

# Green Building

The California Climate Action Network offers information, case studies, and resources to support local government efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CCAN is a program of the Institute for Local Government, the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. Visit CCAN at [www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange).

### Why Green Building Makes a Difference:

**24%** of total California greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions stem from buildings

- **14%** of GHG are from residential buildings
- **8%** of GHG are from commercial buildings
- **2%** of GHG are from industrial buildings

Source: Source: California Air Resources Board, 2004 GHG Inventory

### How Buildings Contribute to Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- Energy use
- Water use
- Construction and demolition waste
- Building material manufacturing



## Green Building Generates Fewer Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Local agencies can help stem greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging climate-friendly buildings. Green buildings emphasize greater energy efficiency, use less water, reduce construction waste, and make use of recycled and sustainable materials – therefore conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Green building programs are often targeted initially toward public buildings, but eventually measures for new and renovated private sector residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings help make all buildings more carbon neutral.

## Green Building Best Practices

The CCAN Best Practices Framework offers guidance to local agencies seeking programs and policies to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions in ten climate change policy areas, including the abbreviated green building ideas below. For more best practices ideas, visit [www.ca-ilg.org/bestpractices](http://www.ca-ilg.org/bestpractices).

Goal	Best Practice
Energy efficiency in agency buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require agency buildings to meet specified Energy Star and/or LEED rating standards</li> </ul>
Set minimum levels of energy efficiency and green building standards for commercial and residential buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require new/renovated residential and commercial buildings to exceed Title 24 energy standards to the extent allowed by law</li> <li>• Adopt green building ordinance or program for commercial, industrial and high-rise residential buildings</li> <li>• Adopt local green building ordinance or program for new low-rise residential construction to meet minimum green building standards, such as Build It Green, California Green Builder, LEED, or a similar program</li> </ul>
Sustainable landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement sustainable landscaping standards for public and/or private buildings to reduce water consumption</li> </ul>

## For More on Water and Wastewater Systems and Climate Change:

California Climate Action Network: [www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange)  
 American Institute of Architects: [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)  
 Build It Green: [www.builtitgreen.org](http://www.builtitgreen.org)  
 California Green Builder: [www.cagreenbuilder.org](http://www.cagreenbuilder.org)  
 Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)  
 Flex Your Power: [www.flexyourpower.org](http://www.flexyourpower.org)  
 LEED: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

To learn more about the California Climate Action Network and how your community can help reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions...turn the page. ➡





## About the California Climate Action Network

The California Climate Action Network was formed to help California communities play a leadership role both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for the consequences of climate change.

The Institute for Local Government builds upon its close ties with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties to partner on climate action programs with a broad array of local officials and staff. The Institute recently launched the California Climate

Action Network (CCAN) to assist local officials and other community leaders with:

- Climate action resources and tools
- Education and local Action networks
- Recognition for local leadership and achievement

For more information on CCAN and the information, resources and networks it provides, visit: [www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange).



## Best Practices Framework Supports Your Efforts Now

This Best Practices Framework offers suggestions for local action in ten Climate Leadership Opportunity Areas (*see right*), both in agency operations and the community at large. An agency can use specific best practice suggestions for stand-alone programs

or as part of a broad-based climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The suggestions are designed to reflect the variation among cities and counties and offer a variety of options ranging from simple steps to more complex undertakings.

### Climate Leadership Opportunity Areas

Visit [www.ca-ilg.org/climatepractices](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climatepractices) for Best Practices Framework

1. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
2. Waste Reduction and Recycling
3. Climate-Friendly Purchasing
4. Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels
5. Land Use and Community Design
6. Efficient Transportation
7. Green Building
8. Water and Wastewater Systems
9. Storing and Offsetting Carbon Emissions
10. Promoting Community and Individual Action

## Climate Leadership Recognition Program

The CCAN Climate Leadership Recognition Program recognizes local leadership and achievement in greenhouse gas reduction efforts. The program is designed to create meaningful incentives for cities and counties to devise and implement a

broad range of aggressive greenhouse gas reduction programs. Recognition will be tied to two key local agency accomplishments:

- Actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
- Actual reductions in energy use

Three award levels will recognize progressively more ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

For more information on the CCAN Climate Leadership Recognition Program, visit: [www.ca-ilg.org/climaterecognition](http://www.ca-ilg.org/climaterecognition).

*The Institute for Local Government is the 501 (c) (3) research and education arm of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The California Climate Network is a program of the Institute for Local Government.*