20

Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR
December 1, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Jordan Klein, Director, Department of Planning and Development

Subject: 2026 Climate Action & Resilience Update

INTRODUCTION

The annual Climate Action & Resilience Update is an opportunity to recognize Berkeley's leadership and local action and renew commitments towards reaching its ambitious climate goals.

The attached report describes key accomplishments and provides examples of recent climate action and resilience program implementation efforts, particularly since April 2025, when this report was last updated for City Council. The work profiled occurs across City divisions and in collaboration with the community to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and advance equity. These actions help to create healthier, safer, and more resilient homes, infrastructure, parks, and other community assets for current residents and future generations. Equitable climate action and resilience efforts elevate the voices and priorities of communities that have been marginalized, to ensure that policies and programs benefit those most impacted by climate change.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley's progress on climate action and resilience advances the City's Strategic Plan goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

This 2026 Update focuses on implementation – it describes building upgrades, new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, food waste recovery, equitable community engagement, and other actions that have been achieved since last year's Update. Some of the major achievements since the 2025 Update include:

- Completion of the **Climate Equity Fund Home Electrification Retrofits Pilot** and **Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot** programs, which provided electrification upgrades for income-qualified multifamily and single-family homes. The Just Transition pilot, a direct-install program, also included high-road labor standards to grow the residential decarbonization workforce and ensure workers benefit economically from electrification construction projects.

- Launch of the groundbreaking **Building Emissions Energy Savings Ordinance Time of Sale** program that requires upgrades for small residential buildings at time of sale to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience in existing buildings.
- City Council adoption of the **All-Electric Standards Resolution** (No. 72,336-N.S.), affirming that public funds shall not be used to install new gas infrastructure in any municipal facility, except in limited circumstances in which City Council grants an exception.
- Opening of the new, **all-electric, LEED Gold certified Willard Park Clubhouse**.
- Installation of over **1,500 new energy-efficient LED lamps** in ceiling fixtures on all floors of the Civic Center Building, providing estimated annual savings of $30,000.
- Completion of the **citywide daylighting project**, which painted 1,680 curbs, making the streets safer for everyone.
- Installation of **11 new bike share stations** in previously underserved areas, and adoption of the **2026 Berkeley Bicycle Plan**, which recommends a network of safe and comfortable bikeways designed to serve all types of people riding bicycles in Berkeley.
- State certification of the **Berkeley Pier-Ferry** project as critical to meeting statewide climate goals.
- Delivery of **zero waste and food recovery outreach** to 1,346 people and 97 businesses, and the **diversion of over 800,000 pounds of edible food** from the landfill.
- Hosting of Green@Home Tours and Sun Day **community events** that engaged over 800 residents and provided a variety of sustainability, clean energy, and climate resources.
- Development of a new **General Plan Draft Environmental Justice Element** and updated **Draft Disaster Preparedness & Fire Safety Element** through a two-year collaboration with the community.
- Installation of **urban greening projects**, including over 1000 **native grasses** and **trees**, and several **pollinator gardens** to provide habitat for birds, insects, and animals and access to natural spaces in urban environments.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley is a long-time climate leader and must remain steadfast to reach its net-zero carbon and Fossil Fuel Free City commitments by 2045. Berkeley was one of

the first cities to adopt a Climate Action Plan (2009), followed by the Resilience Strategy (2016) to advance preparedness and equity as it adapts to a changing climate. After declaring a Climate Emergency in 2018, the City Council adopted its current climate goals, including becoming a Fossil Fuel Free City, and created the Climate Equity Fund and Just Transition Pilot program to provide building and transportation electrification opportunities for income-qualified residents.

GHG emissions in Berkeley declined 41% between 2023 and the 2000 baseline, despite a 16% increase in Berkeley's population. This decrease should be celebrated, but more local actions, along with regional, state, and federal efforts, will be needed to achieve Berkeley's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This report provides a 2026 update on the City's implementation activities and progress on meeting Berkeley's climate goals. The City's Climate Action Plan, Resilience Strategy, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Strategic Plan, and General Plan are key policy documents that contribute to advancing the community towards a healthy, safe, and resilient future. The Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap and Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy guide implementation of some of the recent climate action and resilience program efforts highlighted in this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

This report provides Council with a summary of recent climate action implementation activities, and an overview of planning efforts and other planned activities. The successful conclusion this year of the Climate Equity Fund projects and Just Transition Program are examples of pilot programs that could be expanded with additional funding to increase equitable GHG emissions reductions. The City also seeks to amplify and leverage efforts of regional and state agencies to advance climate goals.

Mitigation of Berkeley's GHG emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change are interrelated. Continued investment to reduce community-wide emissions and enhance equitable climate adaptation and resilience will help reduce the costs of addressing the impacts of climate change in the future.

Berkeley's continued commitment and investment in implementing policies and programs that reduce GHG emissions and improve community resilience are critical. The United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement on January 27, 2026, and federal programs supporting electrification and other transitions away from fossil fuels have been dismantled. As a result, local governments, regional agencies, and states play an even more important role in climate action. Berkeley's leadership, innovation, and collaboration are vital to powering the climate progress needed at this time.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The climate actions described in this report are funded by existing grants, enterprise funds, General Fund allocations, and bonds. Staff continue to seek additional grants and other sources of funding to accelerate existing efforts. Continued progress toward climate goals will require additional resources to fund projects and programs, particularly for low-income and other marginalized communities.

CONTACT PERSON

Sarah Moore, Manager, Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, 510-981-7494
Rebecca Milliken, Sustainability Outreach Coordinator, Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, 510-981-7021

Attachments:
1: 2026 Climate Action & Resilience Update

Attachment 1

City of Berkeley
2026 Climate Action & Resilience Update



Prepared by the Office of Energy & Sustainable Development,
Department of Planning and Development
December 2026

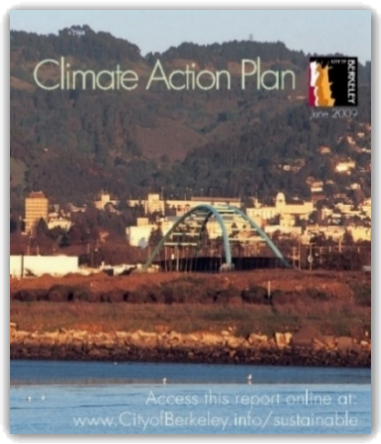
Table of Contents

Introduction 4
Measuring Progress 7
Climate Action & Resilience Program Implementation 10
Buildings and Infrastructure 10
New Building Decarbonization 10
Equitable Building Decarbonization 11
Building Emissions Saving Ordinance 14
Transitioning from Fossil Fuels 18
Municipal Building Decarbonization 22
Transportation 25
Active Transportation 25
Electric Mobility 28
Waste 36
Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) 36
Single Use Disposable (SUDs) 38
Construction & Demolition Debris Diversion 39
Zero Waste PSA Outreach Campaign 39
Community Engagement 41
Equitable Community Engagement Services 42
Sun Day Berkeley 42
East Bay Green@Home Tours 44
Business Outreach 45
Municipal Employee Sustainability & Zero Waste Training 45
Adaptation & Resilience 46
Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley Project 47
East Bay Crescent SB1 Grant Project 49
Sea Level Rise 49
Groundwater Rise 50
Wildfire Mitigation 50
Community and Neighborhood Resilience 51
New Emergency Operations Center and Staff Training 52
Tree Canopy Equity 52

Pollinator Gardens 53
Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN) 54
Conclusion 54
Appendix 1: Berkeley Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2022 & 2023) 55
Building Sector Emissions 57
Impacts to Berkeley's Building sector emissions: 58
Transportation Sector Emissions 58
Landfill Solid Waste Emissions 58

INTRODUCTION

The annual Climate Action and Resilience Update is an opportunity to recognize Berkeley's local action and accomplishments and renew commitments towards reaching the community's ambitious climate goals.



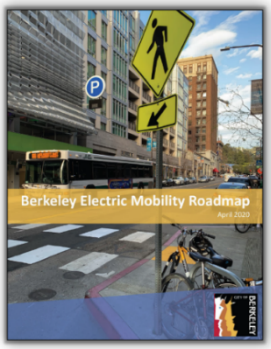
The City of Berkeley is a long-time climate leader and must continue to innovate, collaborate, and identify new funding sources to reach its net-zero carbon and Fossil Fuel Free City commitments by 2045. Across City departments and throughout the Berkeley community, people are committed to tackling the hard issues of climate change. From individual acts of sustainability in homes and commutes to the City's major investments in clean energy and policy, Berkeley and its residents are working towards a more climate-aware and resilient future.

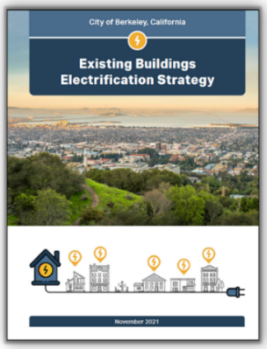
Berkeley was one of the first cities to adopt a Climate Action Plan (2009), followed by the Resilience Strategy (2016) to advance preparedness and equity to adapt to a changing climate. After declaring a Climate Emergency in 2018, the City Council adopted its current climate goals and created the Climate Equity Fund and Just Transition Pilot program, with seed funding to provide building and transportation electrification opportunities for income-qualified residents.

The City adopted additional climate goals that exceed the Climate Action Plan's original target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2000 levels by 2050. Berkeley's current goals include:

- Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley (2018): City Council adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration and a goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free City.
- Net-Zero Carbon (2018): Through Executive Order B-5518, the California Governor set a statewide goal to achieve net-zero carbon (carbon neutrality) by 2045. Net-zero carbon is achieved through reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible and by using carbon removal strategies to balance the remainder.
- Race to Zero (2021): City Council adopted a resolution for the Cities Race to Zero Campaign to establish a 2030 emission reduction target that reflects Berkeley's fair share of the 50% global reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent CO_2e, committing to reduce emissions 60.5% from 2018 levels by 2030. This resolution also memorialized Berkeley's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Goals set the City's direction, but the real impact comes from how they translate into action. The Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap (2020) and Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy (2021) guide implementation of some of the recent climate action and resilience program efforts highlighted in this report. Climate work is complex and requires collective effort. The work profiled in this report occurs across City divisions and in collaboration with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance equity, and protect against the current and future impacts of climate change. These actions help to create healthier, safer and more resilient homes, infrastructure, parks, and other community assets for current residents and future generations.





Major implementation achievements since the 2025 update include:

- Completion of the Climate Equity Fund Home Electrification Retrofits Pilot[1] and Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot[2] programs, which provided electrification upgrades for income-qualified multifamily and single-family homes. The Just Transition pilot, a direct-install program, also included high-road labor standards to grow the residential decarbonization workforce and ensure workers benefit economically from electrification construction projects.
- Launch of the groundbreaking Building Emissions Energy Savings Ordinance Time of Sale program[3] that requires upgrades for small residential buildings at time of sale to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience in existing buildings.
- City Council adoption of the All-Electric Standards Resolution (No. 72,336-N.S.)[4], affirming that public funds shall not be used to install new gas infrastructure in any municipal facility, except in limited circumstances in which City Council grants an exception.
- Opening of the new, all-electric, LEED Gold certified Willard Park Clubhouse.

---

[1] Climate Equity Fund Home Electrification Retrofits Pilot: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/Climate-Equity-Fund-Resilient-Home-Retrofits-Pilot-Final-Report.pdf

[2] Just Transition Residential Electrification program: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/green-building/building-electrification

[3] Building Emissions Savings Ordinance Time of Sale program: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/green-building/building-emissions-saving-ordinance-beso/time-sale-energy

[4] All-Electric Standards Resolution: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/All-Electric-Standards-Resolution-72336.pdf

- Installation of over **1,500 new energy-efficient LED lamps** in ceiling fixtures on all floors of the Civic Center Building, providing estimated annual savings of $30,000.
- Completion of the **citywide daylighting project**, which painted 1,680 curbs, making the streets safer for everyone.
- Installation of **11 new bike share stations** in previously underserved areas, and adoption of the **2026 Berkeley Bicycle Plan**[5], which recommends a network of safe and comfortable bikeways designed to serve all types of people riding bicycles in Berkeley.
- State certification of the **Berkeley Pier-Ferry**[6] project as critical to meeting statewide climate goals.
- Delivery of **zero waste and food recovery outreach** to 1,346 people and 97 businesses, and the **diversion of over 800,000 pounds of edible food** from the landfill.
- Hosting of Green@Home Tours and Sun Day **community events** that engaged over 800 residents and provided a variety of sustainability, clean energy, and climate resources.
- Development of a new **General Plan Draft Environmental Justice Element** and updated **Draft Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element** through a two-year collaboration with the community.[7]
- Installation of **urban greening projects**, including over 1000 **native grasses** and **trees**, and several **pollinator gardens** to provide habitat for birds, insects, and animals and access to natural spaces in urban environments.

