

# Sustainable Oakland Report

2017-18



City of  
Oakland



# CLIMATE CHANGE IS A SOCIAL EQUITY ISSUE.

All Oaklanders have the right to pursue safe, happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives. The effects associated with climate change, including long-term issues like sea level rise and immediate concerns like poor air quality, present opportunities to address these complex economic and environmental issues through equitable climate action. This report summarizes Oakland's recent achievements in becoming a more sustainable city that seeks to tackle the interconnected issues of climate change and social equity.

Greg Llhahares, City of Oakland

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# Guide to the Report

## Climate change and social equity are inextricably linked.

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with human activities are causing global temperatures to rise and weather patterns to shift. Oakland's ecological resources, public health, infrastructure, and economy are at significant risk because of climate change. Projected impacts include rising bay waters, increased risks of flooding, more days of extreme heat, and increased fire danger. These hazards are magnified for communities of color and low-income communities that are overly-represented in areas most impacted by climate change.

Yet opportunities abound to enhance social equity while protecting the climate. Oakland is transforming the threat of climate change

into an opportunity to build upon the city's local economy, quality of life, and resilience. High quality green jobs can benefit those with barriers to employment; jobs in repair services, solar installation, compost and recycling hauling, public transit, sustainable landscaping, and green technology manufacturing reflect the growing opportunities to address climate change while building economic prosperity for all Oaklanders. Community organizations and volunteers are actively cleaning and greening neighborhoods to improve air quality and water quality, build community, and enrich a future generation of environmental stewards. In addition, the City of Oakland is engaged with community based organizations working to improve resilience along the 19 miles of shoreline that surrounds significant infrastructure, vibrant neighborhoods, and natural resources at risk.

The Sustainable Oakland Report highlights how climate action in Oakland is addressing

challenges of equity across the city. Becoming a more livable, sustainable, and climate resilient city involves progress toward many interconnected goals. Advancements in each area enable new success in others. Through a collaborative approach emphasizing balanced, continuous improvement, we are building on Oakland's legacy of leadership in improving our city's economy, social equity, and environment.

**This Sustainable Oakland Report is divided into 5 elements that define the scope of Oakland's sustainable vision:**



Clean Energy & Climate

1



Transportation, Mobility & Land Use

2



Green Spaces & Community Stewardship

3



Sustainable Consumption & Production

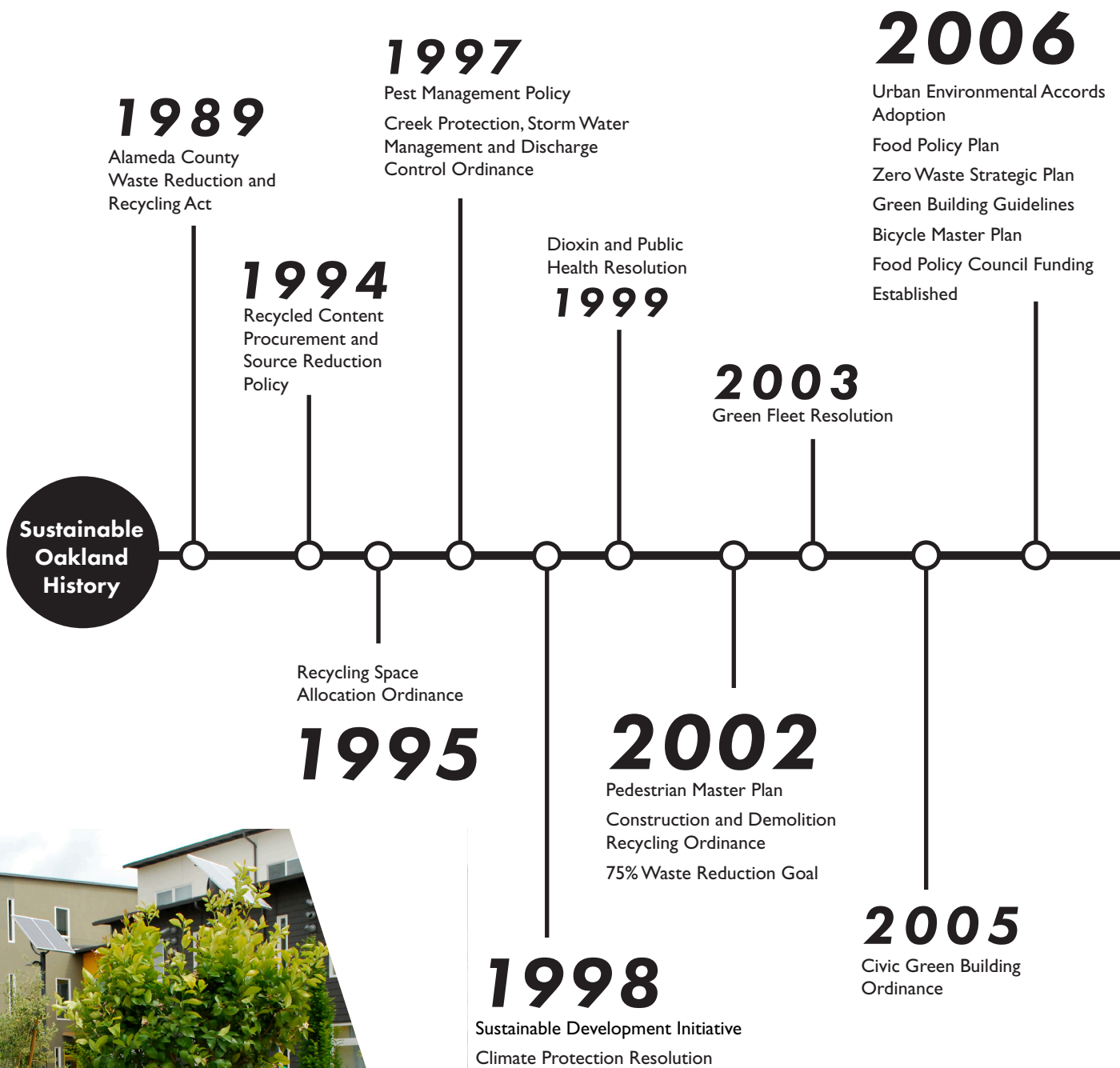
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Economic Prosperity & Livable Communities

5

# Timeline



The Sustainable Oakland program is an outgrowth of the Sustainable Community Development Initiative, established by Oakland's City Council in 1998. Housed in the Environmental Services Division of Oakland Public Works, it supports Oakland's progress in becoming a more sustainable city.

## 2009

Civic Bay Friendly Landscaping Ordinance  
City establishes 2020 & 2050 GHG Reduction Targets

## 2008

Bicycle Parking Ordinance

## 2007

Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy  
Extended Producer Responsibility Policy

## 2011

Green Building Ordinance for Private Development

## 2010

City launches annual Sustainable Oakland Report

## 2012

### Energy and Climate Action Plan

The City releases its Energy and Climate Action Plan identifying and prioritizing actions the City and community can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 36% below 2005 levels by 2020.

## 2015

Residential Rooftop Solar PV Policy

Joined Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs

### 2013 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report Released

The City releases its 2013 Greenhouse Gas Inventory tracking emissions from all sectors of the community, including residential, commercial, and local government activities.

## 2014

Urban Agriculture Regulations Update  
Residential Rooftop Solar Requirements Ordinance  
PACE Financing Provider Ordinances

## 2016

Joined East Bay Community Energy (EBCE)  
Resilient Oakland Playbook Launched

## 2017

Plug In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Building Code adopted as local revision to Title 24

