



Efficient Transportation Snapshot of Local Agency Programs and Policies 2009

About the Snapshot

In spring 2009, the Institute for Local Government's California Climate Action Network surveyed cities and counties to gather information about activities, policies and programs in five areas related to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions: efficient transportation, [land use and community design](#), [green building](#), [commercial recycling](#), and [civic engagement](#). Case stories were prepared for seven communities to provide more detailed background information. While the information gathered does not reflect all of the efficient transportation programs in California communities that promote sustainability and address climate change, it does provide a snapshot of trends, opportunities, constraints and lessons learned.

This project was conducted in partnership with the California Air Resources Board.

Snapshot Summary

- Virtually all cities and counties responding have goals or processes specifically designed to reduce automobile dependency.
- Virtually all cities and counties responding are planning for “complete streets” that accommodate all modes of travel, such as pedestrian, bike, car and public transit along a single thoroughfare.
- The majority of cities and counties responding have alternative commute programs for agency employees.
- Many agencies utilize Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) which use information and communication technologies to improve traffic management.
- Many agencies are purchasing fuel efficient vehicles for their agency fleets.

Transportation and Climate Change

Transportation is the largest generator of greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and idling times are key components in addressing climate change.

Highlights of Efficient Transportation Policies and Programs

- Incorporating climate-related policies in general plans promotes community design features that reduce auto dependency and increase walkability, such as increasing the connections between streets, and improving sidewalks and bikeways.
- Creative “dial a ride” programs that incorporate flexible route schedules and use small buses to offer residents alternatives to automobile travel.

- New downtown development plans that incorporate transit options to enhance residents' ability to use transit and link to regional transportation networks.
- New technologies, such as Intelligent Transportation Systems, are available that increase the efficiency and reduce costs associated with community roadways.
- Agency sponsored and supported alternative commute programs provide incentives for agency employees to use transit, carpools, vanpools, bike or walk to work.

Opportunities, Constraints and Lessons Learned

- Intelligent Transportation Systems can be less expensive than widening roads.
- Making participation in alternative commute programs as convenient as possible is a key to success. For example, including guaranteed ride home options for employees who work late or must leave early reduces their perception that they may need to have their car available at work.
- Efficient transportation depends on land use policies that provide supportive patterns of land use and infrastructure development.
- Educating the public and employees about transit options is important. While a local agency cannot dictate behavior changes, improving safety and convenience increases the likelihood that residents will use alternatives to auto travel.
- Interagency collaboration is important and can reduce costs and improve efficiency.

So, What *are* Counties and Cities Doing?

Counties and cities that have undertaken projects or have adopted policies that address climate change through efficient transportation efforts.

COUNTIES	CITIES
Monterey San Diego San Mateo Tehama	Apple Valley Belmont Corning Fremont Kingsburg La Mirada Laguna Beach Los Gatos Manhattan Beach Mountain View Petaluma Poway Richmond Riverbank San Leandro Santa Clarita Santa Rosa South Pasadena Windsor Woodland





Counties and cities that have adopted one or more of the following activities in their transportation planning process.

COUNTIES
Monterey San Benito San Diego San Mateo Tehama

CITIES
Apple Valley Belmont Beverly Hills Corning Daly City Fremont Irvine La Mirada Laguna Beach Livermore Los Gatos Manhattan Beach Mountain View Orinda Pasadena Petaluma Poway Riverbank San Leandro Santa Clarita Santa Rosa South Pasadena Vista Windsor Woodland

Activities in this area may include one or more of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goals or processes specifically designed to reduce automobile dependency ▪ Evaluation of reductions in vehicle-miles traveled (VMT) in policy, program, and project alternatives ▪ Valuation of indirect impacts (such as air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, or public health) for inclusion in cost-benefit assessments ▪ Planning for “complete streets” that accommodate all modes of travel, such as pedestrian, bike, car and public transit along a single thoroughfare ▪ Multi-modal transportation models to project future travel demand



Counties and cities that have implemented one or more of the following specific transportation-related policies or programs to help reduce locally generated greenhouse gases.

COUNTIES
Monterey San Benito San Diego San Mateo Tehama

CITIES
Belmont Beverly Hills Daly City Fremont Irvine Kingsburg La Mirada Laguna Beach Livermore Los Gatos Manhattan Beach Mountain View Orinda Pasadena Petaluma Poway Richmond San Leandro Santa Clarita Santa Rosa South Pasadena Vista Windsor Woodland

- Activities in this area may include one or more of the following:**
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), which use information and communication technologies to improve traffic management**
 - **Local idling limitations beyond state law**
 - **High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes or dedicated bus rapid transit right-of-ways**
 - **Alternative commute programs for agency employees**
 - **Community-wide alternative commute programs or policies**
 - **Parking policies to discourage single-occupant vehicles and peak-hour commuter travel**
 - **Fuel efficient vehicles for agency fleet**
 - **Reduction of incident-based traffic congestion**

Tell us about your agency’s programs

Is your city or county’s civic engagement program missing from our lists? Let us know what your community is doing to engage the community in climate change activities by completing our [Climate Leadership Story Form – Efficient Transportation](#).