

City of Arcata, California

City's Plan Actively Reduces Emissions

The City of Arcata, home to Humboldt State University, includes one of the only municipally owned forests in the nation. The Arcata Community Forest was certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council in 1998 and is a model for sustained yield forestry. The City has long been a supporter of environmental consciousness and again took action on climate change in 2001 when the mayor signed onto the "Cities for Climate Protection" campaign.

The City completed its baseline greenhouse gas inventory with the help of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) in 2003, and began a multi-year process to develop a climate action plan. The resulting Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan outlines a reduction target of 20% below 2000 levels by the year 2010.

The City's Plan focuses on six action areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, waste and consumption reduction, carbon sequestration and other methods, and cross-cutting approaches.

Arcata is making strides to reduce emissions as the City reduced 7,370 metric tons of CO₂ in the community between 2000 and 2006.



Arcata's Mayor Mark Wheatley poses with the City Hall solar panels, which save \$2,000 a year.

Green Actions Snapshot

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, 2006
- Retrofitted City facilities with energy-efficient lighting
- Installed photovoltaic (PV) systems in both residential and municipal buildings
- Purchases renewable energy from local utility
- Created a City-sponsored electric vehicle charging station
- Purchased hybrid vehicles for City fleet

Environmental Benefits

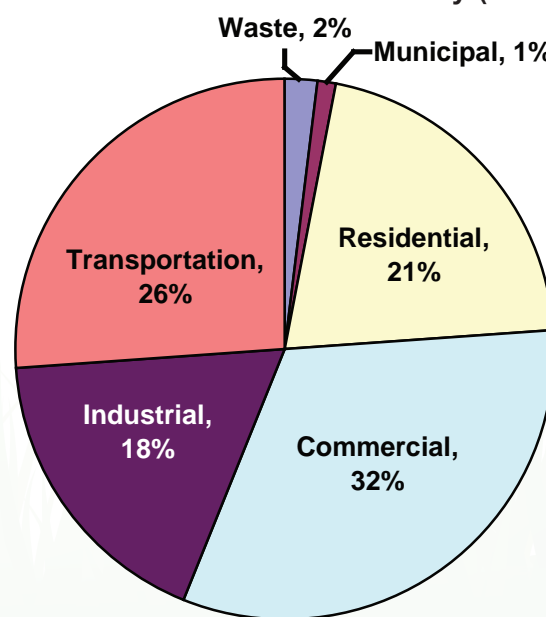
- Community outreach programs and annual campaigns educate residents about climate change and the impact on the environment
- City acquired 2,100 acres of coastal redwood forestlands that actively sequester carbon emissions and counteract climate change

Estimated Yearly

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions: 1,053 metric tons of CO₂ from total community
- Cost Savings: \$16,000 from City Hall PV system and energy efficient lighting retrofits to City facilities

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2006

The majority of Arcata's GHG emissions, 32%, come from commercial buildings, followed by transportation at 26%. This data is from the City of Arcata's Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2006).



What Actions Is Arcata Taking to Save Energy?

Through a loan from the California Energy Commission, the City performed major lighting retrofits, saving an average of 20% of energy usage in the renovated facilities and helping to avoid over \$14,000 a year in energy costs. The Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) replaced thousands of light bulbs in the City with compact fluorescent bulbs, achieving an estimated energy savings of 214,000 kilowatt hours and 75 metric tons of CO₂.

What Actions Is Arcata Taking to Use Solar Energy?

The City purchased a 10 kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) system for City Hall, reducing over 13,000 kilowatt hours and saving \$2,000 a year. Combined with the City's major lighting retrofits, these strategies avoid nearly 15 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year. The City continues to add photovoltaic capacity and currently has a 13 kilowatt system installed. The City also hosts a Solar Neighborhoods Tour which helps raise community awareness.

What Actions Is Arcata Taking to Conserve Water?

The City is working to address energy consumption in the water sector, through improving water pump motors to premium efficiency and selecting variable frequency drives where appropriate. A capital improvements plan has been put into effect to upgrade existing infrastructure, largely responsible for water infiltration into the system and increased pumping.

What Actions Is Arcata Taking to Support Green Transportation?

The City purchased and leased energy-efficient vehicles for its fleet, including three Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles, one Honda hybrid, three compressed natural gas pick-ups, four GEMS electric vehicles for meter readers and the wastewater treatment plant, and four Nissan HyperMini electric vehicles for parking meter readers. Biodiesel fuel is used in the street paving machine and there is a City-sponsored electric vehicle charging station downtown.

The City of Arcata has made great strides in its goal to reduce GHG emissions 20% below 2000 levels by the year 2010.

PROUD PARTNERS INCLUDE:



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

“We are investing in our future today through our greenhouse gas reduction strategy, and we will continue to increase building efficiencies, install renewable energy improvements and search for other innovative options.”

**-Mayor Mark Wheetley
Mayor of Arcata**

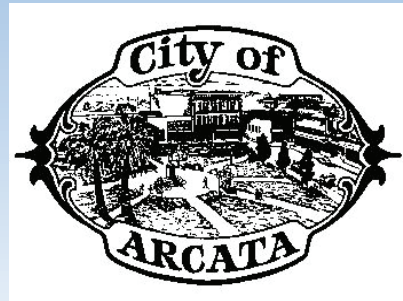


Photo Credit: www.earthisland.org



The 154 acre Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary (shown above) uses natural systems to filter the City's sewage. Naturally occurring processes purify the water, then two rounds of chlorination bring it up to state standards before its release into Humboldt Bay.

Contact Information

City of Arcata

Beckie Menten

Department of Environmental Services

Phone: (707) 825-2168

Email: bmenten@cityofarcata.org

www.cityofarcata.org