Oakland Preliminary Sea Level Rise Road Map Released

## 2018

### City Establishes 56% GHG Reduction Target for 2030

2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report released

Sustainable Oakland Report

# CLEAN ENERGY & CLIMATE

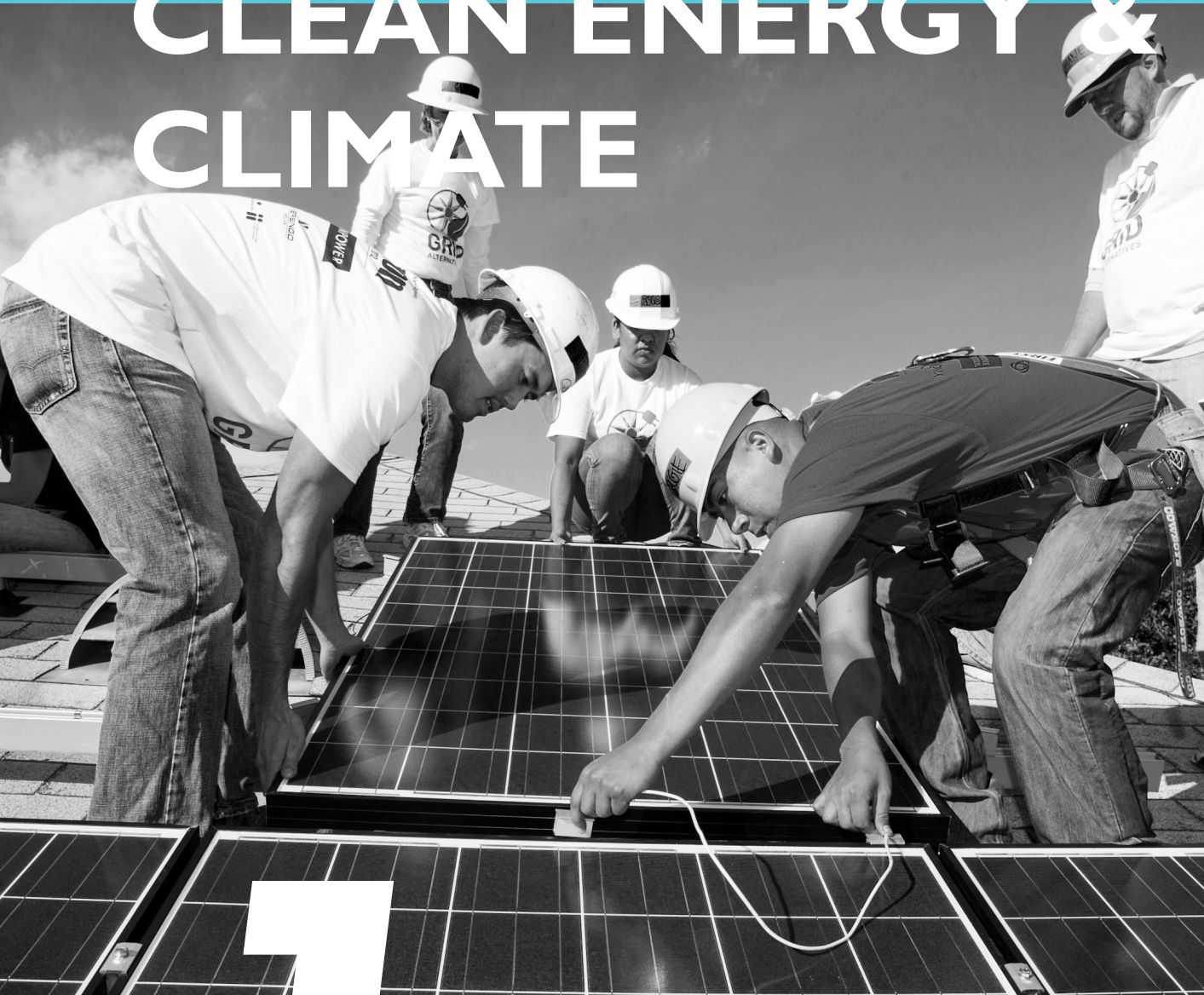


Photo: Grid Alternatives

# 1

We rely on energy to navigate our daily lives. We expend energy to light and heat our homes, use our computers, and cook our meals. Energy is used by everyone in Oakland, but its use for heat, light, and power continues to be a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. While cleaner energy options are expanding rapidly, they have been less available to those who stand to benefit the most from cleaner air and lower costs. To address these issues, Oakland is transitioning to a cleaner and more local energy supply, taking steps to address climate change and encourage investment, keeping money in the local economy, improving local energy security, advocating for clean energy jobs, and improving public health.

# City Successes

## BY THE NUMBERS

Oakland accomplished the following

**16%**  
reduction in  
greenhouse gas  
emissions from 2005 to  
2015

**25**  
megawatts of  
photovoltaic capacity  
installed in 2017

**337**  
certified green  
buildings as of 2018

**78%**  
of electricity was  
from carbon-free  
energy sources in 2017



Left: Solar panels installed on a home via PACE financing | Photo: Ygrene Right: Oakland wins a 2018 SolSmart Special Recognition Award | Photo: SolSmart

### Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing

In May 2018, Oakland City Council approved a new PACE financing administrator with seven new providers to operate in the city, creating more competition within the local PACE market. PACE enables homeowners and commercial property owners to finance clean energy and water efficiency projects, seismic retrofits, and much more on their property taxes. Eligibility is based on property equity, rather than credit. City Council approved five financing providers in 2015. Since then, there have been 1,028 projects, which over the course of their lifetimes will prevent 31,533 metric tons of carbon emissions, save 68,407,213 gallons of water, and save 100,033,446.8 kWh of energy.

### Oakland Earns the SolSmart Gold Designation

The City of Oakland has been awarded a SolSmart Gold designation for efforts to make it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar. SolSmart is led by the Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office. Since its founding in 2016, over 200 municipalities have achieved SolSmart designation. Oakland qualified by creating a streamlined permitting process for small solar systems, installing solar capacity on local facilities, offering PACE financing, and providing solar charging for City employees. With the Gold designation, Oakland is being recognized as a national leader in advancing solar energy and helping to attract solar industry investment that generates economic development and employment opportunities.

### Oakland Decreases Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 16%

Between 2005 and 2015, the City of Oakland decreased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 16%. During this same timeframe, Oakland's population grew by 5.8% and commercial activity in the Bay Area flourished. This demonstrates that the community is finding ways to reduce its emissions even as more people live and work in Oakland. In addition, per capita emissions are very low by national standards. Oakland averages 5.90 metric tons of carbon dioxide per person, 46% lower than the state average and 71% lower than the national average.

# Feature Story

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# Making Renewable Energy and Job Training Accessible to All

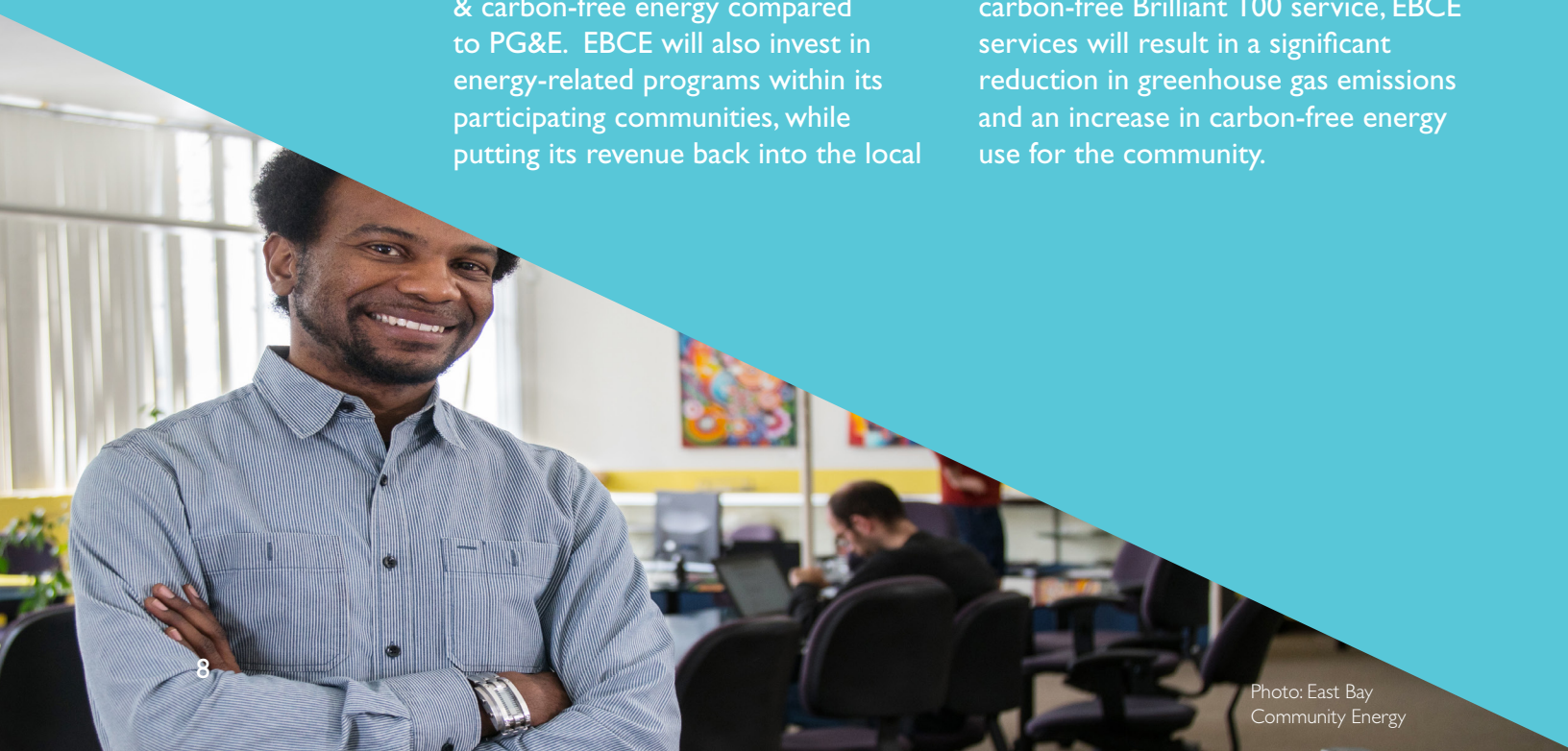
On June 1, 2018, East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) became the official electricity provider for Alameda County commercial and municipal accounts its service area, which includes the unincorporated county and 11 cities: Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, and Union City.

The commercial launch is the first of its kind for the County. Customers are now enjoying a greener, lower cost choice for electricity. EBCE is locally governed and is providing its customers with higher percentages of renewable & carbon-free energy compared to PG&E. EBCE will also invest in energy-related programs within its participating communities, while putting its revenue back into the local

economy and keeping its generation rates competitive.

EBCE will roll out its clean electricity services to residential customers in November 2018 with three options: Bright Choice (similar to PG&E power but at a 1.5% discount), Brilliant 100 (greener than PG&E at the same cost), and Renewable 100 (100% renewable energy at an additional \$0.01/kWh). They are partnering with PG&E for power distribution, customer service, and billing.

For the City of Oakland, which “opted up” its municipal accounts to the 100% carbon-free Brilliant 100 service, EBCE services will result in a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in carbon-free energy use for the community.





