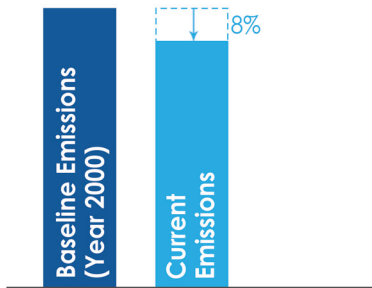


# 2013 Annual Report

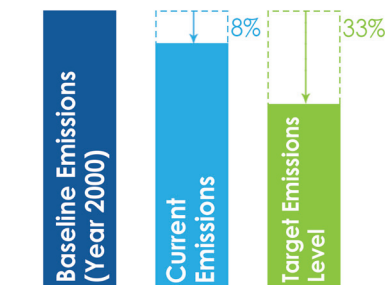
For the Fiscal Year beginning July 1

## OUR PROGRESS



Berkeley's community-wide global warming emissions level in year 2000 was 743,700 metric tons. Emissions decreased 8% since 2000.

## OUR TASK



The community's goal is to reduce emissions to 33% below 2000 levels by 2020. **Your help is needed to achieve this goal.**

## LEADING THE WAY

The City is acting to green its operations and provide opportunities that make it easier for residents and businesses to take action as well. Our new and retrofitted libraries are more energy efficient and comfortable. The City's curbside recycling now diverts additional types of plastics away from landfills. And our infrastructure and land use decisions are continually designed to promote cycling, walking, and public transit.

These actions are just part of the City's response to voters, who in 2006 approved an ambitious effort to reduce the City's global warming emissions by 80 percent by 2050. To achieve that goal, the City Council in 2009 adopted a [Climate Action Plan](#), a road map that also set an interim goal of reducing emissions by 33% by 2020.

We are highlighting these efforts in this Annual Report because they offer a glimpse into how residents, businesses and the City are working together to advance environmental sustainability. Every City department has been involved. We hope that the sampling of projects described in the report gives you a good sense of your local government's work on this challenge. We encourage your comments and participation.

The actions we are focused on increase energy efficiency, reduce water consumption, promote alternatives to driving, minimize landfill waste, and expand the urban forest. They are designed to reduce emissions as well as improve quality of life and the local economy. Our [energy efficiency programs](#), for example, put less strain on the environment while helping both residents and businesses save money. In this time of constrained resources, the City aggressively seeks grant funding to support these and other programs and services.

We have made significant and tangible gains in the past year. As of July, City [curbside recycling](#) now includes yogurt

containers, plastic cups, trays -- and more. The newly renovated branch libraries are not only seismically safe and accessible, but are now resource efficient, thanks to Berkeley voters, who made the library upgrades possible by approving the [Library Bond Measure](#) in 2008. The City is also dramatically reducing its paper consumption in several ways, including the transition to paperless City Council agendas. In addition, the City is exploring ways to distribute future Annual Reports in a manner that reduces paper consumption but also meets the needs of residents with limited internet access or technological resources.

The success and effectiveness of our solutions rests on our collective input and engagement. In this Annual Report, we provide you with a sample of the excellent work on environmental sustainability taking place in our City and present you with new and exciting ways to further engage in this important community effort. You can follow the City's climate action progress at [www.CityofBerkeley.info/ClimateProgress](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/ClimateProgress). As always, we appreciate your feedback about how we are doing.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Christine Daniel*

City Manager  
[Manager@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:Manager@CityofBerkeley.info)



# BY THE NUMBERS

Total population increased

# 10%

since 2000, yet...

landfilled solid waste dropped

# 43%

household water use fell

# 22%

residential energy use shrunk

# 9%

commercial electricity use fell

# 6%

# SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

## PLASTICS

In a concerted effort to achieve our community's zero waste goals, the City of Berkeley has expanded the types of plastics you can recycle. As of July 2013, the City accepts not only the narrow-neck #1 and #2 plastic containers, but also other clean plastic containers such as yogurt tubs, plastic take-out containers, and plastic cups. Residents and businesses can place these and other recyclable items in their blue bin for curbside collection. There is also a recycling drop-off center at 2nd at Gilman Streets. For the full list of what can be recycled, visit [www.CityofBerkeley.info/recycling](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/recycling).



