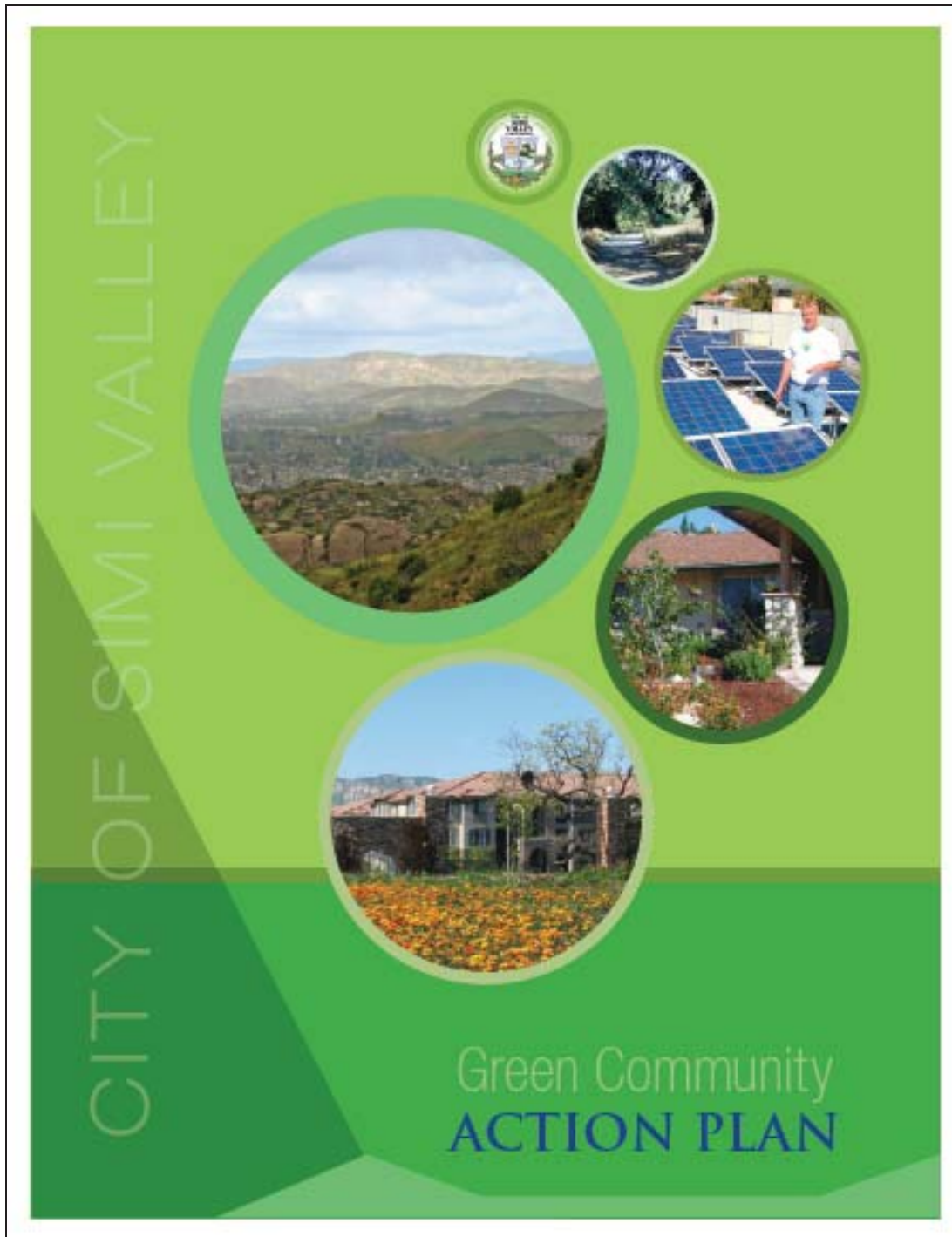


# CITY OF SIMI VALLEY



## Green Community **ACTION PLAN**



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since the City's incorporation in 1969, Simi Valley's leaders have recognized the importance of establishing a foundation to provide a safe and healthy living environment for its citizenry that is sustainable well into the future. Decisions made early on to manage growth while accommodating a variety of land uses, to use City resources efficiently while providing maximum benefit to the public, and to preserve the hillsides surrounding Simi Valley while allowing for appropriate development, lend to the unique character and quality of life that the community deserves and has come to expect.

As demands on resources grow - demands that can present adverse impacts for the natural environment and the community's quality of life - there is increased recognition of the value of having an adopted plan to reinforce and guide the City's commitment to Simi Valley's well-being over the long term.

Building on this foundation, this Green Community Action Plan, or GCAP, was prepared to solidify and document Simi Valley's commitment to a sustainable future - a commitment that balances environmental, economic, and social considerations. The GCAP is the product of a collaborative effort between the City Council-appointed Sustainable Simi Valley Committee and a "Green Team" of City staff, and will provide the framework for a strategic commitment to sustainability. The GCAP's overarching goals and the related actions to implement a sustainability vision recognize the City's responsibility to lead by example within its operations and to facilitate the adoption of these values among the community as a whole.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

To provide clear guidance for fulfilling the City's sustainability mission, this GCAP is based on five guiding principles:

- That sustainability decisions be balanced, taking into consideration their benefit to the environment, their economic impact, and social equity;
- That the City demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices in order to inform and spur community action;
- That GCAP strategies be compatible with the City's overall mission, General Plan, and other established policy guidance;
- That the GCAP emphasize long-term sustainability measures; and
- That the City seek and build upon strategic partnerships in carrying out its sustainability mission.

Preparation of the GCAP was initiated using the Institute for Local Government (ILG) California Climate Action Network (CCAN) "Best Practices Framework" as a guide. The CCAN Framework identifies ten strategic areas in which to focus actions to reduce carbon emissions. Upon the recommendation of the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, an additional strategy area was included, to emphasize the value Simi Valley places on its urban forest and open space preservation. The GCAP therefore addresses sustainability actions in the following eleven key areas.

## SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Simi Valley's commitment to sustainability is best summarized by the series of goals, listed below, that convey the principles that form the basis for the City and community to take positive actions for Simi Valley's long-term well-being.

### 1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Simi Valley is a city that conserves energy through energy efficient practices and reduced use of non-renewable energy resources.



### 2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Simi Valley is a city where all sectors of the community work together to use water efficiently, to reduce pollution in storm drains and waterways, and to reduce stormwater runoff.

### 3. Green Building

Simi Valley is a city where new construction projects meet the City's green building standards and use resources wisely.



### 4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Simi Valley is a city where all sectors of the community employ practices that minimize waste generation and reduce the amount of landfilled waste.

### 5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Simi Valley is a city whose purchasing and contracting decisions contribute to environmental sustainability.





## 6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Simi Valley is a city that supports enhanced fuel efficiency through alternative fuel options, and renewable sources of energy, for City facilities, operations and the community.

## 7. Efficient Transportation

Simi Valley is a city that supports alternatives to single-occupant automobile travel through processes and programs that reduce dependency on automobiles and improve transportation infrastructure.



## 8. Land Use & Community Design

Simi Valley is a well-planned community with a balance of housing, jobs, shopping, schools, and recreation that offers alternatives to driving, including walking, biking, or using transit.

## 9. Storing & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Simi Valley is a city that supports and promotes actions among government, business, and the general public that advance the community toward carbon-neutrality.



## 10. Urban Forestry & Open Space

Simi Valley is a city that promotes preservation and enhancement of parks, trees, open space, and other natural systems that add to the community's quality of life.



## 11. Promoting Individual & Community Action

Simi Valley is a city that uses all forms of communication to educate, support, and promote individual and community actions to develop innovations and improvements to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.

## **IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABILITY VISION**

Each chapter of the GCAP identifies goals and objectives for that strategy area, with a series of actions to be undertaken. These actions are further prioritized with a timeframe for their completion. Short-term actions are expected to be accomplished by the end of 2010, while intermediate-term actions are intended to be implemented within a three-year time frame ending in December 2012. Recognizing the City's ongoing sustainability commitment, the GCAP also contains long-term actions, targeted for beyond 2012, that are either projected to take longer to achieve or will require resources that are not yet identified or available.

The GCAP is intended to be a living document subject to periodic review and reporting to gauge progress toward achieving its goals. Indicators within each chapter provide the means to measure results. An annual progress report will be prepared and presented to the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, City Council, and the community. The GCAP and associated information, including annual reports and available community resources, will be made available on the City's website.

Through the combined commitments of the City Council, the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, City staff, and the business and residential communities, Simi Valley is setting a path toward an environmentally and economically sustainable future.



## **CHAPTER 1: ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION**

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT CONSERVES ENERGY THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENT PRACTICES AND REDUCED USE OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Energy efficiency has progressed from the catch phrase it once was into a way of life. To maintain the community's standard of living, it is important to find more efficient ways to use energy and reduce energy consumption. Energy generation is the second largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and energy costs represent a significant portion of homeowner and business budgets. Strategies to conserve energy and use it more efficiently in agency operations and throughout the community will help reduce GHG emissions, save money, and conserve resources in all sectors of the community.

The City of Simi Valley is committed to reducing the overall energy use associated with City operations and throughout the community. The City Council has initiated energy efficiency programs, such as partnering with utility providers to implement projects and promote energy efficiency and conservation. In the future, the City will continue to provide opportunities for residents and businesses to learn about energy efficient technologies and practices. To ensure it is also leading by example, the City will conduct energy audits throughout its own facilities to further reduce its energy usage, educate and train City employees regarding energy efficiency, and retrofit and upgrade City buildings to operate more efficiently, thereby reducing the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on energy for City buildings and facilities.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts to more efficiently use and conserve energy.





