

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Sustainability Rights Report

A Biennial Report of Ecosystem Health Metrics

A Sustainable City of Wellbeing



CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

We Santa Monicans are fortunate to live in one of the world’s most beautiful places — and we are keenly aware that our natural blessings are fragile, and must be cherished under our responsible stewardship.

For the past twenty-five years, we’ve protected our environment, our quality of life, and our strong local economy with a Sustainable City Plan. In 2013, we further recognized the rights of nature by adopting a Sustainability Rights Ordinance, one of the first in the nation. This pioneering policy provides a strong legal basis for safeguarding our local ecosystem, while recognizing that our residents have the fundamental and inalienable right to a clean and healthy environment.

How do we accurately assess the health of our environment, though? What can we actually measure, and what faithfully reflects the state of our local ecosystem?

In this first edition of this report, we bring together evaluations across eight key areas of sustainability. We have accomplished much. Our progress at this moment is highlighted by milestones like the first electric Big Blue Bus, and the coming Earth Day opening of a “Living Building Challenge” City Services Building designed to operate energy-neutral, water-neutral, and waste-neutral.

If we know anything, though, it is that our efforts so far are not enough. We are but a small city in the middle of worldwide climate and ecological challenges, where our commitment and leadership are invaluable assets.

Please discover in this report what we have learned so far. Then, I hope you’ll join us in exploring every possible means of addressing the global environmental crisis — while ensuring a more resilient and livable Santa Monica right here at home.



Kevin McKeown
City of Santa Monica
Mayor

CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

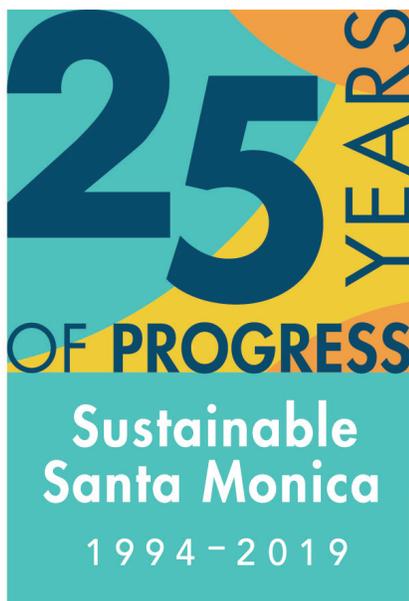
BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Monica has long been known for its leadership in the field of sustainability. In 1994, Santa Monica became one of the first cities to adopt a comprehensive Sustainable City Plan with measurable targets. The Sustainable City Plan declares that the City’s decision-making process is guided by the mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts.

The Sustainable City Plan uses the power of community to enhance our resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations. The City must regularly evaluate whether its plans, laws, and programs are sufficient to meet and explore all means of addressing the growing environmental crisis.

In 2013, the City of Santa Monica adopted the Sustainability Rights Ordinance to codify the Sustainable City Plan and mandate biennial reporting of ecosystem health metrics. Santa Monica became one of the first cities in the nation to adopt a Rights of Nature policy. This type of policy is vital to ensure our local sustainability and help contribute to the global effort of protecting Earth’s natural habitat. Santa Monica’s welfare is inextricably bound to the welfare of the natural environment.

This ordinance is based on the belief that Earth is a community whose members are human beings, animals, plants, rivers, streams, and eco-systems and where all must have rights in order to ensure the sustainability of the whole. Santa Monica’s City Council recognizes both the rights of natural communities and ecosystems within Santa Monica to exist, thrive and evolve, and the rights of the individual human beings that make up the City of Santa Monica to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The peoples’ rights include, but are not limited to: affordable and accessible water from sustainable water sources for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes; sustainable energy future based on sustainable renewable energy sources; a natural climate unaltered by fossil fuel emissions; sustainable, comprehensive waste disposal systems that do not degrade the environment; clean indoor and outdoor air, clean water and clean soil that pose a negligible health risk to the public; and a sustainable food system that provides healthy, locally grown food to the community.



ARTICLE 12

In 2019, the City of Santa Monica created Article 12 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code titled Sustainability. Future policies related to sustainability will be housed under this new article. This reinforces the City’s environmental protection within the municipal code.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

BIENNIAL REPORTING

The Sustainability Rights (S.M.M.C. 12.02) requires the City to prepare a written report to the community on the state of the local environment, the realization of the rights recognized in this chapter, and the City's progress in effectuating and enforcing the Sustainable City Plan and the policies and provisions of this chapter. This written report is to be prepared at least once every two years.

Staff identified 12 metrics derived from the Sustainable City Plan that best measure the health of the local environment. In order to prioritize these efforts across the City, the Sustainability Rights metrics were integrated into the Framework for a Sustainable City of Wellbeing.

SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE WATER

- Percent of water sourced locally

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Amount of installed solar
- Percent of residents and businesses receiving renewable energy

NATURAL CLIMATE

- Percent of carbon emissions reduction below 1990 levels

WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

- Percent of materials diverted from the landfill
- Pounds of waste generated daily per person

CLEAN AIR

- Number of exceedance days for Federal air quality standards

CLEAN WATER AND SOIL

- Number of beach water quality warnings for dry/wet weather days
- Amount of trash collected on the beach

HEALTHY FOOD

- Total gross annual sales from Santa Monica Farmers Markets
- Percent of residents living within 1/4 mile of a grocery store

URBAN FOREST

- Percent of tree canopy coverage

CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The following summary showcases the performance of each of the 12 metrics identified in the Sustainability Rights Report.

LEGEND: ● On Track/Target Met ● Needs Improvement ● More Data Needed
↑ Moving Towards Target ↓ Moving Away From Target — Minimal Change

RIGHT	INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE
Affordable and Accessible Water	Percent of water sourced locally	↑
Renewable Energy	Amount of installed solar	↑
	Percent of residents and businesses receiving renewable energy	↑
Natural Climate	Percent of carbon emissions reduction below 1990 levels	↑
Waste Disposal System	Percent of materials diverted from the landfill	↓
	Pounds of waste generated daily per person	↓
Clean Air	Number of exceedance days for Federal air quality standards	—
Clean Water and Soil	Number of beach water quality warnings for dry and wet weather days	—
	Amount of trash collected on the beach annually	↓
Healthy Food	Total gross annual sales from Santa Monica Farmers Markets	↑
	Percent of residents living within 1/4 mile of a grocery store or farmers market	—
Urban Forest	Percent of tree canopy coverage	—

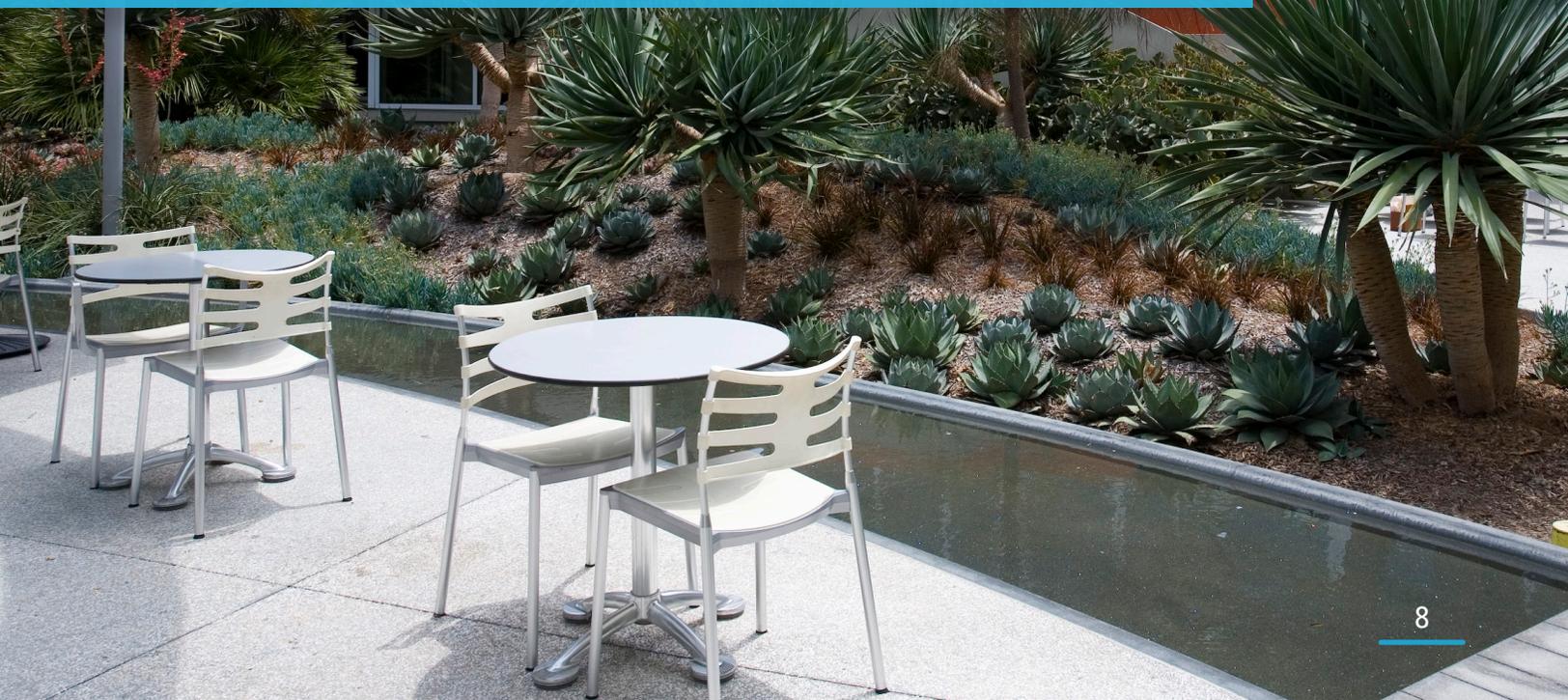
IMPORTANCE OF SOURCING WATER LOCALLY

The City recognizes the vital role water plays to be resilient and sustainable. In order to ensure access to water to the Santa Monica community for current and future generations, the City is focused on enhancing local water supply production capacities and eliminate its dependence on imported water sources. As state water supplies drop and prolonged droughts occur, increasing the percentage of water from local sources is an important step towards water self-sufficiency.

Looking to its future, the City is striving to achieve water self-sufficiency by 2023 to obtain 100% of Santa Monica's water supply from local sources. Achieving water self-sufficiency means closing the gap that exists between total water demand and total local water available.

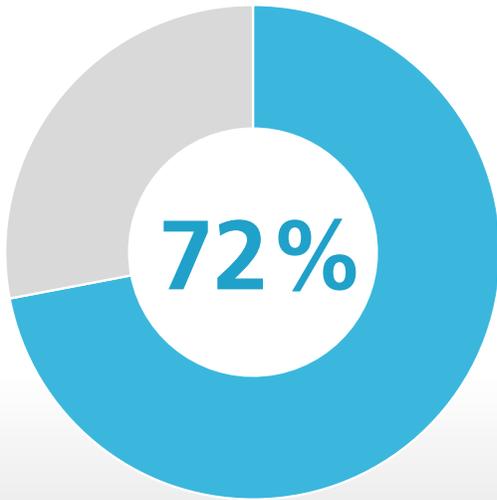
To meet this target, Santa Monica must maximize the use of groundwater resources, increase water conservation efforts, capture and use rainwater and dry-weather runoff, and reuse grey water. It may also require enhanced water recycling efforts and reuse of waste water and other innovations.

