



GREEN RIVERSIDE

Action Plan | Emerald City

ENERGY: Riverside is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power that achieves a balance between high quality, low cost energy and the environmental impacts of providing those energy resources.

GOALS

1: Increase the use of non-Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitting energy by 2020 to 70% with at least 50% coming from renewable sources.^(EC)

2: Promote Riverside as a Solar City by installing 20 MW of local photovoltaic installations by 2020.^(EC)

3: Based on 2006 reports, reduce the City's base electrical load by 10% by 2012 and reduce the City's peak electrical load by 20% by 2020.^(EC)

TASKS

Provide an annual update of the entire energy portfolio to RPU Board.

Provide 20 MW of regional non-emitting sources by 2020.

Continue to offer \$2.5 million towards residential and commercial PV installations annually.

Implement a tiered rebate system to encourage PV installations paired with energy efficiency by 2010.

Provide financing mechanisms for residents / commercial customers to install PV by 2010.

Design and install at least 100 kW annually in City-funded installations.

Save 20 million kWh annually through Public Benefits programs.

Annually review and implement City-wide cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

Develop and implement demand response and load shifting programs by 2010.

Shift 10% of peak load to alternative periods by 2020 through cost-effective programming.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

Riverside is situated in a semi-arid region of Southern California where water resources are dependent on local snow pack and rainfall. As regional temperatures rise and the threat of reduced local precipitation exists, Riversiders are reminded that doing their part to reduce global warming is a local issue. Additionally, Riverside experiences an above-average level of air pollution given its proximity east of Los Angeles and west of the San Bernardino Mountains that essentially “locks-in” smog in the region’s basin. While the City continues to make efforts to reduce pollution through emission reduction measures, additional steps must be created and implemented to improve air quality. Electric Utility greenhouse gas emission targets will meet those jointly developed at State and Federal levels as resources cover many of the Western United States.

GOALS

4: Establish the GHG emissions baseline for the City of Riverside in order to meet the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement goal to reduce GHG emissions by 7% below 1990 levels.

5: Utilizing the City boundaries as defined in 2008; implement a climate action plan to reduce GHG emissions to 7% below the 1990 City baseline by 2012 and 15% below the City baseline by 2020.

TASKS

Establish the 1990 GHG emission baseline, on a per capita basis, for the City of Riverside, as a geographical locale, by the end of 2010 and every 5 years after.

Develop and incorporate mitigation measures in the Green Action Plan that provide verifiable GHG savings by 2010.

Establish programs that comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the City’s General Plan 2025 to improve the quality of air in Riverside.

Aggressively support programs at the AQMD that reduce GHG and particulate matter generation in the Los Angeles and Orange County regions to improve air quality and reduce pollution in Riverside.

WASTE REDUCTION: Solid waste prevention and recycling can help reduce climate change impacts as less solid waste decreases the amount of heat-trapping GHG emissions linked to everyday trash. Riverside is committed, through programs like CURE (Clean Up Riverside's Environment) and Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB) to promote the basic principles of recycle, reduce, reuse. Also, in August 2007, the City Council directed the City Manager to develop and implement a Green Purchasing Policy to promote City purchasing of environmentally preferable products.

GOALS

6: Implement programs to reduce waste, based on the 2007 per capita baseline, by 75% by 2020.^(EC)

7: Implement educational programs throughout the community to encourage green practices.

TASKS

Increase recycling City-wide by 15% by 2012.^(EC)

Develop measures to encourage that a minimum of 90% of recoverable waste from all construction sites be recycled throughout Riverside by 2015, beginning with 40% in 2010 and increasing by 10% each year thereafter.^(EC)

Encourage the reduction of any disposable, toxic, or nonrenewable products by 5% by 2010.

Expand the City's Green Waste program to capture 75% of the green waste generated by City facilities annually.

Expand the City's existing recycling program to recycle at least 15% from all municipal facilities annually.

Explore a 'Zero Waste Ordinance' by 2012.^(EC)

Implement the City's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy by 2010.

Encourage the reduction of any disposable, toxic, or nonrenewable products by 5% through program creation by 2010.

Develop and implement State Standards based curriculum for K-12 educational facilities by 2010.

Evaluate and implement online resources by 2010.

URBAN DESIGN: The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing regions in the state and nation. In order for Riverside to meet the demands of its existing and anticipated residential and business community, we must adhere to the smart growth goals established in the General Plan 2025. These goals include pedestrian-friendly, high-density, mixed-use and transit-oriented developments that utilize fewer natural resources. Also, Riverside must be dedicated to attracting more green industry into the region to operate sustainable businesses through the assistance of the Economic Development Division and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

GOALS

8: Provide incentives to increase green development throughout Riverside annually.

9: Meet the environmentally sensitive goals of the General Plan 2025 specified in the Mitigation Monitoring Program of the Environmental Impact Report, and the Implementation Plan following the timelines set forth in each.

TASKS

Adopt voluntary standards and programs for residential and commercial projects with incentives for excellence in sustainable design and development that encourage green building by 2011.

Encourage programs to establish green operations and maintenance for public and private sector businesses by 2012.

