

FACTS ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANS

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) & Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

2013-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

Regional Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) help California meet its climate goals and the requirements of Senate Bill 375.

ABAG and MTC's 2013-2040 RTP/SCS Plan

The nine county San Francisco Bay Area region is home to over seven million Californians and is projected to add another two million residents by 2040. Working together, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) developed Plan Bay Area, the region's RTP/SCS plan through 2040. Plan Bay Area is the region's transportation, housing, and land-use strategy for sustaining a high quality of life for current and future generations in the region. Plan implementation is also expected to help California reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals, with reductions in per capita transportation emissions of 10% by 2020 and 16% by 2035.



Key Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies in ABAG and MTC'S SCS

The suite of strategies adopted as part of Plan Bay Area includes a number of land use and transportation strategies that will result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and augment the kinds of strategies that have long been a part of the Bay Area's sustainable planning efforts. Also included are some new, innovative strategies that will support ARB's clean cars program, and result in further greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2020 and 2035.

- Focuses future housing and job growth within Priority Development Areas—existing community/infill areas near existing or planned transit
- Directs \$180 billion to maintain, improve, and expand the region's transit network
- Invests in programs to support the State's advanced vehicle technology goals: regional electric vehicle charging network, vehicle buy-back and PEV incentives, and clean vehicle feebates
- Expands car sharing programs
- Promotes smart driving (eco-driving) strategies
- Supports commuter benefits ordinance region-wide for businesses with 50 or more employees

ABAG and MTC'S Approach to Developing SCS Strategies

ABAG and MTC's process for development and adoption of Plan Bay Area included extensive public engagement, as well as notable advances in performance-based planning.

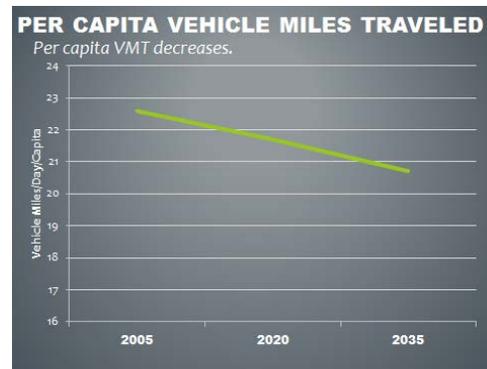
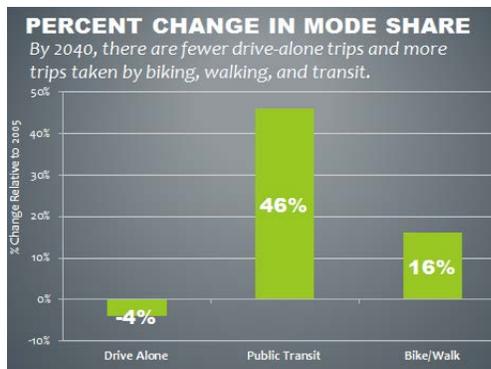
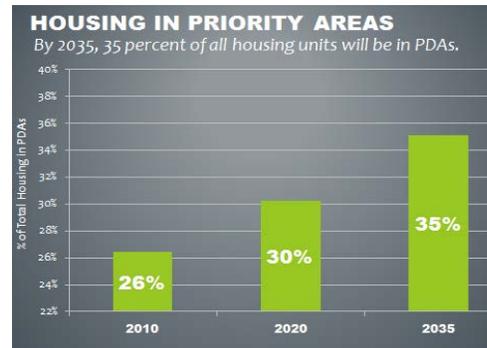
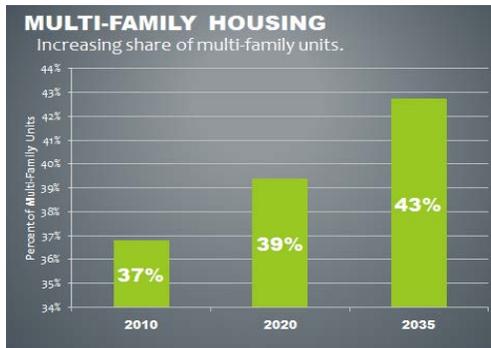
- Visioning and planning process began in 2010
- Regional performance targets adopted in early 2011 to identify policy objectives, and measure the region's progress toward reaching its climate protection, housing, health and safety, open space and agricultural land, equitable access, economic vitality, and transportation system goals
- Early establishment of working groups to address equity and environmental justice issues; equity analyses prepared at early stages of the decision-making process
- Project-level performance assessment helped identify highest-performing transportation investments
- Five scenarios tested to identify the region's preferred growth and transportation investment alternative

Measuring the Greenhouse Gas Benefits of the SCS

ABAG and MTC used technical travel demand and land use models to help predict the outcomes from implementing SCS land use and transportation strategies in their region. In addition to using these tools to quantify the impact on greenhouse gas emissions of the plan, these agencies identified performance metrics and trends that helped to explain and confirm the anticipated greenhouse gas reduction benefits:

- The share of multi-family households increases from 37% in 2010 to 43% in 2035
- 35% of all housing units will be located in Priority Development Areas by 2035
- Mode shift: fewer drive alone trips, a 46% increase in the number of trips made by public transit, and a 16% increase in the number of trips by biking or walking (2005-2040)
- Per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) decreases through 2035

Below are charts from ARB staff's technical evaluation of Plan Bay Area that illustrate the above metrics.



Other Regional Benefits of the SCS

As part of their performance-based planning approach, ABAG and MTC developed a number of other quantitative and qualitative ways to characterize regional benefits of SCS implementation.

- Accommodates housing for 100% of region's projected population growth at all income levels
- Reduces premature deaths from exposure to particulate emissions
- Increases region's economic competitiveness, increasing gross regional product (GRP) by 110%
- Increases regional health by increasing average daily time spent walking or biking by 70%
- Preserves the region's natural environment, open space, and agricultural land

For More Information

On April 10, 2014, ARB accepted ABAG and MTC's quantification of greenhouse gas emission reductions from Plan Bay Area. For further information on ARB's Technical Evaluation of that plan, contact:

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ARB's Sustainable Communities Program
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm>

ABAG/MTC's 2013-2040 RTP/SCS
<http://www.onebayarea.org/plan-bay-area/final-plan-bay-area.html>

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