



Sustainable Communities Strategy

Overview

The Sustainable Communities Strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by integrating planning for transportation and land use and housing. Required by SB 375, a state law approved in 2008, the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) will be developed in close collaboration with local elected officials and community leaders.

Sustainable Communities Strategy Basics

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in 18 regions across California need to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- The Strategy must identify specific areas in the nine-county Bay Area to accommodate the entire region's projected population growth, including all income groups, for at least the next 25 years.
- The Strategy must try to achieve targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.
- The Strategy will reflect the "Three E" goals of sustainability: Economy, Environment and Equity, by establishing targets or benchmarks for measuring our progress toward achieving these goals.

Development of the SCS

- MTC, as the Bay Area's MPO, and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the region's Council of Governments, will develop the SCS in partnership with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.
- The four regional agencies will team with local governments, county congestion management agencies, public transit agencies, interested

residents, stakeholders and community groups to ensure that all those with an interest in the outcome are actively involved in the Strategy's preparation.

- MTC must adopt the SCS as part of its next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Bay Area, which is due in 2013. State and federal laws require that everything in the plan must be consistent with the SCS, including local land use plans.
- State law requires that the SCS must also be consistent with the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA). ABAG administers RHNA, which ABAG will adopt at the same time that MTC adopts the RTP. Local governments will then have another 18 months to update their housing elements; related zoning changes must follow within three years.

SCS Benefits

- Since over 40% of the Bay Area's emissions come from cars and light trucks, integrating land uses (jobs, stores, schools, homes, etc.) and encouraging more complete communities will become an important strategy to reduce the Bay Area's auto trips.
- Clustering more homes, jobs and other activities around transit can make it easier to make trips by foot, bicycle or public transit.
- Planning land uses and transportation together can help improve the vitality and quality of life for our communities, while improving public health.

How Do I Get Involved?

- Ongoing public and local government engagement has begun and will continue through 2013. For more information on how you can get involved, go to www.OneBayArea.org.