By continuing to monitor and increase the percent of water sourced locally, the City can ensure access to water to the Santa Monica community.





PERCENT OF WATER SOURCED LOCALLY



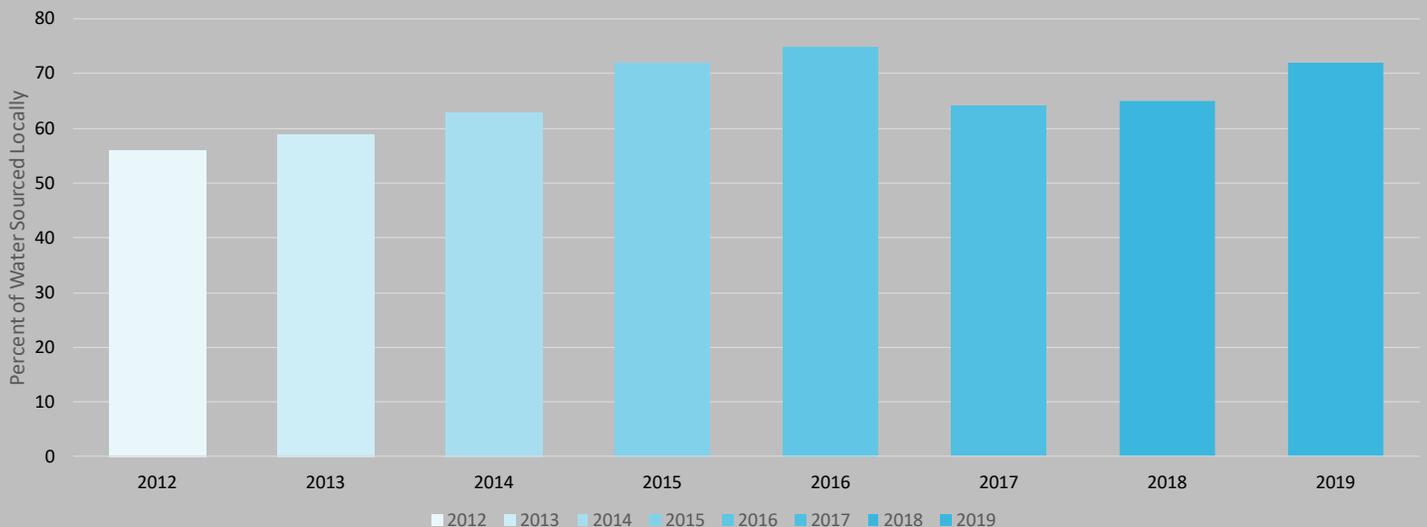
This indicator measures the percent of water sourced locally in Santa Monica, meaning water that is found within the City. Imported water comes from anywhere beyond the City’s borders, including distant watersheds in California and throughout the western United States.

In 2019, the City of Santa Monica obtained 72% of its water supply from local sources. While this percent has increased and Santa Monica is moving toward target, we were not on track to meet the original Sustainable City Plan target of 100% by 2020. The target date has since been updated to 2023.

TARGET

Supply 100% of the City’s water from local sources by 2023

Percent of Water Sourced Locally



CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE WATER

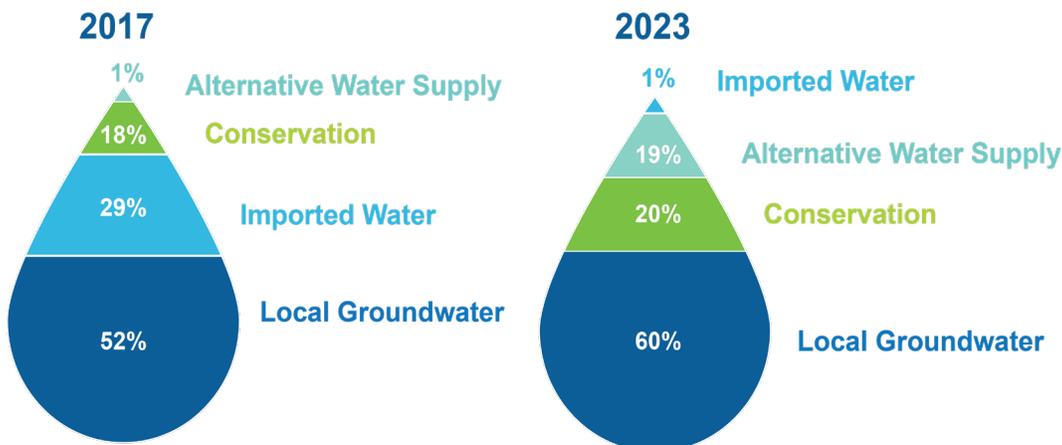
MEASURING LOCAL WATER

Water self-sufficiency means eliminating the dependence of imported water from Metropolitan Water District and obtaining our water supply from local sources. The City's target for the amount of water sourced locally is 100% by 2023. Santa Monica's groundwater resources were polluted from underground gasoline tanks in the mid-1990's and left Santa Monica dependent on high-priced imported water from the Metropolitan Water District.

Since then, the local groundwater sources have been restored and were reopened following remediation in 2010. The new treatment plant allows for the use of locally produced water, thereby reducing the expense and energy use associated with imported water. Since 2010, local water production has increased substantially, but this area needs continued improvement in order to meet the 100% local water target.

In 2014, the City developed the Sustainable Water Master Plan (SWMP). This plan serves as a strategic review and forecast of the City's water supply and demand picture, and also as an "umbrella" plan to combine existing strategies to achieve water self-sufficiency.

As part of the SWMP update, a sustainable-yield analysis of the Santa Monica groundwater basin was completed. The update also incorporated new information on local groundwater resources, regulatory requirements, water conservation programs and alternative water supply opportunities. Based on the analysis of the updated SWMP, the project target date for water self-sufficiency was extended to 2023.



IMPORTANCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

The City recognizes the importance of renewable energy generation and the impacts of non-renewable energy sources such as coal and natural gas. These sources generate harmful pollutants and contribute significantly to the carbon footprint of communities. In contrast, most renewable energy technologies produce little or no pollution and have low reliance on fossil fuels to support their operations.

The City aims to increase the use of renewable energy, thus reducing the community's total amount of greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels. In a region where the sun shines an average of 310 days per year, solar energy is a viable option to increase the amount of energy supplied by renewable sources in Santa Monica.

An increase in solar generation will also help meet the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which aims for 33% total renewable energy by 2020, 60% by 2030, and 100% by 2045.

The City is monitoring the distributed generation of solar, as well as the number of Santa Monica homes and businesses receiving renewable energy from electricity providers. Increasing the amount of renewable energy in Santa Monica will help to improve air quality, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a sustainable energy supply for the future.

HIGHLIGHT

Currently, there are 154 LEED-certified buildings in Santa Monica which reduce carbon emissions and save water and energy.



DISTRIBUTED GENERATION FROM SOLAR



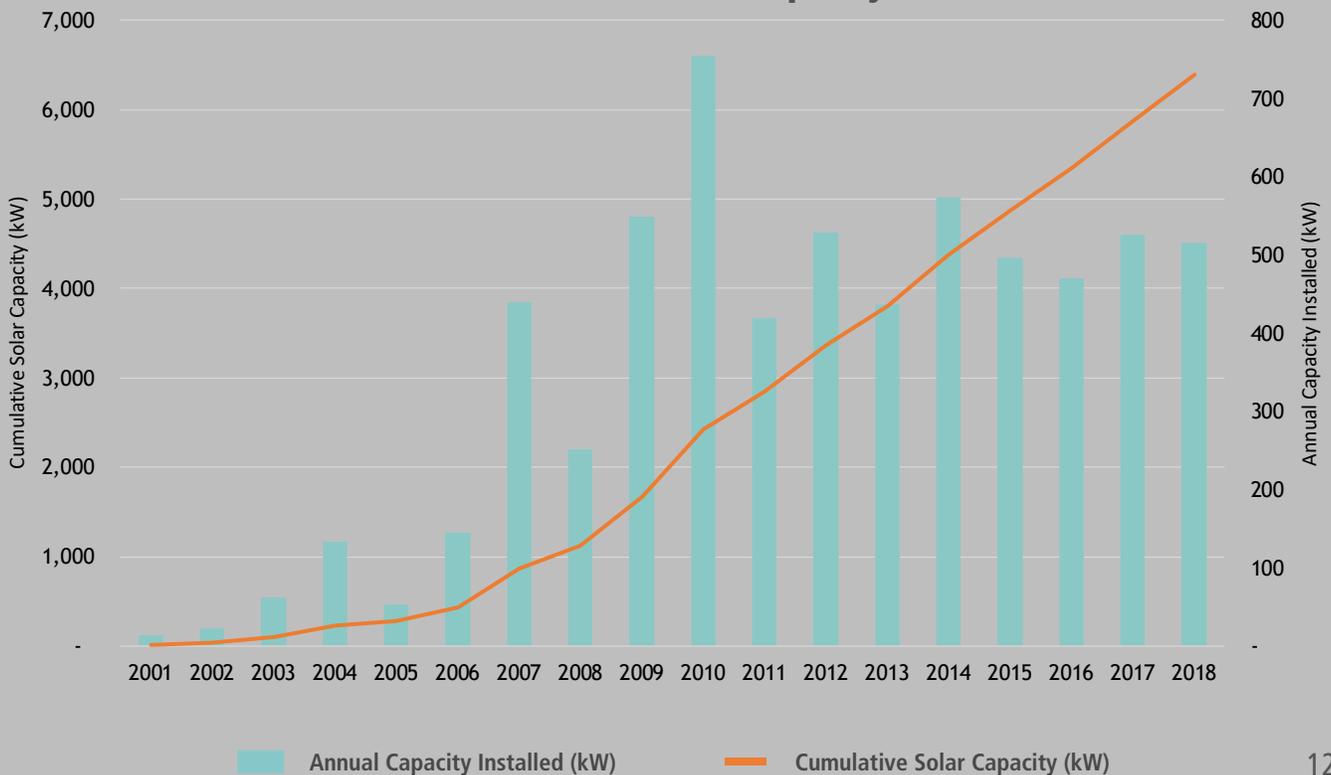
This indicator measures the distributed generation of solar in megawatt (MW) capacity.

As of 2018, Santa Monica is generating 6.3 megawatts of solar. This includes solar generated from municipal facilities as well as from homes and businesses.

With an increase of on-site solar installation, Santa Monica is moving towards the target and on track to meet the target by 2020.