**Objective EE-1: Review and upgrade City-owned buildings, equipment and operations to maximize energy efficiency.**

**Indicator:** *City facilities use 20% less energy than used in baseline year 2006, by 2020.*

**Action EE 1-1:** Conduct energy audits and prepare reports that identify energy usage, conservation and efficiency opportunities, and implementation plans for all City-owned facilities. (Short-term)

**Action EE 1-2:** Develop an energy efficiency protocol for employees and train employees on energy efficiency practices. (Intermediate-term)

**Action EE 1-3:** Implement an energy monitoring software program to identify areas for additional energy savings. (Intermediate-term)

**Action EE 1-4:** Amend the City's purchasing and operations policy to incorporate energy efficiency and conservation criteria. (Intermediate-term)

**Action EE 1-5:** Carry out retrofits and upgrades identified in energy audits based on available capital resources. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City replaced a large blower motor in its Water Quality Control Plant, resulting in thousands of dollars in energy cost savings every year.


**Action EE 1-6:** Evaluate and replace conventional City-owned traffic signals and street lights with LED equivalents. (Long-term)



**Objective EE-2: Become an Energy Leader that supports energy efficiency and conservation measures by the residents in the community.**

**Indicator:** *Per capita residential energy use is lower than the regional average, and the percentage of residential energy from renewable sources is higher than the regional average, beginning in 2015.*

**Action EE 2-1:** Sponsor and support a “Living Green” Expo, which brings businesses and experts together in a public arena to display and promote energy efficient technology and practices to residents. (Short-term)




*Did you know...*

The City replaced 83 conventional light switches with occupancy sensors to conserve power in City facilities.

**Action EE 2-2:** Develop program parameters and establish initial financing requirements for residential solar installations through a property tax/bond. (Short-term)

**Action EE 2-3:** Conduct two workshops per year to educate residents about energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. (Short-term)

**Action EE 2-4:** Provide and support programs to assist residents with energy efficiency retrofits. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City hosts energy efficiency and conservation workshops for residents and businesses. Check out [www.simivalley.org/calendar](http://www.simivalley.org/calendar) for details on upcoming events.

**Action EE 2-5:** Facilitate “green” real estate sales that include residential energy audits at time of sale or feature energy efficiency or renewable energy for prospective buyers by bringing together real estate professionals and resources for energy audits and energy saving features. (Long-term)



**Action EE 2-6:** Encourage and support development of policies and programs for residential energy efficiency that can be replicated by other agencies. (Long-term)

**Objective EE-3: Become an Energy Leader that supports energy efficiency and conservation measures for the businesses in the community.**

**Indicator:** *Per capita commercial/industrial energy use is lower than the regional average, and the percentage of commercial/industrial energy from renewable sources is higher than the regional average beginning in 2015.*

**Action EE 3-1:** Conduct two workshops per year to educate business owners about energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. (Short-term)



*Did you know...*

The City participated in Southern California Edison's free business audit program to evaluate energy use in three of its major buildings.

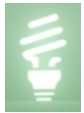
**Action EE 3-2:** Establish partnerships with utility providers, the Simi Valley Unified School District, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and other interested local agencies to increase participation in energy efficiency-related offerings. (Intermediate-term)

**Action EE 3-3:** Develop a "Green Diamond" or "Emerald" award program advertised and promoted through a variety of methods including the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce and economic development outreach efforts. (Intermediate-term)

**Action EE 3-4:** Facilitate "green" real estate sales that include energy audits at time of sale or feature energy efficiency or renewable energy sources for prospective buyers by bringing together real estate professionals and resources for energy audits and energy saving features. (Long-term)



**Action EE 3-5:** Encourage and support development of policies and programs for businesses and energy efficiency that can be replicated by other agencies. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

The City obtained grants to replace 25- and 30-year old HVAC systems with high efficiency units, which will save thousands of dollars in energy costs every year.

## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

Historically, the City has taken advantage of various state, federal, and utility programs available to make energy efficiency improvements in its operations. With renewed federal support for energy efficiency, new programs are coming on-line with regularity, and financing for local energy efficiency programs are increasingly available from various sources.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Pursuing financial and technical resources from public and private entities, including the California Energy Commission, Southern California Edison, other utility providers, community groups, and the private sector;
- Identifying Internet resources such as Cool California (<https://coolcalifornia.arb.ca.gov/>)
- Pursuing grant opportunities for community sustainability.



## CHAPTER 2: WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

**GOAL:** SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY WHERE ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WORK TOGETHER TO USE WATER EFFICIENTLY, TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN STORM DRAINS AND WATERWAYS, AND TO REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF.

### INTRODUCTION

The availability of clean, potable water is vital to the existence of the community. Southern California is predominately a desert climate with low average rainfall and much of its water supply comes from the State Water Project or the Colorado River. To sustain the quality of life in Simi Valley, it is imperative that the community take thoughtful steps to conserve, protect, and preserve water supplies and water quality. Because water conservation leads to less wastewater requiring treatment, conservation also results in savings in fuel, electricity, and taxpayer costs by prolonging the life of existing City infrastructure and resources.

The City has committed to serving as an example to the community with its use of Best Management Practices in the areas of water conservation, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment. The City will also continue to provide assistance and education for residents and businesses to increase their opportunities for water efficiency.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts for water conservation and responsible stewardship of vital water resources.

**Objective WW-1: Demonstrate leadership by increasing water use efficiency in City-owned and City-maintained facilities.**

**Indicator:** *Water use in City-owned facilities is reduced 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.*

**Action WW 1-1:** Develop a plan to replace inefficient Water Quality Control Plant equipment, such as valves and pumps, with high efficiency equipment to reduce water use. (Short-term)



**Action WW 1-2:** Expand use of water-saving landscape irrigation equipment, such as high efficiency heads, smart irrigation controllers, flow sensors, and master valves in City-maintained landscape areas. (Short-term).

*Did you know...*



The City has purchased 86 additional smart irrigation controllers and one weather station for landscape irrigation, so public landscaping will only be watered when weather conditions demand they be watered.

**Action WW 1-3:** Encourage reduction of high water use turf and expand use of selected shade trees and low water use plants to reduce water demand. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 1-4:** Develop a City policy to selectively replace toilets and urinals with high-efficiency fixtures in City facilities. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 1-5:** Research the feasibility and cost effectiveness of using additional recycled water in Water Quality Control Plant equipment. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 1-6:** Investigate the feasibility and cost effectiveness of using recycled water in maintenance equipment, such as street sweepers. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 1-7:** Develop a water main replacement/improvement program to selectively retrofit or improve an average of 10,000 feet of water main per year, thereby reducing the amount of water loss in the system. (Long-term)

**Action WW 1-8:** Implement a water audit and component analysis system to identify sources of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (District) water loss. (Long-term)

**Action WW 1-9:** Use the water audit and component analysis to reduce District water loss by 50% by 2015, with a 2009 baseline water loss of 10.9%. (Long-term)

**Objective WW-2:** Enhance existing City/District conservation programs to maximize savings and increase efficient use of local and imported water resources.

**Indicator:** *City's purchases of imported water are reduced.*



**Action WW 2-1:** Enhance City partnerships with the Metropolitan Water District, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and Golden State Water Company, and build new ones, to promote water conservation. (Short-term)

**Action WW 2-2:** Initiate operation of District's Tapo Canyon Treatment Plant to produce potable groundwater, supplying about two percent or 450 acre-feet per year (AFY) of the District's supply. (Short-term)

**Action WW 2-3:** Evaluate the District's retail water pricing options to encourage conservation. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 2-4:** Research City sewer service pricing options to encourage conservation and reduce stormwater impacts. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 2-5:** Broaden use of City's/District's automated meter reading technologies to increase operational efficiency and to provide additional water use data for conservation efforts. (Long-term)

**Action WW 2-6:** Design and construct initial expansion of the District's existing recycled water distribution system to serve golf courses, parks, or other large non-potable water users that will increase recycled water use to approximately 4.8%, or 1,100AFY, of the District's supply. (Long-term)

**Action WW 2-7:** Investigate options for utilizing groundwater from the Simi Valley Groundwater Basin, or about 13% of the District's supply. (Long-term)

**Objective WW-3: Provide assistance and education to Simi Valley residents to increase water use efficiency in residential properties.**

**Indicator:** *Residential water use is reduced 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.*

**Action WW 3-1:** Educate the community about new legislation or regulations that require or encourage increased water use efficiency. (Short-term)

**Action WW 3-2:** Promote use of the City's Free Wood Chip Program to conserve water and prevent erosion. (Short-term)



**Action WW 3-3:** Expand public information and outreach programs by developing a water conservation branding and messaging plan, implementing school education, and developing a conservation resource guide. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

Water conservation information and resources are available on-line at [www.simivalley.org/WaterConservation](http://www.simivalley.org/WaterConservation).