These achievements and other recent climate action and resilience program efforts are described in detail in the five sections of this report:

- **Buildings & Infrastructure**
- **Transportation**
- **Waste**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Adaptation & Resilience**

---

[5] Berkeley Bicycle Plan: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-bicycle-plan

[6] Berkeley Pier-Ferry Project: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/berkeley-pier-ferry-access-project

[7] Draft General Plan Environmental Justice and Safety Elements: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/land-use-development/general-plan-and-area-plans/prepared-safe-and-healthy

MEASURING PROGRESS

This 2026 Update focuses on implementation – it describes building upgrades, new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, food waste recovery, and other actions that have been achieved since last year's Update. These activities support health, safety, and quality-of-life benefits while reducing the community's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, enhancing resilience, and improving community connections. This Update includes summaries, data, and links to reports on these recent programs in the sections that follow.

Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 41% since the 2000 baseline.

These programs will also influence future GHG emissions inventories and metrics. City staff calculate a community GHG emissions inventory every other year to understand which sectors and fuels contribute to emissions in Berkeley, track progress toward climate goals, provide data to prioritize programs and policies, and meet Berkeley's commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors.

The GHG emissions inventory will be updated next year, using the most recent available data. The 2025 GHG inventory (based on 2023 data) showed that overall greenhouse gas emissions declined by 41% since the 2000 baseline, despite a 16% increase in Berkeley's population[8]. This decrease should be celebrated, but more local actions, along with regional, state, and federal efforts, will be needed to achieve Berkeley's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

See Figure 1 for more information on the sources and quantities of GHG emissions within Berkeley since 2000, and the downward trend. Transportation emissions are the largest category of GHG emissions in Berkeley and often make up a majority of Berkeley's total GHG emissions. Natural gas and electricity used in buildings make up the bulk of the remainder, but emissions from the electricity sector have been mostly eliminated by City Council's action to adopt Ava Community Energy's Renewable 100 electricity product as the default electricity for Berkeley homes and businesses, phased in during 2022.

[8] GHG inventory methodology for the transportation sector changed in 2018, so it is challenging to conclusively state the decrease in emissions. For more information on methodology, please see Appendix 1: Berkeley Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2022 & 2023)

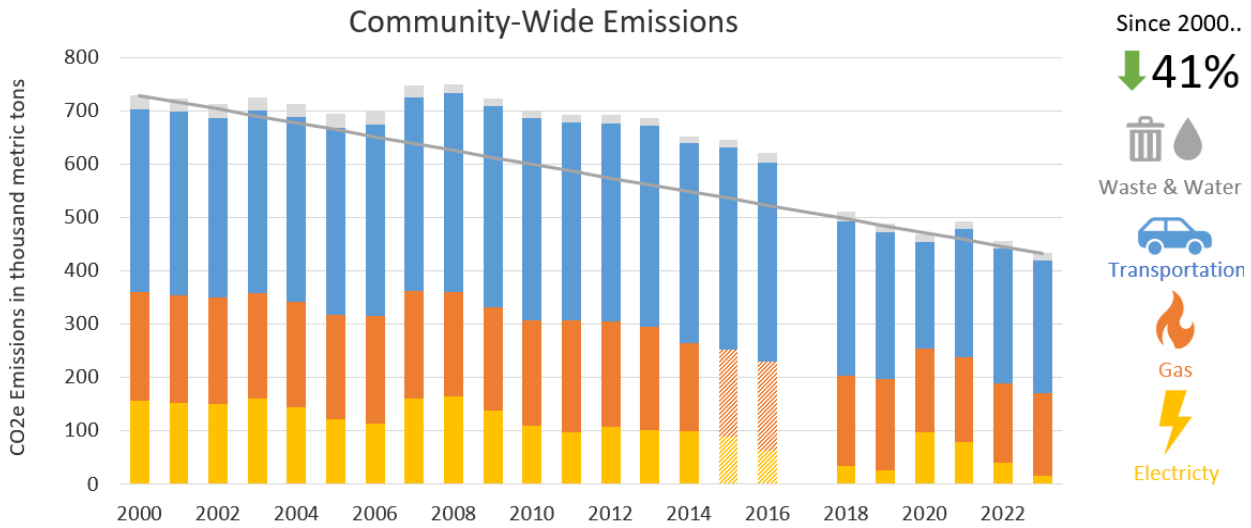


Figure 1: Berkeley GHG Emissions Inventories including Sectors (2000-2023)

Figure 2 shows that transportation was Berkeley's largest source of 2023 GHG emissions, accounting for 58% (249,028 $mtCO_2e$), followed by the building sector at 39% (168,453 $mtCO_2e$), with electricity accounting for only 4% of the total. Taking trips on foot, by bike, or by transit, and using vehicles fueled by clean electricity rather than gasoline or diesel, reduces transportation GHG emissions. Improving energy efficiency and shifting building appliances and processes from natural gas to clean electricity are key to further reducing building GHG emissions.

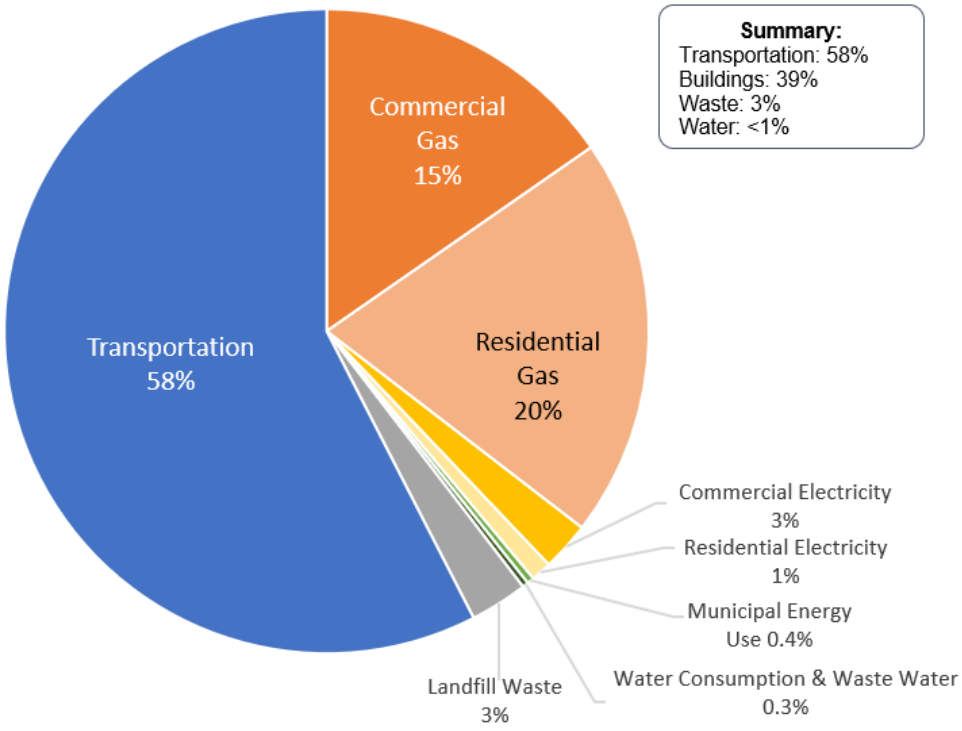


Figure 2: 2023 Berkeley GHG Emissions Inventory, by Sector and Fuel

For more information on Berkeley's GHG emissions inventory, see *Appendix 1: 2023 Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory*. In addition, the Bay Area Air District published the Bay Area's first regional Climate Action Plan in March 2026. This Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan[9] includes a regional GHG inventory and is designed to align, leverage, and accelerate state and local climate action and address cross-cutting issues like funding, financing, and workforce development.

Inventories help to understand the drivers and sources of climate change, but GHG emissions are difficult to conceptualize. As part of the Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley project[10], the City worked with community members to identify meaningful metrics to report on Berkeley's progress in advancing climate resilience. The areas that community members identified as priorities include:

- Belonging, Well-Being and Social Stability: measuring whether people feel safe, included, and rooted in the City, and how people's basic needs and dignity are met.
- Access to Essential Resources: measuring whether the physical environment, both built and natural, supports community health and resilience
- Community Capacity & Government Responsiveness: measuring the City's ability to engage the community, especially communities that have been historically marginalized.

The City is working to measure, share, and update these metrics as we continue implementing programs and policies that address our major sources of GHG emissions and work with the community to improve Berkeley's resilience.

---

[9] Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/plans-and-climate/climate-planning/bay-area-regional-climate-action-planning-initiative

[10] City of Berkeley Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley project: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/land-use-development/general-plan-and-area-plans/prepared-safe-and-healthy

CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Key accomplishments and examples of recent climate action and resilience program implementation efforts, particularly since April 2025 when this report was last updated for the City Council, are described below. Equitable climate action and resilience efforts elevate voices and priorities of communities who have been marginalized to ensure that policies and programs benefit those most impacted by climate change.

BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



To meet the goals of becoming a net-zero carbon and Fossil Fuel Free City by 2045, buildings and homes throughout the Berkeley community must become more energy efficient and powered by clean electricity rather than natural gas. The City is working with the Berkeley community to reduce energy use, promote cleaner energy, and equitably transition all buildings and infrastructure to clean electricity.

NEW BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

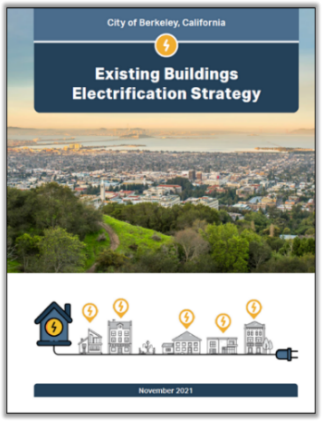
To meet Berkeley's climate goals, new buildings should be all-electric, using clean electricity for water heating, space heating and cooling, cooking, laundry, and other processes. This is not currently required by regulation, but is encouraged, as regulatory opportunities are explored.

Between January 2020 and January 2024, Berkeley prohibited the inclusion of natural gas infrastructure in new buildings. The ordinance was repealed in June 2024 after a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) preempted it. Berkeley and other communities within the Ninth Circuit are subject to this ruling.

However, Berkeley's natural gas infrastructure prohibition spurred other local governments and states to take similar action to require all-electric new construction, and others are getting different results when challenged in district courts. In addition, in June 2026, the Second Circuit Court split from the Ninth Circuit's Berkeley decision and said that New York City's Local Law 154 and New York State's Energy Law, which ban gas appliances in most new buildings, are not preempted by EPCA. These dissenting Circuit Court decisions may prompt the Supreme Court to weigh in.

Meanwhile, the City of Berkeley is also looking at reach code opportunities (local amendments to the 2025 Energy Code) that increase energy efficiency and encourage electrification in new construction, within the allowable exceptions of AB 130 (2025) for residential construction.

EQUITABLE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION



The City's equitable building decarbonization work is guided by Berkeley's Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy[11] (2021), which includes a set of "Equity Guardrails" that serve as minimum requirements to equitably advance a policy, program, or project. These guardrails were developed from targeted outreach with resilient communities that have been marginalized, to better understand and elevate their priorities and needs. They include:

- Maximize Access to Health, Safety & Mobility Benefits
- Maximize Access to Economic Benefits
- Maximize Ease of Participation
- Promote Housing Affordability & Anti-Displacement

Recent highlights from programs to equitably decarbonize and upgrade existing homes of lower income residents include the Climate Equity Fund and Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot.