# Community Successes



Left: McKee family in front of their upgraded home | Photo: Stephan McKee Right: Local youth installing efficient light bulbs in an Oakland home | Photo: CYES Bottom: Photo of Noble Towers, a BAMBE case study project | Photo: Community Bridge Video

## Rockridge Home Upgrade Project

When Maria and Stephan purchased their 1908 Rockridge home, they knew it would need some work. They were not prepared for the cold winter nights. After researching home upgrades, they found a local Oakland contractor through the Bay Area Regional Energy Network Home Upgrade program. The contractor pinpointed areas that needed sealing and weather-stripping. The couple had assumed they would need new windows, but the contractor suggested measures that would give them the biggest bang for their buck, prioritizing air sealing, attic insulation, and new ductwork instead. They also replaced the furnace with a combined hot water heater and air system. Maria says the house now maintains a comfortable warmth and the right level of moisture year-round. They received \$3,643 in rebates, with over 30 percent expected energy savings.

## California Youth Energy Services (CYES)

In the summer of 2017, Rising Sun Energy Center partnered with the City of Oakland for the thirteenth year to host the CYES program. CYES employs local youth to perform energy efficiency and water conservation assessments and installations in local homes, at no cost to the customer. In 2017, CYES employed seven Oakland youth and served 264 Oakland residences. In total, their work led to an annual reduction of 31,701 kWh, 85.84 therms, and 621,720 gallons of water, preventing 24 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere each year. That's the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that would be emitted by driving an average car 58,940 miles.

## Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancement (BAMBE)

In 2017, Noble Tower, a 195-unit senior housing residence jointly owned by Related California and the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, participated in the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements (BAMBE) program. In addition to reducing energy costs by 18%, contractors solved water temperature problems and improved the quality of indoor common-area lighting. Technical assistance from BAMBE identified and prioritized upgrade opportunities to save energy and modernize building equipment. As of June 2018, BAMBE had completed 53 projects across 2,384 housing units in Oakland, saving 711,803 kWh and 85,171 therms of natural gas.

## IN THE WORKS

### OAKLAND ADOPTS 2030 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGET

In May 2018, Oakland City Council pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 56% by 2030. Working with diverse stakeholders and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, city staff developed this target through a year-long research and climate modeling process. Based on anticipated market trends, technological improvements, and a shift to 100% carbon-free energy, the target is both highly ambitious and achievable. Over the next two years, City staff will work with the community to create equitable strategies to reach the target – or exceed it!

### NEW PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Oakland has partnered with EVgo, an electric vehicle (EV) charging company, to install ten public charging ports at two sites. EVs reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, benefitting public health for all. The first site, at 533 Lake Park Avenue, is in an area with one of the highest concentrations of multifamily housing in the region. It will have six chargers serving seven parking spaces. The second site, at Lafayette square, will have four chargers serving five parking spaces. These new sites offer more convenient and equitable charging options for local residents and visitors.



For more highlights and performance data, visit [www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

# TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY & LAND USE



Photo: Greg Linhares, City of Oakland

# 2

BART, AC Transit, ferry, bicycling, and walking reflect the many modes of efficient transportation Oaklanders use to get around. However, transportation continues to be the largest contributor to air pollution in the city. In addition, the transportation sector is associated with almost half of the city's core greenhouse gas emissions. Our planning and infrastructure decisions have the power to ensure that diverse mobility options are accessible for all members of the Oakland community, while also improving air quality and low-carbon transportation options.

# City Successes

## BY THE NUMBERS

Oakland accomplished the following

**5.9**  
miles of additional  
bikeway were  
constructed in 2017

**24%**  
of new city employees  
walk or bike to work

**10,000**  
bike parking spaces  
installed city-wide by  
end of 2017

**6th**  
highest % of people  
biking to work of the  
50 largest US cities



**Left:** New bike lanes at the redeveloped Oakland Army Base | Photo: Jennifer Stanley **Top:** Newly installed bike racks at Fairyland, including children-sized racks | Photo: City of Oakland **Bottom:** Group of cyclists come together to ride the new bike lanes across East Oakland | Photo: City of Oakland DOT

### Right Sized Racks for Pint Sized Cyclists

A Measure DD-funded project to upgrade entrances to Lakeside Park, Children's Fairyland, and the Lake Meritt Garden Center is complete. Measure DD, the Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks, is a local bond measure that funds green infrastructure projects, such as parks, trails, bridges, creek restoration, land acquisition, and historic building renovations. At the end of December, 10 new bike racks were installed flanking the entrance to Fairyland, including four smaller-sized racks for the children with whom Fairyland is so popular.

### New Bike Lanes Across Oakland

Over 20 miles of new and improved bikeways were installed along 15 streets between July 2017 and June 2018. Approximately half of those were installed in West and East Oakland. Most were delivered by a citywide paving contract, funded by a combination of Measures B & BB, Local Streets and Roads, and State Vehicle Registration funding. Streets with new bikeways include 98th Avenue (Walnut Street to Bancroft Avenue), Adeline Street (10th Street to 19th Street), Fruitvale Avenue (Foothill Boulevard to Harold Street), Martin Luther King Jr. Way (West Grand Avenue to 40th Street), and Maritime Street (7th Street to Admiral Toney Way at the former Oakland Army Base).

### Peace Dividend Delivers Bikeways

In December, 1.8 miles of bikeways were completed as part of the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base. The site is located to the west of the West Oakland residential neighborhoods, roughly bounded by 7th St., W. Grand Ave., and the approach to the Bay Bridge. The redevelopment project includes a new multi-use path on Maritime St, the relocation of the previously constructed path along W. Burma Rd., bike lanes on the length of the newly constructed E. Burma Rd., and—still to come—0.8 miles of bike lanes on the remaining length of W. Burma Rd. The Oakland Army Base was a major west coast hub for shipping cargo in World War II and the Korean War, and at the end of the Cold War the base was closed and transferred to the City of Oakland for redevelopment. The new road infrastructure is being built to help transfer cargo from ship to rail to grow the Port's capacity while reducing reliance on trucking. Maritime St. and W. Burma Rd. are both part of the San Francisco Bay Trail that, at completion, will provide a 500-mile network of continuous paths and trails around San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, and the Carquinez Strait.

# Feature Story

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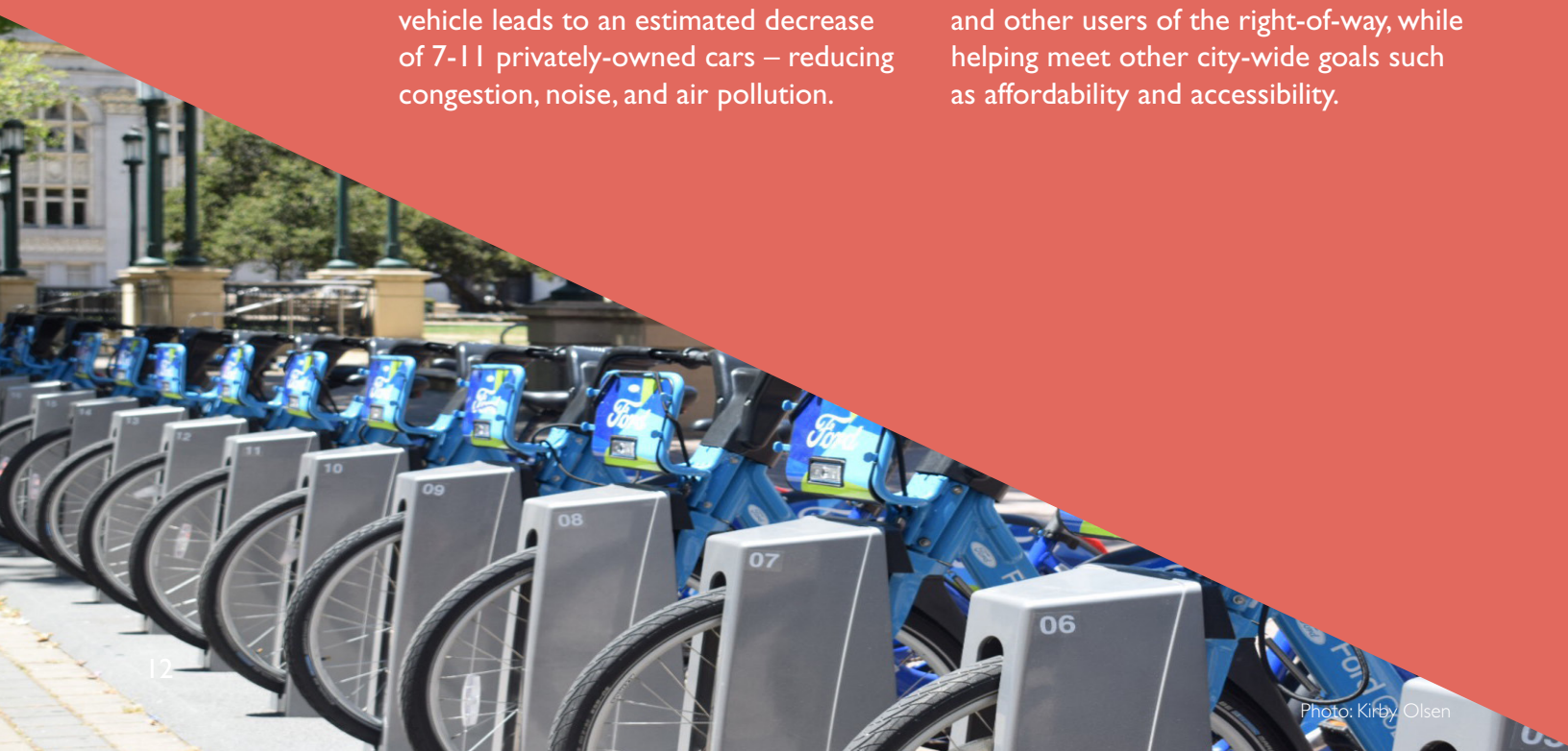
# Shared Mobility in Oakland

Shared mobility services, such as bike and car share, are a new option for getting around Oakland. These services are often more affordable than private vehicle ownership, allowing both residents and visitors access to a wide range of economic opportunities and leisure activities. Shared mobility services encourage inherently carbon-free forms of transportation, such as walking and biking, and provide a “first and last mile” connection to public transit.

