How Are We Doing?

Oakland, California is one of the greenest, most sustainable cities in the nation. This report summarizes Oakland’s recent progress in becoming a more livable and sustainable city. Its purpose is to reflect on our progress and opportunities to make Oakland an even better place to live, work, learn, play, shop and visit.

Becoming a more livable and sustainable city involves progress toward a series of interconnected goals. Advancements in each area enable new success in others. Through a collaborative approach emphasizing balanced, continuous improvement, we are building on Oakland’s legacy of leadership and becoming a more sustainable city.

The 6 Elements of Oakland’s Sustainable 2012-13 Report

Housing, Land Use & Transportation

The decisions we make today regarding housing, land use and transportation will shape the future of our community for generations to come. Oakland is a city of desirable, vibrant neighborhoods connected by an efficient transportation system. Our planning decisions build on and reinforce these qualities, increasing accessibility for all members of the Oakland community and supporting regional development goals.

Buildings, Energy & Climate

Oakland’s energy and climate efforts are reducing waste and pollution, encouraging investment, keeping money in the local economy, and improving local infrastructure. Buildings can be designed to support the health and wellbeing of occupants and minimize resource use and pollution. Improving local energy security and planning for future climate impacts increases the resilience of our community.

Community, Culture & Education

Oakland is home to a variety of cultural institutions and activities that celebrate our diversity, bring our community together, and create a joyful and engaging environment. Quality local education opportunities provide Oakland with a ready, capable workforce and enable our residents to pursue their chosen paths.
Becoming a more sustainable city...

...a community in which all people have the opportunity to pursue safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives, now and into the future.

Sustainable City Vision

Economic Prosperity

Oakland continues to develop a thriving, diverse, sustainable economy offering a variety of attractive business and employment opportunities. The City is working to enhance the local business climate to attract, grow and retain Oakland businesses and to create jobs for residents. Local workforce development networks are helping to develop skills and expertise among residents and businesses to succeed in the ever-evolving global economy. Oakland also offers support to help local businesses go green in their operations, improve energy efficiency and save money.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

The City and its partners are working to create and maintain a healthy, safe, and fulfilling environment for all residents and visitors. Local efforts aim to address inequities in access to healthy lifestyle choices and healthcare services. All members of the Oakland community have a role to play in creating a healthy, safe, and resilient community through healthy choices, smart preventive practices, and fostering supportive environments.

Natural Resources, Waste & Environmental Health

Oakland is located in a region endowed with natural resources that provide food, water, energy, raw materials, recreation and respite. These natural resources are limited, and some are threatened by urbanization. City policies related to creek protection, zero waste, climate change, land use and other issues are designed to protect the health of the environment and make best use of our natural resources.
Housing, Land Use & Transportation

The decisions we make today regarding housing, land use and transportation will shape the future of our community for generations to come. Oakland is a city of desirable, vibrant neighborhoods connected by an efficient transportation system located in the heart of the Bay Area. Our planning decisions build on and reinforce these qualities, increasing accessibility for all members of the Oakland community, supporting regional development goals, and making Oakland an even better place to live.

Sustainable City Highlights

New Housing Assistance Center Opens - The City of Oakland’s new Housing Assistance Center offers a streamlined, one-stop approach to housing services, including: foreclosure prevention and mitigation assistance for homeowners; counseling and legal services; the City’s new Restoring Ownership Opportunities Together (ROOT) loan program to keep families facing foreclosure in their homes; low- or no-interest loans and grants to eligible residents for residential rehabilitation, home repair and energy retrofits; first-time homebuyers’ assistance and workshops; and landlord/tenant mediation for rent increases and related rent adjustment services. Trained specialists provide referrals for Oakland tenants, homeowners and small rental property owners/managers to nonprofit, private, City and other public resources. The Center also offers private rooms for client consultation and makes new conference space available to the housing community.

