

Greening the City of Saratoga

Current Environmentally-friendly Projects/Programs

1. *WASTE MANAGEMENT*

- Funding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program
- Entered into a new Waste Management Franchise Agreement
- As part of the JPA, pursuing the potential for updating our current Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling Program
- Achieved over 60% waste diversion rate for Saratoga

2. *PEST MANAGEMENT*

- Integrated Pest Management Program, providing for reduction or elimination of chemicals to the maximum extent practicable

3. *ENERGY EFFICIENCY*

- Working with PG&E, the City retrofitted exit lights, and replaced lighting ballasts and light bulbs with more energy efficient models
- Currently working with ABAG to perform an energy audit of all City buildings and facilities
- Converted all traffic lights to LED
- Evaluating the feasibility of converting tree lights in the Village to LED
- Off-Fridays conserve energy, reduce water use and reduce vehicle-miles traveled by City employees

4. *VEHICLES*

- City fleet currently includes Natural Gas-fueled vehicles
- Regularly replacing older City vehicles with new models to bring the City's fleet up to date with the latest smog requirements (looking to purchase alternative fuel vehicles when available)

5. *PLANNING & BUILDING*

- Residential Design Handbook includes policies and techniques to “integrate structures with the environment” and to “design for energy efficiency”
- City Ordinance only allows one wood-burning fireplace
- Numerous conditions for projects concerning pest reduction and drought tolerant plants, plus numerous storm water-related requirements
- Lowest priced permits for solar panels in Santa Clara County
- Currently distributing Green Building checklists at planning/building counters

6. *PUBLIC INFORMATION*

- “Go Green in Saratoga” pages on the City's website
- Staff education – using reusable materials (ceramic mugs instead of paper cups), turning off lights, avoiding unnecessary printing and travel

7. *LANDSCAPING*

- 91 trees were planted in fiscal year 2007-08
- Parks Division looking to replace 4 urinals to waterless models next fiscal year
- Parks Division evaluating areas in our parks that currently have turf, but for no practical reason (areas that have poor turf quality because of heavy traffic or shade, and could be converted to landscape or granite fines hardscape and would reduce water usage, fertilizing, pesticide use etc, as well as requiring less maintenance, gas for mowing, etc.)
- Started installing weather-station irrigation controllers on City medians, parks and property (expected to result in a 30% savings in water use)

8. *FACILITIES*

- Working with our paint vendors and contractors to use paints with low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Looking into establishing a Photovoltaic system on a City building roof within the near future
- Investigating using more recycled content and environmentally friendly chemicals and paper products City-wide
- Currently evaluating copier replacement including “most environmentally friendly” criteria

9. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- Working with Joint Venture Silicon Valley and ICLEI to prepared a baseline *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory* for City operations.