Review opportunities to increase local Green Collar Jobs, as defined by the American recovery and Reinvestment Act, by 2010.

Develop annual programming that provides incentives for residential and commercial green building efforts with an emphasis on the retrofit of existing facilities by 2012.

Apply urban planning principles that encourage high density, mixed-use, walkable/bikeable neighborhoods, and coordinate land-use and transportation with open space systems.

Review older Specific Plans for consistency with the General Plan 2025 and add sustainable policies as funding permits.

URBAN NATURE: Preservation, expansion and protection of our open spaces are of the utmost importance in maintaining the quality of life for Riverside residents. The parks system is comprised of 51 parks totaling 2,500 acres. Additionally, the 100,000 Tree by 2010 Initiative commits Riverside to expanding the urban forest by 100,000 trees by 2010. Since 2000, over 67,000 trees have been planted and the City is on its way to not only meet, but exceed its tree goal. To guarantee Riverside remains a green city, we must continue to plant trees and preserve park and natural habitat for future generations.

GOALS

10: Provide accessible open space to all City residents.

11: Increase the City's Urban Forest.

12: Provide non-accessible open space areas for the protection of natural habitat that also provides green space buffers that add to the City's viewshed for the enjoyment of all residents.

TASKS

Strengthen the City's existing trail inventory while providing a 75% increase of passive recreation and multi-use trails by 2015.

Coordinate trail connections with the County of Riverside as opportunities arise.

Ensure that there is an accessible park, recreational, or public open space within a 1/2 mile of 90% of City residents by 2015.

Plant at least 1,000 trees in City parks and right-of-ways annually

Encourage the planting of at least 3,000 shade trees on private property annually.

Inventory and map areas currently preserved as open space easements under recorded maps by 2010.

Acquire 200 acres of open space lands for use as passive parks by 2015. ^(EC)

Continue to partner with the Riverside Conservation Agency to implement the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

TRANSPORTATION: While transportation is crucial to the economy and our personal lives, the environmental impacts of transportation are equally significant and wide ranging. Today's cars and trucks burn fuel 35% more efficiently with 95% less emissions than 30 years ago, but the continuing increase in vehicle miles traveled has slowed the progress toward environmentally sustainable transportation. It is vital that the City adopt strategies that improve regional mobility and vehicle emissions.

GOALS

13: Decrease the vehicle miles traveled by 15% by 2015 based on the 2009 baseline. ^(EC)

14: Reduce mobile sources of pollution by 5% through programs and partnerships. ^(EC)

TASKS

Encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation, not just recreation, by increasing the number of bike trails by 15 miles and bike lanes by 111 miles throughout the City before 2018.

Implement a regional transit program between educational facilities by 2010.

Promote and encourage the use of alternative methods of transportation throughout the community by providing programs to City employees that can be duplicated by local businesses by 2011.

Coordinate a plan with local agencies to expand affordable convenient public transit within the City limits by 2010.

Encourage the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles or lower emission hybrids and plug-ins for the residential and business community by offering incentives by 2010.

Synchronize traffic signals along primary City arterials by the end of 2012.

Implement a program to design, construct or close at least one of the 26 railroad grade separations each year.

Reconstruct at least two freeway/street interchanges by 2012.

Increase the number of clean vehicles in the non-emergency City fleet to at least 60% by 2010.

WATER: With California's Mediterranean climate, unpredictable rainfall and growing population, the state's water supply is facing some of the most significant challenges seen in the last half-century. While great strides in water conservation and efficiency programs have been made, the collective impacts of record drought, climate change, increased population, court-ordered import reductions and the potential for natural disasters dictates that additional conservation measures must be taken in order to continue to provide safe and reliable water to Riverside's customers.

GOALS

15: Reduce water usage by 20% by 2020. ^(EC)

16: Increase the use of recycled water usage by 30% by 2020, based on the 2008 baseline. ^(EC)

TASKS

Implement water efficiency, conservation, and education programs to reduce the City's per capita potable water usage by 20% by 2020.

Implement a City-wide water conservation ordinance by 2010.

Develop recycling methods and expand existing uses for recycled wastewater by 2015.

Increase the use of recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant to recover 15,000 acre feet or 30% of plant effluent by 2020.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: The Riverside County Department of Public Health has publicly recognized the need to create more livable communities. Riverside is committed to actively promote sustainable and healthy living for all residents. Primary health issues most pertinent to the citizens of Riverside are:

GOALS

17: Promote community based programming on an ongoing comprehensive approach to healthy living for Riverside residents and businesses through community based programming. ^(EC)

18: Increase availability of fresh, locally grown food through increase in community farmers markets, particularly in areas currently underserved. ^(EC)

TASKS

In coordination with local medical facilities, encourage participation by the Riverside community in annual health and wellness fairs.

Coordinate with local senior centers on a regular basis to ensure that Riverside's growing senior community has access to comprehensive healthy living resources.

Conduct a citywide inventory of community gardens and local farmers markets by June 30, 2010.

Utilize existing relationships with local agencies such as school districts and non-profit organizations, increase awareness and participation in community gardens and farmers markets.

Utilizing local resources create and facilitate "How To..." classes focusing on "green" throughout the city.