percent, Palm Desert has taken a national leadership position in funding and fostering energy efficiency and conservation through the Energy Independence and Set to Save programs in concert with Southern California Edison and the Energy Coalition. Perhaps the most exemplary aspect of Palm Desert's initiatives is the degree of community involvement and pragmatic, local invention, encompassing everything from cool roofs and pavings to water-efficient golf courses with bamboo tees.

Best in School

Napa Valley Unified's American Canyon High School Campus for anchoring a community

The city of American Canyon is the fastest growing part of Napa County and for decades local students were bussed 15 miles away to the city of Napa. In response, and with strong public support for a new school, voters passed a \$183 million bond measure with plans to build a 45-acre campus designed to incorporate green building principles. As California's first CHPS verified project, the school received Prop 1D funds to help pay for the project. In addition to innovative water usage and lighting control systems, American Canyon boasts an extensive ground-source heat-pump network with individual units for each classroom, which decreases noise, improves indoor air quality and saves money through energy efficiency. The school's central location will encourage "low-carbon commuting," reducing the need for cars and encouraging all members of the community to consider walking and biking over driving around town.

Most Versatile

The City of Chula Vista for incorporating a suite of climate protection policies centered on a commitment to building green

In 2008, the City of Chula Vista adopted plans to implement seven measures designed to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions based on recommendations by the City's Climate Change Working Group, comprised of residents, businesses and community representatives. A central policy includes a citywide, mandatory green building standard that goes beyond building to Title 24 requirements. Additional measures include a solar & energy efficiency conversion program, smart growth planning and design around trolley stations and a no cost energy assessment of local business facilities to help identify opportunities to reduce monthly energy costs.

Most Team Spirit

The County of Santa Barbara for working with developers to make projects more energy efficient

Building on a long community history of healthy, efficient, low-impact development, Santa Barbara County established the Innovative Building Review Program (IBRP) in 2009. The IBRP advises developers at no cost on how to make their projects more energy efficient. In addition to free technical assistance, the program provides three levels of incentives to developers achieving efficiency above the County's mandated standards.

CALIFORNIA - STATE

Top10 Green Building Policies

The State of California has a rich history of leadership in public policy initiatives that advance green building practice and help to protect the environment, promote energy independence, save money and create healthier places to live, work and learn. We are proud to present many of the best of these policy advancements in our inaugural Top10 Green Building Policies. USGBC California was integral to the development of this list and, in all contemporary cases, played a supporting role in the adoption of these leading public policies. With an active and engaged advocacy community, USGBC California will continue efforts to provide policy makers with the tools, strategies and resources needed to take leadership positions, foster innovation and inspire others to work toward a sustainable future.

Most Visionary

Title 24 (Part 6) for mainstreaming energy efficiency in the nation's first building energy code

Title 24 (Part 6), advanced by Governor Brown's Administration in 1978, established energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The standards are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods. The California Energy Commission recently released 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards designed to reduce annual energy use of commercial buildings and new homes by 30 percent compared to the current 2008 code and preventing the need for eight or more 500MW power plants over the next 30 years.

Most Comprehensive

AB 758 for promoting a systematic energy-savings program for the built environment

AB 758, Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings, introduced by Assembly member Nancy Skinner instructs the CEC to develop and implement the "Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Residential and Nonresidential Buildings." Proposed program strategies include: energy assessments, building benchmarking, building energy use ratings and labels, cost-effective EE improvements, public and private sector EE financing, public outreach and education and green workforce training.

Most Impactful

AB 32 for setting the bar for policy efforts nationwide to curtail greenhouse gas emissions

AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, coauthored by Senator Fran Pavley, requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulations and market mechanisms to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and ultimately targets a 25 percent reduction statewide. This Act calls for mandatory caps beginning in 2012 from significant emissions sources.

Most Educational

SB 128 for committing to modernizing existing school facilities for higher performance

SB 128, School Facilities Funding: High-Performance Schools, sponsored by Senator Alan Lowenthal, clarified the regulations to include renewable energy and innovative technologies in both modernizations of existing school buildings as well as new additions to existing campuses. Additionally, California voters approved a \$100 million investment in high performing green schools through an incentive package under Proposition 1D in 2006 to help fund new construction, modernizations and relocatables that promote the efficient use of water, natural resources and energy, and also provide superior indoor air quality, acoustics and lighting.

Most Foundational

California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) for developing first-in-the-nation green building code

CALGreen is the first statewide green building code that advances greener building construction and encourages environmentally advanced building practices that decrease waste, reduce energy use and conserve resources.

Most Historic

AB 4420 for making climate change a policy issue

AB 4420, Chapter 1506, Statutes of 1988, championed by Assemblyman Byron Sher advanced forward-thinking climate change policy ideas including an inventory of a GHG emissions from all Californian sources, an assessment of warming trends on the state's energy supply, demand, economy, environment, agriculture and water supplies, and recommendations for policies to avoid, reduce and address the impacts. This legislation was the beginning of a series of remarkable accomplishments that include the Renewable Portfolio Standard, the Climate Action Registry, the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Integrated Waste Management Act.

Most Brilliant

SB1 for promoting statewide use of solar energy

SB 1, the California Solar Initiative of 2006, introduced by Senator Kevin Murray required the Energy Commission and the CPUC to implement a program aimed at installing 3,000 megawatts of solar energy systems on new and existing residential and commercial sites. This moved California toward a cleaner energy future that helped lower the cost of solar systems for consumers.

Most Energizing

SBX1 2 for establishing the most aggressive RPS targets

SBX1 2, 33 percent Renewable Energy by 2020, championed by Senator Joe Simitian, requires California energy providers to buy 33 percent of their energy from clean, renewable energy sources by 2020. SBX1 2 provides a clear statutory directive for private and public utilities to reach the renewable energy goal, and provides the flexibility necessary to acquire that energy in the coming decade.

Most Sweeping

SB 375 for advancing a complete approach to community sustainability

SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, sponsored by Senator Darrell Steinberg enhances California's ability to reach its AB 32 goals by promoting good planning with the goal of more sustainable communities. This legislation instructed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to set regional emissions reduction targets from passenger vehicles. The Metropolitan Planning Organization for each region must then develop a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" that integrates transportation, land-use and housing policies to plan for achievement of the emissions target for their region.

Most Creative

AB 811 for establishing creative financing to promote renewable energy generation

AB 811, Contractual Assessments of 2008, authored by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, authorized California cities and counties starting in 2008 to designate areas within each jurisdiction for city officials and willing property owners to enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation, generation and distribution of renewable energy sources.



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