



California Energy Commission
2009 Integrated Energy Policy Report Staff Workshop
August 11, 2009 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Hearing Room A
Energy Aware Planning Guide

First published in 1993 by the California Energy Commission, the *Energy Aware Planning Guide* is a community-development planning tool designed to be used by local governments to assist in their General Plan development. The document contains a wealth of ideas, opportunities and important information for understanding many of the complex linkages between energy, land-use planning, air quality, transportation and economics.

Today, local and regional governments are facing new challenges to adopt and implement policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG). The Guide will be updated in Fall 2009 to more fully address the many specific linkages between local actions, energy use, and GHG emissions. The updated guide will be useful to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs), environmental organizations, cities, and counties.

Inside the Guide

The *Energy Aware Planning Guide* update will include:

- Strategies to improve the efficiency of travel, water use and management, buildings, and facilities and to reduce costs and improve health. Each Strategy section will include general plan language ideas, implementation ideas, potential energy savings and benefits, case studies, and links to additional resources.
- A new chapter addressing the integration of regional land use and transportation planning, blueprint planning, and the role of both in energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.
- An updated Energy Action Plan which will be a step-by-step guide for performing a regional energy analysis and a comprehensive energy efficiency and resource plan to support the preparation of Regional Energy and Climate Change Plans and City/County Energy and Climate Change Elements to General Plans.
- New strategies, background sections, and discussions of topics such as Mixed Use and Transit-Oriented Development, Complete Streets & Street Design, Distributed Generation, state GHG emission reduction requirements, and legislation such as Assembly Bill 32 and Senate Bill 375.
- Graphics, drawings and photographs, calculation methods, research data, and design and policy suggestions to help jurisdictions incorporate specific ideas into community plans and programs.
- Appendices of emission factors, contacts for developing transportation programs, and the Ahwahnee Principles for planning more livable communities.

Using the Guide

The *Energy Aware Planning Guide* can be used to:

- Reduce traffic congestion and air pollution - adopting effective land use and transportation policies can help urban areas reduce congestion and air pollution and rural areas deal with the pressures of rapid growth.
- Help implement and support air quality plans - by implementing strong general plan policies and programs to improve air quality, local governments can maintain land use control by reducing or eliminating the need for air districts to regulate certain "indirect" sources of pollution such as large shopping centers or office buildings.
- Reduce electricity demand in buildings - measures exist to cut building electricity demand by 10 to 40 percent beyond state standards, which can save community residents and businesses money, and help meet federal and state air quality standards by reducing power plant emissions.
- Conserve water and reduce solid waste - reducing water consumption and solid waste generation saves the costs of energy used in water pumping and purification, waste-water treatment, water heating, and waste collection and transportation.
- Create strong energy policies with local economic benefits - reducing energy costs can increase the dollars available for other community programs. Reducing traffic congestion saves valuable hours and increases worker productivity. Less air pollution reduces health care costs. Energy-efficiency programs create jobs and economic development opportunities.