

# California Air Resources Board's "California Green Building Strategy"

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Collectively, energy use and related activities by buildings is the second largest source of California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Almost one-quarter of California's greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to buildings. Significant GHG emission reductions can be achieved through the design and construction of new green buildings, as well as the sustainable operation, retrofitting and renovation of existing buildings. Since 1978, when building energy efficiency standards (Title 24, Part 6) were adopted, Californians have saved more than \$56 billion in electricity and natural gas costs. Green buildings provide a cost-effective strategy that supports California's GHG reduction goals.

**AB 32 Scoping Plan** identified [several actions](#) to help California reduce GHG emissions from both new and existing buildings. The Air Resources Board (ARB) is looking to achieve 26 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e of emission reductions from the green building sector, which represents 15 percent of California's 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 169 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e. For more information about the ARB's "Green Building Strategy," see <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/greenbuildings/greenbuildings.htm>

**Key energy efficiency strategies for existing buildings include:**

- Voluntary and mandatory whole-building retrofits for existing buildings
- Innovative financing to overcome first-cost and split incentives for energy efficiency, on-site, renewables, and high efficiency distributed generation

For more on the strategies identified in the Scoping Plan, see  
Part II: Recommended Actions, "Energy Efficiency"

[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/adopted\\_scoping\\_plan.pdf#page=61](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/adopted_scoping_plan.pdf#page=61)

For more information about the Scoping Plan's Green Building Strategy, see  
Part II: Recommended Actions, "Green Building Strategy"

[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/adopted\\_scoping\\_plan.pdf#page=76](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/adopted_scoping_plan.pdf#page=76)