



PRESS RELEASE
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MAYOR DELLUMS ANNOUNCES OAKLAND RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF TOP 10 SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN AMERICA

Oakland Ranked Among Top 10 Greenest Cities for the Sixth Time in Three Years

OAKLAND – Mayor Ron Dellums today announced that Oakland was once again ranked among the top 10 greenest cities in the United States by SustainLane Media. This is the sixth time in the last three years Oakland has been recognized in the top ten by a leading national survey (Three times by SustainLane, once by Popular Science, and twice by Green Guide).

“The cities of America are the future of America,” said Mayor Dellums. “People will continue to move into metropolitan areas for environmental integrity and Oakland is positioned to address the challenges of global warming and environmental protection through smart planning and sustainable growth, such as ever-increasing bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets, easy access to transit, and healthy, green homes and offices. It is our destiny to lead and I am proud to say that Oakland has become a model for the nation in terms of greening a city. This recognition is a significant acknowledgement of the diligence and commitment Oakland has towards the goal of sustainability and energy efficiency. I commend the effort of city staff, Oakland residents and our partners who have collaborated to secure these achievements.”

The city of Oakland is committed to becoming the sustainable model city. This is being achieved through a four-fold strategy:

- **Growing the Green Economy** by attracting an emerging field of green businesses and jobs to Oakland;
- **Creating Green Opportunities** by helping to train residents to secure and succeed in green jobs;
- **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions** by increasing energy efficiency, shifting to clean, renewable energy sources, and achieving our zero waste goals; and
- **Ensuring a Green, Safe, Healthy Environment** for all residents and visitors.

Oakland was ranked as a national leader among large cities on issues of local food production, transit ridership, solid waste diversion, innovation, green economic efforts and green buildings. Below are several highlights of Oakland’s recent sustainability accomplishments:

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- Energy Efficiency - The City of Oakland has retrofitted 102 of its 115 largest facilities, creating savings of over \$1 million per year to the city's budget;
- Solar Energy - Oakland has the most installed solar energy capacity among large Bay Area cities;
- Green Buildings - Oakland is home to two LEED Platinum-rated buildings -- the first such city in the Bay Area to claim this honor.
- Oil Independence - Over the last 10 years, Oakland has added more than 16 miles of bike lanes and installed more than 700 bike racks in commercial districts.
- Local Food - The number of neighborhood farmers' markets doubled in Oakland from 2005 to 2007.
- Waste Diversion - Oakland has already exceeded the State's 50 percent waste reduction goal by 10 percent, and has adopted and is pursuing a Zero Waste Goal by 2020 to cut the city's current waste disposal of 400,000 tons per year to 40,000 tons per year - a 90 percent reduction.
- Volunteerism and Local Action - Oakland residents have a history of taking local action in their own homes and lives and through volunteer events such as Earth Day, Bike-to-Work Day, and Creek-to-Bay Day.

Under the leadership of Mayor Dellums, the city of Oakland is dedicated to leading the country on creating green jobs and transforming our community to create and capitalize on the new green economy. The city's green jobs program is elegant in its simplicity: bringing in green businesses, creating green jobs, and training residents to be part of this new expanding green workforce. The city has recently partnered with Laney College, Cypress Mandela Training Center and Growth Sector Inc. to launch the Green Jobs Corps -- identifying entry-level employment opportunities for individuals with limited experience or barriers to employment and provide them with the skills necessary to find meaningful employment in the green economy.

The city has also received numerous awards for its use of solar energy to produce electricity, stormwater management program, brownfields redevelopment efforts and food scraps recycling program.

SustainLane Media claims to be the leading national survey that ranks the largest 50 U.S. cities in terms of their sustainability practices. SustainLane's rankings are the most comprehensive and credible benchmarking of the state of sustainability in America.

www.mayorrdellums.org

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