## ORGANIC WASTE

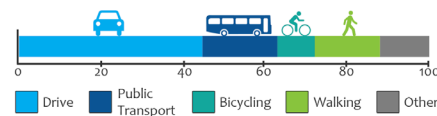
Food scraps are the single largest component of our waste. We can turn food scraps, food soiled paper and other organic materials, such as yard debris, into a valuable resource by putting them in the green bin. Each year, the City collects over 20,000 tons of green waste and delivers it to a composting facility where it takes 3-4 months to breakdown into compost. Central Valley farmers use the compost to grow crops, and Berkeley residents can use it on their gardens. [Free compost](#) is available the last Saturday of each month (February – October) at the Berkeley Marina. For more information on composting services, visit [www.CityofBerkeley.info/PlantDebris](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/PlantDebris). To start compost service or to receive a kitchen pail for your food scraps, call 311.

## ON THE MOVE

Over half of Berkeley's community-wide global warming emissions come from gas and diesel-powered vehicles. The City's goal is to reduce these emissions to 33% below 2000 levels by 2020. Achieving this goal requires strategies that promote alternatives to single-occupancy driving while also transitioning to cleaner fuels, such as electricity.

Land use planning is an important part of this overall strategy. In 2013 the City continued to approve new development in the transit-rich Downtown. Consistent with the [Downtown Area Plan](#), the City adopted rules that require new Downtown construction to achieve LEED Gold green building certification while also offering amenities like transit passes and car share spaces.

### TRANSPORTATION TO WORK by mode share



The City also continues to improve bicycle infrastructure. The City [installed racks for 280 new bike parking spaces](#) and has more installations planned for 2013. The City also completed the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension, which connects West Berkeley to Emeryville and the West Street Pathway, which connects Strawberry Creek Park to Ohlone Park.

Driving an Electric Vehicle (EV) produces only about 30% of the global warming emissions of conventional cars in our region. The City recently installed a second EV charging station in the Center St. Garage and instituted an easier, over-the-counter permit process for installing an EV charger at a home or business. The City also requires all new construction to install parking spaces that are "Electric Vehicle-ready."

For more information visit, [www.Cityof-Berkeley.info/EVResidentialCharging](http://www.Cityof-Berkeley.info/EVResidentialCharging).

Rest of Nation  
0.5% bike to work

Berkeley, CA  
8% bike to work

4th

3rd

2nd

1st

Eugene, OR

Boulder, CO

Davis, CA

Bicycle commute to work national ranking

# LOCAL SOLUTIONS

BY THE  
NUMBERS

## ENERGY SMART

Making energy efficiency upgrades helps businesses save on utility bills and boost their bottom line. To honor Berkeley businesses that are taking the lead in energy management, and to encourage more businesses to do the same, the City launched the Energy Smart Awards. In 2012, 26 commercial building owners, managers and tenants were recognized by the City and celebrated by their peers. The Second Annual Energy Smart Awards will take place in fall 2013. Owners can enter their buildings in the competition by visiting [www.Cityof-Berkeley.info/benchmarking\\_buildings](http://www.Cityof-Berkeley.info/benchmarking_buildings).



## INFRASTRUCTURE

Upgrading aging streets and storm water management systems is an ongoing challenge and opportunity. When Berkeley voters approved [Measure M](#) last year, a \$30 million bond measure for streets and storm water system upgrades, it provided for accelerated street paving and integrated green infrastructure improvements, including installation of permeable paving, rain gardens, and swales. Specific improvements will be approved with community input in fall 2013. The bond funding augments City General Funds and County [Measure B](#) funds dedicated for street work.

