



# GREEN RIVERSIDE ACTION PLAN



In the summer of 2005, I appointed a Clean & Green Task Force that included community leaders from a wide range of academic campuses, business interests, civic organizations, communities of faith, and professions.

The result of the excellent work of the Task Force was the Sustainable Riverside Policy Statement and an outstanding detailed report, with a practical emphasis on how the City can implement cleaner, greener, and more sustainable policies.



The Task Force also developed guidelines for a Clean and Green City:

**Save Water, Keep it Clean, Make it Solar, Make it Shady, Clean the Air, Save Fuel, Make it Smart, and Build Green.**

With the goal of transforming the policy statement into an implementation plan, staff developed this 38 point Clean and Green Sustainable Riverside Action Plan, or simply the **Green Action Plan**.

Major benefits of the Green Action Plan include improved air quality, reduction of traffic congestion, increased accessibility and use of parks and open space, and will allow Riverside to further its advancement as an urban, exciting and diverse community.

The City's policies should support good practices with incentives created and modified as we learn about how to develop our own sustainable community. We should encourage change by finding ways to reward good behavior and lead by example. I encourage you to read this Plan and spread the word. More information can be found online at [www.GreenRiverside.com](http://www.GreenRiverside.com) or on my web page, [www.riversideca.gov/mayor](http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor).

It is time for Riverside to take the lead as a Sustainable City. With the community's involvement, we can, and should become a Clean & Green City and an example of what's possible.

Ronald O. Loveridge  
Mayor



# GREEN RIVERSIDE ACTION PLAN

The City of Riverside is committed to becoming a clean, green and sustainable community. Following the Mayor's State of the City Address in January 2007, the City Council approved the Sustainable Riverside Policy Statement (SRPS). The Clean and Green Task Force framed the SRPS with a practical emphasis on how the City could implement cleaner, greener and more sustainable programs. The Council also directed the City Manager to take the necessary steps to become a model solar city in Southern California and supported the Mayor's endorsement of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement of 2005.

To further Riverside's commitment to a clean, green and sustainable future, the Clean and Green Sustainable Riverside Action Plan was developed. Successful implementation of the Action Plan will ensure sustainable growth while preserving the health of the local environment for generations. The Action Plan is a working document to be continually reviewed with progress reports to be presented to the City Council at least annually.

Reinforcing the blueprint set forth in the SRPS and the goals of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Action Plan highlights seven vital areas of city life:

## Energy

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### Waste

### Urban Design

## Urban Nature

### Transportation

### Water

A first step in addressing the seven vital areas is promoting educational awareness of sustainable living. The Action Plan provides a framework that goes beyond City Hall, envisioning Riverside as an environmental leader in the region and country. However, Riverside cannot accomplish these goals on its own. Outreach and cooperation with local schools, colleges/universities and surrounding communities is essential. Programs such as the Green Valley Initiative between Riverside and San Bernardino Counties will assist in providing the region with a cohesive quality of life focus and a sustainable economy.

With the commitment of the Mayor and City Council, City staff and the business and residential communities, Riverside will become a clean, green and sustainable community through the implementation of the achievable action steps listed below.

## Energy

Riverside is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power that achieves a balance between high quality, low cost energy and the environmental impacts of providing those energy resources.

**ITEM 1** · Adopt and implement a policy to increase the use of renewable energy to meet 33% of the City's electric load by 2020.

**ITEM 2** · Promote Riverside as a Solar City by implementing programs for residential and commercial customers that will increase solar generation in the City to 1 MW by 2015 (enough for 1,000 homes), and 3 MW by 2020.

**ITEM 3** · Generate at least 10 MW (enough for 10,000 homes) of electric load from regional zero emissions sources by 2025.

**ITEM 4** · Reduce the City's per capita base load energy consumption by 10% through energy efficiency and conservation programs by 2016.

**ITEM 5** · Implement programs to encourage load shifting to off-peak hours and explore demand response solutions by the end of 2008.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Riverside is situated in a semi-arid region of Southern California where water resources are dependent on local snow pack and rainfall. As regional temperatures rise and the threat of reduced local precipitation exists, Riversiders are reminded that doing their part to reduce global warming is a local issue. Additionally, Riverside experiences an above-average level of air pollution given its proximity east of Los Angeles and west of the San Bernardino Mountains that essentially “locks-in” smog in the region’s basin. While the City continues to make efforts to reduce pollution through emission reduction measures, additional steps must be created and implemented to improve air quality. Electric Utility greenhouse gas emission targets will meet those jointly developed at State and Federal levels as resources cover many of the Western United States.

**ITEM 6** · Establish the 1990 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission baseline for the City government on a per capita basis by the end of 2008.

**ITEM 7** · Implement a climate action plan that will reduce GHG emissions by 7% of the 1990 municipal baseline by 2012.

**ITEM 8** · Develop a calculation for and establish the 1990 GHG emissions baseline on a per capita basis for the City of Riverside as a geographic locale by the end of 2009.

**ITEM 9** · Utilizing the City boundaries as defined in 2008, implement a climate action plan to reduce GHG emissions by 7% of the of the 1990 City baseline by 2012.

**ITEM 10** · Establish programs that comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the City’s General Plan 2025 to improve the quality of air in Riverside.

**ITEM 11** · Aggressively support programs at the AQMD that reduce GHG and particulate matter generation in the Los Angeles and Orange County regions to improve air quality and reduce pollution in Riverside.

