

Cities and Counties Flourishing under AB 32

California's pioneering clean energy and climate law (AB 32) is advancing a strong economy and healthy environment – proof that a thriving, low-carbon economy is good for California communities. AB 32 encompasses the state's collective efforts to reduce carbon pollution and transition to a clean, efficient economy. After nearly a decade in effect, it's a powerful engine of innovation, creating a vibrant clean economy and healthy, sustainable communities in California.

“The fact that at least \$2 billion will be available for local projects, without raising taxes, shows that California's climate policies are delivering. This funding will help support local economies, create good jobs, and save money through improved energy efficiency.”

David Alvarez,
San Diego City
Councilmember

Under AB 32, more than \$862 million has already been allocated – with \$2.4 billion more expected in fiscal year 2015-16 – from the state's largest emitters and made available for investing in projects that reduce contributions to climate change, including:

- More affordable housing, facilitating construction jobs across the state, as well as affordable living opportunities for working families.
- Better public transit and more frequent bus services, providing ways for Californians to get to work without relying on personal vehicles.
- Weatherization of homes and solar installation grants to help control energy costs.
- Inter-city and high-speed rail that reduces emissions while creating jobs for skilled workers, beginning in the Central Valley where unemployment remains high.
- Increased recycling and compositing facilities.

Climate Investments for CA

- Approx. \$4 billion in auction proceeds since 2012
- FY 2015-16 = \$2.4 billion projected
- FY 2014-15 = \$862 million
- Min. 25% to disadvantaged communities

Cities are saving money by using energy, water and infrastructure more efficiently, and reducing infrastructure costs by 25%.

Local governments are important partners in the implementation of AB 32 - bringing benefits to households and businesses and helping communities thrive through actions such as:

- Upgrading vehicle fleets, investing in public transit and active transportation infrastructure
- Retrofitting residential and commercial buildings and streetlights
- Investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy and community choice aggregation
- Purchasing greener products
- Implementing water-retention and reduction policies
- Addressing food insecurity through urban gardening
- Layering funding for compressive programs that leverage grants, loans, rebates and private financing for sustainable projects

Opportunities for local governments

- Local governments have the opportunity to depart from business as usual planning by taking control of future transportation and growth decisions with **increased opportunities to receive state and federal funding dollars.**
- The [Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative](#) is providing guidance to cities and counties on opportunities to save energy. The alliance, between three statewide nonprofits and California's four investor-owned utilities, is helping reduce municipal electricity bills while cutting emissions.
- [CivicSpark](#) is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program which provides high quality technical support to local and regional governments to help build their capacity to address climate change.

Funds are available for a huge range of local government projects – from infrastructure projects emphasizing low-carbon transportation, to tree-planting, to expanding recycling services – check out [CARB](#) for a funding guide and more information.

The American Lung Association in California has found that **smart growth development** strategies could cut over **132,000 tons of air pollution and avoid up to 105,000 asthma attacks, 16,550 lost work days and \$1.66 billion in health costs in 2035.**

AB 32 is helping create healthy communities - cutting vehicle emissions, encouraging healthy habits, conserving water and cleaning up their air.

- California's dependence on driving and dirty fuels has led to some of the worst air pollution in the United States.
- But reducing vehicle emissions is already having an impact – the fall in emissions in recent years has led to a **reduction of the amount of cancer-causing toxins in the Los Angeles air basin** by 65% since 2005.
- AB 32 is empowering communities to experience the **benefits of walkable neighborhoods with access to public transport.**
- Mixed-use communities designed around transit, walking and biking experience extensive health benefits, **allowing residents to breathe clean air** and get more physical activity, combatting rates of cancer, asthma, lung and heart disease, obesity and diabetes.
- Individuals who live in **walkable communities have a 35% lower risk of obesity.**
- Water conservation remains an important factor in local government planning – and **efficient growth patterns could save California 14 million acre feet of water by 2050,** more water than Lake Shasta and Hetch-Hetchy combined.¹

“California’s climate investments are exactly what local governments need for transportation projects and programs that promote healthy and sustainable communities. AB 32 is creating positive health outcomes for residents throughout Orange County.”

Michele Martinez, Santa Ana Councilmember

“Funds resulting from AB 32 will allow the City of Los Angeles to invest in affordable housing, public transportation, more walking and biking options, and cleaner air to benefit all of our neighborhoods. We’re improving our communities and creating jobs in the process.”

Herb Wesson, President, Los Angeles City Council

Regional Success Stories

The runaway success of California's commitment to a clean economy is being experienced by regions statewide, as each area carves out its successful niche.

- The **Inland Empire saw the highest growth in clean economy employment over the last decade**, with the fastest growth in energy infrastructure sector between 2011 and 2012.
- The **San Joaquin Valley is developing and testing new water technologies for irrigation, conservation and metering**, and is a statewide leader in installed energy capacity and **creating employment** in energy generation, recycling and waste, and air and environmental sectors.
- **Los Angeles County and Orange County** are driving advanced transportation growth in the state, with **the largest and fastest-growing electric vehicle market in California.**
- The regional economy in **San Diego and Imperial Counties** is growing through robust research and development community coupled with an abundance of industrial land, reliable energy and a large labor pool.
- **Solar energy** is booming in the **Sacramento area**, and so are solar technology companies, leading the region to claim the title for having the **fastest rate of clean economy job growth in 2011-2012.**
- The local culture of innovation and progressive policies are benefitting the **San Francisco Bay Area, including Silicon Valley** – this region is the **top in the state for clean economy jobs and patent registration.**

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<http://aceee.org/files/proceedings/2010/data/papers/2156.pdf>