Intelligent Transportation Systems - The City of Oakland’s Intelligent Transportation System Program was named Project of the Year in the $5M-25M category by the American Public Works Association Northern California Chapter. State-of-the-art fiber communication lines now connect traffic signals along several key transportation corridors. This system enables remote traffic signal management and maintenance, allowing staff to monitor and control traffic in the event of disasters or special events. By helping to improve traffic flow, this system reduces air pollution from vehicle idling.

Complete Streets - The Oakland City Council adopted a “complete streets” policy to advance the development of a comprehensive, safe, accessible and integrated transportation network. This policy calls for the City to establish street design standards that make transit, bicycling and walking safer and more convenient.

Downtown Free B Shuttle Expands Service, Serves One Millionth Passenger

The Broadway "Free B" Shuttle runs until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, and will begin operating until 10 p.m. from Monday to Thursday by fall 2013, making it easier for downtown commuters working late shifts to use transit to get home, and for everyone to enjoy downtown Oakland’s bustling nightlife and dining scenes. The Free B serves more than 2,600 riders per day, reducing air pollution by displacing automobile trips. The popular shuttle served its one millionth passenger in June 2012, less than two years since the City of Oakland began the service. The Free B is increasing downtown commerce and enabling cleaner commuting as it serves locations in Jack London Square, Old Oakland, Chinatown, City Center, Uptown and Lake Merritt. Routes, stops and hours are available at www.Bshuttle.com.
Measured Performance

Oakland Rises to 7th in Nation in Bicycling Rate with 7,000 Biking Commuters - More Oaklanders are pedaling to work than ever before. Over three percent of Oakland workers – or about 5,000 people daily – commute by bicycle according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2011 American Community Survey data. When combined with workers who bike to BART to catch a train, more than 7,000 Oaklanders make cycling a part of their daily commute. Oakland is one of only seven large cities in the United States where more than three percent of commute trips are made via bicycle, demonstrating the impact of the City of Oakland’s investments in its bicycle program. The percentage of Oaklanders commuting to work by bicycle has more than doubled since the early 1990s.

Park Accessibility - Nearly 90% of residents live within one half mile of a park or open space.

In the Works

Oakland Airport BART Connector - A new light rail segment connecting Oakland International Airport with BART will begin operating in fall 2014, enabling faster access to downtown Oakland, San Francisco and the region via transit.

Bus Rapid Transit Coming to International Boulevard - The City and AC Transit have each approved plans for a new bus rapid transit (BRT) line connecting downtown Oakland with the city of San Leandro. The City is collaborating with the local community to develop plans to spur community-serving transit-oriented development along the International Blvd corridor.

Electric Vehicles - Oakland is partnering with other Bay Area cities, regional agencies and private sector partners to develop an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure plan to make EV charging widely available. The City will soon add three Nissan LEAF electric vehicles to its fleet thanks to a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Downtown Bike Station - The City received a grant of $531,000 from the Safe Routes to Transit program to build a bike station at 19th Street BART. The station will be in a storefront at street level and include valet parking, a bike kitchen, and, in time, a small café and retail.

For more highlights and performance data, visit www.sustainableoakland.com
Economic Prosperity

Oakland continues to develop a thriving, diverse, sustainable economy offering a variety of attractive business and employment opportunities. The City is working to enhance the local business climate to attract, grow and retain Oakland businesses and to create jobs for residents. Local workforce development networks are helping to build skills and expertise among residents and businesses to succeed in the ever-evolving global economy. Oakland also offers support to help local businesses go green in their operations, improve energy efficiency, and improve their bottom line.

Sustainable City Highlights

Oakland Companies: Best for the World - Three Oakland companies – Sungevity, Give Something Back and One Pacific Coast Bank – were recently ranked by Forbes among the nation’s 12 best companies for the world! Oakland is home to one quarter of this prestigious list, more than any other city. The rankings were compiled by B Lab, which scored companies on the triple bottom line - people, planet and profit.

Center of the Solar Universe - Oakland is fast becoming a hub for the solar industry with the presence of national leaders like BrightSource Energy and Sungevity, and exciting new innovators like Mosaic. The SfunCube solar accelerator in Jack London Square is helping new solar entrepreneurs to speed the development of their companies and adoption of solar for meeting energy needs.