Oakland’s free floating car sharing program, GIG, launched in April 2017 and has already doubled its fleet to 500 cars and expanded its service area to include Highland Park, Glenview, Highland Terrace, San Antonio, and Fruitvale. Over 5,000 Oaklanders have subscribed to GIG and have taken more than 26,000 trips originating in Oakland. Each car-share vehicle leads to an estimated decrease of 7-11 privately-owned cars – reducing congestion, noise, and air pollution.

Ford GoBike, Oakland’s bike share system, launched in July 2017 and has 79 docking stations. Over 1,400 Oaklanders have signed up for Ford GoBike membership, with 18% paying just \$5 a year through the Bike Share For All program. It is estimated that 30% of the over 150,000 trips made using Ford GoBike would have been taken by car if bike share did not exist.

Recently, new dockless mobility services have emerged, which don’t require the vehicle to be returned to a specific location. These services include electric-assist (E) scooters and bikes. OakDOT is developing a permit program to regulate dockless E-bikes and E-scooters in Oakland. The permit program will establish rules and regulations so that these services support the well-being and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and other users of the right-of-way, while helping meet other city-wide goals such as affordability and accessibility.



# Community Successes



Left: Digital visualization of completed Veteran's Housing Project | Photo: SGPA Architecture and Planning  
Right: OMSS team standing with an Orange EV pure-electric terminal truck | Photo: OMSS

## Veteran's Housing Project

Resources for Community Development, a local organization dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing, broke ground on a veteran's housing project at the beginning of April 2018, expected to be completed in 2019. The building is located at 2126 Martin Luther King Jr. Way and will have 61 units – with 31 units specifically dedicated to formerly homeless veterans – as well as on-site support services. The project supports Oakland and Alameda County's commitment to end veteran homelessness. "Too many veterans are without safe, affordable housing," Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said. "The opening of these units at Embark Apartments is a critical step in the process of easing the pain of the regional affordability crisis and ensures that direct services and opportunities will reach the vulnerable population of veterans who have sacrificed so much." The project will incorporate green building features, including rooftop solar panels and energy and water conservation fixtures. Amenities include two multipurpose rooms, a roof deck, office space for resident services, a Veterans Affairs staff person and property manager, and community-serving commercial space. Funding for the project came from the State of California's Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program and Measure A-1 Housing Bond. The Oakland Housing Authority will keep rents affordable and 30 percent of residents will pay 30 percent of household income per unit.

## Pure Electric Terminal Trucks

Oakland Maritime Support Services (OMSS) provides a range of trucking services, such as parking, that alleviate street congestion in West Oakland while also reducing emissions, noise, and other impacts of truck activity in the community. In June 2018, OMSS began operating an Orange EV pure-electric terminal truck. It is the first commercially deployed, 100% electric semi-truck at the Port of Oakland. The truck replaced a 1979 diesel vehicle and is used to move and pre-stage containers for truckers operating at the port. OMSS used the California Air Resources Board's Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) to purchase its Orange EV truck. Orange EV provides a proven, reliable alternative to diesel. The vehicles are smoother, cooler, and quieter than their diesel counterparts, and create a safer and healthier environment for drivers and the surrounding community. Brian Beveridge, Co-Director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, said, "It's exciting to see the zero emissions revolution finally getting a foothold at the Port of Oakland, and we are proud that a good friend of the community like [Bill Aboudi, President of OMSS] is taking the lead with Orange EV's technology. Every diesel engine that is replaced with electric is a step toward a cleaner and healthier community in West Oakland." A new OMSS facility is expected to open by 2020, and will showcase more clean energy alternatives including a biodiesel fueling station.

## IN THE WORKS

### ZONE ANALYSIS FOR BIKEWAY PLANNING

To understand how to most effectively serve Oaklanders, the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is analyzing Oakland as a collection of eight zones, defined primarily by topography and neighborhood identity. Currently, citywide averages hide differences that are critical to understanding local needs. By analyzing data by geographical zone, transportation planners bring these differences into focus. The analysis includes socioeconomic, geographic, and usage data including: race & ethnicity, income, rent burden, proximity to BART, topography, and bike crash rates. The Zone Analysis for Bikeway Planning helps visualize differences across Oakland with the goal of shaping proposals and investments that are responsive to the needs of different peoples and areas. The first version was released in November 2017. For more information, visit [www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/BicyclistCountProgram/OAK033011](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/BicyclistCountProgram/OAK033011).



Photo: Joe Fermanian



For more highlights and performance data, visit [www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

# GREEN SPACES & COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

# 3

Oaklanders rely on the rich diversity of parks, natural resources, and urban green spaces for recreation and respite, which support our physical and mental wellbeing. Yet our resources are threatened by the impacts of urbanization, and urban green space continues to be inequitably distributed across Oakland. City policies related to habitat restoration and green space development work to protect the health of our natural environment and increase access to healthy outdoor spaces. The community also plays a significant role in maintaining our streets, parks, and waterways.

Photo: Max Bouvatte

# City Successes

## BY THE NUMBERS

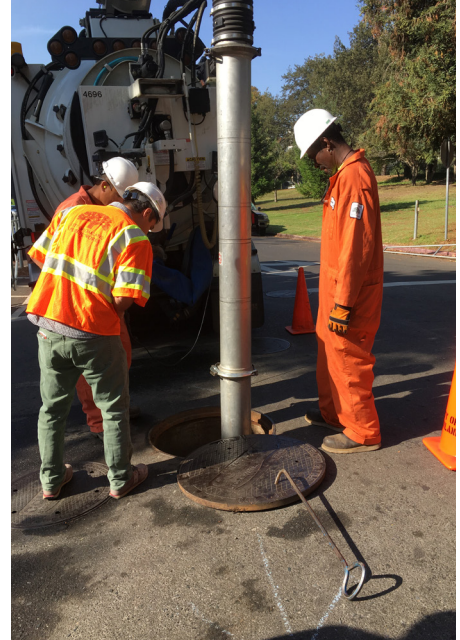
Oakland accomplished the following

**122,257**  
hours volunteered to clean and green Oakland in 2017

**2,634**  
people volunteered on Earth Day in 2017

**82,000**  
gallons of trash collected in total on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day in 2017

**2,494**  
people volunteered on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2017



Top: Youth employees working with Team Oakland on environmental training | Photo: Diedre Martin  
Bottom: Oakland volunteers working on habitat restoration | Photo: Chelsea Feldman Right: Department of Public Works staff watching as a Contech CDS unit is cleaned of trash | Photo: Terri Fashing

### City Hosts Summer Youth Environmental Job Training

Since 1993, Oakland Public Works has offered environmental job training through Team Oakland. In collaboration with the Youth Employment Partnership, Team Oakland employed 110 youth in the summer of 2017. The youth removed 3,049 bags of litter from streets and parks, and assisted with park maintenance and ecological habitat restoration. They received training on work, life skills, and environmental topics. Youth from the program indicated an increased concern for litter and dumping, an increased likelihood of reporting illegal dumping, and a stronger connection to environmental stewardship and civic engagement.

### Volunteer Programs Clean and Green the Town

Volunteers contributed more than 120,000 hours in 2017 to clean and green Oakland. Volunteers have registered over 400 locations with the Oakland Adopt a Spot program, and more than 1,200 of Oakland's 12,000+ storm drain inlets have been adopted. In 2017, Oakland celebrated the 22nd anniversary of Oakland Creek to Bay Day and the 23rd anniversary of Oakland Earth Day. Through these events and the Adopt a Spot program, volunteer participation includes litter and illegal dumping cleanup, habitat restoration, gardening, tree planting, park maintenance, storm drain inlet cleaning, and beautification of City street litter containers and utility boxes with mosaics and murals. These efforts contribute to community well-being and environmental health across Oakland, from its most urbanized areas to its impressive network of creeks, parks, and open spaces. To find out more about volunteer programs, visit [www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PWA/o/FE/s/VO/index.htm](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PWA/o/FE/s/VO/index.htm).

### Capturing Trash

In FY 17-18, the City reduced the amount of trash entering Oakland's creeks, storm drains, and the San Francisco Bay by 70% from 2009 baseline levels. Trash collection screens were installed in 160 storm drains around the City to keep trash, including cigarette butts, from flowing directly to waterways. This added to the 29 screens and 10 larger-capacity trash diversion systems that were installed in prior years. This effort is part of a large citywide trash and litter reduction program that includes illegal dumping abatement, street sweeping, reducing the use of single-use plastic bags, and organizing volunteers to clean up trash. The City's goal, and state mandate, is to eliminate all trash discharges to creeks and the Bay by 2022.