These green infrastructure measures are consistent with the City's [Watershed Management Plan](#) and are designed to protect our streams and the Bay by absorbing rainwater and reducing runoff. The street paving work will be guided by the City's "Complete Streets" policy to ensure that the upgrades accommodate the needs of all roadway users, including cyclists, pedestrians, persons with disabilities, motorists, users and operators of public transit, and emergency vehicles.



Photo above: Berkeley Public Library South Branch  
© Richard Friedman 2013

## STREET LIGHTS

Illuminating University Avenue and Seawall Drive at the Berkeley Marina are 75 newly installed light emitting diode (LED) streetlights. These lights cut energy use and energy costs in half and provide better visibility. Next year, LED's will replace existing streetlights on Telegraph Avenue between Bancroft Avenue and Dwight Way. With streetlights making up over 30% of the City government's electricity load, the City plans to upgrade all 7,600 streetlights.

## GREEN LIBRARIES

The beautiful new branch libraries are a result of the \$26 million Library Bond Measure passed by Berkeley voters in 2008. The North and Claremont Branches reopened in the spring of 2012 after undergoing substantial renovation, and the South Branch/Tool Lending Library reopened just this past May. The West Branch Library is scheduled to reopen by the end of the year.

The upgrades to the branch libraries were designed to improve visitor comfort and accessibility, make the buildings seismically safe, create adequate space for community use, and conserve natural resources. For example, the new West Branch Library will join a handful of libraries in the nation that are net-zero energy performers. The clever design incorporates natural ventilation, radiant heating, and daylighting to minimize the energy load. Solar panels will offset the remaining energy demand. A building performance dashboard will provide visitors with a real-time snapshot of the building's energy use and production.

### How households use water

Tub/Shower

24%



Toilet

20%



Washing Machine

19%



Faucet

19%



Leaks

14%



Other

4%



Street and park trees planted every year  
628





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## REDUCING POLLUTION AND CONGESTION

The City of Berkeley is working to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the Downtown, Elmwood District, and Telegraph/Southside as part of a two-year pilot project called goBerkeley. The project is funded by a Climate Initiatives Program grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and a grant from the Federal Highway Administration. The City has already provided 1,000 free AC Transit bus passes to enable employees in the area to drive less. City CarShare is partnering on the project and has provided discounted memberships to residents and employees in the pilot neighborhoods, and is adding more City CarShare locations and vehicles. As part of the project, the City is also considering parking improvements designed to minimize the time (and air pollution) associated with driving around in search of a parking space. Parking improvements in the pilot neighborhoods include increasing and decreasing parking rates in different areas so that 1 to 2 spaces are available on each block, extending time limits so people can complete their business without having to rush back to the car, and improving parking signs so they are more visible and easier to understand.

Find out more at [www.goBerkeley.info](http://www.goBerkeley.info).



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## LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Since 2009, the City has been awarded approximately \$30 million in grant funds to implement local climate action strategies related to transportation, urban forestry, energy efficiency, and more. Some examples are:

- \$12.7 million from the Alameda County Transportation Commission and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to renovate the Downtown Berkeley BART plaza (in conjunction with BART and UC); reconfigure Shattuck Avenue between University Avenue and Center Street to improve the flow of car, bike and foot traffic; and create a new modern bikeway with extensive pedestrian safety features on Hearst Avenue, east of Shattuck.
- A \$137,500 grant from the California Department of Forestry to update the City's tree inventory (completed March 2013) which helps the City track and maintain the health of the City's trees for the benefit of our residents and to protect wildlife habitat.
- A \$1,013,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the Money for Energy Efficiency (ME2) program. The ME2 program provided incentives for energy upgrades in over 250 Berkeley buildings, both residential and commercial. The program concluded in 2012.

As we implement the Climate Action Plan, we will continue to seek out funding sources that leverage our community's commitment to its goals.