CLIMATE EQUITY FUND – HOME ELECTRIFICATION RETROFITS PILOT

In 2021, City Council provided funding for building decarbonization improvements for low-to-moderate income residents' homes.

Three agencies were awarded a total of $250,000 to provide building electrification upgrades to increase resilience, support occupant health and reduce GHG emissions. The Climate Equity Fund helped attract additional investment in building decarbonization for low-to-moderate income serving properties while helping the City build capacity and support high-quality jobs for workers and contractors.

The Climate Equity Fund supported the following electrification upgrades:

- Casa Joaquin Murrieta (Greenlining Institute's student housing, for 40 low-income, first-generation UC Berkeley students of color): Upgrades included a ducted heat pump system with new high efficiency air handlers and a new central heat pump water heater.
- Walnut House Cooperative (22-unit limited-equity cooperative multifamily building): Upgrades included a new central heat pump water heater to replace an old, gas boiler.

[11] City of Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-existing-buildings-electrification-strategy

- **Single-family, income-qualified home**: Upgrades included heat pump HVAC system and smart thermostats.
- **Tenth Street Apartments** (Northern California Land Trust 8-unit subsidized affordable housing)*:* Upgrades include a fully electric design for all eight units, across two buildings, an in-unit heat pump water heater, and insulation in both buildings.



Walnut House Coop heat pumps for the centralized heat pump water heater system, bringing hot water to each of the 22 units

The Climate Equity Home Electrification Retrofits Pilot Final Report[12], published in September 2026, provides more detail on the benefits achieved through this pilot, as well as the lessons learned about project pipelines, building complexities, braiding resources, and high-road workforce support.

[12] Home Electrification Retrofits Pilot Final Report: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/Climate-Equity-Fund-Resilient-Home-Retrofits-Pilot-Final-Report.pdf

BAY AREA HIGH ROAD TRAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR GOOD, GREEN JOBS

The City of Berkeley has partnered with Rising Sun Center for Opportunity's Bay Area Residential Building Decarbonization High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) since its beginning in 2021. The HRTP works to create high-quality, clean energy jobs in the small residential building decarbonization sector that are accessible to women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups. The partnership includes local governments, workforce and training nonprofits, labor unions, contractors, and regional agencies across the Bay Area. Together, the HRTP developed a labor standards toolkit, contractor support guide, public programs best practices guide, and policy recommendations that promote equity, job quality, and job access, which are available on Rising Sun's website[13].

JUST TRANSITION RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM



To ensure income-qualified residents and construction workers benefit from the transition off of fossil fuels, the City Council approved a resolution to develop a Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot Program (2022) with a budget of $1,500,000. The program aggregated electrification and resilience installations for low-to-moderate income households (at or below 120% of the Area Median Income). Building on the HRTP, the Just Transition program required that upgrades be completed by pre-qualified contractors who met high road labor standards to ensure residential electrification construction work also provides equitable benefits to workers. Through a competitive process, the City selected Rebuilding Together East Bay Network as the program implementer.

Concluding in July 2026, project achievements include:

- Leveraged $160,000 from other programs towards home electrification
- Worked with five high road union and non-union contractors, including three women- or minority-owned contractors
- Provided in-depth support and training for contractors
- Created playbooks to replicate this work in future programs

The Just Transition Pilot provided 158 upgrades in 37 income-qualified homes.

[13] Rising Sun Center for Opportunity High Roads Training Partnership: https://risingsunopp.org/policy/

The final report, administrator playbook, and additional data and resources can be found on the City's website.[14]

AVA HEALTH-E COMMUNITIES PILOT

Another equitable decarbonization program, Ava Community Energy's Health-e Communities Pilot, helped low-income customers, including 11 in Berkeley, replace gas stoves with all-electric induction stoves at no cost[15]. Ava completed 162 total installations between October 2024 and September 2025 and conducted indoor air quality monitoring before and after each installation to measure changes in indoor air pollution. Results showed that nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) levels dropped in nearly every home, with median concentrations decreasing by 70%. NO_2 is a well-established respiratory irritant linked to asthma and other adverse health outcomes.

BUILDING EMISSIONS SAVING ORDINANCE

The goal of Berkeley's Building Emissions Saving Ordinance (BESO) is to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions in Berkeley's existing buildings, reductions that can pair with lower utility bills and improvements in building comfort and safety. BESO consists of a Time of Sale Program, triggered when a home is bought and sold, and a Large Building Program. BESO requirements help bring transparency about building energy use, and 2026 marked the beginning of innovative Time of Sale upgrade requirements.

FIRST ERA OF BESO: 2015-2025

From 1987 to 2015, the Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO) was Berkeley's main policy for reducing energy use in existing buildings. RECO required homes to complete 11 minimal energy efficiency measures at the time of sale, transfer, or major renovation. In 2015, RECO was replaced by BESO, which changed the requirement from prescriptive measures to comprehensive whole-home assessments to decrease emissions from existing buildings.

---

[14] Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/green-building/building-electrification

[15] Health-e Communities Pilot Final Report: https://avaenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Health-e-Communities-Pilot-Evaluation-and-Final-Report.pdf

The first iteration of BESO's Time of Sale program ran from 2015 to 2025. During those 10 years, buildings under 25,000 square feet were required to complete a comprehensive energy assessment at time of sale, conducted by a registered energy assessor. The assessment included a report on the building's current condition and provided recommendations to improve energy performance. Over time, the assessments' focus expanded from just energy efficiency to include electrification recommendations to address significant emissions from natural gas space and water heating. Sellers were required to disclose their energy assessment reports to all potential buyers.

Successes of 2015-2025 BESO Time of Sale program include:

- **91% compliance rate in 2025**
- **3,915 assessments completed for single family homes and duplexes**
- **945 assessments completed for multifamily and commercial buildings**

NEW 2026 BESO TIME OF SALE RESILIENCE UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS

Despite these successes, energy assessments alone proved insufficient to drive the pace of building upgrades needed to meet the City's climate goals: assessment recommendations were rarely acted upon, prompting the City to pursue mandatory upgrade requirements. In December 2020, Berkeley City Council directed staff to develop resilience upgrade requirements to further align BESO with the City's electrification and community resilience goals. From 2023 to 2024, staff worked closely with various stakeholders to develop a policy proposal. In February 2025, Council adopted the proposed amendments to BESO, including first-of-its-kind upgrade requirements for small residential buildings at time of sale.

The new BESO Time of Sale requirements for single-family homes and duplexes launched January 1, 2026. These requirements will expand to include three- and four-unit buildings in 2028.

As in the earlier iteration of BESO, sellers must complete an energy assessment before listing and disclose the home energy score on the MLS (multiple listing service).

Additionally, resilience upgrades must be completed before the sale or deferred to the buyer to complete within two years after the sale. Owners choose from a list of approved upgrades that reduce energy use and emissions and improve health, comfort, and resilience. Each approved upgrade has a corresponding credit value based on emissions savings, cost, and other resilience metrics. To be fully compliant, a home must complete one or more qualifying upgrades to earn six total credits. If upgrades are deferred to the buyer, the buyer and seller submit a *Resilience Upgrade Deposit* to the City. The City refunds the deposit to the buyer once they complete the upgrades to help cover some of the upgrade costs.

To prepare for the launch of the new Time of Sale requirements, BESO staff conducted extensive outreach throughout 2025 and 2026 to hundreds of real estate agents and title companies. Staff additionally presented on the requirements to several other local governments in California, other states, and Canada. Once launched, this groundbreaking program received coverage from local and national news outlets.



City staff present the new BESO Time of Sale requirements to the BRIDGE Association of Realtors


KQED

NEWS

Berkeley Policy Aims to Cut Pollution From Homes, and Targets the Moment You Sell (or Buy)

The new policy requires that one- to four-unit buildings undergo upgrades that reduce planet-warming emissions around the time a structure is sold.

KQED news headline about the new BESO Time of Sale program

Successes of the new Time of Sale program since its launch on January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, include:

- **131 Certificates of Compliance issued to properties that completed resilience upgrades within five years prior to sale or had a heat pump**
- **287 resilience upgrade deposits received, totaling $1,435,000. New homeowners can use these deposits to complete resilience upgrades.**
- **12 buyers completed resilience upgrades and received their Certificate of Compliance and $5,000 deposits back**

BESO LARGE BUILDING PROGRAM

The BESO Large Building Program (buildings over 25,000 square feet) requires annual energy benchmarking reports and energy assessments on a five-year recurring cycle for large multifamily and commercial buildings.

In late 2025, staff conducted extensive targeted outreach to noncompliant buildings to increase benchmarking compliance, improving compliance by eight percentage points for the 2025 reporting year.

Successes of the BESO Large Building Program include:

- **403 energy benchmarks submitted in 2025, achieving 79% compliance**
- **392 energy benchmarks submitted in 2026 (as of September), achieving 75% compliance**
- **144 large building energy assessments completed as of September 2026**

BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS LARGE BUILDING PROGRAM

Building performance standards (BPS) establish building-level requirements, such as minimum GHG emissions reduction standards, by a specified date. These standards are generally applied to larger buildings, including multifamily residential and commercial buildings, to have the greatest impact on the largest energy users.

In 2023, California passed SB 48 (Building Energy Savings Act). The bill required the Energy Commission to develop a strategy for using building energy usage data to track and manage energy use and GHG emissions from covered buildings, helping the state meet its emissions and energy goals. The Energy Commission released the draft California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report[16] in July 2026. The report recommends that the Legislature establish a statewide building performance standard for buildings over 50,000 square feet, the same size threshold used by the state's existing statewide benchmarking program.

The report recommends that a statewide BPS apply to all buildings over 50,000 square feet across California, even in jurisdictions that already have their own benchmarking program for large buildings. This is intended to ensure that building owners who own or manage buildings in multiple jurisdictions don't have to comply with a patchwork of local policies and to ensure statewide consistency. Staff will continue to monitor the state's progress on a statewide BPS policy. Given the state's recommendation, staff may wait until a statewide program is developed before creating a BPS program for smaller buildings in Berkeley, to ensure our policy aligns with the state's approach.

TRANSITIONING FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Heat pumps use clean electricity, are more efficient than gas counterparts, reduce building GHG emissions, and offer other benefits, including greater comfort and better indoor and outdoor air quality. Several policy and marketplace factors are accelerating the transition off fossil fuels. These include incentives, local and regional policies (i.e., BESO Time of Sale upgrades described above and new Air District Appliance rules described below), and innovative neighborhood zonal decarbonization pilots.

BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION INCENTIVES

Funding for building electrification incentives has been inconsistent as anticipated federal sources have vanished, and state and regional sources have become oversubscribed. Despite the variable funding, Berkeley property owners have taken advantage of incentive programs[17] for heat pump water heaters (HPWH) and heat pump HVAC systems (HP HVAC) when available, including TECH Clean California and BayREN.

---

[16] Draft California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report: https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-08/CEC-400-2026-007-CMD.pdf

[17] For more information on rebates and incentives for electrification, please see *The Switch Is On* (https://switchison.org/) and the City of Berkeley's *Building Electrification* (https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/green-building/building-electrification) and *Financing Green Building Improvements* (https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/green-building/financing-green-building-improvements) webpages.

TECH Clean California[18] is a statewide initiative, funded by California taxpayers and utility ratepayers, to accelerate the adoption of clean space and water heating technology across California to help meet the state goal of being carbon-neutral by 2045. Although funding has been inconsistent, Berkeley residents have utilized these incentives.

The BayREN Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EASE) Home Program[19] helps Bay Area residents make their homes healthier, more comfortable, and energy efficient. With a customer co-pay capped at 20% of the project cost, EASE Home makes essential improvements, like insulation, duct-sealing, and induction cooking upgrades, more accessible for moderate-income households.

The Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements (BAMBE) Program[20] provides energy- and water-saving upgrades, including electrification measures. In addition to no-cost consulting, the BAMBE program includes additional incentives for buildings in communities experiencing health, heat, or housing burdens.