## Waste Reduction

Solid waste prevention and recycling can help reduce climate change impacts as less solid waste decreases the amount of heat-trapping GHG emissions linked to everyday trash. Riverside is committed, through programs like CURE (Clean Up Riverside’s Environment) and Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB) to promote the basic principles of recycle, reduce, reuse. Also, in August 2007, the City Council directed the City Manager to develop and implement a Green Purchasing Policy to promote City purchasing of environmentally preferable products.

**ITEM 12** · Implement programs to encourage and increase participation of diverted waste from landfills by 2% before the end of 2008.

**ITEM 13** · Develop measures to encourage that a minimum of 40% of the waste from all construction sites be recycled throughout Riverside by the end of 2008.

**ITEM 14** · Encourage the reduction of any disposable, toxic, or nonrenewable products by 5% through program creation by 2009.

**ITEM 15** · Implement educational programs to promote green purchasing throughout the community before 2009.

## Urban Design

The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing regions in the state and nation. In order for Riverside to meet the demands of its existing and anticipated residential and business community, we must adhere to the smart growth goals established in the General Plan 2025. These goals include pedestrian-friendly, high-density, mixed-use and transit-oriented developments that utilize fewer natural resources. Also, Riverside must be dedicated to attracting more green industry into the region to operate sustainable businesses through the assistance of the Economic Development Division and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

**ITEM 16** · Establish a policy that mandates a green building rating system standard that applies to all new municipal buildings over 5,000 square feet by January 1, 2008.

**ITEM 17** · Implement programs to encourage green buildings in the private sector by January 1, 2008.

**ITEM 18** · Encourage programs to establish green operations and maintenance for public and private sector businesses before 2009.

**ITEM 19** · Apply urban planning principles that encourage high density, mixed-use, walkable/bikeable neighborhoods, and coordinate land-use and transportation with open space systems in 2008.

**ITEM 20** · Meet the environmentally sensitive goals of the General Plan 2025 specified in the Mitigation Monitoring Program of the Environmental Impact Report, and the Implementation Plan following the timelines set forth in each.

**ITEM 21** · Evaluate programs to address indoor air quality issues by the end of 2008.

## Urban Nature

Preservation, expansion and protection of our open spaces are of the utmost importance in maintaining the quality of life for Riverside residents. The parks system is comprised of 51 parks totaling 2,500 acres. Additionally, the 100,000 Tree by 2010 Initiative commits Riverside to expanding the urban forest by 100,000 trees by 2010. Since 2000, over 67,000 trees have been planted and the City is on its way to not only meet, but exceed its tree goal. To guarantee Riverside remains a green city, we must continue to plant trees and preserve park and natural habitat for future generations.

**ITEM 22** · Strengthen the City's existing trail inventory while providing a 75% increase of passive recreation and multi-use trails by 2015.

**ITEM 23** · Ensure that there is an accessible park, recreational, or public open space within a 1/2 mile of 90% of City residents by 2015.

**ITEM 24** · Plant at least 1,000 trees in City parks and right-of-ways and encourage the planting of at least 3,000 shade trees on private property annually.

**ITEM 25** · While actively protecting critical habitat corridors, coordinate with the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to develop and implement a plan to protect natural habitat and wildlife through increasing the amount of preserve and reserve areas in the City by 150 acres by 2009

## Transportation

While transportation is crucial to the economy and our personal lives, the environmental impacts of transportation are equally significant and wide ranging. Today's cars and trucks burn fuel 35% more efficiently with 95% less emissions than 30 years ago, but the continuing increase in vehicle miles traveled has slowed the progress toward environmentally sustainable transportation. It is vital that the City adopt strategies that improve regional mobility and vehicle emissions.

**ITEM 26** · Synchronize traffic signals along primary City arterials by the end of 2008.

**ITEM 27** · Implement a program to design, construct or close at least one of the 26 railroad grade separations each year.

**ITEM 28** · Reconstruct at least two freeway/street interchanges by 2012.

**ITEM 29** · Increase the number of clean vehicles in the non-emergency City fleet to at least 60% by 2010.

**ITEM 30** · Encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation, not just recreation, by increasing the number of bike trails by 15 miles and bike lanes by 111 miles throughout the City before 2025.

**ITEM 31** · Develop programs to reduce mobile sources of pollution, such as encouraging the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles or lower emission hybrids and plug-ins for the residential and business community before 2009.

**ITEM 32** · Promote and encourage the use of alternative methods of transportation throughout the community by providing programs to City employees that can be duplicated by local businesses.

**ITEM 33** · Implement a regional transit program between educational facilities by 2010.

**ITEM 34** · Coordinate a plan with local agencies to expand affordable convenient public transit that will assist in reducing the per capita vehicle trips within the City limits by 2009.

## Water

With California's Mediterranean climate, unpredictable rainfall and growing population, the state's water supply is facing some of the most significant challenges seen in the last half-century. While great strides in water conservation and efficiency programs have been made, the collective impacts of record drought, climate change, increased population, court-ordered import reductions and the potential for natural disasters dictates that additional conservation measures must be taken in order to continue to provide safe and reliable water to Riverside's customers.

**ITEM 35** · Develop and implement a public education outreach program that addresses the discharge

of preventable contaminants into the sanitary sewer system by Riverside residents and businesses by 2009 (example: no pharmaceuticals or paint down the drain).

**ITEM 36** · Develop recycling methods and expand existing uses for recycled wastewater by 2015.

**ITEM 37** · Increase the use of recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant to recover 15,000 acre feet or 30% of plant effluent by 2020.

**ITEM 38** · Implement water efficiency, conservation and education programs to reduce the City's per capita potable water usage by 15% by 2025.