# Feature Story

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# Oakland Wins Grant for Urban Forestry

After three years of extensive efforts by the City's Environmental Services Division and the Parks and Tree Services Division, the City of Oakland was awarded an urban forestry management grant in the amount of \$970,130. These funds are made available by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), which awards Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds allocated by the legislature for California Climate Investments – part of the State of California's Cap-and-Trade program.

Over the next two years, the City will work to develop a complete inventory of all trees on streets,

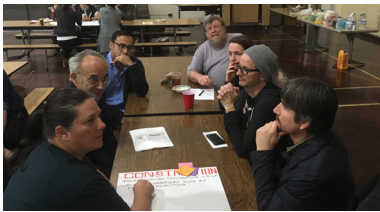
medians, and urban parks; perform community engagement to establish city-wide urban forestry goals; develop a comprehensive, 50-year, city-wide urban forestry master plan; plant and care for 700 new trees; and update the City's existing Tree Protection Ordinance.

These activities are intended to evaluate the current state of Oakland's urban forest and develop a plan on how it can be sustained and improved for future generations. This plan will be rooted in equity, with the guiding intention of bringing more trees and green space to Oakland's most underserved neighborhoods.





# Community Successes



**Left:** Park Patrol volunteers clearing a fallen tree from a trail | Photo: Stan Dodson **Top:** Volunteers clean trash out of Sausal creek | Photo: Jeff Stephens **Bottom:** OUSD parents meet to discuss the Living Schoolyard program | Photo: The Trust for Public Land

## Oakland Trails and Volunteer Park Patrol

Since 2010, Oakland Trails and Oakland Volunteer Park Patrol volunteers have worked in conjunction with Oakland Public Works and Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development to keep trails in Dimond, Joaquin Miller, and Leona Heights parks safe and accessible through trail maintenance, improved signage, public education, and outreach. Volunteers also help protect sensitive natural resources by decommissioning unofficial trails through sensitive habitats for native plants and wildlife. They build and install foot bridges, crib walls, fencing, trail markers, and educational signage, and keep trails passable by repairing eroded trail segments and clearing hundreds of fallen trees. Volunteers also assist injured and lost trail users back to safety. This group of more than sixty specially trained trail volunteers exemplifies public agency partnership and a know-how, can do attitude that keeps parks open and safe for recreation, nature appreciation, and the plants and animals that call these parks home.

## Community Stewardship at the Sausal Creek Watershed

An important ingredient to making Oakland a sustainable place is restoring and protecting natural areas in our own community. The Sausal Creek Watershed encompasses 2,655 acres with the headwaters in the Oakland hills, flowing through the city and into the tidal canal between Oakland and Alameda. For approximately half its length, Sausal Creek forms a lush, seemingly natural riparian corridor, unique in this highly urbanized area. Even more unique is a population of native rainbow trout that survive in the deep, clear pools of Sausal Creek. Community organization Friends of Sausal Creek works collaboratively with the City of Oakland and other agencies to protect the creek and its natural inhabitants. The group designed and installed an educational display at the El Centro Trailhead in Dimond Canyon to inform hikers, dog walkers, and others about the native fish, and the important role that we all play in protecting these residents of the watershed. The group also reestablishes native plants in the area to enhance the sensitive rainbow trout habitat.

## Living Schoolyards

The Trust for Public Land, Green Schoolyards America and the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) are initiating a living schoolyards program in Oakland to transform asphalt-covered schoolyards into vibrant green spaces. OUSD has 122 schools across the City, many in locations without nearby parks and green spaces. This program helps close the “green space gap” and improve student and community health, happiness, and learning outcomes. Living schoolyards provide increased access to nature as well as environmental benefits for carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff, pollinators, and more. With funding from California Coastal Conservancy, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, and the Hellman Foundation, living schoolyards will be piloted at five Oakland public schools. These schools were selected based on site condition, need and readiness, and the demographics of the school community and neighborhood.

## IN THE WORKS

### SAN PABLO AVENUE SPINE PROJECT

A series of rain gardens designed to clean stormwater runoff will be installed along San Pablo Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets. The installation is part of San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s (SFEP) multi-jurisdictional green streets project with Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, El Cerrito, and Richmond. SFEP is building the project and the City is providing technical and coordination assistance. Construction is scheduled for Fall 2018. Funders include California’s Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and California’s Department of Water Resources. The project will help the City reach pollutant reduction and green infrastructure implementation goals.



Photo: SFEP



For more highlights and performance data, visit [www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

# SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

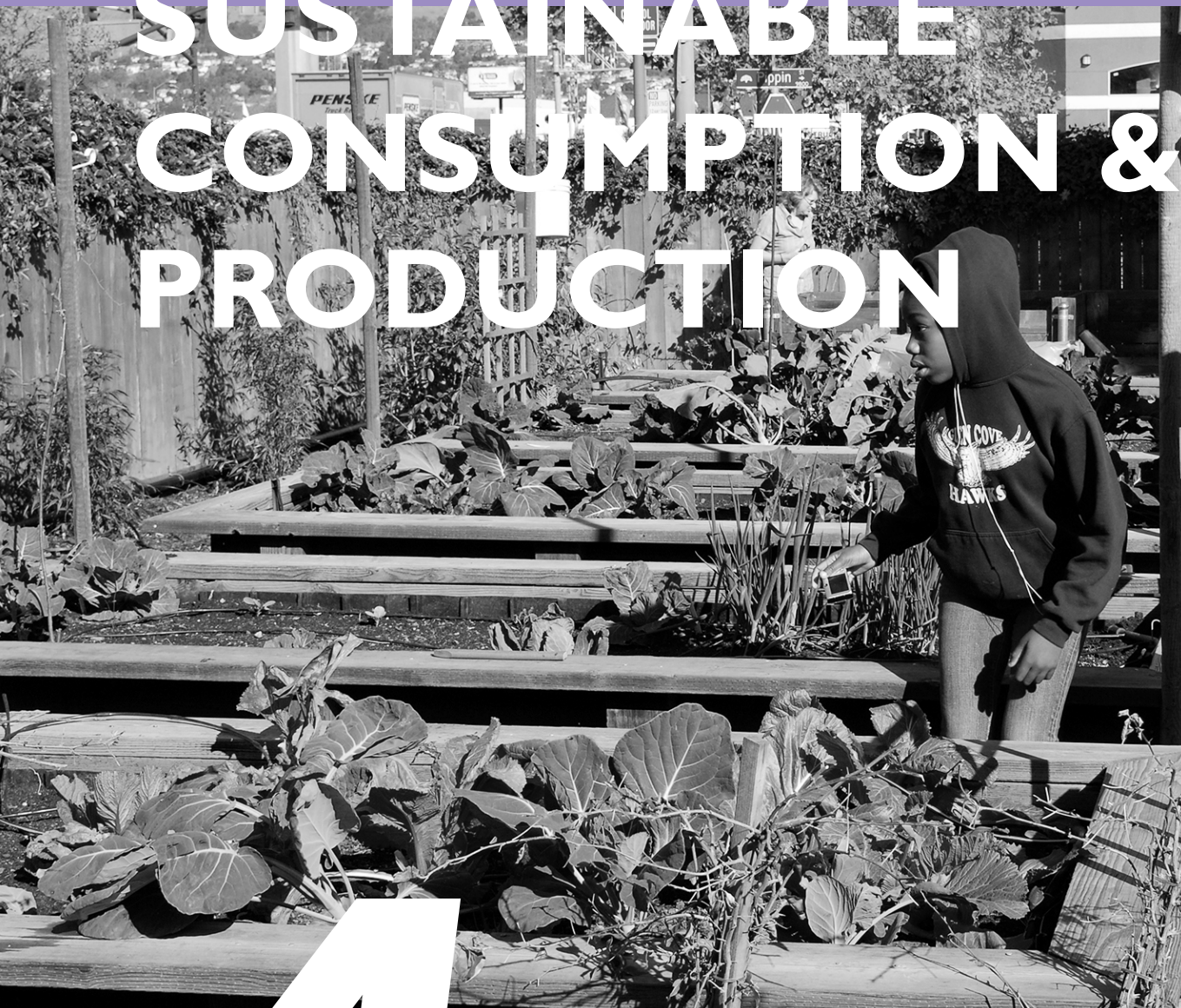


Photo: Garrett Fitzgerald

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From your morning coffee to your phone and jeans, what we purchase and use has a big impact on our environment – particularly when you take into account the manufacturing, transportation, and disposal of goods. Supporting local food production and businesses, reducing overall consumption, fixing things that break, and minimizing waste through our use and disposal habits can help reduce these environmental impacts. City policies relating to reducing the amount of recyclables and organic material entering the landfill, and our efforts to boost the local repair & reuse economy, are designed to build a clean and sustainable Oakland.