Green Business Growth - More than 200 green businesses employing over 3,500 people call Oakland home. These organizations are working on renewable energy, energy efficiency, green building, recycling, environmental consulting, advocacy and many other issues. More than a dozen nationally recognized energy efficiency and renewable energy companies are now located along Broadway, prompting the nickname “Negawatt Alley”. Among them is Build It Green, which has doubled from 25 to 50 employees since moving to Oakland in 2010. Downtown Oakland is home to 8 million square feet of LEED and Energy Star real estate, centered around an efficient transit system.

Growing Local Business - Oakland’s Business Assistance Center provided technical assistance, guidance and service referrals to more than 1,467 entrepreneurs and business owners in 2012, an increase of 14 percent from 2011. The City provided $2.2 million to support completion of 67 façade and tenant improvement projects citywide, leveraging nearly four times that amount in private investment.

City Council Approves Oakland Army Base Project

After 15 years of development proposals and master planning, the Oakland Army Base moved a giant step forward toward becoming a revitalized “working waterfront” with City Council approval of a master development concept. Positioned between major rail lines and marine terminals of the fifth busiest container port in the country, this trade and logistics-oriented project will aim to expand lower-impact rail-based shipping, and to bring thousands of new jobs to Oakland associated with maritime, trade and logistics activity.
Buying Green and Local - The Oakland Grown program has expanded its efforts to strengthen the local economy by supporting local purchasing and creating opportunities for local businesses and artists. The Oakland Grown Card rewards local shopping by offering card owners points for making purchases at participating locations, where those points can also be redeemed through various discounts.

Enterprise Zone - In 2012, the Oakland Enterprise Zone program provided tax credit vouchers helping to create and retain 3,240 jobs for Oakland residents.

Bank On Oakland - The Bank on Oakland program has helped 18,000 residents to open a free or low-cost bank account who did not previously have one. This program is assisting residents to increase their financial security and reduce dependency on check cashers and payday lenders. In addition, Oakland’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign has helped low-income residents obtain $21 million in tax refunds, also increasing financial security.

Senior Employment Opportunities - Assets Senior Employment enrolled 168 low-income unemployed seniors and provided staffing support to 65 Oakland community based organizations with average wages of $13 per hour.

Measured Performance

Top Ten Office Market - Oakland was recently ranked the 7th best U.S. office market in Grubb & Ellis’ Office Market Strength Forecast for 2011-2015.

More Local Jobs - Oakland netted more than 5,000 new jobs in 2012, helping to bring down the local unemployment rate by 1.9 percent, and enabling more workers to live and spend in Oakland. City revenues from sales tax, business tax, hotel tax and property transfer tax are all up, and the City is in its most solid financial condition in a decade.

In the Works

More Businesses Achieving Green Certification - The Alameda County Green Business Program continues to support, certify and recognize Oakland businesses that choose to go green in their operational practices.
Buildings, Energy & Climate

Oakland’s comprehensive energy and climate efforts are reducing waste and pollution, encouraging investment, keeping money in the local economy, and improving local infrastructure. Buildings can be designed to support the health of occupants, minimize resource use, and make our community a more enjoyable place to be. Optimizing the use of energy, water and other resources can lower associated costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Improving local energy security and planning for future climate impacts can increase the resilience of our community.

Sustainable City Highlights

The World’s Greenest Renovated Office - Integral Group’s downtown Oakland offices achieved the world’s highest LEED for Commercial Interiors score (102 out of a possible 110 points), earning the top-level LEED-CI Platinum designation. The renovated office at 13th St and Broadway includes right-sized equipment, personal fans and lighting controls, secure bike racks, personal bathroom hand towels to reduce waste, and many more replicable features. Oakland is among a handful of cities with four LEED Platinum-rated buildings.