**Action WW 3-4:** Promote the use of landscape water use efficiency devices such as smart irrigation controllers, flow sensors, and high-efficiency, rotating nozzle sprinkler heads. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 3-5:** Promote the use of high-efficiency water-using appliances such as clothes washers, toilets, and dishwashers. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 3-6:** Encourage water surveys, especially for large landscaped areas, homeowners' associations, and residential customers. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 3-7:** Encourage reduction of high water use turf, and expand use of selected shade trees and low water use plants to reduce water demand. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective WW-4: Provide assistance and education to Simi Valley businesses, industry, schools, and other institutional water users to increase water use efficiency by non-residential properties.**

**Indicator:** *Non-residential water use is reduced 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.*

**Action WW 4-1:** Educate the community about new legislation or regulations that require or encourage increased water use efficiency. (Short-term)

**Action WW 4-2:** Expand outreach programs by developing a water conservation branding and messaging plan that is tailored to the needs of businesses, implements school education programs, and includes a conservation resource guide. (Intermediate-term)





**Action WW 4-3:** Promote the use of landscape water use efficiency devices such as smart irrigation controllers, flow sensors, and high-efficiency, rotating nozzle sprinkler heads. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 4-4:** Promote the use of high-efficiency water-using devices such as water closets, urinals, lavatory faucets, and sinks. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 4-5:** Encourage water-use surveys, especially for large landscaped areas and commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 4-6:** Encourage reduction of high water use turf, and expand use of selected shade trees and low water use plants to reduce heat and water demand. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective WW-5: Reduce the amount of trash that enters the City storm drain system.**

**Indicator:** *Storm drain maintenance requests are reduced 25% or more, and trash in the Arroyo Simi is noticeably reduced.*

**Action WW 5-1** Promote cleaning of parking lots, public and private streets, and alleys in a manner that minimizes noise and water consumption, to remove debris and contaminated residue. (Short-term)

**Action WW 5-2:** Initiate the Trash Management for Public Events Program to ensure trash and litter from large public events do not enter storm drains. (Short-term)

**Action WW 5-3:** Install City trash receptacles in high trash areas of the City. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 5-4:** Explore the cost of installing City recycling receptacles in high trash areas of the City. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 5-5:** Install trash excluders or equivalent devices to keep trash out of the stormwater system and the Arroyo Simi. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City installed motion detector sensors for urinals to conserve water at City-owned buildings.



**Objective WW-6: Implement a City Stormwater and Watershed Education and Technical Assistance Program for industry and residents.**

**Indicator:** *Public awareness is increased through industrial and residential campaigns that generate a minimum of 100,000 impressions per year.*

**Action WW 6-1:** Implement a Stormwater Industrial Outreach Program that concentrates on “Critical Sources” of stormwater pollution, such as automotive facilities, retail gasoline outlets, restaurants, municipal landfills, and heavy industrial facilities. (Short-term)

**Action WW 6-2:** Implement a watershed awareness and water quality educational training program for City staff. (Short-term)

**Action WW 6-3:** Implement a stormwater quality outreach and awareness program for community groups, youth, and other appropriate residential groups. (Short-term)

**Action WW 6-4:** Develop and promote a Technical Business Assistance Program to aid industrial and commercial facilities with stormwater compliance efforts to keep the local waterways and environment clean. (Short-term)

**Objective WW-7: Promote the development of techniques for residents and businesses to reduce the transport of pollutants and the impact of stormwater and runoff on local waterways.**

**Indicator:** *Stormwater runoff flows to local waterways during rain events are decreased.*

**Action WW 7-1:** Require new development to protect the quality of water bodies and natural drainage systems through low impact development techniques, proper site design, stormwater treatment, and best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 7-2:** Limit the percentage of impermeable surfaces (such as asphalt) for large new or renovated public, institutional, residential, and commercial projects in compliance with the City’s NPDES Stormwater permit and other applicable standards. (Intermediate-term)



**Action WW 7-3:** Require post-development peak stormwater runoff discharge rates and velocities to prevent or reduce downstream erosion and protect stream habitat and private property, in conformance with the standards and practices outlined in the City's Master Plan of Drainage. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WW 7-4:** Offer developers technical assistance with low impact development and hydromodification techniques in the Countywide Stormwater Technical Guidance Manual. (Intermediate-term)

## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

During difficult economic times, providing the necessary resources to promote change can be especially challenging. With increasing recognition that water conservation strategies yield economic as well as environmental benefits, the City has a responsibility to facilitate the community's water sustainability efforts.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Accessing local water conservation/water use efficiency rebates offered by water and other utility providers;
- Pursuing federal and/or state grants, that provide funding for water conservation/water use efficiency on an individual or regional basis; and
- Incorporating water conservation components into new water commodity rate structures.



## CHAPTER 3: GREEN BUILDING

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY WHERE NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MEET THE CITY'S GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS AND USE RESOURCES WISELY.**

### INTRODUCTION

Building "green" is an opportunity to use the community's resources efficiently while creating healthier buildings. It provides cost savings through improved human health and productivity, lower cost building operations, and resource efficiency, thereby moving the community closer to a sustainable future.

Nearly 80 percent of time is spent indoors, and the construction and occupancy of the buildings people spend time in can account for 65 percent of all electricity use, 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, 30 percent of raw material use, 30 percent of landfill waste, and 12 percent of all potable water consumption. In Southern California, buildings that are constructed today may remain standing five decades from now. "Green building" acknowledges these realities by using the best available technologies to ensure that new developments are economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable.

A green building is one that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or reused in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. It includes responsible design strategy, environmentally-friendly construction materials, and environmentally-friendly construction processes. To build green means that building owners, designers, and construction contractors will analyze how a building works as a system (a shelter for people and their needs, the building's energy and water demand, the land the building will occupy for the next 50 or more years, the materials to construct and maintain the building, and to respond to future conditions) and then design and build that system to meet the demands of the occupants and building envelope in a sustainable way.

The City of Simi Valley is taking a leadership role in this arena, starting with the City Council's adoption of Ventura County's first green building ordinance in early 2010, and demonstrating its commitment to green building standards by initiating a major renovation of the City's Transit Maintenance Facility to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

The following objectives and actions promote green building efforts throughout the community.



**Objective GB-1:** Exceed the standards set by the City's current Green Building Code for new construction or substantial remodeling of City-owned buildings and facilities.

**Indicator:** *Newly constructed or substantially renovated City facilities exceed energy and water efficiency standards and incorporate specified voluntary measures from the City's current Green Building Code.*

**Action GB 1-1:** Develop a policy that all City-owned buildings and facilities that are constructed or renovated using outside agency funds will be built to exceed the City's current Green Building Code and will incorporate measures to enhance energy systems performance, meet indoor air quality performance standards, and prevent pollution from construction activity. (Intermediate-term)

**Action GB 1-2:** Develop a policy that construction or remodeling of all City-owned buildings or facilities will use low-emitting materials, such as paints and adhesives, and use recycled material or materials that have enhanced durability or lower maintenance requirements. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



The City began construction on its first LEED® certified building in Summer 2010, with the major renovation of its Transit Maintenance Facility, with the goal of achieving a LEED-Silver Certification.

**Objective GB-2:** Establish and implement minimum green building standards for residential construction, and encourage residential construction that exceeds minimum standards.

**Indicator:** *New residential construction or remodeling exceeds California Energy Code (Title 24) energy efficiency standards, exceeds California Water Resources Code (Title 23) landscape water efficiency standards, and implements construction and demolition waste recycling plan requirements.*



**Action GB 2-1:** Adopt and implement the 2008 California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code, with local amendments that include requirements to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency, exceed Title 23 landscaping water efficiency, and implement recycling of construction and demolition waste. (Short-term)

**Action GB 2-2:** Develop a dedicated page on the City's website so residents may find resources and information on green building. (Short-term)

**Action GB 2-3:** Develop a program to provide technical assistance to private development projects that are seeking to exceed the green building standards in the City's current Building Code. (Intermediate-term)

**Action GB 2-4:** Develop a "Green Diamond" or "Emerald" award program to recognize residential projects that exceed the City's Green Building Code. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective GB-3: Establish and implement minimum green building standards for non-residential construction, and encourage non-residential construction that exceeds minimum standards.**

**Indicator:** *New non-residential construction or remodeling exceeds Title 24 energy efficiency standards, exceeds Title 23 landscape water efficiency standards, and implements construction and demolition waste recycling plan requirements.*

**Action GB 3-1:** Adopt and implement the 2008 CALGreen Code, with local amendments that include requirements to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency, exceed Title 23 landscape water efficiency, and implement recycling of construction and demolition waste. (Short-term)



*Did you know...*

In 2010, Simi Valley became the first city in Ventura County to adopt a Green Building Ordinance.



**Action GB 3-2:** Develop a dedicated page on the City's website so developers may find resources and information on green building. (Short-term)

**Action GB 3-3:** Develop a program to provide technical assistance to private development projects that are seeking to exceed the green building standards in the current City Building Code. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



The City has two staff members trained and certified by the US Green Building Council as LEED AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional) to assist the public to comply with or exceed the City's Green Building Code.

**Action GB 3-4:** Develop a "Green Diamond" or "Emerald" award program to recognize non-residential projects that exceed the City's Green Building Code. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective GB-4: Demonstrate green building leadership to the community and at the local and state levels.**

**Indicator:** *City leaders and officials provide information and share experiences with peers and agencies seeking to implement green building standards, and lead the community in achieving high levels of compliance with current codes.*

**Action GB 4-1:** Participate in and present best practices and lessons learned at green building conferences or education sessions at the state and local levels. (Intermediate-term)

**Action GB 4-2:** Develop an education campaign for residents and businesses to increase awareness that building permits are necessary. (Intermediate-term)

**Action GB 4-3:** Establish a program of green building qualifications or standards for local contractors to qualify for, participate in, and use as a marketing tool. (Long-term)



## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

The City's Green Building program will result in energy and water cost savings to the community, and provide a leadership role for the City with builders and other agencies. By adopting the CALGreen Code with local amendments, the City will be able to cost-effectively implement green building standards, including an energy reach code for many years to come, without requiring substantial investment of City resources. Cost considerations of other aspects of the program could be offset by participation in state and federally funded programs, and by working with utility providers to maintain the City's position as a green building leader.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Coordination with other agencies located in "Climate Zone 9", a geographic area of Ventura and Los Angeles counties encompassing 119 cities with similar energy demands based on historic temperature and precipitation data, to collectively produce an Energy Cost Effectiveness Study every three years, as required by the California Energy Commission to maintain energy reach codes.
- Funding and marketing resources to prepare public education campaigns that support the Green Building Code through utility partnership programs and federal grant opportunities; and
- Consideration of obtaining administrative support and City Council authorization to prepare a presentation/information program regarding "lessons learned" in adopting a Green Building Code so that the City may share its knowledge with other governmental entities.