# City Successes

## BY THE NUMBERS

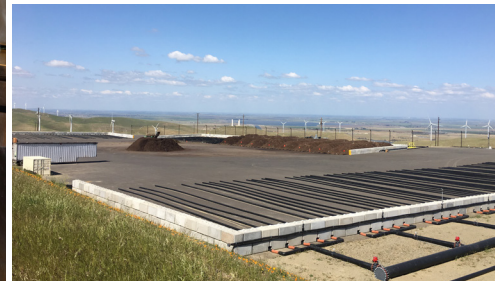
Oakland accomplished the following

**1,792** total businesses signed up for new compost services as of 2017

**80%** decrease in use of single use plastic shopping bags since implementation of the bag ban

**198** certified green businesses as of June 2017

**45%** of greenhouse gas emissions came from materials use and waste in 2017



Left: Local restaurant staff sorting recyclables | Photo: City of Oakland Top: Two local youth who participated in the Teamster Truck Driver Career Pathway program | Photo: Waste Management of Alameda County Bottom: New composting facility for Alameda County | Photo: Waste Management of Alameda County

### Zero Waste Efforts Keep Organic Materials Out of Landfill

One-thousand, seven-hundred ninety-two. That's how many businesses are working hard each day keeping food scraps and food-soiled paper out of the landfill. Oakland businesses were faced with new legislation that became effective in 2012 requiring them to separate their organic waste and send it for composting. However, there was no guaranteed compost collection service available in Oakland to facilitate composting. The good news is that, since 2015, the City has required Waste Management of Alameda County to provide compost collection to all businesses upon request. Today, almost 1,800 businesses subscribe to the service, with more on the way.

### City of Oakland Waste Program Employs Local Youth

The City of Oakland has a long history of supporting young adults enrolled in Oakland Civicorps, and the Zero Waste program is no exception. Since 2015, the City has required Waste Management of Alameda County to have a driver apprenticeship program. Young people between the ages of 18-26, from all parts of Oakland, enrolled in the Civicorps' program have access to their new Teamster Truck Driver Career Pathway. The Teamster Truck Driver Career Pathway is a two-year apprenticeship that leads to a permanent full-time position with a starting salary of \$75,000 per year plus benefits. Since 2015, there have been 11 Civicorps participants working at Waste Management of Alameda County. Of those 11 participants, three are now permanent employees and six are interns working as administrative support staff. The success of this program demonstrates that zero waste efforts create jobs.

### Alameda County's New Compost Facility

For years, Alameda County struggled with finding a place to build and operate a compost facility within its borders. In 2015, the City of Oakland required Waste Management of Alameda County to construct and operate a composting facility large enough to process all of the material they collect from Oakland residents. In 2018, a new, state-of-the-art, covered, aerated, static pile composting facility opened adjacent to the Altamont Landfill in Livermore, CA. This is the first and only composting facility in Alameda County, and is now processing all yard trimmings, food scraps, and food-spoiled paper placed in green carts by Oakland residents. This facility reduces the miles driven to and from out-of-county compost facilities, and increases compost capacity for the region. This facility ensures that Oakland's compost future is secure, and at just the right time, since new legislation from the State of California is effectively banning all organics from landfills.

# Feature Story

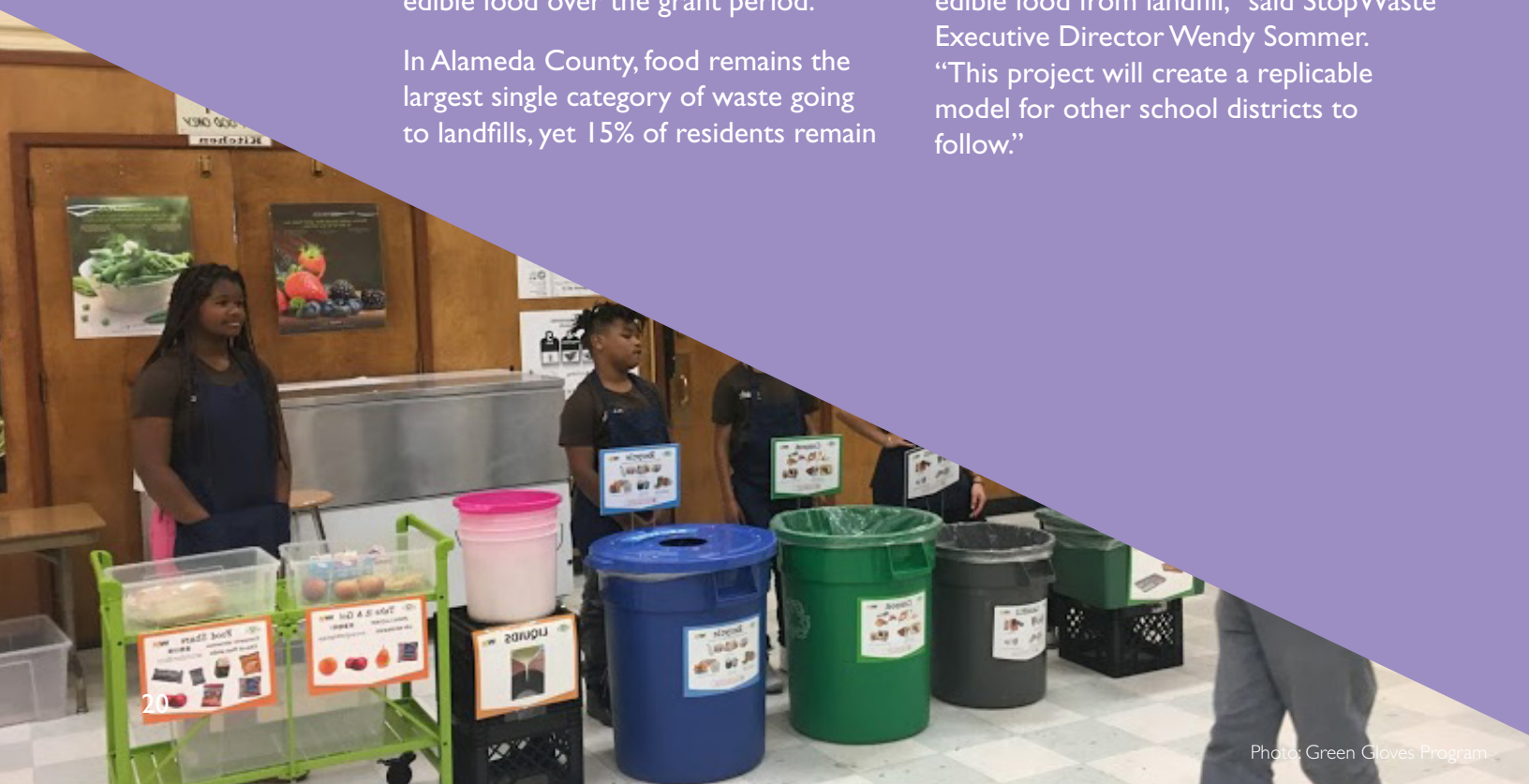
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# Oakland Unified School District Wins CalRecycle Grant

With their \$500,000 award from CalRecycle's Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant, Oakland Unified schools will make an even bigger dent in tackling food waste. The awarded Smart Cafeteria Initiative will utilize and expand upon food share tables already in every school cafeteria across two school districts to capture and sort unwanted food from lunch that is generated during and after meal service. Surplus food will be available for hungry students to consume at school, then to families from the school community. Food donations at all sites will capture a projected 275 tons of edible food over the grant period.

In Alameda County, food remains the largest single category of waste going to landfills, yet 15% of residents remain

food insecure. Project partners include Livermore Joint Valley District, ALL IN Alameda County, and StopWaste. ALL IN, serving as an innovation incubator to end poverty in Alameda County, will recruit, hire, and train Food Recovery Specialists through Civicorps and transport food from school sites to food recovery organizations. StopWaste will oversee the grant, provide technical assistance, and implement household outreach and schoolwide Stop Food Waste challenges. "We appreciate CalRecycle's support in reducing greenhouse emissions and diverting edible food from landfill," said StopWaste Executive Director Wendy Sommer. "This project will create a replicable model for other school districts to follow."



# Community Successes



Top: Students participating in the 4Rs Action Project pose with their "Food Rescuer" capes | Photo: Green Gloves Program Left: Labeled sorting bins to reduce landfill waste as part of the Food Reduction and Recovery Project | Photo: Green Gloves Program Right: Building Manager organizes bulky pickup area | Photo: City of Oakland

## Condominiums and Apartments Enjoy Free Bulky Pick-Up

As part of the City of Oakland's Zero Waste services, all Oaklanders have access to bulky material collection annually at no additional cost. Rose Park Terrace has been using the service to host building-wide bulky pickup events twice yearly since the service began in 2015. Residents of the 28-unit condo are discouraged from storing material in common areas, so the bulky pickup helps residents shed unwanted stuff and redistribute or properly dispose of it before it accumulates in their units. Building manager Jessie Gray visits the bulky pickup area daily while the debris box is on site to organize and monitor material. "It becomes a swap! Residents and neighbors often pick up usable items," reports Jessie. Oakland property managers and owners are required to make this service available to residents in their buildings.

## Cafeteria Sorting Video Creation with StopWaste

Cafeterias are an ideal place for students to learn and actively practice the 4R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot). This school year, OUSD has been working with StopWaste and a small team at Allendale Elementary on the creation of a waste sorting education video for students. They hosted a "Green Carpet" Premiere of the video at Allendale Elementary, highlighting and recognizing the students and staff who selflessly devoted their time and efforts to create the video. OUSD will continue to expand on the video for a full campus sorting overview, and plans to share the completed video to all schools in the 2018 – 2019 school year.

## K-12 Wasted Food Reduction and Recovery Road Map

OUSD's Sustainability Manager for Custodial and Nutrition Services collaborated with San Diego Unified School District, California Department of Education, USDA, and local health departments to create a K-12 Wasted Food Reduction and Recovery Roadmap. The roadmap addresses targeted programs, challenges, and resources to help make a difference for schools' food service offerings. This shared resource will simplify the process for other organizations to join the effort to tackle food waste in schools, ensuring edible food goes to hungry people and not overflowing landfills.