Improved Housing Quality - City programs helped to complete 235 residential rehabilitation projects in 2012, improving healthy living conditions and reducing energy costs for Oakland residents while generating economic opportunities for local contractors and businesses. Oakland is a pilot site for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, a national initiative to improve residential energy efficiency, health and safety by integrating housing-related programs and services. In 2012, the City developed new partnerships with Alameda County’s Public Health and Healthy Homes Departments and local nonprofits to improve housing quality for tenants adversely impacted by housing conditions such as lead hazards and asthma triggers. The City also completed innovative pilot programs resulting in 53 energy retrofits and 862 weatherized homes.

Brighter, More Energy-Efficient Streetlights - The City is currently replacing 30,000 older streetlights with new, energy-efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) streetlights. The LED fixtures will provide brighter, more natural light to help improve public safety and lower the City’s energy costs. Oakland is one of first municipalities to implement such a comprehensive LED conversion. The project began in East Oakland and will include replacement of streetlights throughout the city.

Oakland Shines Delivers Energy Savings

Completed in 2012, the Oakland Shines program helped Oakland businesses to save energy and money through energy efficiency upgrades. The Oakland Shines team performed more than 600 free building energy audits, and completed energy upgrades in nearly 200 buildings, including large office buildings, hotels, community colleges, parking garages and 130 corner stores. The program achieved an annual energy savings of more than 4.5 million kWh of electricity and 55,000 therms of natural gas, equivalent to removing more than 250 passenger vehicles from the road, and continues to save Oakland businesses nearly $600,000 annually in energy costs.
Energy and Climate Action Plan Adopted - The Oakland Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) was adopted by City Council in December 2012. The ECAP establishes actions the City and members of the community can take to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and to increase local resilience to the projected impacts of climate change. The City and its partners have already made progress on more than 70 actions identified in the ECAP.

New Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Programs - The City partnered with the Cities of Berkeley and Emeryville to identify new ways to make it more affordable, easier and valuable for multi-family property owners to invest in energy efficiency. These recommendations have contributed to new programs being launched in 2013 by PG&E and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (a government consortium). The programs offer property owners rebates for completing energy upgrades.

Measured Performance

City Facility Energy Improvements - The City is leading by example with projects that reduce energy use in its own municipal operations. One recent lighting retrofit at City Center West Garage reduced energy use by approximately 50 percent, creating cost savings for the City and improved lighting quality. In 2012, the City completed energy upgrades to: the Police Administration Building’s lighting and HVAC equipment; the City Administration Building’s automated HVAC controls; and lighting systems at the Municipal Services Center, Dalziel Garage and 20 community ball fields.

In the Works

Planning for Climate Change Resilience - The City is collaborating with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, other regional agencies, local governments and community partners to learn more about projected impacts and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, and to develop strategies for increasing community resilience.

Going Solar - The City has partnered with Alameda County under the Regional Renewable Energy Procurement Project with the goal of installing solar energy panels on at least 15 additional City facilities.

For more highlights and performance data, visit www.sustainableoakland.com
Health, Safety & Wellbeing

The City and its partners are working to create and maintain a healthy, safe, and fulfilling environment for all residents and visitors. Local efforts aim to address inequities in access to healthy lifestyle choices and healthcare services. All members of the Oakland community have a role to play in creating a healthy, safe, and resilient community through their own healthy choices, smart preventive practices, and fostering of supportive environments.

Sustainable City Highlights

Creation of New Community Gardens - In 2012, Oakland Parks and Recreation added a rental plot community garden at Allendale Park, with over 20 raised beds for families and youth in the Allendale neighborhood. Through partnerships with community groups Rebuilding Together Oakland and Allendale Park Neighborhood Council, this thriving garden features a full length tile mosaic across the front fence. The addition of the Allendale Park Community Garden raised the number of gardens citywide to 16.

SeeClickFix - In 2012, the City linked the SeeClickFix mobile application (SeeClickFix.com) to its CityWorks work management system. The new app allows residents to quickly report and track non-emergency requests for service ranging from pothole patching to graffiti removal, making it easier for potential health, safety and aesthetic issues to be addressed.