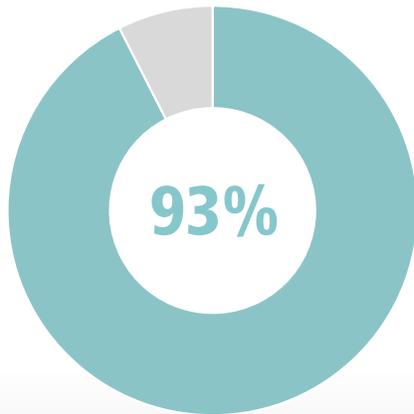
TARGET
Generate 7.5 MW of on-site solar by 2020

Installed Solar Capacity





RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ENERGY SOURCES



This indicator measures the percent of residents and businesses receiving renewable energy through different electricity providers such as the Clean Power Alliance, Southern California Edison, Direct Access Provider, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

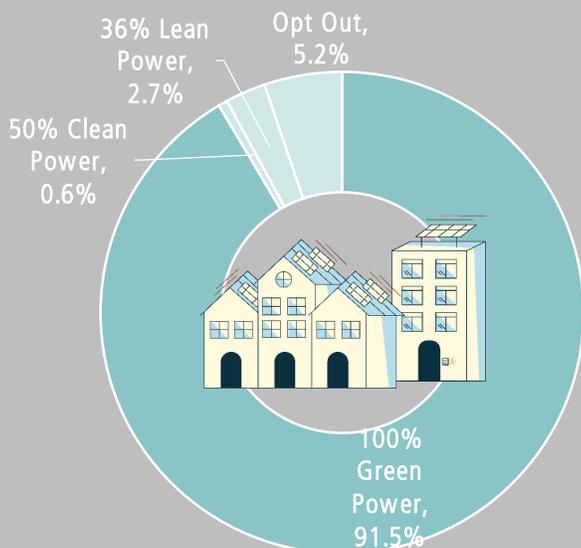
As of December 2019, 93% of all Santa Monica residents and businesses received renewable energy through their electricity provider.

TARGET

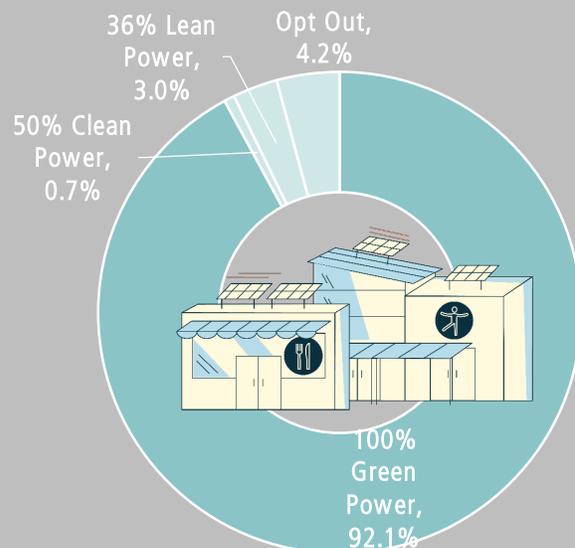
100% of Santa Monica's residents and businesses receiving renewable energy

Clean Power Alliance Breakdown (August 2019)

Residential Customers



Commercial Customers



CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

RENEWABLE ENERGY

MEASURING RENEWABLE ENERGY

To date, residents and businesses have installed over 6.3 megawatts of solar on their rooftops. Solar installation needs to increase significantly to reach the 7.5 MW target for 2020.

For residents and businesses that are not able to install solar panels for their home or building, they still have the option to source their power from renewable energy. The indicators used to measure renewable energy in the City include the distributed generation of solar, as well as the percent of Santa Monica residents and businesses receiving renewable energy from their electricity provider.

Falling costs and new financing options have increased the viability of solar in the marketplace. Additionally, the City's Solar Santa Monica program provides free assistance to residents and businesses looking to make the switch to on-site solar. Solar Santa Monica experts provide technical assistance to help navigate the changing rules, incentives, and financing options, while providing energy efficiency recommendations, solar potential analysis, bid comparison, and financial analysis.

While the City is working to increase the amount of on-site solar installed and renewable energy generated locally, the City has taken additional measures to increase the amount of renewable energy distributed citywide. In 2018, the City of Santa Monica joined 31 other public agencies in the region to form the Clean Power Alliance, a local energy provider governed by its member agencies. The Clean Power Alliance offers three new, competitively-priced cleaner options for electricity and also reinvests funds back into the community. Santa Monica was one of several cities to set the default rate for residential and commercial customers to 100% renewable energy.

In 2016, the City updated Santa Monica's building codes for all new construction projects requiring that the installation of solar panels.

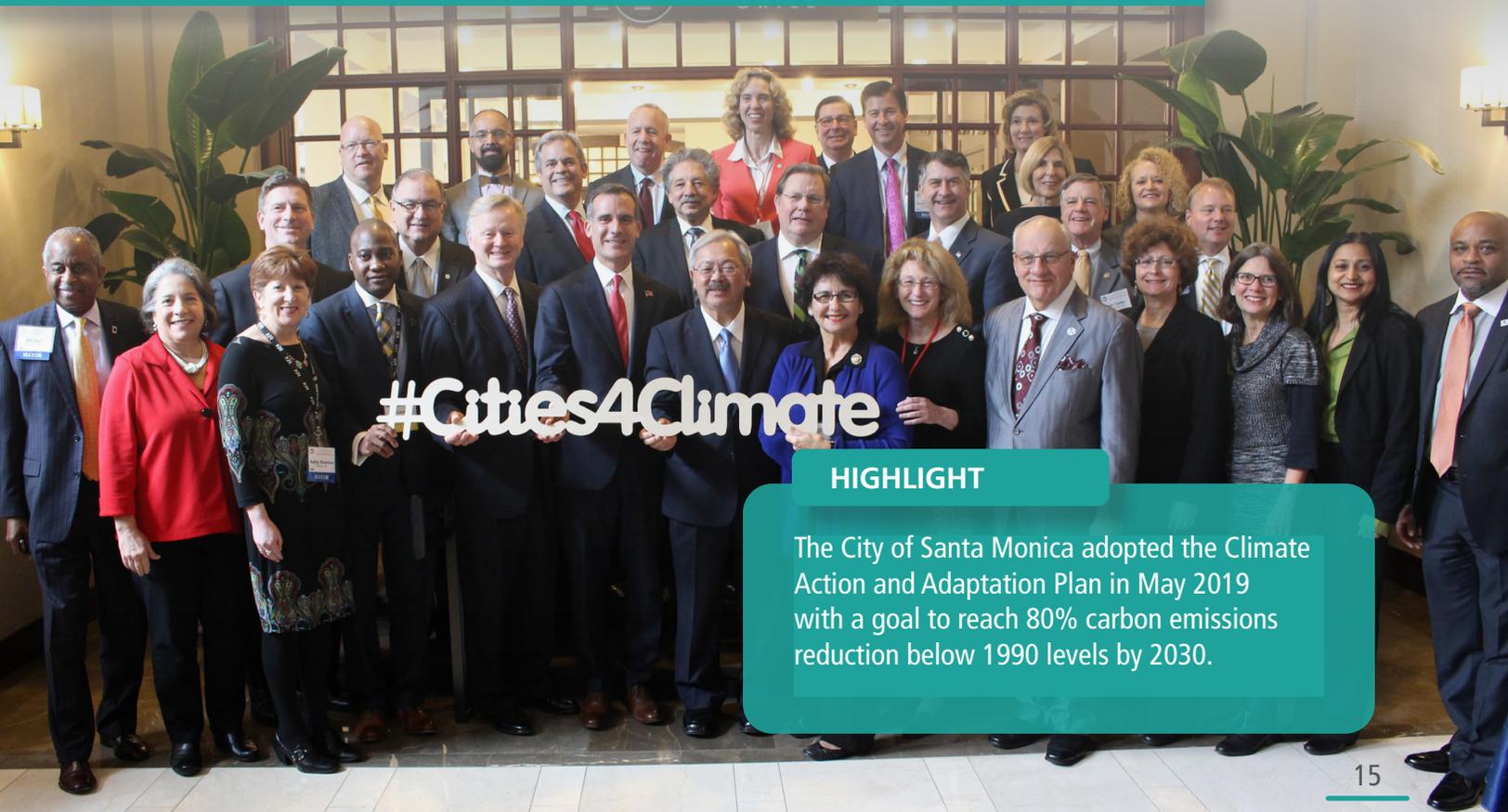


IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

The City recognizes the right to a natural climate unaltered by fossil fuel emissions and understands that early action is vital to avoid the significant costs and social and environmental risks posed by them. Cities are on the front lines when it comes to climate change impacts. Cities also have significant role to play in the fight against climate change.

Santa Monica has long held ambitious sustainability goals and took action early on to meet them. In an effort to reduce the impacts of climate change, Santa Monica is committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050 or sooner.

While this community has made great strides and lead the way in carbon emissions reduction, we have a long way to go to become a carbon-neutral city. By tracking our carbon emissions reduction, Santa Monica can continue to identify key actions to make important headway to reduce our environmental impact. Aggressive measures are necessary to prevent and adapt to the effects of climate change for current and future generations.

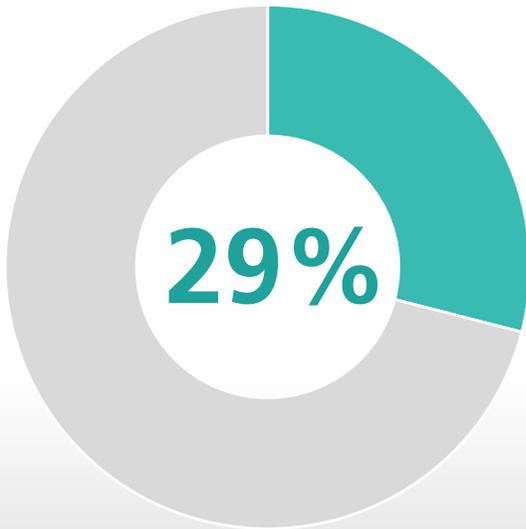


HIGHLIGHT

The City of Santa Monica adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in May 2019 with a goal to reach 80% carbon emissions reduction below 1990 levels by 2030.



CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION



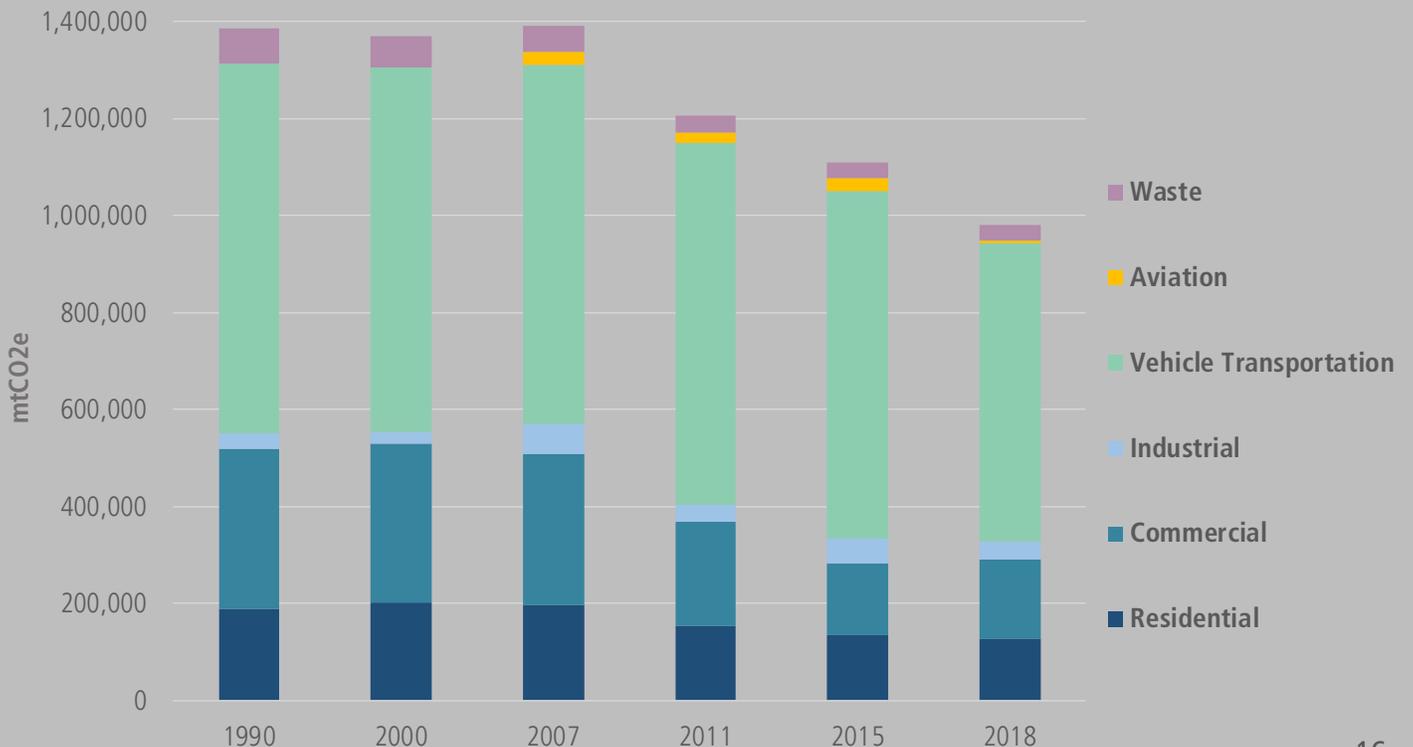
Santa Monica’s emission sources are from building energy use, landfilled waste and vehicle fuel use. The emissions are measured here in terms of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (mtCO₂e). This indicator captures carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (NO₂) and methane in a single metric.

As of 2018, Santa Monica has reduced carbon emissions by 29% percent below 1990 levels.

TARGET

Reduce carbon emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2030

Communitywide Annual Carbon Emissions (mtCO₂e)



MEASURING CARBON EMISSIONS

Since 1990, Santa Monica's emissions have decreased by 29% percent. This decrease in emissions can be attributed to a variety of factors including increased building efficiency, fuel efficiency and renewable energy. Santa Monica measures metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents in a sector-based model, looking at the emissions emitted by different sectors like transportation, residential, commercial, waste, and aviation.

Between 1990 and 2015, Santa Monica reduced its emissions 20% below 1990 levels at a rate of 0.8% per year. In order to achieve an 80% reduction by 2030, Santa Monica would need to reduce total emissions by about 929,693 mtCO₂e at a rate of over 4% per year, significantly increasing the scale and speed of reductions. This Bending of the Carbon Curve is essential to meeting the Paris Climate Agreement and avoiding worsened climate change impacts.

In May 2019, the City of Santa Monica adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The CAAP builds off early successes with the 15x15 Climate Action Plan and moves the City closer to carbon neutrality by 2050, an interim goal of reducing carbon emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The Plan focuses on eight objectives in the following three sectors: zero net carbon buildings, zero waste and sustainable mobility. In addition to California's policies, such as the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and the Renewable Portfolio Standard, there are many local actions that must be implemented in order to achieve an 80% reduction.

The Plan provides a roadmap to advance the goals across programmatic and departmental lines. In many cases, the actions described also require new community and regional partnerships to develop and test new strategies that will build on Santa Monica's leadership role in sustainability and innovation. The key actions identify what can be accomplished within the next decade to continue progress toward the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner.

Source: Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

RECENT ACTIONS:

- Launching Santa Monica's first electric Big Blue Bus (2019)
- Joining the Clean Power Alliance to provide renewable energy to Santa Monica residents and businesses (2018)
- Electric Vehicle Action Plan (2017)



IMPORTANCE OF WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

The City recognizes the importance of providing a system in which Santa Monicans can properly dispose of waste. This can only be achieved through the cooperative efforts of the City and community members to reduce waste and increase the amount recycled and composted within Santa Monica. Solid waste disposed in landfills generates methane and contributes to the City's carbon footprint. In addition, landfill space - in and around Santa Monica has become scarce and expensive. A significant portion of disposed solid waste can be diverted from landfills through behavioral changes and municipal action.

A higher diversion target encourages a shift to more sustainable resource use and alleviates pressure on landfills and the environment. To achieve more sustainable waste management practices and reduce the amount of waste landfilled, per capita waste generation needs to decrease.

While zero waste goals may always require continuous improvement, the City is monitoring and tracking our progress towards a zero waste future. Santa Monica can take pride in its successes, should learn from its failures, and pursue every avenue to reduce and responsibly manage its waste for the sake of future generations.



HIGHLIGHT

The City of Santa Monica implemented an Eco-Ambassador program to encourage organics collection in multi-family dwellings.



POUNDS OF WASTE GENERATED DAILY PER PERSON



The City tracks the amount of waste generated and calculates the daily per capita waste based on the total population.

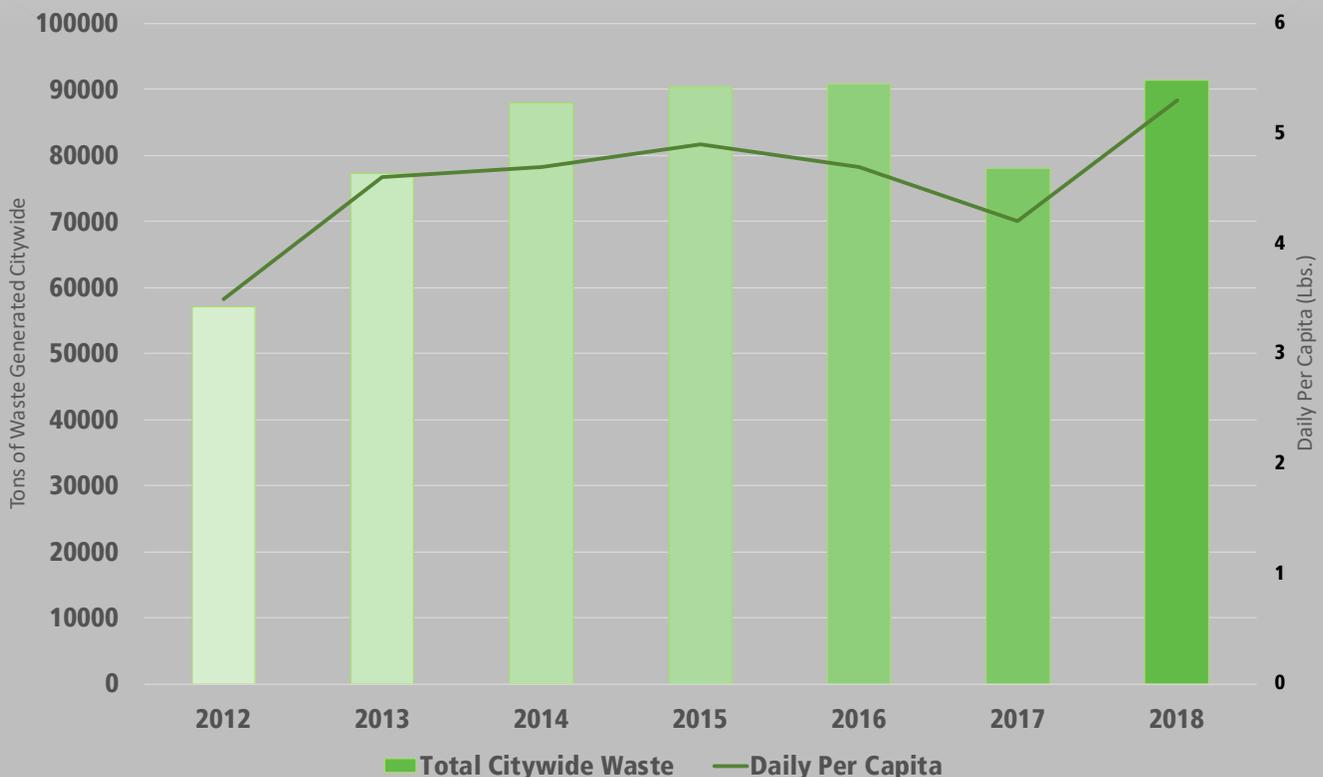
As of 2018, 5.3 pounds of waste are generated daily per person.

More recently, the amount of waste generated per person daily has increased and is moving away from the 2020 target.

TARGET

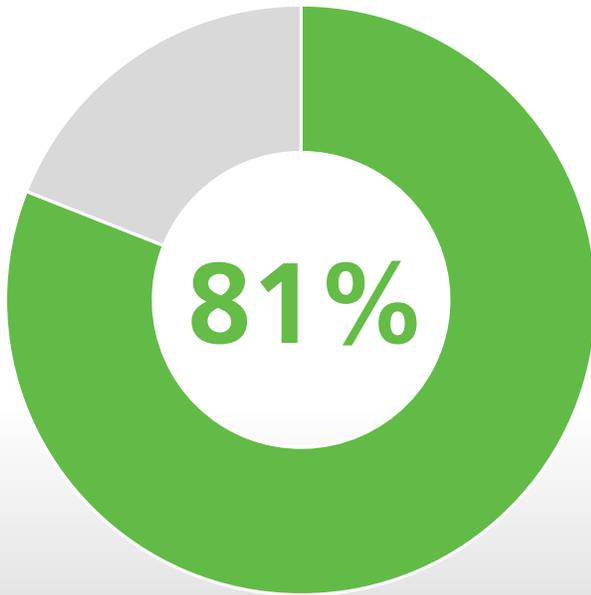
2.4 lbs. pounds per person per day by 2020

Annual Waste Generated vs. Per Capita





PERCENT OF MATERIALS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL



The City looks at solid waste in terms of the total amount generated, the amount landfilled, and the amount diverted from landfills. Waste diversion applies to materials that have been recycled, composted, or converted into energy rather than sent to a landfill.

As of 2018, the City of Santa Monica diverted 81 percent of materials from the landfill.