PROGRAM	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	# PROPERTIES UPGRADED	INCENTIVES/ REBATES
TECH Clean California Heat Pump Water Heaters	December 2021 – February 2026	201 homes	$655,682
TECH Clean California Heat Pump HVAC	December 2021 – February 2026	474 homes	$974,986
BayREN EASE Home (single family)	August 2025 – September 2026	12 completed; 9 in progress	$60,183
BayREN BAMBE (multifamily)	January 2014 – September 2026	1230 units	$1,344,505

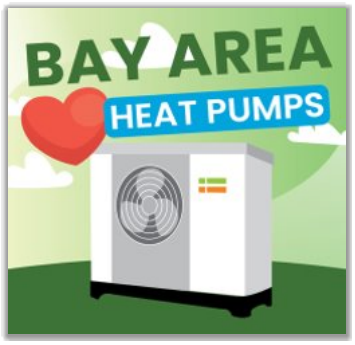
[18] TECH Clean California: https://techcleanca.com/

[19] BayREN EASE Home Program: https://www.bayren.org/ease-home

[20] Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements (BAMBE) program: https://www.bayren.org/programs-rebates/bambe-program

BAY AREA AIR DISTRICT APPLIANCE RULES

Building appliances like furnaces and water heaters are a major source of nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution in the Bay Area that can harm public health and the environment. To improve regional air quality, the Bay Area Air District adopted amendments in March 2023 and November 2026 that establish zero-NOx emissions standards for gas furnaces (Rule 9-4) and water heaters (Rule 9-6).[21] These rules phase in requirements for zero-NOx appliances, such as heat pump water heaters and HVAC systems, to be sold and installed in the Bay Area. Berkeley has joined *Sprint to 9-6*, a regional collaboration of over 60 entities, including local and county governments, community advocates, technical organizations, PG&E, Bay Area Community Choice Aggregators, municipal utilities, and regional and statewide agencies such as BayREN and the California Air Resources Board, helping the Air District prepare for the roll-out of Rule 9-6 by highlighting and scaling local best practices to reduce barriers and ensure successful implementation. Efforts include:



- Developing common messaging and materials to reach homeowners, renters, property owners, real estate professionals, and equity communities
- Streamlining permitting and inspections
- Exploring Bay Area-wide bulk purchasing and financing options
- Growing the workforce by offering monthly training in multiple languages for contractors

Implementation of the Air District's Building Appliance Rules, which will begin on January 1, 2028, will accelerate the Bay Area's transition from fossil fuels and have significant implications for similar policies statewide.

[21] Bay Area Air District Zero NOx rules: https://knowthefacts.baaqmd.gov/

NEIGHBORHOOD DECARBONIZATION PILOTS

Neighborhood decarbonization, also known as zonal decarbonization, includes efforts to electrify all the buildings sharing a gas pipeline, rather than replacing aging gas infrastructure. Under California Senate Bill (SB) 1221, a gas utility may, instead of replacing a gas line due for replacement, use the money saved to offer participating properties zero-emission alternatives, such as electrifying all properties served by that line. SB 1221 may designate up to 30 neighborhood pilot projects statewide. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has identified several Berkeley census tracts that may be eligible for this program. On September 15, 2026, Council adopted Resolution No. 72,431-N.S. to support a neighborhood decarbonization pilot project in Berkeley[22].

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

As more buildings transition off fossil fuels, the City is ensuring that its electricity comes from clean, renewable sources by participating in Ava Community Energy (Ava)[23].

In 2016, Berkeley City Council voted to join Ava. In 2019, Berkeley City Council voted to switch municipal facilities to Ava's Renewable 100 (R100) electricity service, sourced from 100% wind and solar facilities. In 2021, City Council then voted to set R100 as the default service for residential (starting in March 2022) and commercial (starting in October 2022) customers. As of September 2026, 89% of Berkeley accounts are receiving R100 electricity service.

89% of Berkeley's residential and commercial customers receive 100% renewable electricity service sourced from solar and wind power.

Berkeley Customers by Sector	Total Accounts	Renewable 100	Bright Choice
Residential (excluding CARE)	44,582	93%	7%
Residential (CARE)	6,125	41%	49%
Non-Residential	4,928	95%	5%
All Accounts	55,635	89%	11%

[22] City Council Resolution 72431, Supporting a Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilot Project in Berkeley: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-09-15%20Item%2013%20Supporting%20a%20Neighborhood.pdf

[23] Ava Community Energy: https://avaenergy.org/

RISING UTILITY COSTS & ELECTRIFICATION

In recent years, both commercial and residential PG&E electricity rates have increased significantly. According to the Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission, average residential electricity rates increased 104% between January 2015 and April 2025[24]. The high cost of electricity underscores the importance of energy efficiency and building envelope upgrades to reduce overall energy usage, as well as solar and battery installations to offset grid electricity and higher time-of-use pricing. All-electric equipment improves indoor air quality and comfort, reduces GHG emissions, and increases safety.

Staff are working with member organizations such as the Local Government Sustainability Energy Coalition, Local Government Climate Alliance, and Green Cities California to understand the causes and potential opportunities for issues such as electricity affordability and interconnection timelines.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

For many years, City staff have been implementing energy efficient upgrades to municipal facilities and infrastructure including park and street lighting, traffic signals, pools, and irrigation pumps. Facility and infrastructure upgrades, in particular streetlight conversions (from high pressure sodium to LEDs) and building lighting conversions (first to fluorescents and more recently to LEDs), have significantly reduced electricity consumption and utility bill costs for the City. Additionally, the City has installed several high efficiency heat pumps in many buildings and converted from gas to electric kitchens in the two senior centers, improving air quality and increasing comfort in municipal buildings.

A few notable achievements since the 2025 report include:

- On June 16, 2026, City Council adopted an All-Electric Standards Resolution (No. 72,336-N.S), affirming that public funds shall not be used to install new gas infrastructure in municipal facilities, except in limited circumstances when City Council grants an exception[25].

[24] Public Advocates Office 10-year average residential electricity rate change: https://www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov/press-room/reports-and-analyses/2025-q1-electric-rates-report

[25] All-Electric Standards Resolution: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/All-Electric-Standards-Resolution-72336.pdf

- The **Central Library** received **technical assistance**, **engineering support**, and **funding** through **Ava's Building Efficiency Accelerator Program** (2024-2026). The recommended lighting retrofits and air handler supply air temperature optimizations are saving over $35,000 in annual utility bills.

- Opening of the renovated, **all-electric, LEED Gold certified Willard Park Clubhouse**[26] (June 2025): In addition to the LEED Gold certification, the Clubhouse is all-electric. The Clubhouse uses smart building systems to efficiently manage radiant floor heating, cooling, fans, and operable windows to keep the space comfortable. Bird-safe, multi-pane glass reduces heat gain and noise, supporting natural comfort strategies and lowering energy use. Low-flow fixtures, bay-friendly landscaping, and an efficient irrigation system help conserve water. The Clubhouse, with its solar panels and batteries, is a net-zero energy building, meaning it produces enough electricity to operate its systems. This provides the City with considerable utility bill savings and allows the building to operate for at least 12 hours, even if the grid is down.



All-electric, LEED Gold Certified Willard Clubhouse

[26] Willard Clubhouse Project: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/willard-park-clubhouse-and-restroom-replacement-project

- Civic Center Lighting Retrofit (November 2025): Over 1,500 new energy-efficient LED lamps were installed in ceiling fixtures on all six floors of the Civic Center building. The lighting upgrades are expected to save the City about $30,000 annually. PG&E provided financing through an on-bill program, where the zero-interest loan is repaid with the expected monthly energy savings from the more efficient lighting. The Civic Center lighting retrofit is one of 14 City on-bill finance projects. Together, these 14 projects save approximately 628 megawatt-hours annually, resulting in over $200,000 in annual utility bill savings.

- Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center Lighting Retrofit (July 2025): Nearly 400 high-efficiency LED lights were installed throughout the building, replacing older fluorescent lighting with failing ballasts. The new lights, which more closely resemble daylight, improve visibility and reduce glare for staff and seniors.



(Left) South Berkeley Center before the lighting retrofit. (Right) After the lighting retrofit.

MUNICIPAL SOLAR + STORAGE



Newly installed solar panels on the roof of Live Oak Recreation Center

The City of Berkeley, along with Hayward, Fremont, and Livermore, partnered with Ava to procure and install solar + storage systems at critical municipal facilities through a Power Purchase Agreement. These systems will provide increased energy resilience and clean back-up power. Solar and back-up battery storage have been installed at the Live Oak Recreation Center, and a solar canopy over the employee parking lot at the Corporation Yard is planned for installation next year.

TRANSPORTATION

The City strives to expand opportunities for people to safely walk, bike, take public transit, and electrify mobility options. As transportation is the largest source of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions, this work advances the City's climate goals while improving public health and supporting Vision Zero to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries.



The City has taken a leadership role in facilitating transit-oriented development, including zoning reform and the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Station development projects, to create housing opportunities near transit, jobs, and other amenities. Siting housing near transit hubs and corridors for Berkeley's growing population reduces private automobile travel and its associated GHG emissions and other air pollutants.

On the right, landscaped traffic diverters with bikeway pavement markings on the Milvia Street Bicycle Boulevard

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

The Public Works Transportation Division leads the City's efforts to increase access and improve safety to a variety of mobility options beyond the automobile. In 2023, 34% of trips taken within Berkeley used sustainable modes of transportation (walking, biking, and public transit). Recent efforts include improving pedestrian and bike safety and bus accessibility.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS

In 2025-26, the Public Works Department worked with community members to deliver key traffic-calming projects that improved road safety and made walking, biking, and other non-driving modes more attractive ways to get around Berkeley. Projects were implemented in several neighborhoods including Berkeley Hills, Claremont-Elmwood, North Berkeley, and Westbrae / Northwest Berkeley.

The projects included a variety of improvements to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians, including new stop signs, updated markers, painted bulbouts, high-visibility and raised crosswalks, hardened centerlines, bollards, and speed cushions.





Left: Landscaped traffic circle at Woolsey St & Eton Ave

Above: Overview of the traffic circle at Woolsey St & Eton Ave

CITYWIDE DAYLIGHTING PROJECT

In 2026, the City of Berkeley completed "daylighting" all 1,680 intersections in the city -- painting red curbs on the approach side of every crossing. This makes it safer for people to walk and bike. Daylighting gives drivers more visibility of crosswalks and those traveling by foot, wheelchair, bicycle, or other wheeled devices.

Berkeley's completion of the Daylighting Project makes it one of the first cities of its size in California to comply with AB 413, the state daylighting law.

Berkeley improved 1,680 intersections through daylighting.

UNIVERSITY WEST BUS STOPS AND SAFETY PROJECT

In 2025, Public Works completed the University West Bus Stops and Safety project, improving pedestrian crossings and bus stops at the University Avenue intersections with Bonar and Acton Streets. Identified as priority safety locations in the 2021 Berkeley Pedestrian Plan, these crossings now offer a safer environment for people walking across this busy corridor. Four bus stops now have new solar-powered shelters, new benches, and widened sidewalks, creating a more reliable and comfortable waiting space for transit riders.



Upgraded bus stop with new solar-powered bus shelter and bus bulb-out at the southeast corner of University Avenue and Acton Street

BERKELEY BICYCLE PLAN

On June 16, 2026, after a robust public engagement process, City Council approved the 2026 Berkeley Bicycle Plan[27]. The purpose of the Berkeley Bicycle Plan is to make Berkeley a model bicycle-friendly city where biking is a safe, comfortable, and convenient form of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and bicycling abilities. The Plan recommends a core network of "Low Stress" bikeways, a continuous and connected system of safe and comfortable bikeways that serve all types of people riding bicycles in Berkeley. The Bicycle Boulevard Design Guide, included in the 2026 Bicycle Plan, will support the City and other agencies in streamlining consistent design and project delivery on Berkeley's Bicycle Boulevards.



[27] Berkeley Bicycle Plan: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-bicycle-plan

PARKER-ADDISON BIKEWAY PROJECT

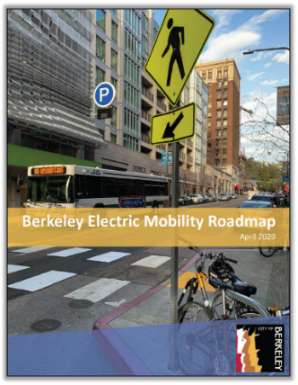
In 2025, Public Works completed the Parker-Addison Bikeway project, which fills a critical gap in Berkeley's citywide bicycle network. The new bikeway connects San Pablo Park directly to Strawberry Creek Park and the adjacent West Street Pathway, while establishing a new corridor along Parker Street toward the Ninth Street Bicycle Boulevard. Cyclists traveling through the improved corridor now experience lower traffic stress and a safer, more connected route.