Blight Amnesty Program For Homeowners - The City of Oakland offered a Blight Amnesty Program in 2012 to help qualifying homeowners address ongoing blight violations and improve quality of life in Oakland neighborhoods. The program required payment of any original fees associated with the blight violation, but removed applicable liens and forgave inspection fees and fines, penalties and interest that have accrued since the original violation.

Municipal ID Cards - In 2013, Oakland became the first city in the country offering municipal ID cards with optional prepaid debit card features. The City launched this initiative to enable all city residents to obtain an official form of identification recognized and accepted by all city agencies and services. The card also incorporates optional prepaid debit card banking features allowing residents without bank accounts an affordable alternative to secured banking services. For more information about the card, go to www.oaklandcityid.com.

Oakland Running Festival Grows

The third annual Oakland Running Festival attracted a record 8,211 runners and contributed an estimated $3.5 million to the economy of the city and state, according to a study by the Regional Economic Studies Institute. The event also generated more than $300,000 for local charities and organizations, including the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Running for a Better Oakland, Oakland Rising, the Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center, the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, and Team in Training.
Crossroads Green Emergency Housing - In 2012, Crossroads opened as the first green multi-service emergency housing facility in Oakland. The largest of its kind in Alameda County, Crossroads is a 125-bed emergency housing program where singles and families, including people living with HIV/AIDS, receive the necessary skills to obtain employment and permanent housing in a dignified and healing environment.

Rapid Re-Housing Initiative - The City is building on its nationally recognized housing-first model program named The Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative (OPRI). The OPRI was conceived as a program to move people directly from homeless encampments into safe and affordable housing. Through its collaborations with skilled non-profit providers and the Oakland Housing Authority, OPRI has expanded to include shelter residents, transition aged youth, and people returning to Oakland from the criminal justice system. These homeless and disabled individuals are supported with services and housing necessary to live more stable and healthy lives.

Measured Performance

Violence Prevention and Public Safety Programs - Oakland Unite violence prevention programs provided individual services to approximately 4,187 youth and young adults; group services to approximately 1,525 youth and young adults; and street outreach events reaching over 8,000 community members in 2012. Funded by Measure Y, these programs provided residents with services to help prevent future violence such as family violence intervention, incident and crisis response, after school and summer jobs, and employment counseling. Community organizations assisted clients in connecting with housing, accessing health services, obtaining substance abuse treatment, fixing financial and legal issues, and reconnecting with family and the community.

In the Works

Second Chance Grant - Oakland was one of five recipients across the country selected to participate in a national Second Chance Juvenile Reentry Evaluation Grant, with the goal of enhancing system changes for reentry youth.

For more highlights and performance data, visit www.sustainableoakland.com
Community, Culture & Education

As individuals and as a community, we benefit from opportunities to receive a quality education and to live in a supportive, enjoyable community. A diverse and vibrant city, Oakland is home to a variety of cultural institutions and activities, creating a more joyful and engaging environment supporting creative expression. Quality local education opportunities and training programs provide Oakland with a ready, capable workforce and enable our residents to pursue their chosen paths.

Sustainable City Highlights

Open Data Movement Grows, Oakland Selected as a Code for America City - Oakland is a fast-growing hub of the open data movement. Local tech entrepreneurs, community activists and the broader Bay Area tech community convened the 2nd annual Code for Oakland, a unique, one-day “hackathon” that brought volunteer programmers, coders and community members together to build web and mobile apps and tools to improve life in Oakland. The City established the EngageOakland.com website to provide an online forum for community members to share ideas about opportunities to improve the city. Building on this momentum, Oakland was selected to be a 2013 Code for America City. The Code for America program connects forward-thinking cities with top talent from the tech industry to develop reusable civic technology that solves critical problems while developing the next generation of tech-savvy, civic leaders.

