



City of Monterey Park

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# *Sustainable Community Element*



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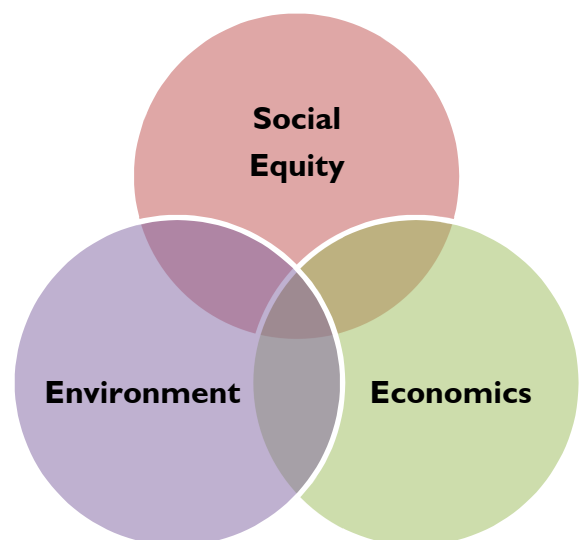


## Introduction

Maintaining and improving the quality of life for all community members has long been an important goal for Monterey Park. As people worldwide become increasingly aware of the limitations of natural resources, there is a local focus on efficiently and effectively using available resources to allow for greater quality of life for all Monterey Park community members.

One of the most widely acknowledged definitions of sustainability comes from the Brundtland Commission Report in 1987, which described sustainability as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Sustainability is often described as a three-legged stool, balancing the **environment**, **economics** and **social equity**. Sustainability requires that the social and economic decisions made by the City, its residents and business owners allow the community to thrive without destroying the natural resources. For a community to become sustainable or act in a sustainable manner, its practices and regulations must consider all three aspects.



**Environmental sustainability** maintains a stable, quality resource base, avoiding over-exploitation of renewable resource systems and depletion of non-renewable resources. This includes maintenance of biodiversity, clean air, and other ecosystem functions.

**Economic sustainability** produces goods and services on a long-term basis and keeps the local economic capital intact, with employment opportunities for workers of all skill levels. This principle encourages

new approaches to economic development that involve coordination and integration of environmental and social concerns.

The principle of **social equity** works to create conditions that allow all community members to achieve their full potential. Sustainable communities allocate resources and opportunities fairly, actively eliminate barriers to full participation in community life, and work to correct injustices. This principle means ensuring adequate provision of social services (such as health and education) and political accountability to all community members regardless of ethnic background, income level, sexual orientation, or age.

## Scope and Content

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The Sustainable Community Element establishes goals and policies to guide City efforts to become a more sustainable and resilient community through changes to municipal operations and by promoting and supporting sustainable behaviors of individual community members. These efforts are designed to reduce private automobile dependency, increase conservation of natural resources, reduce waste, and increase community resiliency by preparing for emergencies. Education and communication programs by the City and its partners are crucial strategies to promote sustainable behaviors.

This Element addresses a number of topics, including:

- **Land Use and Transportation**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Waste Reduction and Diversion**
- **Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency**
- **Community Participation and Communications**

Sustainability is a broad-ranging concept that pulls from, contributes to, and creates synergies with numerous other community goals and principles. As a result, there is abundant overlap between this Element and other Elements of the General Plan, including the Healthy Community Element, Land Use Element, Circulation Element, Economic Development Element, and Resources Element. For example, land use goals and policies encourage a stable economic base and provide for social needs while mitigating environmental impacts and providing for open space. The Circulation Element addresses multiple modes of transportation, including opportunities for non-vehicular travel. The Resources Element includes policies regarding water conservation and improving air quality.

The Sustainable Community Element complements these other Elements, with a focus on the environmental aspects of sustainability. Economic vibrancy is addressed in the Economic Development Element; and social equity is supported throughout the General Plan, most directly in the Healthy Community Element. The Sustainable Community Element addresses topics not already included in other elements, and expands upon or reinforces other goals and policies to create a comprehensive plan to become a more sustainable community.