## CHAPTER 4: WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY WHERE ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY EMPLOY PRACTICES THAT MINIMIZE WASTE GENERATION AND REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF LANDFILLED WASTE.**

### INTRODUCTION

Waste disposal processes contribute to the production of GHG emissions, from fuel expended in collecting and transporting trash to landfills, to methane gas produced by the decomposition of landfilled waste. Waste reduction and recycling strategies can be effective tools in managing the solid waste generated within a community.

The City Council adopted Simi Valley's first waste management plan more than two decades ago, and staff has been implementing its various components ever since. In order to meet the State's mandate that at least 50 percent of all waste be diverted from landfilling, Simi Valley's per capita daily disposal rate cannot exceed 7.2 pounds per day. Through the combined efforts of its residents and businesses, Simi Valley has been able to meet this requirement and, as of 2009, achieve a per capita daily disposal rate of 4.1 pounds.

While much progress has been made, Simi Valley has an ambitious plan to enhance and expand upon its waste management plans and programs to achieve a 75% waste reduction goal by 2020, which will far exceed the State minimum of 50%. The objectives recommended herein call on the City to enhance its own internal waste reduction programs, explore and implement additional recycling opportunities available to residents and businesses, improve and expand public education and information efforts, and encourage economic development opportunities to "close the recycling loop."

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts to further reduce the amount of landfilled waste by Simi Valley.


**Objective WR-1: Increase waste reduction and recycling opportunities at City facilities and operations.**

**Indicator:** *A 25% reduction in landfilled waste is achieved by 2015, as compared to 2010.*

**Action WR 1-1:** Conduct a waste audit and characterization study for City facilities to establish baseline. (Short-term)



- Action WR 1-2:** Implement a requirement for community events exceeding 300 participants to provide for recycling of waste generated at the event. (Short-term)
- Action WR 1-3:** Expand the use of recycling collection containers in City facilities, including all office areas, public areas/lobbies, and conference rooms. (Intermediate-term)
- Action WR 1-4:** Evaluate options for recycling street sweeping debris. (Intermediate-term)
- Action WR 1-5:** Continue and enhance the use of electronic mailings and information distribution. (Intermediate-term)
- Action WR 1-6:** Increase the use of recycled maintenance supplies and materials. (Intermediate-term)
- Action WR 1-7:** Continue and enhance the recycling of electronic and hazardous waste. (Intermediate-term)
- Action WR 1-8:** Explore options for recycling biosolids. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

City tree trimmings are mulched and made available for public use.  
Schedule your free pick-up by calling (805) 583-6400.

**Objective WR-2: Enhance public information efforts to provide residents and businesses with current information on waste reduction and recycling opportunities.**

**Indicator:** *Information is provided about opportunities to reduce waste and expand recycling opportunities.*

**Action WR 2-1:** Develop a centralized resource guide on the City's website for locally available solid and hazardous waste recycling options. (Short-term)



*Did you know...*

Simi Valley residents may schedule appointments for Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events by calling (805) 583-6321.



**Action WR 2-2:** Educate the community about local reuse, material exchange, and “buy recycled” opportunities. (Short-term)

**Action WR 2-3:** Partner with existing local groups and events to provide waste reduction and recycling information outreach to the community. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective WR-3: Enhance residential recycling opportunities.**

**Indicator:** *A 3.6 lbs./day per capita disposal rate is achieved by 2020, which is equivalent to a 75% diversion rate.*

**Action WR 3-1:** Provide home composting information and education. (Short-term)

**Action WR 3-2:** Implement additional incentives to residential collection rate structures to encourage additional recycling collection and to reduce trash generation. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 3-3:** Increase household hazardous waste collection events from six per year to one per month. (Long-term)

**Action WR 3-4:** Provide household battery collection sites at City facilities. (Long-term)

**Action WR 3-5:** Explore options for recycling residential food waste. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

The yard waste collected for recycling from residents and businesses in Simi Valley is processed and available locally as compost and soil products.

**Objective WR-4: Enhance commercial recycling opportunities.**

**Indicator:** *A 3.6 lbs./day per capita disposal rate is achieved by 2020, which is equivalent to a 75% diversion rate.*

**Action WR 4-1:** Enhance and support the recently approved construction and demolition waste recycling mandate through the City’s Green Building permit system. (Short-term)

**Action WR 4-2:** Publicize the use of waste audits as a way to assist local businesses in developing company-specific recycling opportunities. (Short-term)



**Action WR 4-3:** Require a plan from franchisees recommending strategies to increase commercial recycling, including multi-family residences and food waste recycling for restaurants. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 4-4:** Implement additional incentives to commercial trash collection rate structures to encourage additional recycling collection. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 4-5:** Develop a “pay-as-you-go” hazardous waste collection program for commercial small-quantity generators. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

The City organizes two free community recycling, reuse and disposal days each year at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center.

**Action WR 4-6:** Partner with local schools and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to review and enhance waste reduction education and material collection support. (Long-term)

**Objective WR-5: Encourage involvement of local businesses and residents in “closing the recycling loop.”**

**Indicator:** *The variety of resources that encourage and promote the recycling of local materials and the purchase of products derived from locally recycled materials are increased.*

**Action WR 5-1:** Enhance promotion of Simi Valley’s participation in the Ventura County Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ). (Short-term)

**Action WR 5-2:** Encourage the recruitment and retention of local businesses involved in using recycling materials for locally sold products. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 5-3:** Publicize local vendors providing products made from locally recycled materials. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 5-4:** Encourage participation in an awards program to recognize the waste reduction leadership efforts of local businesses. (Intermediate-term)

**Action WR 5-5:** Support waste conversion technologies as alternatives to landfilling material. (Long-term)



## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

A reduction in landfilled waste reflects the reuse, recycling, or reduction in the use of increasingly scarce natural resources. Unlike some other areas, the City has built-in partners to decrease landfilled waste because of the City's Franchise Agreements with two franchised waste haulers. These Agreements can provide a framework for collaboration and complement other resources available to the City.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Partnerships with the City's two franchised waste haulers to identify opportunities to jointly promote the objectives of this Chapter;
- Developing partnerships with other waste management facilities and local community groups to promote the objectives of this Chapter; and
- Applying for grant funding, loans, and program support from the State Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery and other government agencies.



## CHAPTER 5: CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PURCHASING

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY WHOSE PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING DECISIONS CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

### INTRODUCTION

Everyday purchasing decisions made by consumers can pose environmental implications; products and goods that are “climate-friendly” are long lasting, high-quality, less toxic, reusable and easy to recycle. Such products use less materials, water and energy, minimizing the impact on the natural environment.

The City of Simi Valley recognizes that purchasing decisions have environmental impacts and is committed to green leadership of the community through environmentally preferred purchasing practices that: minimize negative environmental consequences; conserve resources; encourage waste stream diversion; support recycling practices; improve public and worker health; and reduce City operating costs whenever possible.

While the City has historically been environmentally conscious and employed purchasing and recycling practices regarding electronic and other equipment procurements and disposals, the City intends to increase its efforts to further contribute to environmental sustainability. The City’s use of “green purchasing” methods will take into account environmental and social considerations as well as price, availability, and performance criteria that are typically used to make purchasing decisions. In this manner, green purchasing efforts will serve to identify and reduce environmental impact and to maximize resource efficiency. Likewise, the City will expand upon its experience to educate and promote sustainable purchasing practices for the community.

The following objectives and actions will further promote environmentally preferred purchasing practices throughout the City.

**Objective CP-1: Establish an environmentally preferred purchasing program for the City.**

**Indicator:** *The quantity of products and services purchased by the City that contribute to the sustainability of the environment are increased and surplus purchases are reduced.*



- Action CP 1-1:** Include requirements in City-issued bid specifications for products to contain recycled content that meet or exceed State Law mandates. (Short-term)
- Action CP 1-2:** Annually inventory City purchasing activity of products and services that contribute to sustainability of the environment. (Short-term)
- Action CP 1-3:** Establish an environmentally preferred purchasing policy for City operations that establishes standards and requires City purchases to meet those standards. (Intermediate-term)
- Action CP 1-4:** Disseminate information about the established environmentally preferred purchasing policy to City staff. (Intermediate-term)
- Action CP 1-5:** Monitor and identify additional products and services that contribute to sustainability of the environment to include in the City's environmentally preferred purchasing program. (Long-term)

*Did you know...*



Since 2008, the City of Simi Valley has purchased office and operating supplies on-line via a contract that requires the vendor to identify environmentally friendly products.