Parklets Popping Up on Oakland’s Streets - Oakland’s Pilot Parklet Program brought seven parklets to Oakland’s Downtown, Uptown, Grand Lake, and Piedmont Avenue neighborhoods in 2012. A parklet is the temporary use of space in the public right-of-way (e.g., a parking space, unused bus stop), typically involving the construction of a platform to extend the grade of the sidewalk into the street. Benches, tables, chairs, landscaping, and bike parking can all be placed on top to create publicly accessible space for the enjoyment and use of the Oakland community. Parklets are typically located in areas with heavy pedestrian activity, as additional seating areas for retail patrons, and in areas where there is a desire to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

Public Art Thrives in Oakland

The City’s Public Art Program completed artist Scott Oliver’s “Once Upon a Time, Happily Ever After”, an interpretive public art and natural history project on the shores of Lake Merritt, and broke ground on the Uptown Art Park (recipient of a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts grant), among other high-profile projects initiated in 2012. The City’s Cultural Funding grants supported 50,735 arts activities serving over 271,000 residents and visitors, including nearly 10,000 students in Oakland public schools.
Distinguished Schools - Two Oakland elementary schools were recognized as 2012 Distinguished Schools by the California School Recognition Program: Acorn Woodland Elementary and Henry J. Kaiser Jr. Elementary. The California Distinguished School Award identifies and honors those schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap.

Supporting Oakland Youth - The City’s free lunch program distributed over 100,000 lunches to help meet the food and nutrition needs of Oakland children throughout the summer. The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) helped over 1,000 very young children get off to a good start through parent education, early learning and playgroup programs. OFCY also served more than 14,000 youth during the school year in after school and youth leadership programs and another 1,300 youth in summer programs, providing enrichment and learning opportunities for Oakland’s young people.

Measured Performance

School Performance Rising - Oakland Unified was recognized as the most improved Urban School District for the seventh year in a row, measured by the Academic Performance Index.

Record Breaking National Night Out - A record 605 neighborhood block parties made Oakland’s 2012 National Night Out event the largest in the city’s history, expanding and deepening relationships throughout the community.

In the Works

Oakland Receives $6 Million for Park Improvements - The State of California awarded six million dollars from a Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Grant to the City of Oakland. Five million dollars will be used at Golden Gate Recreation Center and Park in North Oakland to install new amenities, including: a multipurpose gym, performance stage/activity room, teen lounge, community living room/art gallery, walking track, school-age playground, and outdoor performance areas. The addition of 9,700 square feet will modernize the facility and dramatically improve recreational opportunities. At the Durant Mini Park, at 29th Street and MLK, Jr. Way, one million dollars will be used to improve lighting for safety on the plaza and to create a new amphitheater and picnic areas, community garden, children’s play area and tot lot, walking circuit, and bicycle accommodations.

For more highlights and performance data, visit www.sustainableoakland.com
Natural Resources, Waste & Environmental Health

Oakland is located in a region endowed with natural resources that provide food, water, energy, raw materials, recreation and respite. These natural resources are limited, and some are threatened by urbanization. City policies related to creek protection, zero waste, climate change, land use and other issues are designed to protect the health of the environment and make best use of our natural resources.

Sustainable City Highlights

Lake Merritt Improvements Underway - The City has marked a major milestone in its effort to reconnect Lake Merritt to the Bay with the re-opening of a 750-foot section of the Lake Merritt Channel. Since 1869, Lake Merritt has been separated from the channel by structures that altered what was once an open waterway to the San Francisco Bay. This phase of the Measure DD-funded project includes removal of the 12th Street dam and culverts, and construction of a new 100-foot-wide, free-flowing tidal channel that will improve water quality in Lake Merritt. The twelve-lane “mini-freeway” over the channel has been replaced with a six-lane, tree-lined boulevard, accompanied by a paved trail and a separate pedestrian bridge over the water. The $47 million project also includes improvements for water quality and wildlife habitat, creation of a new tidal marsh and construction of a new recreational trail that will eventually connect to the San Francisco Bay Trail. The next phase of the project, including similar improvements at 10th Street, is scheduled to begin in summer 2014.