## Monterey Park Sustainability Today

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This section provides an overview of issues and conditions related to environmental sustainability in Monterey Park. A full description of the existing conditions in Monterey Park is provided in *Technical Appendix A: Existing Conditions Report*.

### *Existing Plans, Policies and Programs*

Many of the City's existing policies and programs already contribute to sustainability. In 2005, the City formed the Monterey Park Environmental Commission to develop and implement policies and increase public awareness of environmental programs. In 2008, the City Council adopted the "Green Activities Resolution" to support "green" activities to help achieve environmental sustainability. In 2012, the City adopted a Climate Action Plan which sets forth a comprehensive strategy to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to land use patterns, transportation, building design, energy use, water demand, and waste generation. The CAP outlines a road map to reduce GHGs and promote economic growth based on clean technology and sustainable practices. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan has resulted in other City policies and programs that support sustainability, such as adoption of the CALGreen Tier 1 Building Standards and participation in the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership.



*Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction. The 2010 California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) is the first statewide green building code, and became effective in 2011. Cities may choose to adopt CALGreen Tier 1 and Tier 2 measures which reach beyond the required standards.*

The Sustainable Community Element supports and expands upon these existing plans, policies and programs.

### *Land Use and Transportation*

Where uses are located and how people move from place to place go hand in hand. Although people in 96 percent of Monterey Park's residential areas live within a quarter mile of a transit route, much of the city was developed around automobile usage. Like much of suburban Southern California, most housing is separated from employment areas and services. There are limited facilities for bicycling, and in some areas deficient sidewalks are barriers for pedestrians. As of 2009, transportation-related emissions represented the largest sector in the community's GHG emissions inventory, accounting for about 63 percent of emissions. Besides generating these emissions, accommodating larger numbers of vehicles also leads to more land used for parking and streets, increasing surface water runoff, creating a "heat island" effect, and reducing space for vegetation.

Recently, the City has focused on developing mixed-use areas, primarily along transit corridors, which begin to integrate housing with commercial uses and encourage people to walk, bicycle or use public transit instead of the personal auto. Addressing safety concerns and investing in sidewalks has further supported the ability for community members to engage in daily activities without depending on a car.

### *Natural Resources*

Conservation of natural resources, including water and energy, are ongoing priorities for the community for both environmental and economic reasons. Approximately 2.3 gallons of water per person are used each day in Monterey Park. Increasing statewide needs for water conservation require communities to address local water use through both regulations and incentives. The City's Climate Action Plan sets a 20 percent reduction target by 2020.

Consumption of electricity and natural gas contribute to approximately 31 percent of the community-wide GHG emissions. In addition to GHG emissions, electricity generation and natural gas harvesting can contribute to air pollution, water contamination, and impacts to habitats for animals and plants. Energy efficiency can also have economic benefits for households and businesses by lowering utility costs.

### *Waste Reduction and Diversion*

There are two ways that a community can reduce the amount of waste it sends to a landfill. **Waste reduction** involves decreasing the amount of waste generated by consuming less and re-using or re-purposing items, and **waste diversion** refers to 'diverting' waste from the landfill through recycling and composting.

As of 2010, 0.74 tons of solid waste per capita in Monterey Park is disposed of annually. This number is the total amount of solid waste, including compostable and recyclable material, that is handled by the waste services provider, divided by the total population. Approximately 35 percent of solid waste is recycled or composted in Monterey Park. The current waste disposal service allows users to place recyclables in the same containers as refuse. Waste is then sorted at a material recovery facility before disposal in a landfill, which achieves a 50 percent landfill waste diversion as required by State law. More recent State legislation has set a statewide target for 75 percent diversion by 2020. Current programs in the City such as composting workshops are educating community members on additional steps they can take to help reduce and divert waste.