**Objective CP-2: Establish sustainable operational requirements for service providers who desire to contract with the City.**

**Indicator:** *City contracts with suppliers and contractors who increasingly adhere to sustainable practices.*

**Action CP 2-1:** Create an inter-departmental team to identify and prioritize sustainable practices for the City to require of contract service providers. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CP 2-2:** Disseminate information about the established requirements to City operational staff that select and recommend service contracts. (Intermediate-term)



**Action CP 2-3:** Develop and implement an assessment tool to evaluate contract service providers regarding adherence to sustainable practices agreed to under the terms established by contract. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective CP-3: Promote sustainable purchasing practices to local businesses by providing technical resources and workshops.**

**Indicator:** *Interest by local businesses in environmentally preferred purchasing practices increases.*

**Action CP 3-1:** Provide resources and information to businesses that wish to incorporate environmentally preferred purchasing practices into their operations. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CP 3-2:** Host or sponsor a workshop for local businesses to encourage environmentally preferred purchasing practices. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective CP-4: Promote sustainable purchasing practices to Simi Valley residents.**

**Indicator:** *Resources to educate consumer purchasers are available on Green Page of City's website.*

**Action CP 4-1:** Provide information for distribution at City-sponsored "Living Green" Expo about City's environmentally preferred purchasing efforts to encourage sustainable purchasing practices. (Short-term)

**Action CP 4-2:** Place link to City's environmentally preferred purchasing policy and resources on City's website. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



When the City of Simi Valley purchases new computers, the City's used computers are donated to the Simi Valley Unified School District and other local non-profit organizations.



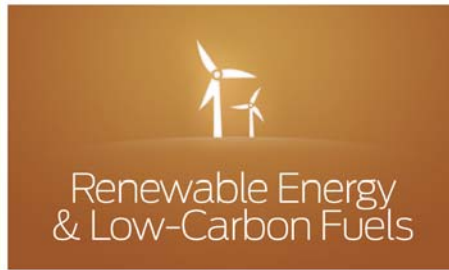


## **Necessary Resources**

Incorporating environmental considerations into purchasing decisions can reduce the impact to the environment, whether making individual or institutional purchases. The City's commitment to more climate-friendly purchasing will address its internal processes as well as serve as a liaison to inform and support the community in adopting such practices.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Engaging City staff in a more proactive manner with respect to their purchasing decisions and recommendations;
- Accessing cooperative vendor arrangements that enable cost-effective purchasing of environmentally friendly products; and
- Pursuing technical resources from public and private entities, including such environmental certification organizations as Green Seal and Science Certification Systems, which employ science-based standards to assist consumers in making choices that are environmentally beneficial.



## **CHAPTER 6: RENEWABLE ENERGY & LOW-CARBON FUELS**

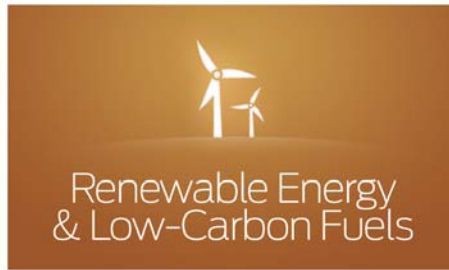
**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT SUPPORTS ENHANCED FUEL EFFICIENCY THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FUEL OPTIONS, AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY, FOR CITY FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Natural, renewable sources of energy are being increasingly explored to replace historic power and fuel supplies. There are many reasons to move away from the use of fossil fuels such as oil and coal to supply a community's power needs. Renewable energy and low-carbon fuels will make energy more available from secure, domestic energy sources and reduce dependency on unpredictable sources of energy. By helping to increase demand for renewable energy sources, local governments can speed the development of new economic opportunities and support clean energy production that helps meet GHG reduction targets and climate change goals.

Along with many other cities in California, Simi Valley is working toward adopting various forms of renewable energy to provide power for city facilities and making it easier for residents and businesses to obtain energy from renewable sources and low-carbon fuels. The City can encourage the use of renewable energy sources and low-carbon fuels in many different ways. As a consumer, the City can upgrade its buildings, vehicles, and operations to incorporate use of renewable energy sources and low-carbon fuels. As a regulator, the City can develop streamlined permit processes and fee incentives for construction of renewable energy sources. As a facilitator of information, the City can promote opportunities and provide assistance to the community about the benefits of and opportunities to utilize renewable energy sources and low-carbon fuels.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts to conserve energy resources by transitioning to renewable energy and low-carbon fuels.



**Objective RE-1:** Increase the use of fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles in the City's fleet, and increase the use of alternative or renewable power sources for City facilities.

**Indicator:** *Fleet composition and facility power supplies are structured so that fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles comprise at least 20% of the City's fleet, and renewable energy provides at least 20% of the City's power needs, by 2020.*

**Action RE 1-1:** Develop a City policy supporting renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, or geothermal generated power, and evaluate opportunities for renewable energy sources to provide some electricity to City facilities. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 1-2:** Inventory fleet composition and conduct a study on alternative fuel platforms and potential fuel efficiency over 2010 base year fleet. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 1-3:** Establish a policy to make fuel type and efficiency a priority in all new City vehicle purchases. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 1-4:** Install bicycle racks at City facilities to promote bicycle use by employees and visitors. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 1-5:** Evaluate potential applications of solar, wind or other renewable energy systems at City facilities. (Intermediate-term)

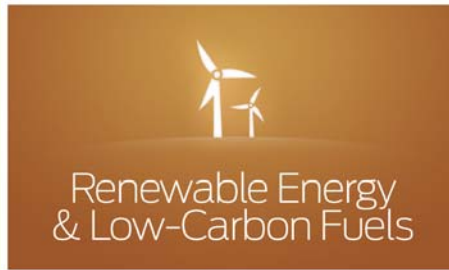
*Did you know...*



In 2010, the City began working with Southern California Edison to participate in an electric vehicle (EV) pilot program, which includes building EV charging stations.

**Action RE 1-6:** Evaluate and install cogeneration or other technologies at wastewater treatment facilities to produce power from methane and other bio-fuels. (Long-term)

**Action RE 1-7:** Evaluate City landscape and other maintenance equipment and practices for reduced fossil fuel use. (Long-term)



**Objective RE-2: Promote alternative energy sources to residents by providing financial assistance, technical resources, and community workshops.**

**Indicator:** *At least 20% of residential power is produced from renewable sources by 2020.*

**Action RE 2-1:** Host or sponsor at least one energy efficiency and renewable energy workshop per year. (Short-term)

**Action RE 2-2:** Provide or participate in financial assistance programs for residents that wish to incorporate renewable energy supplies into their properties. (Short-term)

**Action RE 2-3:** Develop a policy that supports distributed power or renewable energy sources for new residential projects. (Intermediate-term)




*Did you know...*

Along with other agencies, Simi Valley is developing a tax bill financing program for energy efficiency and conservation, including solar power.

**Objective RE-3: Increase the use of alternative or renewable power sources for non-residential facilities.**

**Indicator:** *At least 30% of non-residential power is produced from renewable sources by 2020.*

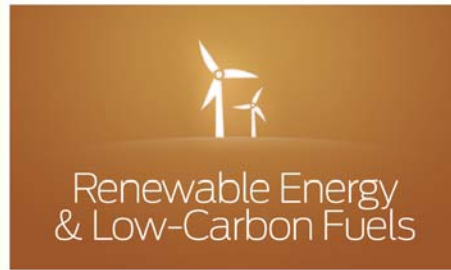
**Action RE 3-1:** Host or sponsor at least one energy efficiency and renewable energy workshop per year. (Short-term)



*Did you know...*

The City has scheduled a solar energy workshop for late Summer 2010, which will be available for residents and business owners.

**Action RE 3-2:** Provide resources and permit assistance for businesses that wish to incorporate renewable power supplies into their properties. (Short-term)



**Action RE 3-3:** Develop a policy that supports solar power for new large parking lots and flat roof areas. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 3-4:** Support the development and use of solid waste and the methane derived from solid waste as a renewable energy source through strategic partnerships with solid waste services providers. (Long-term)

**Objective RE-4:** Encourage and attract economic development related to industries that provide material or technologies that support alternative energy systems or that utilize alternative energy sources such as solar, methane, or CNG in their daily operations.

**Indicator:** *An increased number of industries are located in the City that support or use alternative energy sources.*

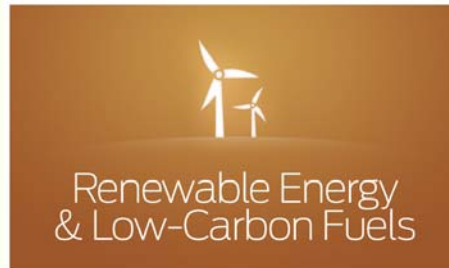
**Action RE 4-1:** Pursue options to create a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) refueling station available to both residents and businesses in Simi Valley. (Intermediate-term)

**Action RE 4-2:** Collaborate with the business community to attract new industries that support or use alternative energy sources, and identify areas of opportunity for existing businesses related to alternative energy sources. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City has started construction on a CNG fueling station that will be used by public transit vehicles in both Simi Valley and Moorpark.



## NECESSARY RESOURCES

Development of renewable energy sources and conversion to use low-carbon fuels often have high initial capital costs. Fortunately, in response to this situation, resources are increasingly available to businesses, homeowners, and local government to meet these needs.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Taking advantage of incentives to support existing, new and emerging distributed energy resources, such as those available through the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/sgip](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/sgip));
- Accessing information sources, such as on-line calculators and the California Solar Initiative ([www.gosolarcalifornia.org](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org)) to help residents and businesses make informed decisions about installing renewable energy sources; and
- Establishing partnerships with private enterprise, technology developers, academia, and/or renewable energy collaboratives to facilitate access to financing options, such as the State of California's Clean Energy Manufacturing Program ([www.energy.ca.gov/renewables](http://www.energy.ca.gov/renewables)).



## CHAPTER 7: EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION

**GOAL:** SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVES TO SINGLE-OCCUPANT AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL THROUGH PROCESSES AND PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON AUTOMOBILES AND IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

### INTRODUCTION

Efficient, sustainable transportation is critical to economic vitality and good air quality in Simi Valley and the entire Southern California area. A key component to any Efficient Transportation Plan is the reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The majority of commuters in Southern California are dependent on single-occupant vehicles, which contribute to gridlock on freeways and the consumption of increasing amounts of oil. This supply/demand cycle creates greater dependence on non-renewable oil supplies and threatens both the economy and environment. Improved transportation efficiencies will have both economic and environmental benefits. As such, the City is committed to exploring ways to encourage and facilitate the community to reduce the amount of time and money spent driving, thereby reducing both VMT and GHG emissions.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts to explore alternatives to single occupant vehicles and make transportation in Simi Valley more efficient and sustainable.