Parker-Addison Bikeway Project – New Cycle Track on Dwight Way

ELECTRIC MOBILITY



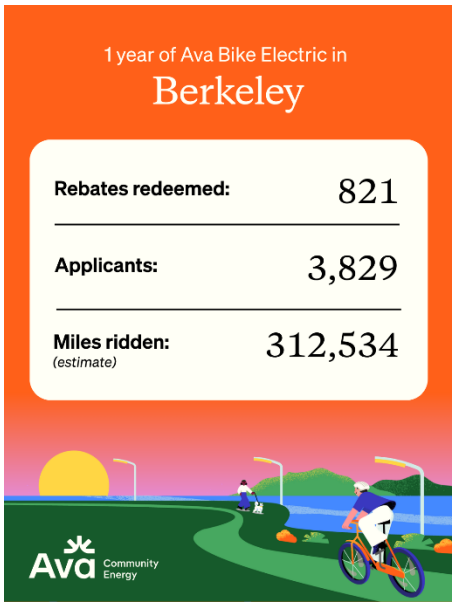
The Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap (2020)[28] identifies goals, strategies, and actions to create a fossil fuel free transportation system. The Roadmap supports the City's ongoing efforts to increase walking, biking, and public transportation, and helps to ensure equitable access to the benefits of clean transportation.

The projects highlighted below reflect progress in achieving the four Electric Mobility Roadmap Goals:

1. Ensure Equity in Access to Electric Mobility
2. Improve Alternatives to Driving
3. Achieve Zero Net Carbon
4. Demonstrate City Leadership

[28] City of Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-electric-mobility-roadmap

AVA BIKE ELECTRIC



In July 2025, Ava Community Energy (Ava) launched the Ava Bike Electric incentive program[29] that aims to provide access to e-bikes, reduce carbon emissions, and support local businesses. Ava customers, including Berkeley residents, can apply through a monthly lottery for an instant rebate of $400-$1500 off a new e-bike, redeemable at local bike stores (including six Berkeley stores). Income-qualified residents are eligible for higher rebates. The program has been very successful, and the Ava Board of Directors voted this summer to extend the one-year program through December 2027. Last year, the City assisted with outreach and promotion, and Berkeley had some of the highest uptake throughout Ava's territory. As of July 2026, 821 Berkeley households redeemed rebates, resulting in over 300,000 miles ridden in the first year of the program. In Berkeley, income-qualified residents have redeemed over 25% of the rebates.

Ava's Bike Electric program built on the local success of Berkeley's pilot Electric Bike Equity Project (BEEP), which concluded in September 2024. With $250,000 from the City's Climate Equity Fund, local non-profit Waterside Workshops, with assistance from GRID Alternatives, distributed 56 e-bikes to income-qualified households, benefiting 134 Berkeley residents (with additional support from a UC Berkeley Chancellor's grant). BEEP also included a youth education and workforce development program to service e-bikes and provide job training opportunities. Please visit the BEEP webpage[30] and see the BEEP Final Report[31] for more information.

[29] Ava Bike Electric: https://avaenergy.org/go-electric/e-bikes/bike-electric/

[30] Berkeley Electric Bike Equity Project: https://watersideworkshops.org/street-level-cycles/berkeley-e-bike-equity-project/

[31] City of Berkeley, Berkeley Electric Bike Equity Project Final Report: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/BEEP-Final-Report-February-2025.pdf

ELECTRIC MICROMOBILITY

City Council adopted a resolution (2021) to establish a shared electric micromobility permit program for operators to provide Berkeley residents and visitors with sustainable commute options using electric scooters and e-bikes. To ensure equitable access to electric scooters and e-bikes, operators must deploy at least 50% in designated equity priority areas and provide both income-qualified programs and accessible options, such as seated-scooters. In June 2026, the City approved two shared mobility operators (Veoride and Lime) to provide 475 stand-scooters and 525 seated-scooters in Berkeley.

A total of 1,202,849 trips, representing 1,206,532 miles, were taken on shared electric scooters and bicycles, since the program launched in 2022 through December 2025.



SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES	NUMBER IN FLEET
Stand-scooters	475
Seated-scooters	525
TOTAL SCOOTERS	**1,000**
Pedal bikes	391
E-Bikes	221
TOTAL BIKES	**612**

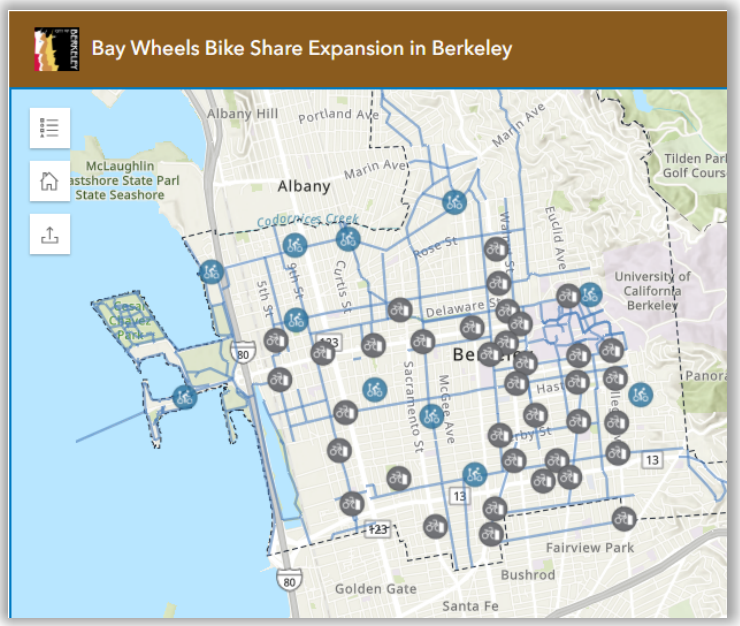
Uptake of shared mobility programs in Berkeley has increased dramatically over the past two years. The number of trips ridden on shared electric scooters and bicycles increased by 97% between 2024 and 2025.

YEAR	TRIPS	TOTAL MILES
2024	241,508	210,265
2025	475,370	423,144

ELECTRIC BICYCLE SHARE EXPANSION

In 2025, through a partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Lyft Bike[32] (formerly Bay Wheels) bike share program (operated by Lyft) added 221 e-bikes to the existing fleet of 391 pedal bikes in Berkeley, for a total of 612 bikes. In 2026, Lyft Bike installed 11 new bike share docking stations to the existing 37 stations, for a total of 48 docking stations[33]. Supporting the City's transportation equity goals, the Lyft Bike Bikeshare for All[34] program provides discounted memberships for income qualified residents.

Berkeley's 48 docking stations support 612 shared bikes.



The blue dots represent the 11 new bike share stations, and the grey dots represent the existing 37 stations

[32] Metropolitan Transportation Commission Lyft Bike Bikeshare Program: https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/traveler-services/bay-area-bike-share-program

[33] Bike Share Expansion: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/bike-share-expansion

[34] Lyft Bike Bikeshare for All: https://lyftbikes.com/bike-share-for-all

BERKELEY PIER-FERRY PROJECT

The City is working with the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) on a plan to reconstruct the currently closed Berkeley Pier at the Berkeley Marina and to add all-electric, emission-free ferry service between Berkeley and San Francisco[35]. On September 16, 2026, Governor Newsom certified the Pier-Ferry project for judicial streamlining under Senate Bill (SB) 149, which expedites the delivery of critical climate infrastructure essential to California's climate and sustainability goals. The Pier-Ferry project is currently in the design and environmental phase; the City is collaborating with WETA on detailed design, environmental analysis, and permitting.



Renderings of the Berkeley Pier-Ferry project

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

The City continues to promote the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and facilitate the installation of EV charging stations by offering streamlined permitting, educating property owners about EV charging and grant opportunities, and providing EV charging on municipal property. Based on field verification in October 2023, there are currently 129 publicly available EV charging ports in Berkeley (Level 2 and Direct Current Fast Chargers, or DCFC) in addition to at least 75 EV charging ports installed by businesses for their employees, or at multifamily apartment buildings. The City is partnering with Ava to develop public DCFC Hubs at two locations in Berkeley. In addition, local amendments to the 2025 CALGreen require levels of EV charging in new buildings in Berkeley which exceed state requirements.

[35] Berkeley Pier-Ferry project: https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/berkeley-pier-ferry-access-project

CLEAN VEHICLE ADOPTION RATE

Berkeley has a high adoption rate of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. In 2025, 15.4% of all vehicles registered in Berkeley were all-electric, plug-in hybrid, or fuel cell vehicles, compared to 7.5% statewide. Figure 3 demonstrates Berkeley's clean vehicle registrations over time.

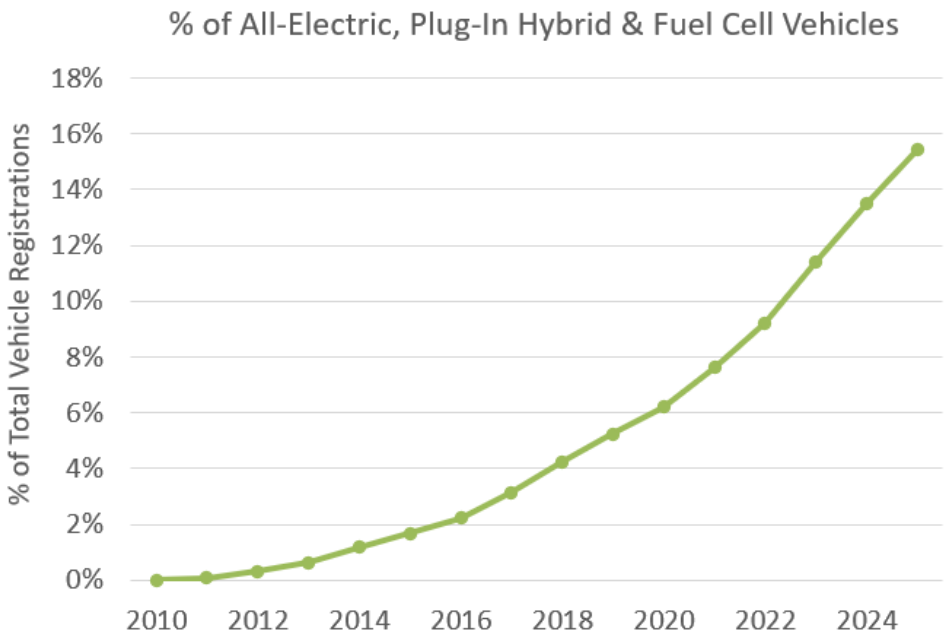


Figure 3: Clean Vehicle Adoption Rate by Year

CITY FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

Staff worked with Ava to conduct a municipal fleet electrification assessment, including a plan for EV deployment and associated charging infrastructure through 2030. The City is currently working to add EV charging for fleet vehicles at the Corporation Yard and has continued to increase the number of EVs in the municipal fleet to meet City goals and comply with the State of California's Advanced Clean Fleets regulation.



On the right, City staff showcasing a Ford F-150 Lightning electric pick-up truck at a community event

As of September 2026, the City's municipal fleet has 589 total vehicles, including heavy equipment and bicycles, with these electric models:

ELECTRIC VEHICLE TYPE	NUMBER IN FLEET
Sedan (Chevy Bolt)	35
Police Vehicles (Chevy Blazer)	2
SUV (Ford Mach-E)	9
Van	2
Pickup Truck	19
Utility Terrain Vehicle (Polaris Ranger)	1
Three-wheeled Scooter (Parking Enforcement)	2
Electric Bicycle	10
TOTAL	**80**

Additionally, the City operates an electric tractor, a boat, and two lifts.



