



City of Irvine 2015 Program Synopsis

Green City



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The City of Irvine is committed to energy conservation and green building, with a long history of environmental stewardship including open space preservation, protecting the environment, and conserving natural resources. We have developed a long-term strategy that actively promotes cost-effective development and building, well-planned land use, energy efficiency, alternative transportation, water quality management, waste reduction and resource management.

A key component of Irvine's efforts is the landmark Irvine Open Space Initiative that was overwhelmingly approved by Irvine residents in 1988. The historic initiative enables the City to preserve important conservation and open space resources through a program that consolidates large, contiguous open space areas under public ownership as phased, master-planned growth occurs in other areas of the city. As a result of the 1988 Open Space Initiative and the partnerships it created, the City will set aside approximately 12,300 acres that are preserved natural habitats and wildlands.

In 1989, Irvine enacted the nation's most far-reaching local measure to control ozone-depleting compounds through an ordinance prohibiting the use of nearly all chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) within the city. Irvine's comprehensive regulations set the standard for future federal legislation controlling the use of CFCs throughout the country.

The City's commitment to energy conservation was endorsed by Irvine residents in November 2010 when the **Irvine Sustainable Community Initiative, Measure S** was approved by Irvine voters. Measure S endorses previous actions of the Irvine City Council to adopt policies and establish programs in support of renewable energy. It further directs the City to continue to develop and implement such programs for the Orange County Great Park.

Recognized as one of the "greenest" cities in America, Irvine has set the standard high as an award-winning, energy efficient community that has received national recognition for its LEED-certified building codes, its delivering of 60,000 CFL energy-saving bulbs to its residents, its recycling efforts through businesses and schools, and its greenhouse gas emissions studies.

That ethic has carried to the Orange County Great Park being developed by the City of Irvine, where 12 standards were developed to serve as a guide in the planning and operation of the park. Related areas include renewable energy, recycled materials, water conservation, biodiversity, air quality, health and transit.

City programs reflecting our commitment to environmental stewardship include:

- Green Building – A comprehensive Green Building program promoting environmentally sensitive, energy conscious and healthier developments through:

- Energy efficiency
- Water conservation and reduction of runoff
- Indoor environmental quality
- Waste reduction
- Environmentally friendly building materials and specifications

In July 2010, University Community Park, Irvine’s first community park, was remodeled and modernized with energy-efficient elements, making it one of the City’s premier public facilities. The renovations meet the highest level of green building standards to reduce environmental impacts while ensuring economy, utility, durability and comfort for years to come. With environmental-friendly upgrades and creative design, the new and remodeled buildings are scheduled to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, a first for a City owned facility. Irvine is home to more LEED certified buildings than any other city in Orange County. For more information: <http://www.cityofirvine.us/programs/green-building>

- 20-year Energy Plan - In 2008, the Irvine City Council unanimously adopted a 20-year Energy Plan for the City. The goals of the Energy Plan are to increase energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the City. The cornerstone of the Energy Plan is to involve the entire community: businesses, residents, visitors and the schools as the City government leads the way by example. The Energy Plan goals are:
 - To involve 100 percent of Irvine residents, businesses, commuters and visitors in reducing energy consumption and thus reduce carbon emissions.
 - To increase the energy efficiency in buildings by reducing building energy use 30 percent by the year 2015.
 - To have 40 percent of the energy they use be from renewable sources by 2015 and 60% by 2020.
 - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions Citywide to 1990 levels by 2020 in accordance with Assembly Bill 32 – The CA Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

For more information: <http://www.cityofirvine.us/programs/energy/about>

- Zero Waste Resolution – The City’s Zero Waste Resolution provides for the elimination of waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage and recycling of materials. This goal is being achieved by actively encouraging Irvine residents, businesses and agencies to use, reuse and recycle materials judiciously. In addition, the City encourages manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, recycled and recyclable products. For more information: http://www.cityofirvine.us/recycle_home.html

- ZEV-NET – Located at the Irvine Regional Transportation Center, the zero emission vehicles networking (ZEV-NET) program provides a fleet of electric cars to commuters that can be rented via the Internet. Having the convenience of a zero emission vehicle helps to encourage more people to commute by train. For more information: <http://www.zevnet.org/>
- Hydrogen-Fueled Cars and a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Demonstration Project at the Orange County Great Park - The University of California at Irvine, home of the National Fuel Cell Research Center, in partnership with Toyota Motor Company, is working with the City to develop a hydrogen-fueling network. The City has test-driven a hydrogen fueled car. For more information: <http://www.nfrcr.uci.edu/3/default.aspx>
- The i Shuttle – In the 2,600-acre area we call the Irvine Business Complex (IBC), there are over 4,500 businesses employing 83,000 people. The City initiated a local area iShuttle as a complement to regional bus service in the IBC, and in 2011 expanded the service to the Irvine Station regional transportation center in the Irvine Spectrum. For more information: <http://www.irvineshuttle.net/>
- Water and Air Pollution Prevention – The City strives to create a community that protects air and water quality. To this end, a number of programs promote pollution prevention and conservation including in the areas of storm water, water quality, water friendly xeriscaping gardening, and air quality management. For more information: <http://www.cityofirvine.us/programs/water/>
- Open Space Preservation – As a result of Irvine’s landmark 1988 voter approved open space initiative, more than 16,000 acres – one-third of the entire city – has been or will eventually be preserved as parks, trails and natural wild lands, protecting some of the most important and stunning chaparral landscapes in California. The City of Irvine is dedicated to creating and promoting an awareness of our natural community, while encouraging behaviors that will ensure the preservation of our open space wilderness for generations to come.

The City of Irvine believes local communities can help make the world a better place in which to live, work and embrace new technologies by setting high standards for an energy efficient future.

For more information on green programs and our environmental stewardship efforts, contact:

Craig Reem
 Director of Public Affairs & Communications
 City of Irvine
 creem@cityofirvine.org
 (949) 724-6077