



# Green Building

The California Climate Action Network offers information, case studies, and resources to support local government efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CCAN is a program of the Institute for Local Government, the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. Visit CCAN at [www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange).

### Why Green Building Makes a Difference:

**24%** of total California greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions stem from buildings

- **14%** of GHG are from residential buildings
- **8%** of GHG are from commercial buildings
- **2%** of GHG are from industrial buildings

Source: Source: California Air Resources Board, 2004 GHG Inventory

### How Buildings Contribute to Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- Energy use
- Water use
- Construction and demolition waste
- Building material manufacturing



## Green Building Generates Fewer Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Local agencies can help stem greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging climate-friendly buildings. Green buildings emphasize greater energy efficiency, use less water, reduce construction waste, and make use of recycled and sustainable materials – therefore conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Green building programs are often targeted initially toward public buildings, but eventually measures for new and renovated private sector residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings help make all buildings more carbon neutral.

## Green Building Best Practices

The CCAN Best Practices Framework offers guidance to local agencies seeking programs and policies to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions in ten climate change policy areas, including the abbreviated green building ideas below. For more best practices ideas, visit [www.ca-ilg.org/climatepractices](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatepractices).

Goal	Best Practice
Energy efficiency in agency buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require agency buildings to meet specified Energy Star and/or LEED rating standards</li> </ul>
Set minimum levels of energy efficiency and green building standards for commercial and residential buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require new/renovated residential and commercial buildings to exceed Title 24 energy standards to the extent allowed by law</li> <li>• Adopt green building ordinance or program for commercial, industrial and high-rise residential buildings</li> <li>• Adopt local green building ordinance or program for new low-rise residential construction to meet minimum green building standards, such as Build It Green, California Green Builder, LEED, or a similar program</li> </ul>
Sustainable landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement sustainable landscaping standards for public and/or private buildings to reduce water consumption</li> </ul>

## For More on Water and Wastewater Systems and Climate Change:

California Climate Action Network: [www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange)  
 American Institute of Architects: [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)  
 Build It Green: [www.builtitgreen.org](http://www.builtitgreen.org)  
 California Green Builder: [www.cagreenbuilder.org](http://www.cagreenbuilder.org)  
 Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)  
 Flex Your Power: [www.flexyourpower.org](http://www.flexyourpower.org)  
 LEED: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

To learn more about the California Climate Action Network and how your community can help reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions...turn the page. ➡