Rain Barrels for Stormwater Management - The City’s Rainwater Harvesting Program provided subsidized rain barrels and cisterns to Oakland residents to reduce stormwater peak flows and to store rainwater for landscaping irrigation. These barrels capture roof runoff and release it slowly into the landscape, helping to prevent erosion. Close to 1,400 homes installed rain barrels and cisterns, and four large demonstration projects were installed for a total of over 400,000 gallons of new rainwater retention. Additionally, hundreds of residents personally participated in eight hands-on public workshops and thousands more were reached through dozens of public education events.

Pollinator Posse - Oakland’s Pollinator Posse is helping to create habitat and support the survival of pollinators such as bees and butterflies that play critical roles in local food production and ecological systems. The all volunteer Posse helped to complete a pollinator garden and bee hotel at Oakland’s Lakeside Park in early 2013. The group is working to create pollination corridors throughout Oakland, and to raise native butterflies and other pollinating insects.

Volunteers Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful

Through hard work and dedication, community volunteers are helping to preserve Oakland’s neighborhoods and natural environment. Volunteers worked more than 70,000 hours in 2012, at approximately 350 adopted spots, to help clean and beautify Oakland’s parks, creeks and neighborhoods. The City and its partners such as Keep Oakland Beautiful, the Oakland Parks Coalition, and the Lake Merritt Institute provided workshops and projects to help youth develop their skills and get involved in taking care of their community. The City’s Adopt a Spot program provides year-round volunteer opportunities throughout Oakland. Visit www.oaklandadoptaspot.org for more information.
Leading By Example - The City of Oakland continues to lead by example in greening its own operations, including its parks, recreation centers, libraries, fire stations, and other facilities. In 2012, the City achieved green business certification for the 81st Avenue Library and Fire Station 18 on Bancroft Avenue, and recertification of its City Center complex.

Urban Greening - The City is implementing projects such as rain gardens, flow-through planters, vegetated swales, green roofs, permeable paving, and tree plantings to reduce flooding, improve water and air quality, lower ambient temperature, and improve public health and quality of life. The City has already installed green roof projects and is working on the conversion of several asphalt-paved parking lots to permeable pavement with vegetated swales and rain gardens to capture and filter stormwater runoff pollution. The City is also developing an Urban Greening Retrofit plan that will identify more potential locations for future urban greening projects.

Oakland Public Works Convenes Statewide Recycling Conference - The California Resource Recovery Association held its 36th Annual Conference & Tradeshow at the Oakland Convention Center in August 2012, drawing more than 600 recycling professionals and advocates from around the state.

Single Use Bag Ban and Mandatory Commercial Recycling - In early 2012, StopWaste.Org, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, adopted countywide ordinances to reduce waste by prohibiting free distribution of single use plastic bags in stores that sell packaged food, and requiring recycling of certain materials by large businesses and multifamily properties.

Measured Performance

Oakland Recycles - In 2012, Oakland residents recycled 34,000 tons of mixed materials, and 36,000 tons of yard trimmings and food scraps, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of removing 30,000 cars from the road for one year.

In the Works

Shorepower Improving Air Quality - The Port of Oakland is improving air quality by installing shorepower, an electrical shore-to-ship connection allowing docked container ships to plug in instead of running their diesel engines. The first phase of installations is complete, and the Port plans to install shorepower at eleven berths by the end of 2013.

For more highlights and performance data, visit www.sustainableoakland.com
Oakland’s Sustainability Awards

Top Ten Green and Sustainable City!

Oakland has been recognized as a top ten green and sustainable U.S. city more than ten times in the last eight years.