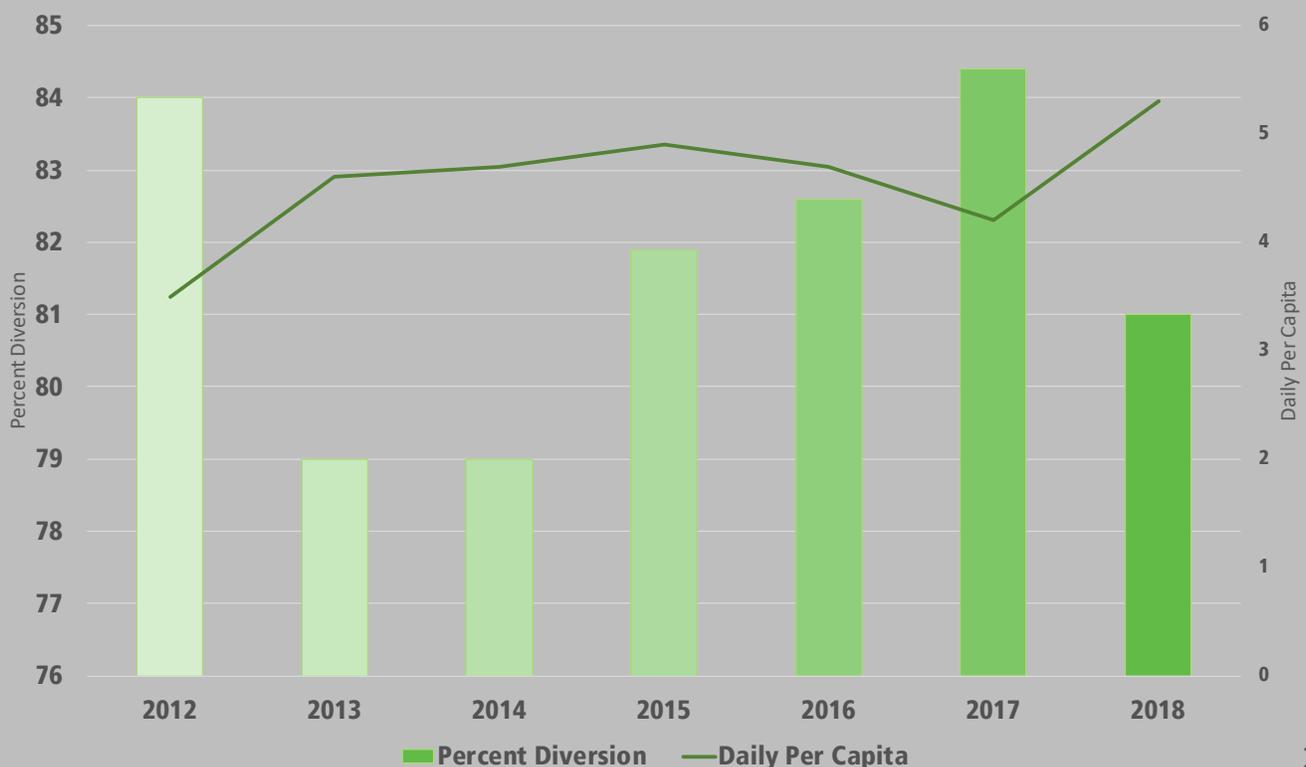
Recently, Santa Monica's percent of materials diverted from the landfill has decreased and is moving away from the short-term target of 85% by 2020.

TARGET

Divert 85% of materials from the landfill by 2020*

*This is an interim target for zero waste by 2030

Waste Diversion and Generation



MEASURING WASTE DIVERSION

Over the years, the City of Santa Monica has been a leader in zero waste and maintained a high diversion rate. The City adopted a Zero Waste Strategic Plan (ZWP) in 2014, setting a course to reach the goal of Zero Waste (95% waste diversion) by 2030.

While the City has reduced disposal overall since the adoption of the 2014 ZWP, it appears that Santa Monica is not on track to meet the target of 3.6 pounds per capita per day by 2020. The City has not yet implemented many of the zero waste strategies that were proposed in the 2014 ZWP. A dramatic decrease in disposal is required in order to meet the target of 1.1 pounds per capita per day by 2030.

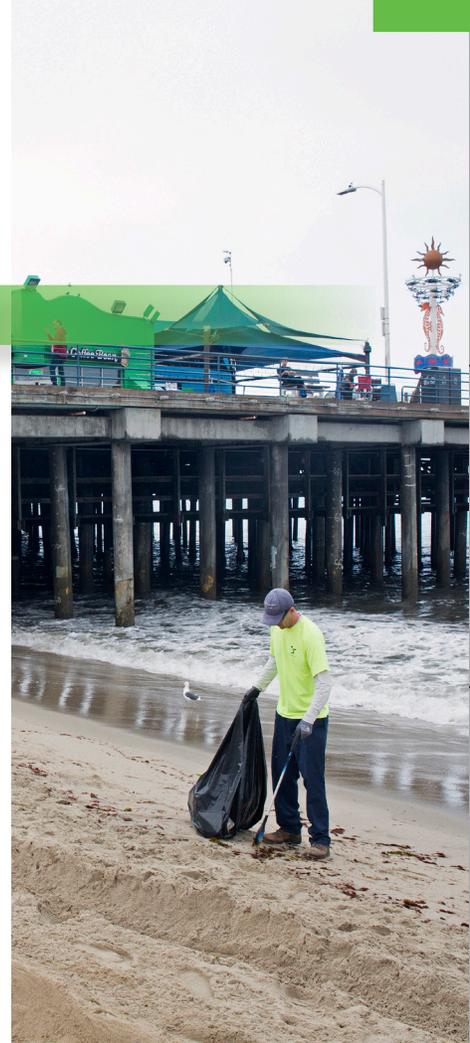
In May 2019, Council adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) that includes 11 strategies related to solid waste, and set a goal to reduce total carbon emissions from solid waste by 3%. The 2019 Zero Waste Plan update includes recommendations to prioritize strategies that directly address 10 of the 11 strategies in the CAAP.

Santa Monica's zero waste goals will be shaped by many factors: the community's commitment to adoption of zero waste actions, the City's ability to support continued progress and innovation, new state mandates and legislative requirements, and the influence of larger socioeconomic shifts.

Source: Zero Waste Plan Update Draft

RECENT ACTIONS TO DIVERT WASTE FROM LANDFILL:

- Adoption of updated Zero Waste Strategic Plan (2019)



IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

The City recognizes the importance to clean air and how vital it is to our resiliency as a community. The South Coast Air Basin, including Los Angeles County, is one of the regions with the worst air quality in the country. This is due primarily to the transportation sector and high concentrations of industrial and commercial operations, in addition to the presence of mountain ranges trapping noxious gases inland. Though Santa Monica is located on the coast, the region is still subject to high emission levels and poor air quality that can cause health risks such as asthma, particularly among children.

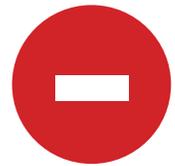
Ozone concentrations contribute to urban smog and are the standards to measure air quality. Air quality is strongly dependent on weather as ozone concentrations are particularly high on hot days. Climate change is expected to impact air quality through warming temperatures and more frequent episodes of stagnant air. These warmer temperatures will increase the frequency of days with unhealthy amounts of ground-level ozone.

The City will continue to monitor and improve air quality to ensure the health and well-being of the community and future generations.

HIGHLIGHT

The City of Santa Monica launched the first fully-electric Big Blue Bus in 2019.





NUMBER OF EXCEEDANCE DAYS



This indicator measures the number of days that Santa Monica exceeded air quality standards annually.

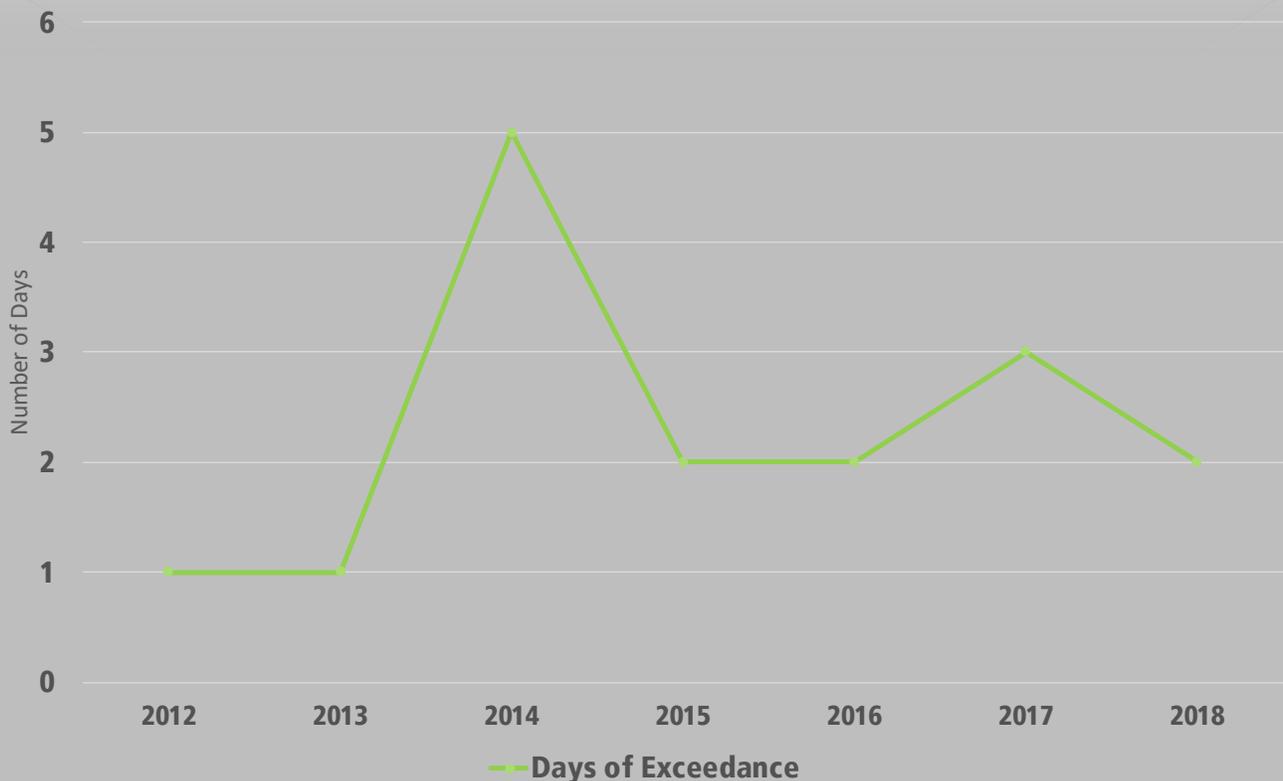
This target is measured by the number of days with ozone levels exceeding the current Federal standard of .070 parts per million (PPM) in an 8-hour period

In 2018, the City of Santa Monica exceeded this air quality standard twice. While this is a decrease from 2014, there has been minimal movement year to year.

TARGET

Zero days exceeding Federal air quality standards

Days of Exceedance Annually



MEASURING AIR QUALITY

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the air pollution control agency that measures and reports air quality in and around the urban areas of Los Angeles County. Santa Monica's air quality is monitored by the Northwest Coastal Los Angeles County site.

The City monitors and tracks the number of exceedance days for Federal air quality standards, currently set at .70 parts per million (ppm). In 2014, the Federal air standards were updated from .75 ppm to .70 ppm.

Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.

Warming temperatures and lengthened growing seasons can also lead to increased wildfires and airborne allergens, such as pollen, which also worsen air quality.

While the City of Santa Monica does not directly regulate air pollution, we monitor our air quality based on the reports issued by SCAQMD, and take appropriate measures to improve air quality.

In 2017, the City of Santa Monica adopted the Electric Vehicle Action Plan and set an ambitious goal of 300 public electric vehicle chargers by 2020. Santa Monica currently has 143 of these chargers available. The City also offers a rebate program for charger installations in multi-family unit dwellings.

In addition to promoting alternative transportation and alternative-fuel vehicles, Santa Monica will the Santa Monica Airport (SMO) - a significant source of air pollution - by 2028. In 2017, the SMO runway was shortened to 3,500 feet to reduce the number of charter jets.



IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING OUR WATER AND SOIL CLEAN

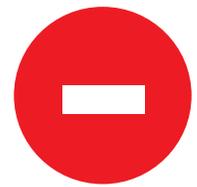
The City of Santa Monica is committed to maintaining a resilient built and natural environment. As part of its mission, the City recognizes the importance of keeping trash, especially various forms of plastics, out of the marine environment, where it causes habitat, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic degradation. The City is committed to significantly reducing the amount of trash - e.g. non-natural 5 mm and larger objects - that is discharged onto its beaches, as well as into the Santa Monica Bay and Ballona Creek. To achieve this result, the City has installed hundreds of catch-basin devices, as well as the large strategically-located, trash-removing structures to help eliminate debris from stormwater. These devices are cleaned regularly to remove debris. The City cleans its beaches and many streets daily, and has banned the use of single-use plastic foodware, items commonly found along beaches and in city trash-removing devices.

Additionally, the City has both no-littering and no-smoking laws for the beach and Santa Monica Pier to discourage littering. The City tracks quarterly how much residual trash is left on its beaches after routine daily beach raking. Through these efforts, the City expects the amount of residual trash to decrease over time.

By improving beach water quality and the cleanliness of the beach, we are improving the public health and safety of our community. We are also protecting and preserving the largest natural environment in Santa Monica.

HIGHLIGHT

In 2018, Santa Monica banned single-use plastic food service ware for food and beverage providers.



ANNUAL BEACH WATER QUALITY WARNINGS

**170
 warnings**

This indicator measures the total number of beach water quality warnings or closures issued per year for Santa Monica’s six beaches (Montana, Wilshire, Pico-Kenter, Strand, Ashland, and the Pier).

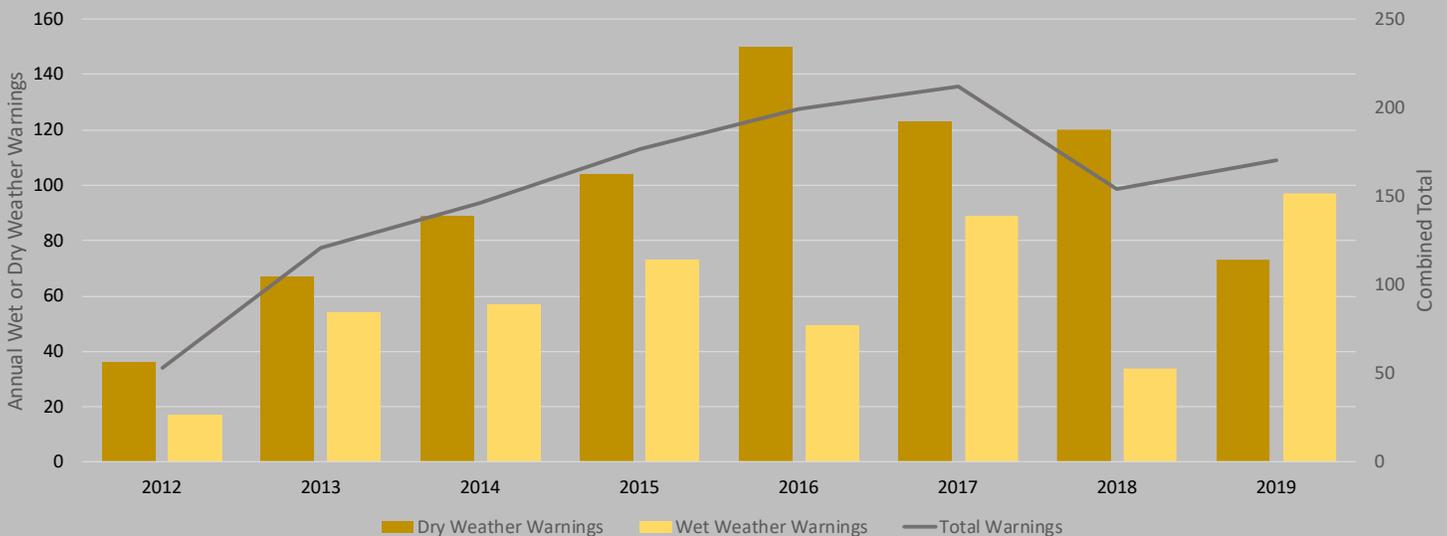
When levels of bacteria exceed safety standards, health officials notify the public by posting signs indicating a warning or closure is in effect. Pollution standards vary for wet- and dry-weather months.

As of October 2019, Santa Monica experienced 170 warnings. This is a slight increase from 2018 data. Currently, Santa Monica is not on track to meet the 2020 target.

TARGET

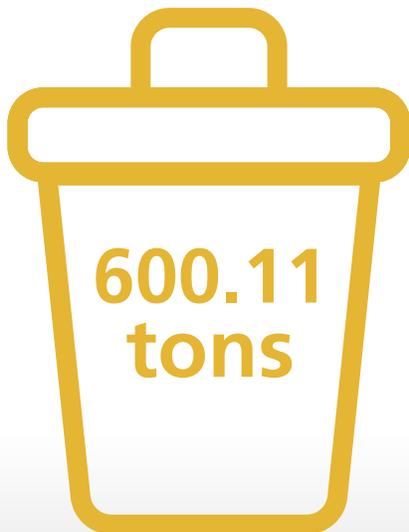
**Reduce to 17 warnings
 per year by 2020**

Beach Water Quality Warnings





AMOUNT OF TRASH COLLECTED ON THE BEACH



This indicator measures the total annual weight of trash collected on the beach

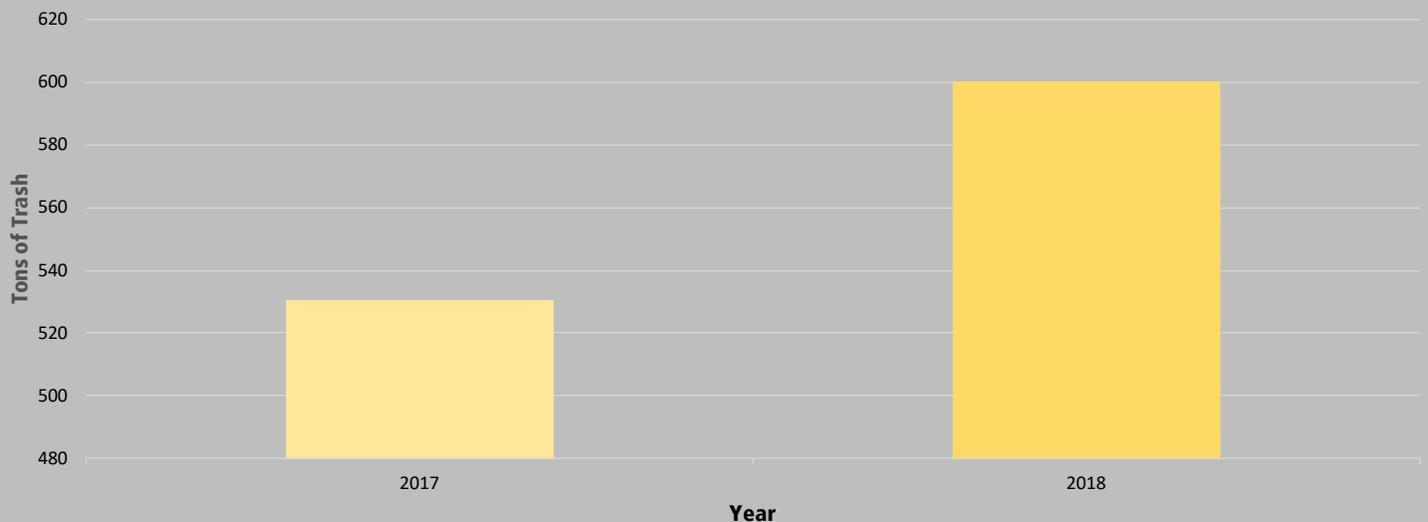
In 2018, approximately 600.11 tons of trash was collected in the trash bins on the beach. This indicator has only been measured the last two years.

Currently, Santa Monica is experiencing an increased amount of trash collected on the beach. In order to meet the 2020 target, Santa Monica needs an annual downward trend of the trash generated on the beach, while not reducing collection services.

TARGET

Downward trend to reduce the amount of trash collected on the beach

Tons of Trash Collected on the Beach



CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

CLEAN WATER AND SOIL

MEASURING CLEAN WATER AND SOIL

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Los Angeles City Sanitation officials monitor beach water quality for bacterial contamination. If levels of bacteria exceed safety standards, health officials notify the public by posting signs indicating a warning or closure is in effect. There are different standards for wet weather and dry weather months. The standards differ because rain contributes significantly to urban runoff and beach water pollution, whereas pollution during dry weather comes from different sources.

During 2018, there were a total of 170 beach warnings and closures. This is a 220% increase from the number of beach warnings issued in 2012. In order to meet the 2020 target, the City needs to drastically lower this number to a maximum of 17 beach warnings issued annually.

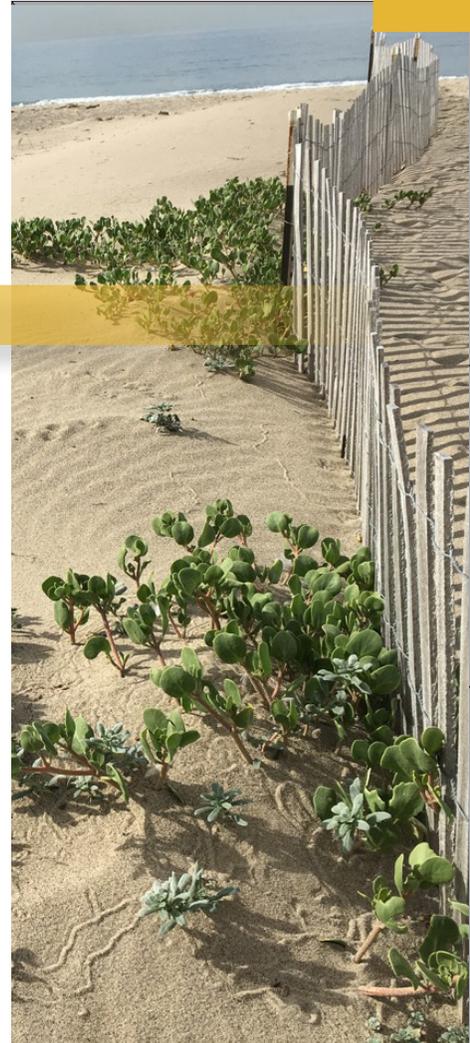
To address these elevated bacterial levels, funds from the Clean Beaches and Ocean Parcel Tax (Measure V) are used to fund projects to reduce and eliminate storm drain pollution as a source of beach water contamination during the dry season.