Vita Power Seal electric boat



Monarch MK-V electric tractor

Looking ahead to 2027, the City is expected to receive 10 additional EV pickup trucks, allowing for the retirement of 10 gas vehicles from the fleet. The City is also in the process of procuring an electric car to retire a gas police car.

CITY ELECTRIC BIKE FLEET LAUNCH

In 2026, the City added e-bikes to the fleet for staff to use. City staff can now borrow an e-bike from the City's fleet to travel to meetings, attend site visits, and otherwise conduct City business.



City staff showcasing fleet e-bikes at a community event

WASTE

The City of Berkeley's Public Works Zero Waste Division leads multiple cross-departmental efforts to reduce waste, increase recycling and composting, and support food recovery at City facilities and in the community. Highlights include:



City of Berkeley organics collection truck

SENATE BILL 1383 (SB 1383)

California State Senate Bill 1383 (2016) is designed to reduce the statewide landfill disposal of organic waste like food scraps, yard trimmings, and paper products[36]. In CA, organic waste in landfills emits 20% of the state's methane, a super climate pollutant. SB 1383 requires a 75% reduction in organic waste by 2025 from a 2014 baseline and a 20% increase in recovery of edible food. To comply with SB 1383, local jurisdictions must implement additional waste reduction programs and enhanced reporting and enforcement protocols. As part of the City's Zero Waste Division SB 1383 outreach, staff educates city employees, residents, and businesses; monitors contamination; and manages an edible food recovery program.

Berkeley has 74 Edible Food Generators (i.e., restaurants and grocery stores) that donate excess edible food and eight food recovery organizations. Over 800,000 pounds of edible food were recovered last year.

[36] SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy: https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/

City AmeriCorps fellows provided 1,346 in-person conversations about zero waste and food recovery, and diverted 13,285 lbs. of food from the landfill.

The City hosted two full-time California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) fellows for the 2025-26 program year, at no cost to the City. The two CCAC fellows served in the Zero Waste Division to support SB 1383 implementation, including training City staff on proper sorting, hosting information tables at community events, and conducting outreach to Berkeley restaurants to increase food waste collection and food recovery efforts.



CA Climate Action Corps fellows at an outreach event

Zero Waste Ambassador Program

This past year the two CCAC fellows also piloted a Zero Waste Ambassador program to train residents as peer educators to increase proper sorting and SB 1383 compliance. Many of the ambassadors were college students living in multifamily buildings, where outreach can be more challenging. The successful semester-long pilot enrolled 18 ambassadors who participated in classroom and hands-on training sessions.

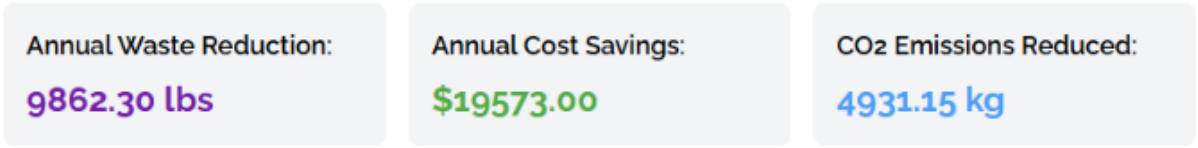
SINGLE USE DISPOSABLE (SUDS)

The City's Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, also known as SUDs (Berkeley Municipal Code, Chapter 11.64)[37], requires businesses selling prepared food for both on-site dining and takeout to follow guidelines to reduce their usage of single-use disposables, including providing reusable foodware, color-coded recycling and compost bins, and compostable takeout containers.

Zero Waste staff and CCAC fellows conducted outreach to local food-serving businesses, offering free technical assistance and up to $500 from StopWaste to purchase reusable foodware containers. During their 2025-26 service year, the CCAC fellows provided on-site technical assistance and mini grants to 19 businesses, with 97 businesses receiving outreach and education.

Additionally, in 2024-25, 13 businesses received ReThink Disposable[38] mini grants to convert to reusable foodware for on-site dining and Okapi[39] signed up four businesses to participate in reusable take-out cup pilots reusable foodware for on-site dining.

Awarding mini grants to switch to reusables is estimated to have increased diversion by almost 10,000 pounds per year.



Impact of 13 Re-Think Disposable mini grants

[37] City of Berkeley Single-Use Foodware Rules: https://berkeleyca.gov/doing-business/operating-berkeley/food-service/single-use-foodware-rules

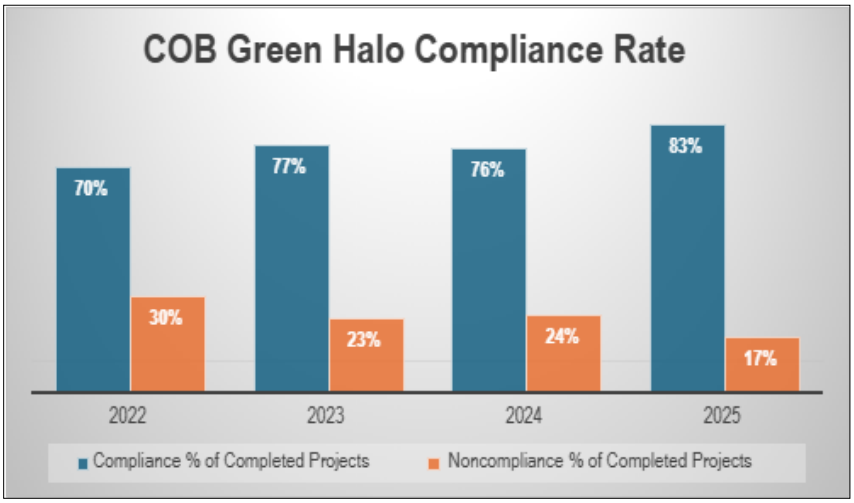
38 ReThink Disposable: https://cleanwaterfund.org/campaign/rethink-disposable

39 Okapi Reusables: https://www.okapi-reusables.com/

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS DIVERSION

The City requires construction projects to reuse or recycle construction and demolition debris at a rate that exceeds State requirements (Berkeley Municipal Code, Chapter 19.37). Zero Waste staff now participate in the plan check process for new construction projects, to help architects and contractors understand and comply with Zero Waste requirements before breaking ground on new developments and renovations. Projects are tracked through Green Halo.

From August 2024 to January 2026 staff reviewed 717 new construction plans, helping to increase Green Halo compliance.



Green Halo Compliance Rate

ZERO WASTE PSA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

In 2026, the City began rolling out a variety of public service messages around composting, food waste, reusables, proper sorting, and more at BART stations and on billboards, AC Transit buses, Amazon lockers, gas pump toppers, convenience store and pharmacy posters, and via Google ads. Soon, City of Berkeley collection trucks will display banners.



Banner to be displayed on City collection trucks

Zero Waste staff are producing a series of digital ads and educational videos for event organizers and contractors about the Green Halo program and construction and site-sorting requirements.

These efforts, along with in-person training for all new City employees and a new annual online training course for other City staff, are designed to increase diversion rates.

960 employees have received training on SB1383 and proper sorting.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement and outreach, including programs, training, and events, provide resources to residents, businesses, and municipal employees to advance the City's climate and resilience goals. The City strives to engage a broad cross-section of community members and, through equitable programs, focuses on resilient communities that have been marginalized and are most impacted by climate change.

Recent equitable engagement efforts include the City's partnership with the Community Advisory Committee to elevate the voices of resilient community members to identify the priorities and strategies in the City's General Plan new draft Environmental Justice Element and updated draft Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element (see the *Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley* project on page 47).

The City's Climate Equity Fund Community Engagement Pilot, which concluded in 2025, informed the development of the Community Advisory Committee. Through the Community Engagement Pilot, the Ecology Center facilitated a partnership of community-based organizations that co-created climate and community engagement best practices and distributed resilience resources to income-qualified residents. The Community Engagement Pilot final report is now available online[40].



City Planning & Development Department staff members talk with a community member at the Central Library as part of the Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley project

[40] Climate Equity Fund Community Engagement Pilot Final Report: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/Ecology-Center-CEPF-Final-Report-Appendices.pdf

EQUITABLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

In April 2025, the City released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for On-Call Equitable Community Engagement Services, soliciting written proposals from qualified firms, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, or individuals to assist with equitably engaging the Berkeley community, particularly adversely impacted and/or historically disadvantaged members of the community, on various City projects, programs, and/or policies. This RFQ, developed through a citywide multi-departmental collaboration, aims to create a bench of on-call organizations and firms to support a wide array of needs across the City and make our engagement efforts more equitable. In January 2026, City Council passed resolutions to enter into 5-year contracts with nine firms to participate in this on-call bench[41].

SUN DAY BERKELEY

On September 21, 2025, the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development supported *Sun Day Berkeley*[42] in partnership with a dedicated volunteer team of Berkeley residents. Sun Day Berkeley, a new community event, was part of an international celebration of clean energy and local climate action. Approximately 350 community members came to Willard Park and Clubhouse to celebrate, learn, and make new connections. The event featured e-bike test rides, an exhibition hall showcasing local government, nonprofit agencies, and clean energy technology companies, a kids' zone with sun art, a smoothie bike, and solar oven s'mores, an inspiring speaker panel, and a community picnic. Volunteers of all ages – from Berkeley High School, UC Berkeley, the Rotary Club, and more – supported all facets of Sun Day.

[41] On-Call Equitable Community Engagement Services Contract Resolutions: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/2026-01-27%20Item%2007%20Contracts%20On-Call%20Equitable.pdf

[42] Sun Day Berkeley: https://actionnetwork.org/events/sun-day-community-celebration-berkeley



E-bike test rides with Rad Power and Bay Wheels. Participants learned about the Ava Bike Electric rebate program and Bay Wheels Bikeshare for All discounts at Sun Day.



Community groups such as Rebuilding Together East Bay Network share home repair and electrification resources for seniors and income-qualified residents at Sun Day.

EAST BAY GREEN@HOME TOURS



Building on the success of the virtual home tours (2021-2024), the City now partners with the Bay Area nonprofit Acterra[43] to implement the in-person East Bay Green@Home Tour. The tours spotlight a variety of homes in Berkeley and neighboring cities that have embraced electrification, offering attendees a firsthand look at the benefits of replacing gas-powered appliances with cleaner, more efficient electric alternatives. The tours also showcase other energy- and water-saving features, as well as eco-friendly building materials and practices. Office of Energy & Sustainable Development staff, City AmeriCorps fellows, and Berkeley residents served as greeters at various sites for both the 2025 and 2026 tours. At both events, Berkeley residents made up the largest share of registered attendees, and the Berkeley homes on the tours received the most visits.