Top Five Green City – SheKnows.com (April 2013)

Top Five Green City – Corporate Knights Magazine (June 2012)

Top Five Smarter City (#4 among large cities) – Natural Resources Defense Council (July 2009)

Top Five Green City (#4) – Mother Nature Network (July 2009)

Top Ten Sustainable City (#9 out of 50) – SustainLane (2005, 2006, 2008)


Top Five Green City (#4 out of 50) – Popular Science (2008)

Top Twenty Places to Live – Outside Magazine (July 2008)
Top 20 Urban Destinations with Nature Opportunities – TravelNerd (May 2013)  

Top 10 Most Walkable City in America – Walk Score (February 2013, July 2011)  

10 Most Exciting Cities in America – Movoto (July 2012)  

Top 12 ArtPlaces in America – ArtPlace (January 2013)  

7th Highest Bicycling Rate in America – U.S. Census Data (November 2012)  

America's 50 Best Cities – Bloomberg Businessweek (September 2012)  

Top 10 Greenest Real Estate Markets in America – Cushman & Wakefield (November 2011)  

#2 Can-Do City in America – Newsweek (September 2011)  

3rd Most Active City in America – Men’s Health Magazine (June 2011)  

Bicycle Friendly Community – League of American Bicyclists (September 2010)  

City Solar Award – NorCal Solar (2007)  

Food Scraps Recycling Climate Protection Honor – US Conference of Mayors (June 2008)  

Storm Water Management Program Award – U.S. EPA (October 2007)  

4 Stars for Climate Protection – ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (2001)
Get Involved!

We all have a role to play in helping Oakland become a more livable and sustainable city. Oakland provides many opportunities to:

**Attend Events**

such as Earth Expo (April), Bike-to-Work Day (May), Art & Soul Festival (August), National Night Out (August), and community events in your neighborhood. www2.oaklandnet.com/Events

**Volunteer**

as a mentor to a student who needs a little support, or Adopt a Spot and participate in community clean-up events on Earth Day (April), Creek-to-Bay Day (September) and every month in neighborhoods throughout the city. www.oaklandadoptasspot.org

**Shop Local**

to support local businesses, jobs, and reduce environmental impacts. www.shopoakland.com

**Live Greener**

by making green choices every day such as driving less, recycling and composting more, and improving the energy efficiency of your home. www.sustainableoakland.com

**Lead the Way**

by encouraging friends and neighbors to also help make Oakland a more livable and sustainable city every day! www.sustainableoakland.com
City Initiatives Driving Sustainability

Highlights of Oakland policies driving sustainability performance:
- Energy and Climate Action Plan
- Green Building Ordinance for Private Development
- Civic Bay Friendly Landscaping Ordinance
- Bicycle Parking Ordinance
- Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
- Food Policy Council Resolution
- Resolution to Develop an Oil Independence Action Plan
- Bicycle Master Plan
- Green Food Service Ware Ordinance
- Green Building Guidelines Resolution
- Zero Waste Strategic Plan Resolution
- Food Policy Plan Resolution
- Urban Environmental Accords Resolution
- Chicago Climate Exchange Resolution
- Civic Green Building Ordinance
- Green Fleet Resolution
- Seventy-five Percent Waste Reduction Resolution
- Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Dioxin and Public Health Resolution
- Climate Protection Resolution
- Sustainable Development Resolution
- Transit First Policy
- Living Wage Ordinance
- Creek Protection, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control Ordinance
- Pest Management Resolution
- Recycling Space Allocation Ordinance
- Recycled Content Procurement and Source Reduction Policy
- Alameda County Waste Reduction and Recycling Act

City of Oakland Elected Officers

Mayor Jean Quan
Members of the City Council:
Pat Kernighan (District 2), President
Larry Reid (District 7), Vice Mayor
Desley Brooks (District 6)
Noel Gallo (District 5)
Dan Kalb (District 1)
Rebecca Kaplan (At Large)
Lynette Gibson McElhaney (District 3)
Libby Schaaf (District 4)
Barbara Parker, City Attorney
Courtney Ruby, City Auditor

Oakland celebrated its 160th birthday in 2012!
This report was developed under the leadership of the Public Works Agency – Environmental Services Division with contributions from numerous City staff and partners.

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Oakland, CA 94612

To learn more, visit the City’s Sustainable Oakland website at:

www.sustainableoakland.com