In 2018, the City completed the Clean Beaches Project, a 1.6 million-gallon underground storage tank and pipe system installed at the Pier to collect diverted rainwater and treat dry- and wet- weather runoff which previously discharged directly into the ocean. As a result, the Santa Monica Pier Beach water quality levels improved and the beach was removed from the Heal the Bay's Beach Bummer list in 2019.

In addition to monitoring the number of beach warnings, the City of Santa Monica is monitoring drinking water quality standards. Santa Monica's water supply undergoes regular testing and monitoring to ensure safety standards before reaching the tap. This includes weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual, and triennial monitoring. The water is tested for more than 100 substances including microorganisms, pesticides, herbicides, asbestos, lead, copper, petroleum-based products, and by-products of industrial and water treatment processes. As a result, more than 10,000 laboratory tests are conducted each year.

RECENT ACTIONS TO IMPROVE WATER AND SOIL QUALITY

- Prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic food service ware
- Clean Beaches Project
- Beach Restoration Project



IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD

The City of Santa Monica is committed to promoting more sustainable food choices to achieve the twin objectives of reducing those negative effects and improving access, perhaps most visibly through the Santa Monica Farmers Markets and the community gardens. The food we eat plays an important role in sustainability, since agricultural productions and food distribution is a large contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. While we recognize the importance of measuring - and taking steps to reduce - the negative impacts of our local food system on the environment, it is also necessary to ensure equal access for all residents to a healthy and sustainable food system.

We know carbon emissions from distribution and delivery can be minimized by producing and/or purchasing food locally, and also by choosing foods that are less carbon-intensive foods (i.e. plant-based) over those that require greater energy and land use for their production.

Education and outreach programs have been implemented to increase public understanding of the need to reduce consumption of meat, dairy, and processed foods; encourage the purchase of locally grown, organic foods (in grocery stores and at the farmers markets); and reduce the waste associated with packaging and food waste.

The City will continue to track and monitor local food systems in order to ensure resiliency and equal access to healthy foods for the community.

HIGHLIGHT

In 2019, the City hosted the first People, Planet, Plate: A Celebration of Sustainable Food with 237 in attendance.





GROSS SALES AT FARMERS MARKETS



This indicator measures the total annual gross sales at four Santa Monica Farmers Markets (Downtown Wednesday, Downtown Saturday, Virginia Avenue Park, Main Street).

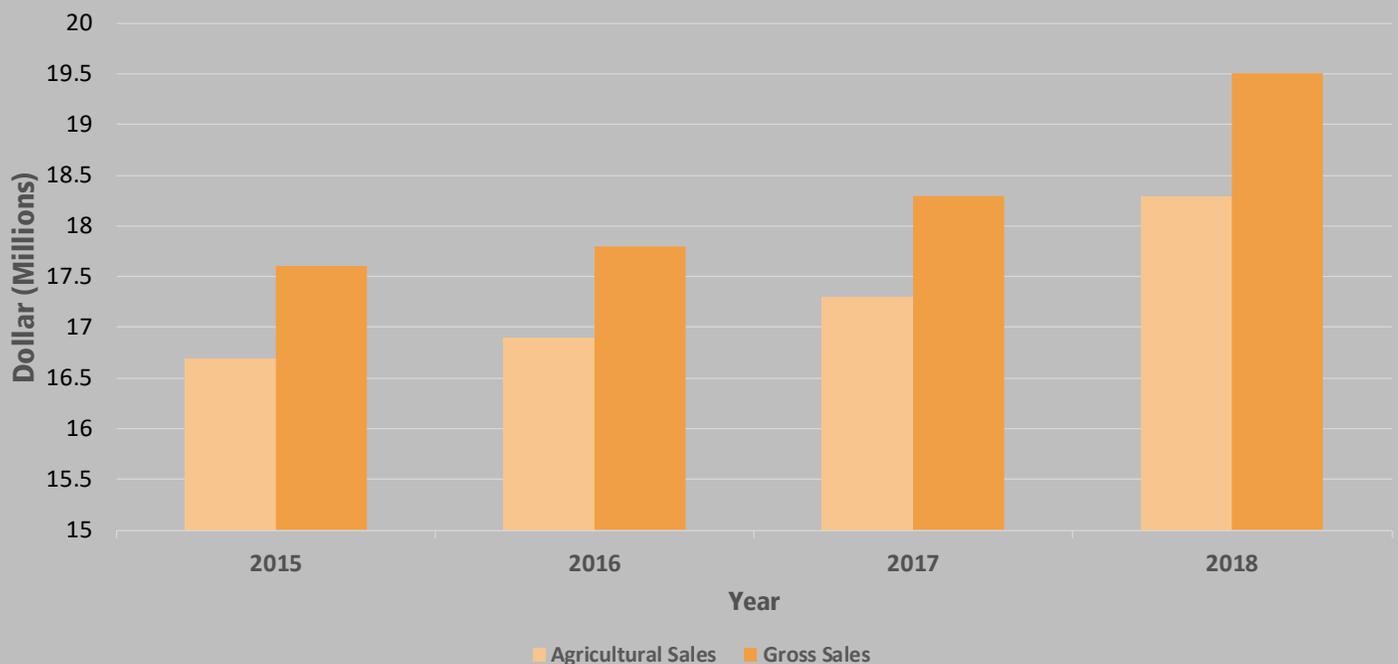
In Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018, their annual gross sales reached \$19.5 million dollars.

Currently, Santa Monica is experiencing an upward trend of annual gross sales at the four markets. If the City continues this trend in the coming months, we are on track to meet the 2020 target.

TARGET

Annual increase in gross sales

Santa Monica Farmers Market Annual Sales



MEASURING HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM

The City of Santa Monica is committed to supporting sustainable, local, and organic food through its own purchasing as well as helping to make sustainable food more accessible to its residents.

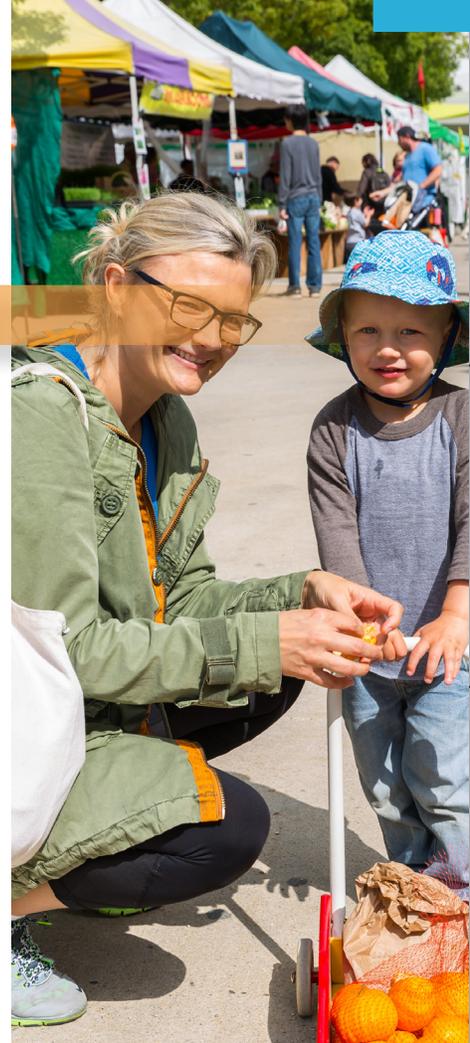
The Santa Monica Farmers Markets promote healthful eating and sustainable agriculture by providing their customers fresh products from small farms, thereby building community and preserving California farmland. An increase in sales at local farmers markets ensure that these relationships continue to thrive, offering a consistent supply of fresh food for residents.

The City of Santa Monica oversees the operation and management of four Certified Farmers Markets (CFMs). Collectively, they provide fresh, seasonal produce that is preminent among farmers market programs in the state.

While the Santa Monica Farmers Markets help residents obtain locally grown produce and organic fresh foods, the City is also monitors the location of grocery stores in the community. An even distribution of such stores across the city will ensure easier access to fresh food for all residents. By monitoring the distribution of grocery stores, the City can identify ways to reduce both travel time to daily necessities and barriers that impede access to healthy foods.

RECENT HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM PROJECTS:

- First "People, Planet, Plate" event to spread awareness about sustainable foods (2019)
- Annual film screenings specifically on food. Past films include: "Wasted!" (2018), "Eating Animals" (2019), "Game Changers" (2020)
- Opened Community Learning Garden at Ishihara Park (2017)



IMPORTANCE OF PLANTING AND PRESERVING TREES

The City recognizes the important role trees play in our local urban ecosystem, as well as the sustainability of the community. Trees deliver environmental and public health benefits. Trees provide shade, increase the aesthetic value of a city, contribute to high property values, reduce urban water runoff by capturing storm water, filter air pollutants and contribute to improved air quality. The tree canopy reduces solar heat gain, minimizes evaporative loss and excessive exposure to direct sun, and helps decrease local air temperatures which may be higher due to reflective surfaces and the urban heat island effect. Research shows that tree canopy cover can increase property value by six to nine percent.

A balanced urban forest consists of a life cycle continuum of many-aged trees from newly planted/young trees, semi-mature trees, mature trees and over-mature/senescent trees. When evaluating tree canopy goals, it is important to measure net tree gain. Net tree gain is the number of trees the City planted minus the number of trees the City removed, and it is an important calculation for an urban forester to use when trying to maximize the benefits provided by a healthy, functioning urban forest. Tree removal and tree planting are both necessary. Santa Monica's goal is to sustainably manage the urban forest to preserve and increase tree canopy cover.

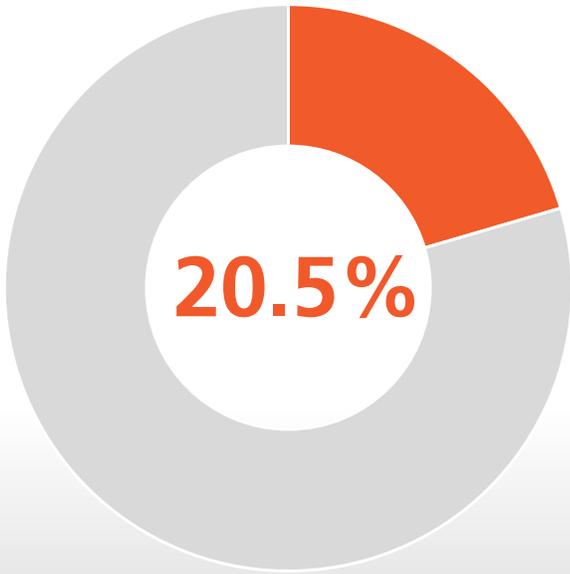


HIGHLIGHT

In 2019, the City planted 589 trees in public spaces.