## Sequoia Elementary Aims to Reduce Food Waste

StopWaste Schools' 4Rs Action Project partnered with Sequoia Elementary's 5th graders to pilot a Food Rescuer Schoolwide Challenge. Students become "garbologists", scientists who study garbage, and investigate if there is wasted food in the landfill and compost bins. After their audit found evidence of food waste, the student council wrote and performed a schoolwide Food Rescuer Assembly to launch a new green foodshare cart. The project will be repeated in over 30 schools in Oakland Unified School District and Livermore School District over the next two years, in partnership with StopWaste through a \$500,000 CalRecycle Food Waste Reduction and Rescue Grant.



For more highlights and performance data, visit [www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

## IN THE WORKS

### PLASTIC STRAW REDUCTION IN OAKLAND

On May 1, 2018, Oakland City Council voted to approve an ordinance requiring that restaurants, bars, and cafes provide single use plastic straws only if customers ask for them. Plastic straws enter our waterways and break down into even smaller plastics, causing harm to both marine life and public health. The ordinance was authored by Councilmember Abel Guillen, and is supported by Save the Bay and the Sierra Club.

### OAKLAND COFFEE BY GREEN DAY

Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt, and Tré Cool, members of the popular punk-rock band Green Day, have shared a passion for coffee and sustainability along with a love of music. They recently founded a new coffee company, Oakland Coffee, which offers organic, fair-trade coffee served in Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified compostable packaging. The band also created a charitable organization, Fueled by Love, through which Oakland Coffee visits and works with its coffee producers to improve local problems like access to education and medical care.

# ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

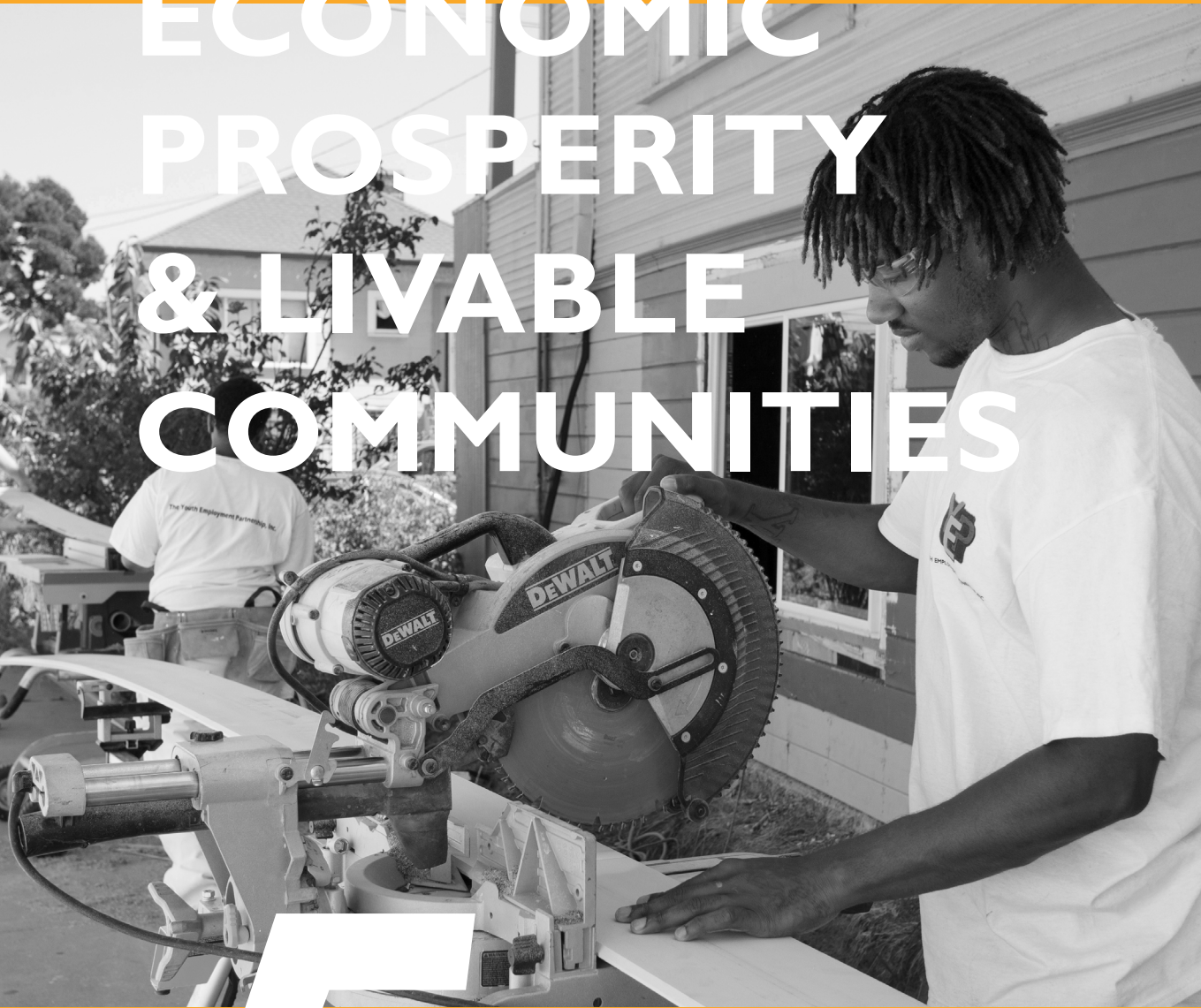


Photo: Becky Lai, Youth Employment Partnership

# 5

The City and its partners are working to ensure that Oakland has a healthy, safe, and resilient environment and a thriving economy with business and employment opportunities for all in the wake of climate change. Local efforts include addressing inequities in access to healthful opportunities, and developing community-based climate adaptation strategies, healthcare services, and workforce development networks. All members of the Oakland community have a role to play in creating a vibrant and resilient community that will adapt to a changing climate.

# City Successes

## BY THE NUMBERS

Oakland accomplished the following

**633** jobs added  
from Q3 2016 to Q3 2017

**5.1%**  
unemployment rate  
in third quarter of 2017

**\$13.23**  
is the new minimum  
wage as of 2018

**7,715**  
housing units under  
construction in January 2018



**Left:** A street mural painted from "Paint the Town" resources | Photo: City of Oakland **Top:** Local residents exploring Oakland Public Library's new Mobile Outreach Vehicle | Photo: City of Oakland **Bottom:** Cover of Oakland's new Economic Development Strategy report | Photo: City of Oakland

### Oakland Public Library has a new Mobile Outreach Vehicle

On May 11, 2017, the Oakland Public Library revealed its new Mobile Outreach Vehicle. The MOVE is a pop-up mobile library that will improve library access for youth in underserved neighborhoods in Oakland. This innovative all-electric vehicle gives access to books and technology, fosters a love of reading, and embodies Oakland's creative spirit. It also provides free Wi-Fi where ever it goes, and is the first all-electric mobile library in the world. It was designed by Gyroscope, Inc., and manufactured by Sheet Metal Alchemist, both local Oakland businesses. This wonderful mobile library was made a reality through extensive collaboration between departments in the City of Oakland.

### Oakland Develops a new Economic Development Strategy

After extensive community engagement, the City has created a new 2018-2020 Economic Development Strategy. The Strategy's goal is to make Oakland an efficient, resilient, and prosperous place to do business, and to reduce racial disparities and help all Oaklanders achieve economic security. Goals detailed in the new Strategy include providing Oaklanders with access to job training, conducting a Racial Equity Analysis, and providing entrepreneurship education for small businesses. The Strategy was formally adopted by the Oakland City Council on November 28th, 2017.