The success of the Green@Home Tour program continues to grow:

Tour Date	Tour Sites	Attendees	Total Visits
June 7, 2025	18	156	350
June 6, 2026	21	290	547

"It was amazing seeing real live examples, and how others started their journey. I feel more prepared." (2025 Green@Home Tour attendee)

"The tour made electrification feel more practical and achievable by showing real examples, costs and steps I can take in my own home—super helpful." (2026 Green@Home Tour attendee)

On the right, City staff greets participants at one of the Berkeley homes on the 2026 Green@Home Tour



[43] Acterra: https://acterra.org/

BUSINESS OUTREACH

The Office of Economic Development (OED) leads efforts to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint. Through its quarterly newsletters, presentations, one-to-one meetings with business owners, and outreach to local Business Districts, OED promotes grants, programs and other resources that help businesses upgrade their buildings, operate with environmental responsibility, and comply with City sustainability policies. OED also has a partnership with the Alameda County Green Business program which has enrolled 181 Berkeley businesses, and has supported 108 Berkeley businesses in achieving state-recognized green business certification.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE SUSTAINABILITY & ZERO WASTE TRAINING

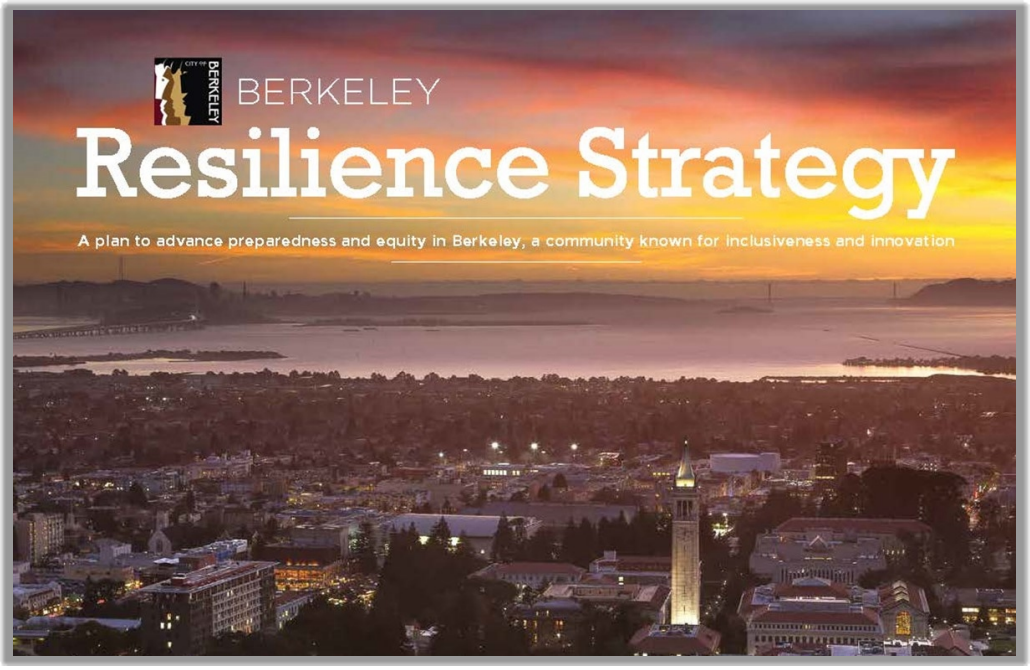
Starting in 2024, the Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, in partnership with the Zero Waste Division, began delivering bi-weekly training to new employees, presenting on Berkeley's climate and environmental leadership and resources to green the office. The training includes an interactive sorting activity to increase recycling and composting at City facilities. Additionally, staff delivered sustainability and zero waste training to current employees during staff meetings and special department events. As of September 30, 2026, 960 employees have participated in this training.

960 employees have received sustainability and zero waste training.

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

The City strives to strengthen and prepare the community for shocks and stresses, including adapting to the impacts of climate change. The City's resilience efforts, as outlined in the 2016 Resilience Strategy, include the following goals:

1. Build a connected and prepared community
2. Accelerate access to reliable and clean energy
3. Adapt to the changing climate
4. Advance racial equity
5. Excel at working together within City government to better serve the community
6. Build regional resilience



Many City departments, including Planning, Public Works, Parks Recreation and Waterfront, Health, Housing and Community Services, and Fire, are coordinating efforts to enhance resilience and help Berkeley adapt to a changing climate. A summary of programs is provided below.

PREPARED, SAFE, AND HEALTHY BERKELEY PROJECT



The City of Berkeley is updating its General Plan Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element and creating a new Environmental Justice Element. The Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element serves as a roadmap for reducing risk and enhancing resilience across Berkeley, organizing policies and programs into interconnected strategies that address hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness, and long-term recovery. The Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element will include the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was most recently adopted in 2024.

The Environmental Justice Element advances health equity, considers longstanding patterns of environmental harm, and strengthens community resilience. It provides a framework to reduce pollution burdens, improve access to essential services, expand opportunities for meaningful and productive civic participation, and safeguard the cultural identity of communities most affected by historical and ongoing inequities.



Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley community engagement event at the Ed Roberts Center

The City received a $497,042 grant from the State of California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) for this project. The Ecology Center, the City's community partner on this project, led equity-driven engagement with a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of organizations serving resilient communities that have been marginalized and impacted first and hardest by climate change. The team also received a $15,000 grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors' Network to compensate the CAC and create equitable memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for their partnership and time. The project team worked closely with the CAC to co-create the goals, policies, and programs that are included in both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. The project team also hosted several community events to gather input and ideas on how the City can create policies that better prepare Berkeley for natural disasters and climate change and reduce exposure to pollution. The City released the Draft Elements in September 2026 for public review. The Draft Elements will be brought to the Planning Commission and then to City Council in early 2027 for consideration and adoption. The Draft Elements, associated CEQA documents, and other project resources are available on the project's website[44].

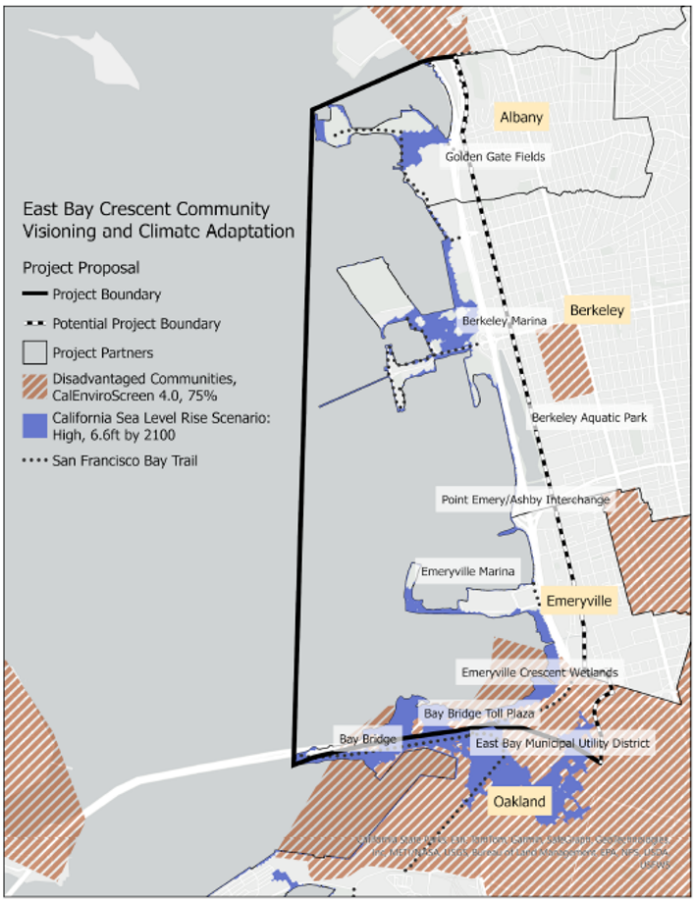


Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley community engagement event with Food, Faith, & Justice members

[44] Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley for All: https://berkeleyca.gov/construction-development/land-use-development/general-plan-and-area-plans/prepared-safe-and-healthy

EAST BAY CRESCENT SB1 GRANT PROJECT

Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) directs the state to fund local and regional governments to develop sea level rise adaptation plans and implementation projects. The California Ocean Protection Council SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program awarded the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)/San Francisco Estuary Partnership, in partnership with the Cities of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and Oakland, $2,240,000 over two and a half years for the East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project. Of the total grant amount, Berkeley will receive $223,151.



The East Bay Crescent Sub-Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Adaptation Planning project will advance sea-level rise adaptation along the shorelines of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and a portion of Oakland, from the Bay Bridge/Radio Beach to Cerritos Creek. This unique multi-jurisdictional collaboration will result in a coordinated approach to adaptation in the area. Key components include development of a Working Group and Equity Committee that will result in a vulnerability assessment, with sub-regionally coordinated, but distinct, shoreline adaptation plans for the City of Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville that adhere to the state-required San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan guidelines. The project begins in Fall 2026.

SEA LEVEL RISE

In 2019, the City completed the Draft Sea-Level Rise Assessment Study as required by Assembly Bill 691. Preliminary findings indicate that three locations at the Berkeley Waterfront may experience periodic flooding by 2050 during a 100-year storm and King tide. The East Bay Crescent SB1 project (described above) will provide additional sea level rise analysis and planning efforts.

GROUNDWATER RISE

Shallow groundwater in coastal communities will rise as sea levels rise, increasing the risk of flooding communities from below. The City participated in a project funded by a 2020–2022 California Resilience Challenge grant, led by the San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center. The final report[45] provides groundwater mapping for existing and future conditions, suggestions on how to use this dataset for planning purposes, recommendations for additional modeling and assessments, and potential next steps. The City built upon this work by evaluating the impact of shallow groundwater rise and sea level rise on toxic materials stored underground, through an analysis[46] conducted as part of the Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley Project. The East Bay Crescent SB1 project (described above) will provide additional sea level rise analysis and planning efforts.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

In 2025, the City established Effective Mitigations for Berkeley's Ember Resilience (EMBER), a wildfire mitigation initiative aimed at reducing the risk of home ignition from wildfire embers, particularly in areas prone to wind-driven embers. The ordinance establishes new fire safety standards, including a Zone 0 buffer around homes where no combustible materials are allowed within five feet of the structure. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance fire safety and resilience in Berkeley's neighborhoods, especially those on the urban-wildland interface (WUI). The Fire Department's WUI Division assumed a leadership role in wildfire mitigation and readiness that extended well beyond Berkeley, including the development and adoption of EMBER, the advancement of Zone 0 standards[47], supporting original research and testing, and extensive community engagement that positioned the City at the forefront of evidence-based wildfire mitigation.

---

[45] San Francisco Estuary Institute: Shallow Groundwater Response to Sea Level Rise: https://www.sfei.org/projects/shallow-groundwater-response-sea-level-rise

[46] Ground Water Analysis: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-06/Ground%20Water%20Analysis%20Report%202025-02.pdf

[47] Zone 0 Standards: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-12-02%20Item%2041%20Adoption%20of%20and%20Amendments.pdf



Mailer sent to Berkeley Zone 0 residents

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE

The Berkeley Ready program has continued to engage in many community-facing efforts. Staff offered four rounds of Community Emergency Response Team classes, five Fire Safety classes, 16 Evacuation Planning classes, and 10 basic disaster preparedness classes. Classes were offered at libraries, in neighborhoods, online, and at special events. Staff also secured a Neighbor-to-Neighbor AmeriCorps grant, hosting two full-time fellows to work on building neighborhood connections and volunteer capacity. Throughout their year of service, fellows strengthened neighborhood connections through social events and equipped local neighborhood leaders to advance disaster preparedness and community resilience. Staff are now offering regular trainings for neighborhood leaders to bring back disaster preparedness information and opportunities for social connection and volunteering to their communities.

NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AND STAFF TRAINING

In 2026, the City of Berkeley opened its new Fire Department headquarters, which also serves as the City's primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The facility offers expanded technical capabilities and more space for staff to work together in person during emergency activations, supporting communication, coordination, and decision-making across departments. Alongside this investment in infrastructure, the City has trained 104 staff members to serve in the EOC during disasters. Together, the new facility and trained personnel strengthen Berkeley's capacity to coordinate emergency operations, respond to community needs, and support recovery.

TREE CANOPY EQUITY

The City of Berkeley's Urban Forestry Unit manages a vibrant urban forest of approximately 40,000 trees along streets, in parks, and in medians. This management includes preserving and maintaining our existing resource and planting and growing the next generation of trees.

Measure Y (2024) increased the Parks Tax and allowed the Parks Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) Department to add two full-time staff to form a tree-planting crew. This enables consistent planting, watering, and young-tree care for our growing urban forest.
New street trees are planted primarily via direct resident requests. All site preparation, materials, and labor occur at no direct cost to the residents. Park and median tree planting are ongoing, inspired by areas of need or in tandem with other PRW capital improvement projects.

The Urban Forestry Unit offers three to five volunteer planting events each year to further increase new tree planting efforts and involve the community while planting trees in park spaces.





(Left) A community volunteer helps plant a new tree along the Aquatic Park lagoon; (Right) Arbor Day volunteer tree planting at the Berkeley Waterfront

In addition, the Urban Foresty Division manages multiple grant funded projects:

- $1 million, US Forest Service grant to plant 1,000 trees (2024-2027). 800 trees have been planted; the remainder will be planted by January 2027.
- $500,000 California Natural Resources Agency grant to plant 700 trees in streets and parks within 1.5 miles of I-580 (2026-2028). Project to begin November 2026.
- $186,000 from Alameda County Transportation Commission to replant 100 recently removed trees from Union Pacific Railroad property on the east side of Aquatic Park (2026-2028). This major project will include planting over 1,000 new native trees, shrubs, and pollinator plants along the east side of the park. The project is currently in the planning and public process phase.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

Pollinator gardens support bees and other insects and provide habitat and food for birds, reptiles and amphibians. Pollinator gardens also conserve water and sequester carbon from the atmosphere, while providing access to natural spaces in urban environments. Since 2020 several Berkeley parks and medians have been renovated in collaboration with the community to create space for native pollinator gardens and corridors.

