

City of Santa Barbara Sustainability Achievements



The City of Santa Barbara is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment in the community and within the City organization. Many programs help residents and businesses make decisions that improve sustainable practices and achieve a cost savings.

City departments have integrated environmentally sustainable goals in the management and operation of all City departments. Our aim is to provide services to the community and conduct daily business in a sustainable manner where we use less energy and fuel, generate less waste, and protect our natural resources.

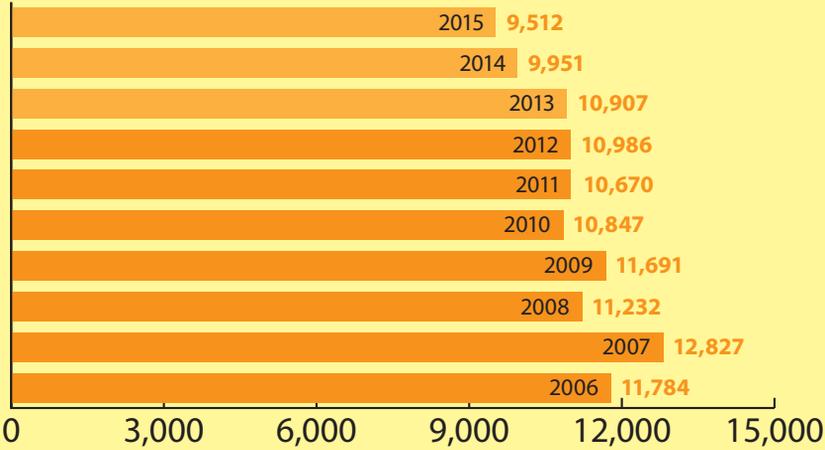


Greenhouse Gas Emissions

>> Emissions from City facilities and fleet are 10% lower than 1990 emissions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from City Operations

(Metric Tons, CO₂ Equivalent)



>> The City was awarded **three Beacon Gold Spotlight Awards** from the Institute for Local Government for achieving significant reductions in agency and community-wide emissions and successful implementation of best practices ranging from climate-friendly purchasing to maintaining parklands without toxic pesticides.

>> Adopted a **Climate Action Plan** that proposes strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and introduces adaptation strategies for low-lying areas to protect against sea level rise.

>> Council has awarded over **225 solar design awards** to businesses and residents for outstanding solar energy projects that were aesthetically well-integrated into building designs.

>> Estimated **2010 community emissions** are **2% lower** than 1990 emissions and state AB 32 standards continue to be met.

The Los Baños del Mar pool reduced natural gas consumption by 25% as a result of installing high efficiency condensing boilers to heat pool water.



Water Quality, Conservation and Habitat Restoration

- >> Introduced **ozonation equipment** to disinfect water supplies at the Cater Water Treatment Plant, improving the quality and taste of drinking water.
- >> **Over 125 Clean Water certified businesses** are taking steps to keep creeks and the ocean clean.
- >> Implemented the City's **storm water management requirements** for new and redevelopment projects to prevent urban runoff and water pollution.
- >> Replaced over 100,000 square feet of asphalt with **permeable pavers** at MacKenzie Park, Stevens Park, Oak Park, and the Westside Neighborhood Center to capture and treat polluted storm water and incidental runoff, allowing it to soak slowly into the ground. This will prevent pollutants like oil and auto fluids, metals, and nutrients from flowing into storm drains, which lead directly to our creeks and ocean untreated.
- >> Completed a comprehensive **tree canopy study** determining citywide tree canopy to be 25%.
- >> By managing a **diverse portfolio of water sources** and reducing community water consumption, the City stretched its water supplies from five to six years to remain prepared for drought conditions.
- >> The community has successfully **reduced water consumption by 15-20%** since the mid-80's through various conservation measures. The amount of water consumed per person has declined by 35 gallons per day.
- >> Implemented a **water conservation survey and incentive program** for large commercial users, identifying strategies to substantially reduce water use and save thousands on water bills.

Santa Barbara City College is implementing water conservation measures projected to decrease water use by approximately 29%, saving up to \$35,000 annually on water, sewer, and energy costs.





The City added two LEAF electric vehicles to its fleet once older, less fuel-efficient vehicles reached the end of their lifecycle.

Energy and Transportation

>> A third of the City's **480 fleet vehicles** are either fuel-efficient or use alternative fuel.

>> Since the City's **shared-use vehicle program** began in 2009, fuel use has been reduced by 8%, saving about \$89,000 on fuel costs. Sharing vehicles between departments created efficiencies where the City avoided purchasing 15 regular vehicles. The program has now expanded for employees to share medium and heavy-duty trucks.

>> Through **HVAC replacements** and **lighting retrofits**, we've reduced electricity use in City facilities, saving over \$420,000 on the City's annual electrical bill.

>> The new Airline Terminal and Rental Car Facility received **LEED-Gold green building certifications** in recognition for the design, construction and operation of the high performance green buildings.

>> **Eight electrical vehicle charging stations** were installed in City public parking lots at no cost to the City to install the stations.

>> Natural gas use in City facilities decreased to the lowest levels since 2002.

>> A new **Engine Cogeneration facility** was constructed at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, converting methane from plant operations to electricity. Built without any capital investment from the City, the facility is expected to generate renewable energy to meet most of the plant's electrical needs with estimated electricity savings of \$55,000 per year. A new **fats, oil, and grease receiving station** was also constructed at the plant. The material will be injected into the plant's digesters to generate additional methane to power the treatment plant.

Waste Reduction

>> A **Single Use Bag Ordinance** was adopted to encourage the use of reusable bags and substantially reduce the use of single use plastic and paper bags.

>> A new contract was negotiated with Marborg to **improve trash and recycling services** for residents and businesses. Featured services include:

- Unlimited curbside recycling including batteries and cell phones
- More green waste pickup
- Bulky items collected twice a year
- Sharps program to pick up medical waste safely
- Customized recycling assistance offered to large businesses and multi-unit properties

>> The City continues to comply with State diversion requirements, **diverting nearly 40% of the material collected** by Marborg from the landfill.

>> **310,000 pounds of hazardous materials** and **369,000 pounds of electronic devices** were collected through community events last year.

>> Foodscraps composting and recycling programs are fully implemented in Santa Barbara School District, resulting in **60% diversion of school waste** from the landfill.

>> Over **155 businesses compost foodscraps**, including Cottage Hospital, City College, the School District, and numerous hotels and restaurants.

Sansum Medical Clinic is diverting 66% of its waste from the landfill with successful recycling and composting programs.





City Council

Mayor Helene Schneider

Sustainability Committee

Bendy White

Sustainability Committee (Chair)

Randy Rowse

Sustainability Committee

Dale Francisco

Frank Hotchkiss

Grant House

Cathy Murillo

For more information, call **(805)564-5305**,
or visit **www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov**

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