**Objective ET-1:** Reduce GHG emissions by increasing or encouraging the use of alternative fuels and transportation modes.

**Indicator:** Year-over-year use of transit, bicycles, and low-emission vehicles is increased.

**Action ET 1-1:** Increase the number of alternative fuel vehicles in the City's fleet. (Short-term)



#### *Did you know...*

The City is increasing its purchases of hybrid vehicles, to improve gas mileage, save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



- Action ET 1-2:** Review and adjust City bus routes to allow for maximum ridership opportunities. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-3:** Improve coordination between the Simi Valley Unified School District and Simi Valley Transit to make bus transportation more efficient for students. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-4:** Encourage citizens to use a bike for short commutes within the City by promoting routes identified in the City's Bicycle Master Plan. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-5:** Promote bicycle education for drivers and cyclists to ensure safety on the road and increase the number of citizens using this mode of transportation. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-6:** Promote and encourage the use of alternative transportation such as ridesharing, carpools, vanpools, and public transit, by identifying or providing facilities that support these alternative modes of transportation. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-7:** Facilitate the use of low emission vehicles by encouraging the development of a network of electric vehicle charging stations and providing other promotional incentives. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-8:** Collaborate with Caltrans to promote the use of Park and Ride lots. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-9:** Promote available rebate programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project for eligible vehicles through [www.energycenter.org](http://www.energycenter.org). (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-10:** Apply for Safe Routes to School funding to promote walking and cycling to and from schools. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-11:** Update the City's traffic model and data collection requirements to accurately reflect various modes of transportation. (Intermediate-term)
- Action ET 1-12:** Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle access in new project designs for infill sites. (Long-term)





**Objective ET-2: Enhance regional transportation connections that originate or end outside of City boundaries for the efficient movement of goods and people.**

**Indicator:** *Participation in regional planning efforts for enhanced transportation connections is increased.*

**Action ET 2-1:** Work with surrounding government agencies to share alternative fueling stations. (Short-term)

**Action ET 2-2:** Collaborate with other government agencies to share information and coordinate transportation goals. (Intermediate-term)

**Action ET 2-3:** Promote the greater use of commuter rail service to employment centers outside of Simi Valley. (Intermediate-term)

**Action ET 2-4:** Coordinate and consult with major employers in the community on incentives and services to expand alternatives to single-occupant commutes. (Long-term)

**Objective ET-3: Maximize the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for traffic management.**

**Indicator:** *Synchronized traffic signals, optimized signal timing, and computerized master traffic signal control systems in intensively utilized areas are increased.*

**Action ET 3-1:** Implement ITS programs, infrastructure, and improvements that will reduce peak-hour traffic volumes and prioritize needs. (Long-term)

*Did you know...*



The City installed Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in buses and police cars to dispatch vehicles and give drivers instant access to information.



**Action ET 3-2:** Obtain and deploy state of the art traffic management devices. (Long-term)

**Action ET 3-3:** Work with Caltrans and transit providers to provide real-time transit and travel availability information. (Long-term)

## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

As is the case with the development of renewable energy sources, actions necessary to develop efficient transportation systems often entail significant up-front capital costs. Completing these actions will require the City to diligently pursue all available avenues to obtain financial assistance.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Applying for grants that provide funding for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure, such as bio-diesel, electric, and ethanol technologies;
- Consideration of devoting additional contributions to the City's Vehicle Replacement Fund to offset the higher up-front costs of purchasing alternative fuel vehicles;
- Providing incremental funding for implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and state of the art traffic management devices; and
- Continuing to apply for grants and to expand and enhance bicycle and pedestrian paths throughout the City.



## **CHAPTER 8: LAND USE & COMMUNITY DESIGN**

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A WELL-PLANNED COMMUNITY WITH A BALANCE OF HOUSING, JOBS, SHOPPING, SCHOOLS, AND RECREATION THAT OFFERS ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING, INCLUDING WALKING, BIKING, OR USING PUBLIC TRANSIT.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The foundation for a sustainable community, one that manages growth and the needs of its citizens and the environment, is through a City's plans for the future. Sustainable development for future generations may be achieved through land use planning, community and site design, and the provision of community services and infrastructure systems.

Simi Valley's sustainability commitment is reflected in its General Plan, which will locate housing, jobs, and services close to one another to reduce automobile traffic, congestion, and pollution, decrease resource consumption, increase the viability of businesses, and increase social interaction. With sustainability as a key element of the Simi Valley General Plan, its goals and policies take steps to address the challenging issue of climate change by reducing GHG emissions, improving energy efficiency, reducing the urban heat island effect, and managing the use of water. This will result in lower GHG emissions and also promote physical activity and a more vibrant, healthy, and sustainable community.

Simi Valley's plans for future growth and development are grounded in a commitment to protect the City's existing natural environment and to maintain and enhance the character and quality of life in the community.

The following objectives and actions emphasize the connection between the City's General Plan and the GCAP and apply responsible land use and community design standards to the City's physical, economic, and social environments.



**Objective LU-1:** Incorporate policies and practices into the General Plan Update process that address reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Indicator:** A reduction in community-wide GHG emissions to 1990 levels is achieved by 2020.

**Action LU 1-1:** Adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce or encourage reductions in GHG emissions from all sectors within the City, with a baseline inventory of GHG emissions and measures to reduce them. (Short-term)

*Did you know...*



The City's Climate Action Plan is in development and is targeted for adoption in early 2011.

**Action LU 1-2:** Develop and maintain a Citywide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the City's growth and change, including annual reporting on the number of infill sites that were developed during the previous year. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 1-3:** Develop and recommend a policy that would identify potential incentives for new infill development. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



The City's General Plan Update incorporates mixed-use development/redevelopment areas and higher density residential uses near transit nodes and in the City's core.

**Action LU 1-4:** Amend the Development Code and Zoning Maps to expand the areas where mixed-use development is allowed, including a process that would allow some development to exceed height and maximum density limits, consistent with goals and policies of the updated General Plan. (Intermediate-term)



**Objective LU-2: Incorporate analysis of greenhouse gas emissions into the City's environmental review process for new development projects and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR).**

**Indicator:** *Compliance with updated environmental review checklist that includes GHG emission analysis.*

**Action LU 2-1:** Revise the City's environmental review checklist to incorporate GHG emissions analysis as recommended by the State. (Short-term)

**Action LU 2-2:** Develop a policy or process to address GHG emissions from projects that amend the General Plan. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 2-3:** Develop a process to use information in the CAP to ensure project consistency with GHG reduction targets. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 2-4:** Develop environmental review thresholds of significance for GHG emissions. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 2-5:** Prepare guidelines for residential mixed-use projects that qualify for streamlined environmental review per State law. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective LU-3: Develop planning processes that encourage reduction of GHG emissions.**

**Indicator:** *New processes are implemented as part of the City's Climate Action Plan following adoption of the General Plan update.*

**Action LU 3-1:** Encourage "climate-friendly" development and green building techniques in all new affordable housing projects where density concessions are requested. (Short-term)

**Action LU 3-2:** Review and update the City's Residential Permit Allocation System to include incentives for projects that demonstrate strategies that reduce GHG emissions. (Short-term)

*Did you know...*



Simi Valley recently adopted a density bonus program that encourages additional green building measures beyond the City's Green Building Ordinance in affordable housing projects that exceed State density bonuses.



**Action LU 3-3:** Develop and recommend a new City policy that prioritizes reduced GHG emissions in capital improvement projects, and other new development undertaken by the City. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 3-4:** Review the Development Code and zoning designations to identify changes that are needed to implement the CAP. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 3-5:** Develop annual report that tracks progress of implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan, Traffic Signal Synchronization Plan, and other strategies that can reduce GHG emissions and improve existing alternate transportation programs. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities projects and Traffic Signal Synchronization projects are included in the City's annual Five-Year Capital Improvement Programs.

**Action LU 3-6:** Promote or encourage new development applications to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through the use of modeling that demonstrates that the project as proposed has considered design features that encourage alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel. (Long-term)

**Action LU 3-7:** Identify opportunities to improve transportation mode connections, enhance cycling and pedestrian facilities, or otherwise reduce VMT. (Long-term)

**Objective LU-4:** **Coordinate General Plan policies with special districts and regional efforts to improve sustainability and reduce GHG emissions.**

**Indicator:** *City's General Plan update includes strategies from regional plans and blueprints to ensure that Simi Valley can take advantage of regional growth patterns and programs.*

**Action LU 4-1:** Initiate steps to actively participate in development of the Ventura County Compact for Sustainability. (Intermediate-term)

**Action LU 4-2:** Conduct outreach for opportunities to partner with special districts on policies and actions to reduce GHG emissions. (Intermediate-term)



## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

Because the City is already in the midst of updating its General Plan, much of the funding necessary to develop and implement land use and community design changes was set aside years ago. As part of the General Plan update, City staff is preparing a Climate Action Plan that includes a strong sustainability message.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Devoting resources to complete the General Plan update and Climate Action Plan and, when completed, revise and update the City's Development Code and other related ordinances to be consistent with the Plans; and
- Pursuing state and federal funding resources to support the objectives of the updated General Plan.