### Paint the Town Launches

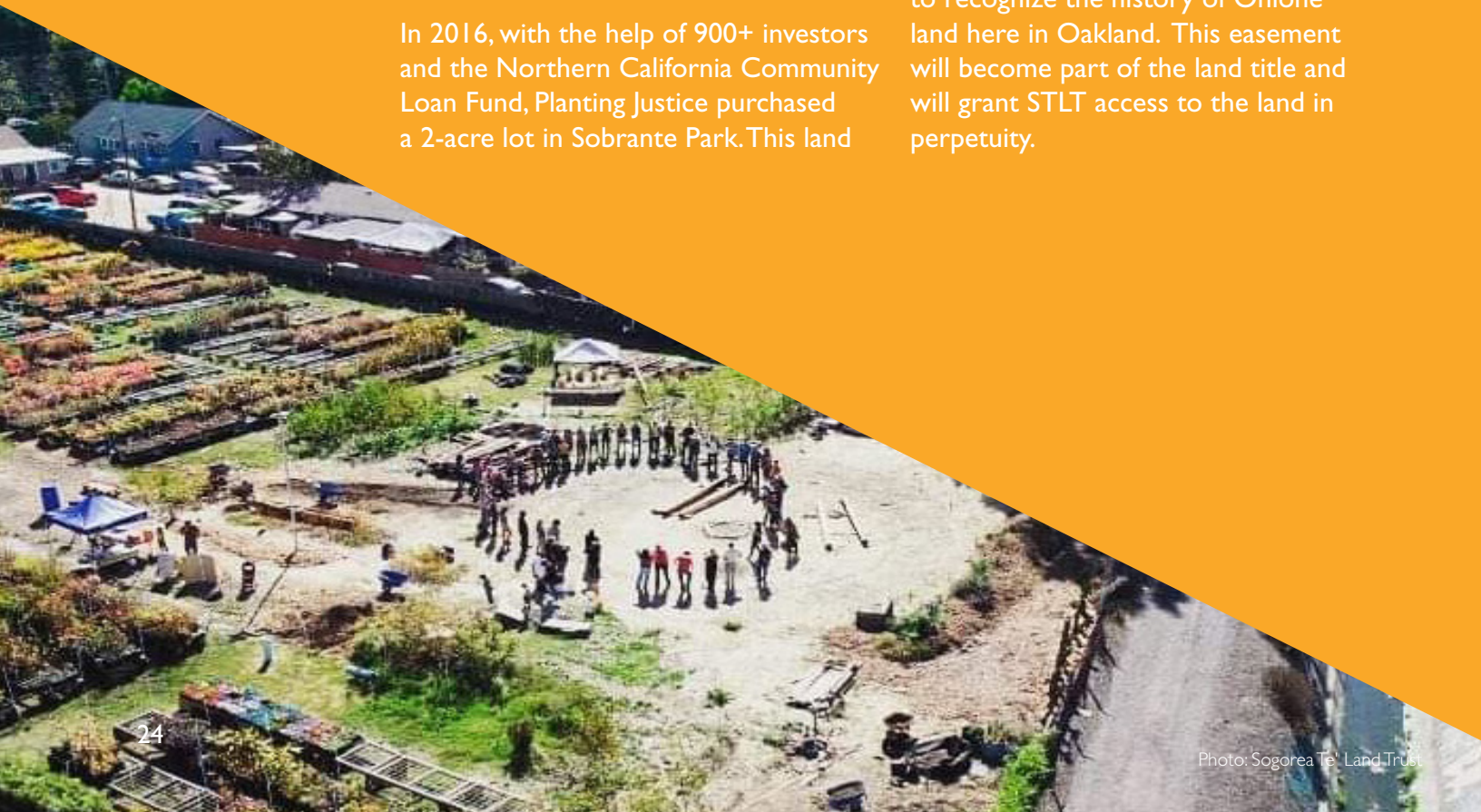
In May 2018, Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) began a program called "Paint the Town," through which they provide permission and resources to artists to create temporary murals on Oakland streets. The program is intended to give residents a sense of ownership over their communities. This program was born out of Oaklanders' responses to a 2017 Request for Community Interest Survey. The City has approved 30 of 42 mural applications so far, and focused on approving projects in disadvantaged areas. Accepted applicants get a \$300 gift card for paint, as well as liability insurance for the street closure. Seven winners also get material and day-of logistics assistance from the Oakland Fund for Public Innovation.

# Planting Justice Nursery Partners with Sogorea Te' Land Trust

Founded in 2009, Planting Justice (PJ) works to address structural inequalities in our food system, provide sustaining jobs to previously incarcerated people, and offer low income communities of color access to seasonal, nutritious, fresh food. Since their inception, PJ has built over 400 edible permaculture gardens in the San Francisco Bay Area, worked with five high-schools to develop food justice curriculum for students, and created 20 green jobs.

In 2016, with the help of 900+ investors and the Northern California Community Loan Fund, Planting Justice purchased a 2-acre lot in Sobrante Park. This land

hosts the Rolling River Nursery plant collection, a permaculture plant nursery thriving with biodiversity. PJ recently created a partnership with Sogorea Te' Land Trust (STLT), an urban indigenous women-led community organization. Planting Justice's partnership with STLT will ultimately facilitate the transfer of the Rolling River Nursery's 2-acre plot back into Chochenyo and Karkin Ohlone stewardship. Planting Justice and Sogorea Te' Land Trust are working together to create a legal easement to recognize the history of Ohlone land here in Oakland. This easement will become part of the land title and will grant STLT access to the land in perpetuity.





# Community Successes



Top: Two employees of Mamacitas Cafe, a Kiva-supported business, making a dish | Photo: Kiva Oakland Left: Food Shift volunteers working a farmer's market | Photo: Food Shift Kitchen Right: Hood Incubator Co-directors (center and right) pose with a fellow (left) at their offices in Oakland | Photo: Eric Risberg, Associated Press

## Kiva Oakland Breaks Records

Kiva is a global crowdfunding loan platform for entrepreneurs and is active in 86 countries, handling over \$1 billion in funding. Kiva Oakland is the largest U.S. operation with over 530 Oakland entrepreneurs accessing 0 percent interest loans since the program began. Over 23,000 people have made loans through Kiva to Oakland businesses, backed by 56 Trustees, including the City of Oakland. Over 70 percent of Kiva loans in Oakland have supported women entrepreneurs, over 80 percent have supported entrepreneurs of color, and over 40 percent supported start-ups or entrepreneurs in their first year of business.

## The Food Shift Kitchen Expands Operations Through Social Enterprise

Since 2012, Food Shift has been a leader in collaborating with businesses and governments to reduce waste, nourish communities, and create economic opportunity for those who need it most. The Food Shift Kitchen (TFSK), launched in 2016, is a unique social enterprise that recovers produce that would have otherwise been wasted due to cosmetic imperfections. They then either transform the produce into nutritious food products and donate them to food insecure communities in Oakland and Alameda, or sell the produce to generate revenue for the program. TFSK provides employment and job training to formerly homeless individuals. Food Shift sees financial sustainability as a critical component of the food recovery sector's ability to create sustainable jobs, and the launch of TFSK's catering services in 2017 has taken the program to new heights. TFSK generated \$48,000 dollars in the first six months of 2018, and the fourth class of culinary apprentices graduated from the job-training program in July 2018. Food Shift continues to push the limits of how much good food can be kept out of the landfill. TFSK recovered 13,000 lbs. of food in January 2018 alone, and consistently recovers at least one ton of produce every week. Sown and grown in Oakland, Food Shift is excited to continue building local community partnerships to reduce more waste, feed more people, and create more jobs.

## Equity in Legal Marijuana: The Hood Incubator

The efforts of the Hood Incubator complement the efforts of the City to ensure that people who have been historically marginalized by the War on Drugs can benefit equitably from California's recent legalization of marijuana. Lanese Martin, Ebele Ifedigbo, and Biseat Horning founded the Oakland organization in 2017. So far, through their Cannabis Accelerator Program, they have helped 10 people of color start their own successful marijuana businesses. They have won numerous awards, and plan to replicate their model in cities across the country. The Hood Incubator engages with the community in many ways, including free monthly meetings, an annual 420 gathering, and an annual community pitch event.

## IN THE WORKS

### EAST OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

In January 2018, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded the City of Oakland and three non-profit partners \$170,000 for planning of the "East Oakland Neighborhoods Initiative." This year-long, community-led effort will, through dozens of meetings in six East Oakland neighborhoods, produce a plan that prioritizes projects that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, provide green infrastructure and active transit, and build renewable energy facilities and community resilience strategies.



Photo: Collin Cook-Miller

### CIVIC DESIGN LAB LAUNCHES IN CITY HALL

Oakland City Hall has prioritized civic innovation with the recently-launched Civic Design Lab (CDL), located on the 9th floor of City Hall. CDL brings together City staff, community members, and private sector partners to apply human-centered design and systems thinking to public sector problems. CDL has already advanced top priority civic efforts, including a redesign of the City's Rent Adjustment Program, proactive Code Enforcement, and Financial Empowerment.



For more highlights and performance data, visit [www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

# Get Involved

We all have a role to play in helping Oakland become a more livable, sustainable, resilient and equitable city.



## Volunteer

Volunteer as a mentor to a student who needs a little support, or Adopt a Spot and participate in community clean-up events on Earth Day (April), Creek-to-Bay Day (September), and every month in neighborhoods throughout the city.

[www.oaklandadoptspot.org](http://www.oaklandadoptspot.org)



## Attend Events

Get connected with sustainability events in the city such as Bike-to-Work Day (May), Art & Soul Festival (August), National Night Out (August), Creek to Bay Day (September), and community events in your neighborhood.

[www2.oaklandnet.com/Events/](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Events/)



## Lead the Way

Make green choices every day such as driving less, recycling and composting more, and improving the energy efficiency of your home. Support local businesses, jobs, and reduce environmental impacts. Encourage friends and neighbors to help make Oakland a more livable and sustainable city every day.

[www.sustainableoakland.com](http://www.sustainableoakland.com)

Photos top to bottom: Chelsea Feldman, Greg Linhares, City of Oakland, and David Fenton, BayREN

# Acknowledgments

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**The Sustainable Oakland Report is compiled annually by staff in the City of Oakland's Environmental Services Division of Oakland Public Works.**

Stories are contributed by numerous City staff from more than half a dozen City Departments, as well as from a host of community partners including several affiliated with the Oakland Climate Action Coalition. Specific contributors to this report included Food Shift, Friends of Sausal Creek, Planting Justice, Kiva Oakland, Youth Employment Partnership, Oakland Unified School District, Bay Area Regional Energy Network, StopWaste, FixIt Clinic, the Greenlining Institute, GRID Alternatives, Oakland Makers, TransForm, Re-Volv, California Interfaith Power & Light, Meta Housing Corporation, SF Made, Skeo Solutions, Family Friendly Oakland, Keep Oakland Beautiful, Impossible Foods, as well as numerous individual City staff members.



Photo: Greg Linhares, City of Oakland

This report was developed under the leadership of Oakland Public Works-Environmental Services Division with contributions from numerous City Departments and partners.

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City of  
Oakland

Cover: Photo by Chelsea Feldman