Below are two of the larger projects installed this year:





(Left) ***South Cove West Parking Lot & Bioswale Installation****: 907 California native plants and grasses were installed, and seven new trees were planted;* ***Dock Landscaping Improvements for Opening of new Capital Improvement Project****: (Right) 182 California native plants and grasses were installed, and eight new trees were planted.*

Looking ahead, the City plans to install 198 new native plants and grasses in the Skates on the Bay Parking Lot Bioswale project (scheduled install Fall 2026) and to install 82 native plants and grasses in 201 University Avenue Marina Operations Office Landscape Improvements (scheduled install Fall/Winter 2026-27).

BAY AREA CLIMATE ADAPTATION NETWORK (BAYCAN)

Berkeley is a founding member and participates in the Executive Committee of the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN), a network of local government staff helping coordinate an effective and equitable response to the impacts of climate change. BayCAN works to share best practices, develop opportunities for collaboration and program implementation, and secure funding and resources for equitable climate adaptation.

CONCLUSION

The City, in partnership with the community, has many accomplishments to celebrate since the 2025 update – home electrifications, high road jobs, lighting retrofits, safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, expanded bike share and shared mobility options, less food and foodware in the waste stream, community engagement events, wildfire mitigation, new trees and pollinator gardens, and more. These actions improve Berkeley's well-being and resilience and help achieve the goal to become net-zero carbon by 2045.

Berkeley's continued commitment and investment in implementing policies and programs that reduce GHG emissions and improve community resilience are critical. The United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement on January 27, 2026, and federal programs supporting electrification and other transitions away from fossil fuels have been dismantled. As a result, local governments, regional agencies, and states play an even more important role in climate action. Berkeley's leadership, innovation, and collaboration are vital to powering the climate progress needed at this time.

APPENDIX 1: BERKELEY GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY (2022 & 2023)

Based on the best available data from 2023, the Berkeley community reduced overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 41% since 2000. There are three important considerations:

- Berkeley's emission reduction and fossil fuel free goals were set in the context of a growing population, so the 2023 emissions reductions were achieved with a 16% increase in population from the 2000 baseline.
- UC Berkeley and the Berkeley Lab are not included in Berkeley's GHG emissions inventory because their campuses are outside of the City's jurisdiction. However, both institutions track their own emissions reduction goals and are engaged community partners in addressing climate change. Learn more about these efforts online.[48]
- The transportation emissions methodology changed starting in 2018. Prior to 2018, the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Travel Model One, was used to calculate transportation sector emissions; but that model could not account for changes to yearly commuting patterns or impacts from events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in 2018, transportation data emissions are calculated through Google's Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) which estimates vehicle miles based on aggregated and anonymized location history data.

To note, the previous greenhouse gas inventory, based on data from 2021, utilized Google EIE data and used national data to estimate the total miles traveled and fuel efficiency by each fuel category (gasoline, diesel, electricity, etc.). For this inventory, staff was able to use local data for Alameda County for the fuel category breakdown. Alameda County data can account for local fuel efficiencies and electric vehicle adoption rates which are above the national average. Due to the change to local data for the fuel category breakdown, the updated emissions inventories for 2018-2021 are lower than what was originally calculated and reported to Council.

Berkeley's community-wide GHG emissions totaled 455,412 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($mtCO_2e$) in 2022 and 432,806 $mtCO_2e$ in 2023.

[48] UC Berkeley 2024 Sustainability Report https://sustainabilityreport.ucop.edu/2024/locations/uc-berkeley/ and the Berkeley Lab 2024 Sustainability Report https://sustainabilityreport.ucop.edu/2024/locations/lawrence-berkeley-national-lab/

Figure 1 is a pie chart of the 2023 community-wide GHG emissions inventory broken down by sector and fuel. The majority of Berkeley's GHG emissions continue to come from the transportation and building sectors.

The transportation sector was the largest source of 2023 GHG emissions, accounting for 58% (249,028 $mtCO_2e$)[49] and includes vehicles, BART, AC Transit, Amtrak and maritime vessels. The building sector was the second largest source of emissions in 2023 and accounted for 39% (168,453 $mtCO_2e$)[50] of community-wide emissions. Energy usage data for Berkeley buildings, provided by Ava and PG&E, is broken down into residential and commercial (including industrial) buildings — for both electricity use and natural gas (gas) combustion.

Emissions from municipal energy use accounts for 0.4% (1,516 $mtCO_2e$)[51] of the 2023 community-wide GHG emissions. Municipal energy consumption includes city buildings and other uses like streetlights and traffic signals. The remaining 3% (13,808 $mtCO_2e$)[52] of Berkeley's community-wide GHG emissions come from landfilled solid waste, water consumption, and wastewater treatment.

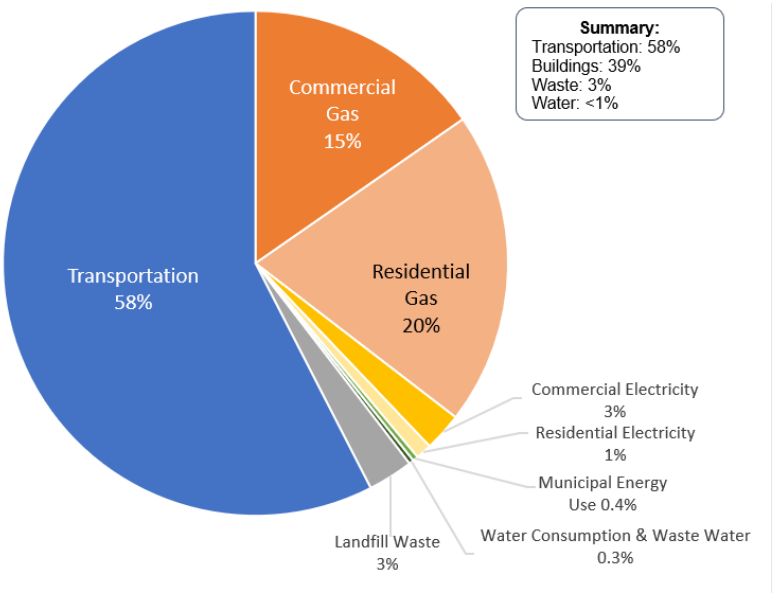


Figure 1: 2023 Berkeley GHG Emissions Inventory, by Sector and Fuel

[49] The transportation sector accounted for 55% (252,377 $mtCO_2e$) in 2022

[50] The building sector accounted for 41% (187,662 $mtCO_2e$) in 2022.

[51] Emissions from municipal energy use accounted for 0.3% (1,293 $mtCO_2e$) in 2022.

[52] Landfilled solid waste, water consumption, and wastewater treatment accounted for 3% (14,080 $mtCO_2e$) in 2022.

To identify and quantify reductions achieved, the most current community emissions from 2023 are compared to the Climate Action Plan (CAP) baseline year of 2000. A historic summary of Berkeley's annual emissions inventories from 2000 to 2023 is provided in **Figure 2**[53].

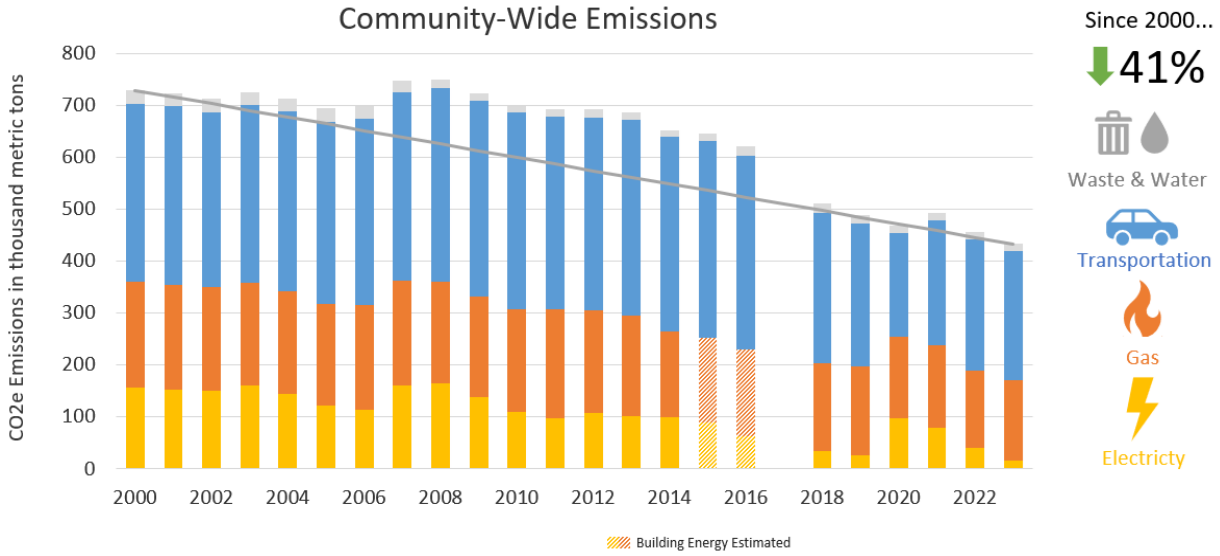


Figure 2: Berkeley GHG Emissions Inventories including Sectors (2000-2023)

Community-wide GHG emissions in 2023 decreased 41% from the 2000 baseline. As mentioned, due to the change in methodology in calculating transportation sector emissions there is a significant drop in emissions in 2018. From 2018 to 2023, community-wide emissions decreased by 15%. Berkeley's original CAP goal of reducing GHG emissions by 80% from 2000 levels by 2050 was superseded by a commitment by the Berkeley City Council to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2045 or sooner, requiring an additional 59% reduction of GHG emissions over the next 20 years.

BUILDING SECTOR EMISSIONS

Overall GHG emissions from Berkeley's building sector decreased by 10% from 2022 to 2023 and are 53% below 2000 levels. Total community-wide electricity usage has decreased by 36% since 2000. Total community-wide natural gas usage decreased by 6% from 2021 to 2022 and increased by 4% from 2022 to 2023. Community-wide natural gas usage remains 24% below 2000 levels.

[53] Due to data access issues, the City was not provided with energy use data in 2015 and 2016, so building energy usage was estimated using assumptions and is represented with shaded coloring. No inventory was calculated for 2017, so that year of data is omitted.

IMPACTS TO BERKELEY'S BUILDING SECTOR EMISSIONS:

- Transition to Ava Renewable 100 – Starting in 2022, all Berkeley customers were automatically opted-up into Ava's Renewable 100. This transition yielded a 62% decrease in emissions from city-wide electricity usage in 2023 from 2022 as many residents and businesses transitioned to Ava's Renewable 100 plan.
- Ava Bright Choice Electricity Emission Factor – The emission factor for Ava's default electricity product, Bright Choice, remains significantly higher than PG&E's base product, but has decreased 37% since 2020. The Bright Choice product accounts for 12% of Berkeley's 2023 community-wide electricity consumption. Ava is committed to providing 100% emissions-free Bright Choice by 2030.

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR EMISSIONS

Overall GHG emissions from Berkeley's transportation decreased 14% from 2018, the most recent GHG inventory using the new methodology for on-road vehicles. Emissions from on-road vehicles are calculated using total miles traveled provided by Google Environmental Insights Explorer[54]. While total miles traveled by on-road vehicles decreased by approximately 37 million miles (roughly 6%) in 2023 compared to 2018, emissions from on-road vehicles decreased by approximately 40,000 metric tons of CO2e (roughly 14%). The decrease in emissions outpaced the reduction in miles traveled due to the increase of plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles.

LANDFILL SOLID WASTE EMISSIONS

Total community-wide landfill solid waste and overall emissions from the waste sector decreased by 2% in 2023 compared to 2022, placing current waste sector emissions 47% below the 2000 baseline.

[54] Google Environmental Insights Explorer: https://insights.sustainability.google/