## **CHAPTER 9: STORING & OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS**

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES ACTIONS AMONG GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ADVANCE THE COMMUNITY TOWARD CARBON-NEUTRALITY.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The storing and offsetting of carbon emissions is an important component toward the reduction of GHG emissions. Everyday activities such as driving cars, heating or cooling homes and offices, consume energy and produce carbon dioxide emissions. The concept of carbon offsetting recognizes that carbon emissions produced by activities in one location can be compensated for by an equivalent carbon dioxide saving activity somewhere else. This balance, or carbon neutrality, may be achieved by creating opportunities to offset carbon emissions through physically separated actions and places throughout the community.

All members of the community, residents and businesses alike, can take simple steps to reduce their carbon footprints and offset carbon emissions. Many opportunities for doing so are available everyday. By purchasing locally grown produce, not only are local farmers supported, the environment benefits from a reduction in the amount of GHG emissions used to transport those goods to market. Simple carpooling generates similar benefits. Planting trees provides an easy and affordable means of offsetting carbon emissions.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts toward becoming more carbon neutral and helping to offset the community's carbon emissions.





**Objective CO-1: Implement policies and actions within City facilities and programs aimed toward achieving carbon-neutrality.**

**Indicator:** *City's carbon footprint is reduced by implementing carbon offset policies and programs.*

**Action CO 1-1:** Educate City staff that operate diesel vehicles on statutes that limit the idling of diesel vehicles to five minutes or less. (Short-term)

**Action CO 1-2:** Conduct a review of City facilities and operations to identify carbon offset opportunities. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 1-3:** Review and amend the City's Ride Share Policy to reduce vehicle miles traveled to and from worksites by City employees. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 1-4:** Evaluate options for implementing a methane capture and use project at the City's Water Quality Control Plant, balancing cost effectiveness and environmental benefit considerations. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 1-5:** Review and amend food purchase policies for City-sponsored events to use locally grown and seasonal food and local products, where feasible. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 1-6:** Explore opportunities to enhance the green buffer along all transportation corridors. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 1-7:** Develop a policy to maintain, enhance, and expand the green buffer along the 118 Freeway, including planting of interchange ramp areas, encouraging developers to set aside land as a buffer area, and coordinating with Caltrans to increase low water use plantings in right-of-way along the 118 Freeway. (Long-term)

**Action CO 1-8:** Encourage preservation of publicly owned open space lands as carbon offsets as part of Climate Action Plan, including use of land as a "tree bank" for infill development. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

The City offers free trees to residents at the annual Simi Valley Arbor Day celebration.



**Objective CO-2: Promote carbon neutrality within the business sector by facilitating carbon-offset opportunities.**

**Indicator:** *Number of local jobs and purchases of locally produced products are increased over the life of the plan.*

**Action CO 2-1:** Develop a policy to expand the employment of the local workforce in Simi Valley businesses. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 2-2:** Provide educational opportunities for the business sector on carbon storage and offsetting practices that may be implemented within their operations. (Intermediate-term)

**Action CO 2-3:** Encourage food-vending businesses to incorporate and expand the volume of locally grown foods and products into their inventories. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



The Simi Valley Farmers' Market makes locally grown produce available to the community every Friday afternoon, reducing the amount of carbon emissions from transportation required to bring those goods to market.

**Action CO 2-4:** Coordinate and consult with major employers in the community on incentives and services to promote alternatives to single-occupant commutes. (Long-term)

**Objective CO-3: Encourage the general public to adopt a goal of carbon-neutrality.**

**Indicator:** *Active response on City website is increased, evaluated over the life of the plan.*

**Action CO 3-1:** Provide the public education and access to information on "reducing your carbon footprint" via the City website and other means. (Short-term)

**Action CO 3-2:** Encourage and facilitate the planting of trees by providing information on the City's website, promoting the City's Self-Help Tree Program, and conducting special events aimed toward reducing carbon emissions. (Short-term)



**Action CO 3-3:** Educate residents and businesses with diesel vehicles on statutes that limit the idling of diesel vehicles to five minutes or less. (Short-term)

**Action CO 3-4:** Promote the purchase of local produce and other products available at farmers' markets and other local providers. (Intermediate-term)

## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

The City is taking steps toward carbon-neutrality, as it relates to its own facilities and operations, and as it relates to the community as a whole. A combination of financial and technical resources will be needed to assist the City on its path toward carbon-neutrality.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Applying for grants to fund carbon offset activities, such as methane gas recapture and re-use, the expansion of green buffers, and the development and promotion of locally based products and services;
- Establishing partnerships with other government agencies, local community groups, and the private sector to develop and share knowledge; and
- Leveraging financial resources with other government agencies, local community groups, and the private sector to take advantage of the benefits of large-scale projects and activities.



## CHAPTER 10: URBAN FORESTRY & OPEN SPACE

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT PROMOTES PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF PARKS, TREES, OPEN SPACE, AND OTHER NATURAL SYSTEMS THAT ADD TO THE COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE.**

### INTRODUCTION

In one year, an acre of trees can absorb enough carbon dioxide emissions equal to driving a car 26,000 miles. Creating and maintaining a healthy urban forest and preserving open space are key components in the effort to reduce GHG emissions and balance development impacts within the City. The City of Simi Valley maintains almost 35,000 street and landscape district trees, and it is estimated that there are 23,000 trees on private property in the city. Preserving trees on a site can reduce landscape costs, and planting additional trees can provide extra shade that can reduce urban heat island effects and increase energy efficiency in the buildings on the site. Trees also reduce runoff, wind velocity, and soil erosion. These factors combine to create an urban forest that can increase the sustainability of the built environment.

Currently, there are about 2,932 acres of developed parkland and public open space in Simi Valley. Open space areas provide visual and spatial buffers for the community, and preserving open space protects sensitive hillsides and the natural systems that absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. By enhancing existing hillside protections, and by working toward more protection for natural habitats, the City can take advantage of these systems to improve the City's viewshed and add to the community's quality of life for present and future generations. The City has a history of protecting healthy trees or replacing removed trees with new plantings, while open space areas could be used as a "bank" to balance development activities in the community by providing a place to plant trees and vegetation for the benefit of all residents.

The following objectives and actions promote community-wide efforts to manage Simi Valley's urban forestry and open space policies to maximize environmental benefits.



**Objective UF-1:** Enhance or increase the planting of trees on City-owned property, rights-of-way, and other public property.

**Indicator:** *The City maintains annual recognition as a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation.*

**Action UF 1-1:** Establish a policy to coordinate tree planting and tree management policies with local schools and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. (Intermediate-term)


**Action UF 1-2:** Review the inventory of existing trees on City-owned property and update the City’s management system to encourage planting of tree species with lower water demand. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 1-3:** Initiate steps to develop a formal urban forestry management program with a focus on ensuring the long-term health and viability of trees and vegetation on City-owned property and right-of-way. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 1-4:** Review and recommend an update of the City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance to enhance preservation and management of existing trees and to improve replacement requirements to offset the loss of trees from new development. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 1-5:** Provide tree-planting resources and promote tree preservation on the City’s website, by highlighting the benefits to enhancing green space in urban environments, promoting the use of the City’s Free Wood Chip Program, and promoting the City’s Self-Help Tree Program to encourage tree planting in parkways. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 1-6:** Enhance the Arbor Day program and carry the momentum through the year with educational materials supporting tree planting in residential areas, along with other activities to achieve the “Tree City USA Growth Award” on an annual basis. (Long-term)



*Did you know...*

The National Arbor Day Foundation has named Simi Valley a Tree City USA since 2000 in recognition of the City’s efforts to protect and enhance the urban forest.



**Action UF 1-7:** Develop a community-wide urban forestry management program to improve the planting and maintenance of trees and understory vegetation. (Long-term)

**Action UF 1-8:** Develop a policy to maintain, enhance, and expand the green buffer along the 118 Freeway, including planting of interchange ramp areas, encouraging developers to set aside land as a buffer area, and coordinating with Caltrans to increase low water use plantings in right-of-way along the 118 Freeway. (Long-term)

**Objective UF-2: Manage open space and natural land consistently within the City to preserve and protect habitat, views, and open space buffers that can be enjoyed community-wide.**

**Indicator:** *New policies are adopted that focus on encouraging conservation easements, protecting wildlife movement corridors, and update and enhance the City's Hillside Protection Ordinance.*

**Action UF 2-1:** Inventory and map areas preserved as open space easements under recorded maps. (Short-term)

**Action UF 2-2:** Coordinate and join with state and local agencies and non-profit organizations to permanently protect open space lands. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 2-3:** Review existing hillside preservation standards to identify opportunities to enhance planting guidelines and requirements on slopes. (Intermediate-term)

**Action UF 2-4:** Develop a policy that protects wildlife movement corridors that connect open space lands as part of the City's General Plan update, with recommendations for mitigation measures as feasible. (Intermediate-term)



*Did you know...*

The City requires setbacks from wildlife movement corridors and riparian and wetland areas for development projects near environmentally sensitive areas.



**Action UF 2-5:** Initiate steps to develop a policy to preserve City-owned open space lands as carbon offsets as part of a Climate Action Plan, including use of land as “tree bank” for infill development. (Long-term)

## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

As is the case with carbon offset projects, successful completion of urban forestry initiatives will require both financial and technical resources. Existing sources of technical support come from staff and the City’s Tree Advisory Board.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Continuing meaningful participation in organizations that help support urban forests such as California ReLeaf, California Urban Forests Council, and Tree People;
- Using the knowledge and relationships of the City’s Tree Advisory Board to mobilize volunteers, obtain donations of quality nursery stock, and educate the public;
- Seeking technical assistance from other government agencies, local community groups, and the private sector to develop effective and efficient land management practices and programs; and
- Pursuing urban forestry grants from such sources as the California Department of Forestry and Strategic Growth Council.



