



## POTENTIAL ROLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Local governments are essential partners in achieving California’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. They have broad influence and, in some cases, exclusive authority over significant emission sources through their planning and permitting processes, local ordinances, outreach and education efforts, and municipal operations. The following table depicts the potential role local government plays in implementing GHG reduction measures and demonstrates how local governments taking an environmental or sustainability approach to their decisions can greatly impact GHG emission reductions within their community. Most of these approaches are from the AB 32 Scoping Plan.

Local Government Initiatives	
Measure	Local Government (LG) Actions
Local Gov’t Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set local GHG reduction goals by partnering with special districts that provide services within jurisdictions</li> <li>• Develop Climate Action Plans, or other comprehensive approach to reduce GHG emissions</li> <li>• Adopt Best Practices</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Utility Energy Efficiency Programs (either as municipal owners or partnership with local utilities) – New targets would be set for statewide energy demand reductions. These reductions could be achieved through enhancements to existing programs such as increased incentives.</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption and install solar water heating systems within LG owned/operated facilities and operations</li> </ul>
Renewable Portfolio Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve 33% renewables portfolio standard for LG owned utility (i.e., 33% of energy generation must come from renewable energy sources)</li> </ul>
Green Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate green building construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of green buildings at LG owned/operated facilities</li> <li>• Implement the State adopted green building code (effective 2010) and provide training to local architects, engineers and developers</li> <li>• Site buildings close to public transportation and services, and providing amenities that encourage walking and cycling, offer further GHG reducing potential</li> </ul>
Recycling and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt Zero Waste and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policies</li> <li>• Increase diversion from landfills (commercial recycling and compost/purchase of compost)</li> <li>• Control landfill methane emissions (for jurisdictions that own/operate landfill)</li> </ul>
High GWP Gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize/eliminate motor vehicle A/C refrigerant leakage through proper maintenance in fleet vehicles</li> <li>• Ensure proper handling/disposal of waste refrigeration units (through solid waste hauler)</li> </ul>



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Sustainable Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage land-use decisions that conserve forest lands</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve municipal water system energy efficiency/usage</li> <li>Increase water recycling</li> <li>Reuse urban runoff</li> </ul>
Land-Use/Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in regional planning efforts and ensure land-use/transportation plans and decisions conform with sustainable communities strategies (SB 375)</li> <li>Incorporate GHG reduction measures in General Plan, including funding and promotion of local transit systems, bike/walk infrastructure, local parking policies, car sharing, etc.</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote employee transit incentive programs, including, telework, carpooling, and parking cash-out policies</li> <li>Promote public education to reduce vehicle travel</li> </ul>
Vehicle Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet purchase/retrofits:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hybridization of vehicles – fleet vehicles, transit buses</li> <li>Retrofits to improve fuel efficiency of heavy-duty trucks</li> <li>If auto manufacturer regulations are not enforceable, LG may have to pay fee (feebate) for increase GHG emission vehicles purchased for fleet. Alternatively, LG can save money by buying low GHG emission vehicles.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Fleet maintenance:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Properly inflate tires</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Local Government Influence on Community Activities</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Local Government Role</b>
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of following programs within the jurisdiction:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in energy consumption (32,000Gwh and 800 million therms statewide)</li> <li>Installation of solar water heating systems in homes/businesses (incentives for 200,000 statewide)</li> <li>Incentives for building owners and developers to participate in “Million Solar Roofs” project for solar-electrical systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reductions have potential to deliver significant economic benefits to consumers (and taxpayers)</li> </ul>
Green Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote (LG lead by example) by requiring all new LG buildings to exceed existing energy standards and meet nationally-recognized building sustainability standards, such as LEED Gold standards.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Forests/Urban Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote urban parks and forestry projects (shading/energy co-benefits)</li> <li>Promote public investment to purchase and preserve forests and woodlands</li> </ul>
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote/encourage manure digester systems at large dairies within jurisdiction</li> </ul>

**Contacts:**      **Tabetha Willmon, 916-322-7467, [twillmon@arb.ca.gov](mailto:twillmon@arb.ca.gov)**  
                          **Dana Papke, 916-324-9615, [dpapke@arb.ca.gov](mailto:dpapke@arb.ca.gov)**