

GHG FACTSHEET

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at
www.cccclimateleaders.org



HISTORY:

The [Global Warming Solutions Act or Assembly Bill 32 \(AB 32\)](#) is a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) that was passed by the state of California in 2006. AB 32 aims to improve the environment while still maintaining a prosperous economy. It requires California reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, this means a reduction of approximately fifteen percent below emissions expected under a “business as usual” scenario. Check the Air Resources Board for more info and resources: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm> and <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/inventory.htm>

In response to this bill Contra Costa County Climate Leaders (4CL) partnered with [ICLEI](#) and the [San Francisco Foundation](#) in 2007 to educate City staff and Council on best practices for benchmarking and tracking GHG emissions. **Community-wide** Greenhouse Gas Inventories were created for 17 of the 19 cities in Contra Costa. Unfortunately, only six cities took advantage of assistance and follow-up grants (e.g. from PG&E) to concurrently complete their **Municipal Operations** GHG inventories and incorporate both of those GHG inventories into Climate Action Plans. <http://icleiusa.org/> and <http://sff.org/>

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders would like to know where you are at with your GHG inventories. Have you completed your baseline GHG inventory? Both for Community Wide as well as Municipal operations? Have you set specific measurable GHG reduction goals? Have you continued to track reductions in GHG emissions, so you know your Climate Action Plans are impactful? Do you need help keeping up with AB 32 compliance and the changing tools available for tracking?

WHAT?

Creating a GHG inventory is the first step for a city to address the issue of climate change. A GHG inventory quantifies the annual global warming pollution produced by government facilities, private facilities and the community at large. Establishing an inventory requires collecting and analyzing data about energy use, recycling, waste, transportation, land use, and possibly water use. An emissions analysis identifies the quantity of pollution generated from individual activities, converts and quantifies them as a total of Carbon Dioxide (Co2) equivalents. Local governments typically calculate global warming pollution for a base year (e.g. 1990) and for a forecast year (e.g. 2020) in order to best track pollution reduction progress. Municipalities then target their efforts to address the most significant emissions sources and work to effectively reduce their overall CO2 emissions.

The GHG emissions inventory examines emissions at two levels: community and municipal. The Local Government Operations Protocol (2010) is designed to provide a standardized set of guidelines to assist local governments in quantifying and reporting GHG emissions associated with their government operations. The Protocol was developed in partnership by the California Air Resources Board (ARB), California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), in collaboration with The Climate Registry and dozens of stakeholders: https://s3.amazonaws.com/icleiusaresources/lgo_protocol_v1_1_2010-05-03.pdf Addressing both municipal and community emissions, or city-wide emissions, require greater detail and data collection. ICLEI offers tools to assist with this in its US Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2013): <http://icleiusa.org/ghg-protocols/>

If your city has completed a standard Inventory and Climate Change, you may be ready to take the next step! Check out Consumption based GHG inventory created by The Air District in collaboration with the [Cool Climate Network at UC Berkeley](#) which is based on the six greenhouse gases identified in the [Kyoto Protocol](#): CO₂, methane, N₂O, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The consumption-based inventory estimates the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by internationally produced goods and services consumed in your city: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/research-and-data/emission-inventory/consumption-based-ghg-emissions-inventory>



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WHY?

MONEY SAVING: With the continual tightening of city budgets, energy efficiency and cost cutting sustainability measures are a GREAT way of doing city business and saving money. Many grant opportunities that are currently available, focus on energy efficiency, resiliency, and adaption, with the ultimate goal of reducing GHG emissions in the city. A baseline inventory is often required to apply for and receive grant funds because they provide a clear picture of a city's starting emissions and an opportunity to measure the success that results after projects or community alterations are implemented.

WHERE?

Sample Inventories can be found at the following links:

- Alameda (Community-wide): http://alameda.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1108&meta_id=38784
- Berkeley (Community-wide):
http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Planning_and_Development/Energy_and_Sustainable_Development/Climate_Action_Plan_GHG_Emissions.aspx
- Riverside (Community-wide):
http://www2.riversideca.gov/recovery/pdf/Final%20Riverside%20Community%20GHG%20Emissions%20Inventory_072610.pdf
- San Francisco (Consumption-Based Protocol):
http://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/fliers/files/sf_consumption_based_emissions_inventory.pdf
- San Jose (Community-wide): <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/55505>

HOW?

There are several different programs available for your city to work through in order to complete you inventory. Check these:

- ICLEI networks over 1,000 cities www.iclei.org/usa. ICLEI's ClearPath™ is the online software platform for completing GHG inventories, forecasts, climate action plans, and monitoring: <http://icleiusa.org/clearpath/>. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities to reduce GHG. It is an alliance of three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities <http://californiaseec.org/about-seec/why-participate/>
- Energy Star's Portfolio Manager is a tool to track & assess energy/ water consumption in buildings. Create an inventory of GHG from your city buildings, set efficiency investment priorities, identify under-performing buildings, verify efficiency improvements, and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance. <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings>
- EPA's Facility Level Information on Greenhouse gases Tool (FLIGHT), quickly and easily filters GHG data in a variety of ways, including by facility, industry, location, or gas: <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do> for other EPA resources for reporting <https://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/ghg-reporters>
- CivicSpark will provide cities with Climate Action Fellows to implement climate-focused projects, while also building long-term capacity to ensure the work is sustained. <http://civicspark.lgc.org/what-we-do/our-mission/>
- Climate Corps city partners receive qualified, passionate, dedicated Fellows to work on local climate change initiatives <http://www.climatecorps-bayarea.org/>
- Interns: Use your local colleges or universities as a resource, such as Saint Mary's College, Moraga. Also, look towards local sustainability groups. Internships can be unpaid, paid by a stipend or donation from an invested community member
- Private Organizations: If your city desires to outsource the project, many private organizations contract to complete these inventories for a fee such as URS, AECOM and PMC.
- Municipal GHG Reduction Toolkit from the Contra Costa County <http://www.cccounty.us/index.aspx?NID=2231>