## **CHAPTER 11: PROMOTING COMMUNITY & INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

**GOAL: SIMI VALLEY IS A CITY THAT USES ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION TO EDUCATE, SUPPORT, AND PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Simi Valley is dedicated to providing a framework the public can use to create a healthy living environment, manage the efficient use and conservation of natural and economic resources, and preserve the unique way of life in our community for present and future generations. As a steward of the public interest, it is the City's responsibility to promote and facilitate actions in accordance with the goals of the GCAP. The City is committed to providing reliable, objective information and increasing awareness of local actions to help residents and businesses more toward sustainability achieve the goals outlined in the GCAP.

By working with residents, businesses, community organizations, and other public agencies, the City will improve access to necessary resources and partnerships, provide accountability, recognize sustainability leaders, and ensure the continuity of the GCAP's vision for the community.

The following objectives and actions promote community and individual actions throughout Simi Valley.





**Objective PA-1: Change public perception regarding the need, usefulness, and ease of implementing sustainable lifestyles and business operations.**

**Indicator:** *Community support and adoption of green initiatives are increased over the life of the plan.*

**Action PA 1-1:** Create a centralized, dedicated web page on the City's website to deliver information to the public about sustainable lifestyles and business operations. (Short-term)

**Action PA 1-2:** Promote City resources available to help the public obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and financing for actions and projects related to GCAP objectives. (Short-term)

**Action PA 1-3:** Implement and centrally coordinate recognition programs for leaders in implementing sustainable lifestyles and business operations. (Intermediate-term)

*Did you know...*



The City promotes environmental stewardship and conservation at many annual community events, including the Simi Valley Street Fair, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Coastal Cleanup, and the Arroyo Cleanup.

**Objective PA-2: Maximize availability of information and provide accountability related to the implementation of the GCAP.**

**Indicator:** *Progress on GCAP objectives can be seen on the City's website and in annual reports to the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee and the City Council.*

**Action PA 2-1:** Establish a feedback mechanism for interested citizens or groups to share suggestions on how the City can better accomplish its GCAP objectives. (Short-term)

**Action PA 2-2:** Prepare an annual report listing all objectives contained in the GCAP, along with the status of each, for review by the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee and the City Council. (Intermediate-term)



**Action PA 2-3:** Publish the annual report on the City's website. (Intermediate-term)

**Objective PA-3:** Utilize community partnerships to provide access to and adoption of green practices, and be an active partner in facilitating and participating in community education events and forums.

**Indicator:** *Effective partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and other government agencies are formed or enhanced.*

**Action PA 3-1:** Provide a human presence to promote green practices at community events, including the Simi Valley Street Fair, Earth Day, and Arbor Day events. (Short-term)

**Action PA 3-2:** Proactively use existing partnerships with such agencies as the Simi Valley Unified School District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and join with other local agencies and community groups to identify opportunities to coordinate efforts promoting green practices. (Short-term)



*Did you know...*

The City partnered with Southern California Edison for the 2010-2012 Energy Leader Partnership Program.

**Action PA 3-3:** Host a City-sponsored event, at least once a year, promoting the goals of the GCAP, incorporating partnerships with local community groups. (Short-term)

**Objective PA-4:** Create a unified database of resources to enable quick, focused outreach efforts and effective connections between the City and community.

**Indicator:** *City's ability to share information and coordinate with community groups is increased.*

**Action PA 4-1:** Create and maintain contact lists of various community groups including homeowners' associations, business associations, professional associations, Neighborhood Councils, apartment complexes, educational institutions, religious institutions, non-profit organizations, environmental vendors, and environmental organizations. (Short-term)



**Action PA 4-2:** Create and maintain an inventory of specific media outlets able to distribute information to the public including newspapers, newsletters, websites, E-mail and mailing address lists, bulletin boards, community events, and community centers. (Short-term)

**Objective PA-5: Maintain the coordination and relationship between the GCAP, the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, and the City Council.**

**Indicator:** *The GCAP is established as a working document for the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee and the City Council.*

**Action PA 5-1:** Maintain the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee's role as the advisory body responsible for providing the City Council with recommendations related to implementing the GCAP. (Short-term)

**Action PA 5-2:** Task the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee to provide an Annual Report to the City Council describing progress toward each objective contained in the GCAP, including recommendations for any needed changes to better advance the Plan's guiding principles. (Intermediate-term)



## **NECESSARY RESOURCES**

The resources needed to promote community and individual action include leveraging the City's existing human capital, strengthening existing and creating new relationships with businesses, community organizations and other government agencies, and capitalizing on the City's existing outreach programs to create an effective communication network. By being flexible and fluid in its interactions with partners and the community, staff will ensure responsive and timely communication related to sustainable practices, opportunities, and events.

Resources to accomplish the objectives outlined in this Chapter include:

- Utilizing partnerships with various community groups, such as homeowners' and business associations, to identify opportunities for the promotion of community and individual action;
- Developing relationships with community event organizers to reinforce the City's environmental messaging to distribute information and recognize leaders in sustainability; and
- Identifying grant opportunities to fund programs related to promoting community and individual action.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alternative fuels	Fuel derived from nontraditional sources (e.g., compressed natural gas, electricity, hydrogen fuel cells, etc.).
Biodegradable	Products that contain materials that break down and decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short amount of time when they are exposed to air, moisture and bacteria or other organisms
Building envelope	The exterior structure of a building: walls, windows, roof, floor; and the materials that comprise those structures.
California Climate Action Network	A network of professionals from the Institute for Local Government that helps cities and counties play a leadership role in addressing climate change as required by state law.
Carbon footprint	The amount of greenhouse gases produced directly or indirectly by an activity, a product, a business or a person, expressed in pounds or tons of carbon or carbon dioxide.
Carbon neutrality	The balance created by removing as much carbon dioxide and other carbon emissions from the atmosphere as we put into it with our activities.
Carbon offset	A financial instrument that is used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example, a carbon offset may be purchased to offset the emissions from personal air travel.
Climate Action Plan (CAP)	A blueprint for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a community. A CAP includes a detailed inventory of existing emissions by sector, and specific measures to reduce emissions in each sector of the community.
Conservation	Limiting the amount of a resource used to prevent the loss of the resource. Turning off the air conditioner when a building is unoccupied conserves energy; watering the lawn for shorter periods conserves water.
Efficiency	Using less of a resource to accomplish the same function. Adding attic insulation increases energy efficiency; using a low-flow showerhead increases water efficiency.
Energy audit	An inspection and analysis of energy usage in a building that can identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use.
Energy Cost Effectiveness Study	A study required by the California Energy Commission to demonstrate that the incremental costs associated with local ordinance requirements to exceed state energy efficiency standards meet cost effectiveness guidelines.
Energy Leader	A local government agency that has partnered with a utility to lead by example with respect to energy efficiency and conservation.
General Plan	A set of long-term goals and policies that guide local land use decisions.

Green building	The practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible, resource-efficient, and high performing throughout a building's life-cycle.
Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Major components include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorocarbons.
Institute for Local Government	The research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities.
Low-carbon fuels	A transportation fuel that contains less carbon than standard petroleum fuel, such as a blend of bio-fuels, or compressed natural gas, that will cut GHG emissions.
Mixed-use development	The practice of allowing complementary residential, commercial, and business uses into a single parcel or development area.
Non-renewable energy	Energy derived from sources that cannot be replenished, for example, coal, oil gas, nuclear.
NPDES Permit	The document issued by the state Regional Water Quality Control Board to permit and control all discharges of pollutants from point sources into U.S. waterways, as required by the federal Clean Water Act.
Potable water	Fresh water that can be used as drinking water.
Renewable energy	Energy from nontraditional sources (photovoltaic solar, hydroelectric, wind) that can be replaced at a rate equal to or greater than its rate of reduction.
Runoff	The portion of precipitation or irrigation water that flows from the land to streams or other water channels.
Smart meter	An advanced, digital electric meter designed to help consumers monitor and manage energy use, to save money and energy.
Sustainable	To meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Trash excluder	Steel screens, brushes or panels placed at a catch basin opening along the curb face to prevent large waste items from entering the storm drain system and waterways.
Urban heat island	A metropolitan area that has higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas because of a greater retention of heat, from buildings, concrete, and asphalt.
Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)	The measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in a specified area during a specified time.
Waste audit	An inspection and analysis of the solid waste and recyclable materials generated and disposed of by occupants of a building. The audit can identify opportunities to reduce the amount of waste going to a landfill, and improve recycling.

Water survey	An on-site survey of fixtures, equipment, landscaping, irrigation systems that use water, and how the water is used to determine the efficiency of water use and to develop recommendations for improving water use efficiency.
Watershed	The area of land from which all precipitation and runoff drain into a single water source. Simi Valley is in the Calleguas Creek Watershed.
Zero net energy	Making a building or system as energy efficient as possible, then meeting any remaining energy requirements through self production of energy, usually with alternative or renewable energy sources, resulting in "zero net" emissions or purchases of energy.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Green Community Action Plan is the product of the guidance and vision of the members of the City Council-appointed Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, supported by the City's Green Team and other staff in various areas of the City who have lent their technical expertise in formulating a plan that is ambitious, yet achievable.

The Simi Valley City Council thanks them for their efforts and commitment to a Sustainable Simi Valley.

### **Sustainable Simi Valley Committee**

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Council Member Steve Sojka  
Planning Commissioner Mary Bibb  
Alan Barkwill, At-Large Member  
Doug Boots, At-Large Member  
Christopher G. Coronel, Southern California Edison  
Mark Johnson, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Kate O'Brien, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Michele Pettes, Southern California Gas Company  
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