



Sustainability Program

Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is committed to environmental sustainability. This includes using resources, like energy and water, wisely and preventing pollution to air and land.

Energy

- Elevated solar carports are installed at VTA's three bus maintenance divisions, totaling 2.1 megawatts. Solar panels also provide lighting at bus stops that do not have access to a power source.
- Administration buildings and facilities are retrofitted with energy efficient lighting, computer, and office equipment. Employees are encouraged to turn lights and other electrical equipment off when not in use.
- Electric-vehicle charging ports are installed at VTA's administration division for employee and public use. Additional charging ports are planned for transit centers and maintenance divisions.
- VTA operates an all electric light rail fleet. By turning off auxiliary power systems to parked light rail vehicles and reducing the number of cars per train, VTA saves an estimated five million kilowatt hours per year.



Water

- VTA uses less water and produces less hazardous waste by utilizing recycled water in bus washers and equipping two VTA bus divisions with waste water treatment plants.
- With the support of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, VTA replaced older toilets and faucets with more efficient models and installed weather based irrigation controllers, allowing maintenance staff to monitor changes remotely through a web based interface and to respond quickly and accurately to leaks.
- VTA adopted Sustainable Landscape Guidelines and strives to use drought tolerant and water efficient landscaping whenever possible.

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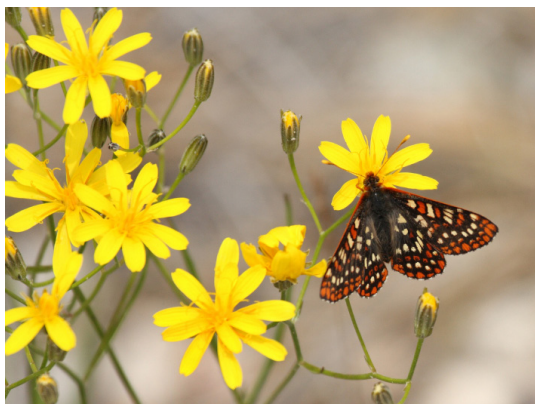
Air

- A single commuter switching his or her commute to public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10 to 30 percent. VTA helps reduce emissions and improve air quality by implementing projects to manage traffic congestion, enhance public transportation systems, and improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Hybrid vehicles are being added to VTA's revenue and non-revenue fleet to replace older vehicles that have exceeded their useful life span. VTA's fleet of diesel electric hybrid buses reduce particulate matter, improve fuel economy, and offer a smoother, more comfortable ride for passengers.



Land

- VTA works with local jurisdictions to promote transit-oriented development that targets new growth in existing transit corridors and station areas.
- Keeping our streets and waterways clean and free of litter is important for our communities. VTA encourages passengers to recycle and dispose of trash in the appropriate containers.



- VTA is committed to reducing solid and hazardous waste of its operations. This includes following procedures to prevent pollution, improving waste management programs, and incorporating green building elements into project design and construction.
- VTA designs highway, transit, and facility projects to avoid or minimize permanent impacts to sensitive habitats. When impacts are unavoidable, VTA mitigates for the loss of habitats by preserving, enhancing, restoring, or creating habitats near the project site in coordination with the appropriate resource agencies.

For more information on VTA's Sustainability Program, visit our website at www.vta.org/sustainability or contact VTA at (408) 321-7575, TTY (408) 321-2330. Find us on Facebook under "SCVTA", Twitter under "VTA", and YouTube at www.youtube.com/scvta.



VTA Mission: *VTA provides sustainable, accessible, community-focused transportation options that are innovative, environmentally responsible, and promote the vitality of our region.*