PERCENTAGE OF TREE CANOPY COVERAGE



This indicator measures the percentage of citywide tree canopy coverage.

In 2014, a City of Santa Monica study measured a 20.5% tree canopy coverage including both public and private trees. Currently, approximately 30% of Santa Monica’s tree canopy is made up of public trees maintained by the City.

The last tree canopy coverage study was conducted over 5 years ago. More data is needed in order to assess the trend and whether we are moving toward our 2020 target.

TARGET

Upward trend to increase the percentage of tree canopy coverage

Santa Monica Public Trees



MEASURING THE COVERAGE OF OUR TREES

Santa Monica has approximately one tree for every three residents, with approximately 33,000 trees and over 200 tree species. According to the U.S. Forest Service, Santa Monica has nearly twice the number of street trees per mile compared to the average city in a similar climate zone. The national average is 27%. When Santa Monica was last measured in 2001, tree canopy was 15%.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the annual air pollutant uptake by Santa Monica's tree canopy is over 2.3 lbs of CO₂ per tree. The City's municipal street trees provide ecosystem service benefits to Santa Monica at an estimated value of \$5.1 million annually, averaging \$57 per person and \$180 per tree.

Investing in Santa Monica's urban forest renewal is a priority since a large portion of the trees in the City, some 42%, are mature trees nearing the end of their life expectancy. It is good practice to plant as many, if not more, trees each year as are being removed in order to derive the important benefits associated with trees. Additionally, proper tree species selection and maintaining tree diversity are important. While the City recognizes the need to escalate its tree planting program and continue pursuing operational efficiencies, it is important to note that well more than half of Santa Monica's overall tree canopy coverage is on private property; the City owns and maintains just 30%.

California's recent severe drought conditions directly impacted urban trees, as water is required for healthy growth and functioning. A lack of water can cause high levels of stress in trees, increasing their susceptibility to pests and biological pathogen attack.

In 2017, City Council approved the revised Urban Forest Master Plan, which will guide its management over the next 50 years. The plan is a living document that will be evaluated and updated over time as new technologies and advancements in urban forestry become available. This plan seeks to increase age and species diversity in the public tree population, augment biomass and canopy coverage citywide, enhance the character and aesthetics of our neighborhoods, and achieve exemplary stewardship of the forest from all who live and work here.



SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN

Santa Monica celebrated 25 years of progress with the anniversary of the Sustainable City Plan (SCP), adopted by City Council on September 20, 1994. The SCP is a set of groundbreaking policies, distinguished for their broad scope and measurable targets, that thrust Santa Monica into a leadership position worldwide.

Inspired by the Rio Conventions of 1992, the SCP is a comprehensive framework for community sustainability that was designed to enhance local resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social, cultural and economic well-being of the community.

The SCP is comprised of nine goal areas, eleven guiding principles, and a number of measurable indicators.

The SCP is continually evolving and adapting to community priorities and sustainability best practices, and remains part of the enduring strategic policy initiatives for Santa Monica's future. The method by which the City reports on progress of the SCP has also evolved to an online platform.

PERFORMANCE

For the full progress report of the Sustainable City Plan, please visit:

data.sustainablesm.org

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan is founded on eleven Guiding Principles that provide the basis from which effective and sustainable decisions can be made. These Guiding Principles have been revised and updated from the versions initially adopted in 1994.

1. The Concept of Sustainability Guides City Policy

Santa Monica is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy.

2. Protection, Preservation, and Restoration of the Natural Environment is a High Priority of the City

Santa Monica is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the environment.

3. Environmental Quality, Economic Health and Social Equity are Mutually Dependent

Sustainability requires that our collective decisions as a city allow our economy and community members to continue to thrive without destroying the natural environment upon which we all depend. A healthy environment is integral to the city's long-term economic and societal interests. In achieving a healthy environment, we must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the population and that the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community.

4. All Decisions Have Implications to the Long-term Sustainability of Santa Monica

The City will ensure that each of its policy decisions and programs are interconnected through the common bond of sustainability as expressed in these guiding principles. The policy and decision-making processes of the City will reflect our sustainability objectives. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to use sustainability principles to guide their decisions and actions.

5. Community Awareness, Responsibility, Participation and Education are Key Elements of a Sustainable Community

All community members, including individual citizens, community-based groups, businesses, schools and other institutions must be aware of their impacts on the environmental, economic and social health of Santa Monica, must take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts, and must take an active part in community efforts to address sustainability concerns. The City will therefore be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of education opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation in cooperation with schools, colleges and other organizations in the community.

6. Santa Monica Recognizes Its Linkage with the Regional, National, and Global Community

Local environmental, economic and social issues cannot be separated from their broader context. This relationship between local issues and regional, national and global issues will be recognized and acted upon in the City's programs and policies. The City's programs and policies should therefore be developed

GUIDING PRINCIPLES (cont'd)

as models that can be emulated by other communities. The City will also act as a strong advocate for the development and implementation of model programs and innovative approaches by regional, state and federal government that embody the goals of sustainability.

7. Those Sustainability Issues Most Important to the Community Will be Addressed First, and the Most Cost-Effective Programs and Policies Will be Selected

The financial and human resources which are available to the City are limited. The City and the community will reevaluate its priorities and its programs and policies annually to ensure that the best possible investments in the future are being made. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness will be based on a complete analysis of the associated costs and benefits, including environmental and social costs and benefits.

8. The City is Committed to Procurement Decisions which Minimize Negative Environmental and Social Impacts

The procurement of products and services by the City and Santa Monica residents, businesses and institutions results in environmental, social and economic impacts both in this country and in other areas of the world. The City will develop and abide by an environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy that emphasizes long-term values and will become a model for other public as well as private organizations. The City will advocate for and assist other local agencies, businesses and residents in adopting sustainable purchasing practices.

9. Cross-sector Partnerships Are Necessary to Achieve Sustainable Goals

Threats to the long-term sustainability of Santa Monica are multi-sector in their causes and require multi-sector solutions. Partnerships among the City government, businesses, residents and all community stakeholders are necessary to achieve a sustainable community.

10. The Precautionary Principle Provides a Complementary Framework to Help Guide City Decision-Makers in the Pursuit of Sustainability

The Precautionary Principle requires a thorough exploration and careful analysis of a wide range of alternatives, and a full cost accounting beyond short-term and monetary transaction costs. Based on the best available science, the Precautionary Principle requires the selection of alternatives that present the least potential threat to human health and the City's natural systems. Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to not adopt mitigating measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens. Public participation and an open and transparent decision making process are critical to finding and selecting alternatives.

11. Santa Monica is Committed to Sustainable Rights for its Residents, Natural Communities and Ecosystems

The Sustainability Bill of Rights codifies the commitments made in the Sustainable City Plan and asserts the fundamental rights of all Santa Monica residents regarding sustainability. It establishes the rights of natural communities and ecosystems to exist and flourish in Santa Monica and asserts the rights of residents to enforce those rights on behalf of the environment.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Office of Sustainability and the Environment worked with other City divisions and departments to compile data for this report. The report was also developed and reviewed by a number of City Staff and members of the Task Force on the Environment.

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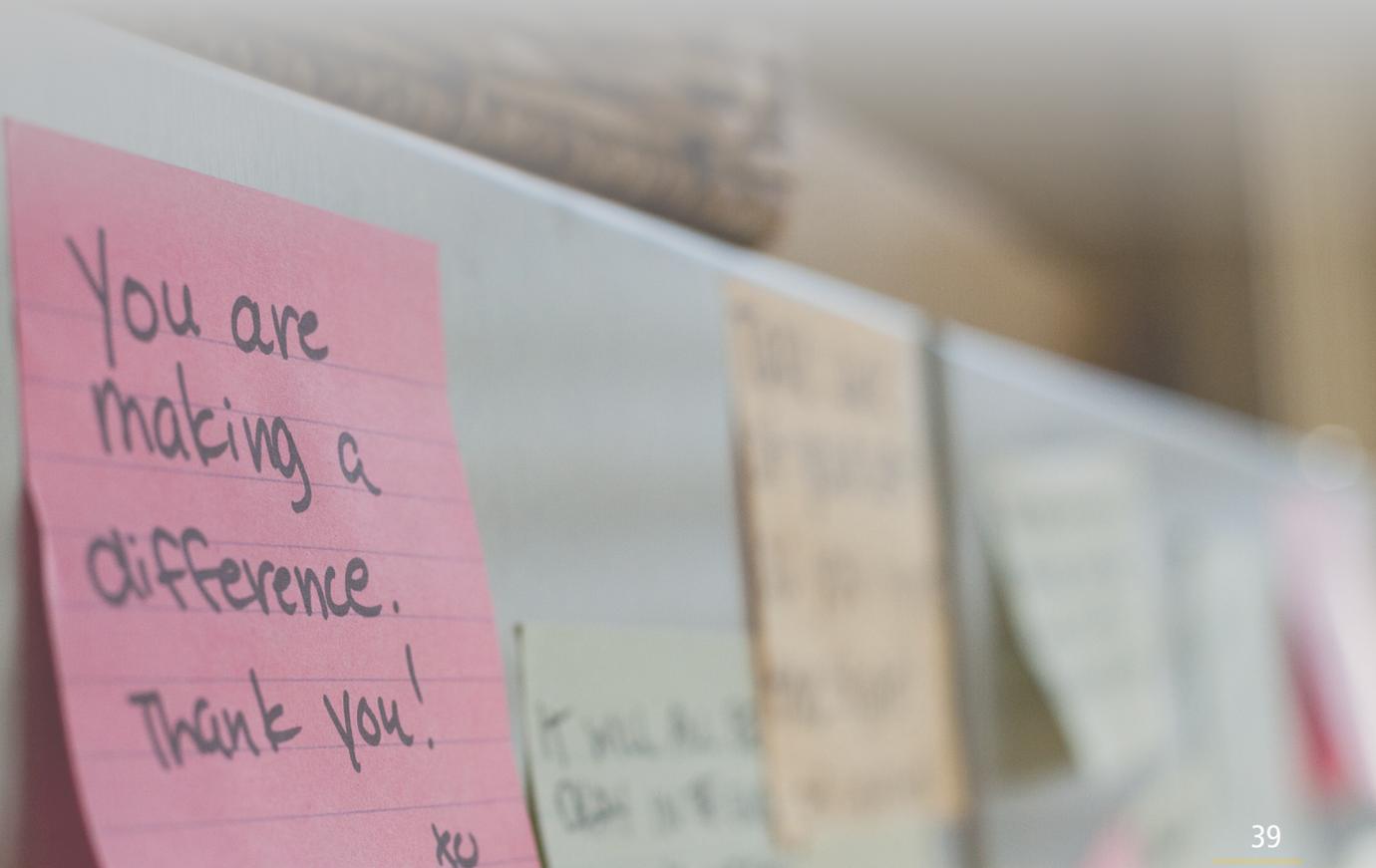
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You are
making a
difference.
Thank you!
KW