### *Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency*

Potential hazards such as floods and earthquakes have the ability to impact the physical, economic and social environment in Monterey Park. Similar to much of California, seismic activity is an ongoing threat to the Monterey Park community. Flooding from dam failure has also been identified as a potential threat. In order to increase the resiliency of the community, the City has developed plans, policies and programs to prepare to respond to emergencies. The City also supports individual community members' ability to take action in the event of community-wide emergencies through education and programs such as the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).



## How This Element Addresses Sustainability

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The Sustainable Community Element contains goals and policies aimed at **reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing transit use, creating a walkable and bikeable community, improving water conservation and quality, improving energy generation and conservation, providing green infrastructure, reducing and diverting waste, and preparing for emergencies**. It recognizes the important role that the City plays in community sustainability. The Element includes policies to guide the City in conducting more sustainable municipal operations, as well as policies to support and encourage residents and businesses to make sustainable actions.

## Goals and Policies

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The Sustainable Community Element establishes goals, policies, and an implementation program.

**Goals** are general statements of aspiration or intent to achieve a desired condition that serves as an endpoint and may be attainable.

**Policies** are specific statements that provide a directive or framework for City decision-making that directly contribute to the attainment of the goal.

Maintained in a separate document, the **Implementation Program** includes specific implementation items, to be led by the City, which will contribute to the attainment of the General Plan goals. The Implementation Program also identifies the responsible department/agency, potential funding sources, additional resources such as model programs or potential partners, and timeframe for implementation.

## LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

### Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

#### Goal I

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*Mixed land uses reduce the need for vehicle travel by making other transportation options viable.*

##### Policy I.1

###### *Mixed Use Development*

Incentivize and actively facilitate mixed use development near existing and planned transit corridors, including Downtown, East Garvey, and the North Atlantic corridor.

##### Policy I.2

###### *Uses In and Near Employment Centers*

Facilitate supportive uses such as healthy food vendors and other small-scale services within or close to large employment centers.

### Policy 1.3

#### *Community Gathering Places*

Encourage the creation of plazas, outdoor dining areas, and other community gathering places in mixed use areas to support use by pedestrians.

### Policy 1.4

#### *CEQA Streamlining for Infill*

Encourage qualified infill projects to take advantage of California law SB 226, CEQA Streamlining for Infill Projects.

## Goal 2

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*Employers use transportation demand management (TDM) to discourage peak-hour commuting in single-occupancy vehicles.*

### Policy 2.1

#### *Municipal TDM*

Maintain a transportation demand management program for City employees.

### Policy 2.2

#### *Employer-Led TDM*

Encourage all employers to adopt transportation demand management programs.

#### **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**

*Transportation Demand Management is a set of techniques for reducing demand on the road system by reducing the number of persons who drive alone on the roadway during the commute period and increasing the number in carpools, vanpools, buses and trains, walking, and biking.*

*Some TDM strategies include:*

- *Preferred parking for carpools*
- *Transit subsidies*
- *Telecommuting*
- *Flexible work schedules*

## Goal3

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*The city's parking supply is managed to reduce vehicle miles traveled.*

### Policy 3.1

#### *Managed Parking*

Manage parking in Downtown, East Garvey, and the North Atlantic corridor to incentivize access by transit and non-vehicular modes of transportation.

### Policy 3.2

#### *Parking for Businesses*

Encourage businesses to dedicate convenient parking areas for motorcycles, carpool vehicles, and zero emissions vehicles. Encourage compliance with California's Parking Cash-Out Law among employers that subsidize employee parking they don't own; eligible employers must offer their employees an option to receive a cash allowance instead of using a parking space.

## LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

### Transit Use

#### Goal4

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*Frequent, convenient, and direct transit service allows travel within Monterey Park and access to regional transit networks.*

##### Policy 4.1

###### *Bus Waiting Areas*

Provide comfortable and safe bus stop areas for waiting and boarding.

##### Policy 4.2

###### *Local and Regional Transit*

Promote use of the Spirit Bus and regional transit services, and facilitate expansion of transit services.

##### Policy 4.3

###### *Car-sharing*

Encourage car-sharing services that allow people to access shared cars for short trips in Monterey Park.

## LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

### Walkable and Bikeable Community

#### Goal5

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*A connected, multimodal transportation network promotes walking and bicycling.*

##### Policy 5.1

###### *Pedestrian Realm*

Provide streets that are clean, comfortable, and attractive for pedestrian travel, especially in neighborhoods, the larger downtown area, and areas around pedestrian “attractors” such as public facilities, transit stops, schools, parks, and commercial uses.

##### Policy 5.2

###### *Pedestrian Crossings*

Provide visible pedestrian crossings at street corners where state law provides pedestrians with the right-of-way, and mid-block where convenient crossings are needed to discourage jaywalking.



### **Policy 5.3**

#### *ADA Pedestrian Improvements*

Prioritize locations for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements along pedestrian pathways, including installation of curb ramps, closing sidewalk gaps, and removing sidewalk obstructions.

### **Policy 5.4**

#### *Access from Neighborhoods*

Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access from surrounding neighborhoods to “attractors” including schools, public facilities, parks, and commercial areas.

### **Policy 5.5**

#### *Neighborhood Pedestrian Network*

Encourage the creation of pathways through neighborhood common areas, open space, and private property to create more complete pedestrian networks in residential areas.

### **Policy 5.6**

#### *Multipurpose Trails*

Seek opportunities to provide off-street multipurpose trails for biking and walking that increase connectivity throughout the city while providing an attractive environment for walking and bicycling separated from the roadway.

## **Goal 6**

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*Amenities along streets and at popular destinations make bicycling and walking trips more enjoyable and convenient.*

### **Policy 6.1**

#### *Public Bicycle Parking*

Enhance bicycle parking at City facilities and designated bus stops along transit corridors.

### **Policy 6.2**

#### *Bicycle Parking in Development Projects*

Require the provision of bicycle parking for new buildings and expansion projects as specified in the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen).

### **Policy 6.3**

#### *End-of-Trip Facilities at Businesses*

Encourage businesses to provide bike parking and other end-of-trip facilities that promote bicycling.

### **Policy 6.4**

#### *Pedestrian Environment*

Encourage the use of trees, vegetation, shade, and amenities along streets to create a pleasant walking environment.

## Goal7

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*Drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians safely share roadways and trails.*

### Policy 7.1

#### *Safe Routes to School*

Provide every child in Monterey Park with a safe environment in which to walk or bicycle to school.

### Policy 7.2

#### *Safe Driver Behavior*

Promote safe driver behavior around bicyclists and pedestrians, including knowing when to yield, looking for other people in the roadway, driving at appropriate speeds, and passing at a safe distance.

### Policy 7.3

#### *Bicyclist and Pedestrian Education*

Encourage and promote the education of community members, including children, as safe and alert bicyclists and pedestrians.

### Safe Routes to School

*Safe Routes to School is a set of programs and funding that help communities to assess bike and pedestrian conditions around schools, and then facilitate the infrastructure and program changes needed to make the routes safer.*

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Conservation, Recapture, and Quality

## Goal8

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*Water resources are conserved, protected, and replenished for a sustainable water supply.*

### Policy 8.1

#### *Water Use*

Promote the use of green building practices and on-site water recycling in new and existing development to reduce the per capita use of potable water.

### Policy 8.2

#### *Drought Tolerant City Landscaping*

Utilize drought tolerant or water-efficient trees and plants in landscaping owned or maintained by the City.

### Policy 8.3

#### *Water-Efficient Landscapes*

Encourage property owners to landscape their property with plants and trees that are drought-tolerant or water-efficient, provide habitat for wildlife, produce food, treat stormwater, and/or offer shade.

### Policy 8.4

#### *Water Quality*

Protect water quality and access to clean water.

### Policy 8.5

#### *SWPPP Design Requirements*

Work towards meeting State minimum requirements for stormwater pollution prevention in all public projects and encourage all private projects to exceed minimum requirements.

### Policy 8.6

#### *Ensure Proper Stormwater Management*

Prioritize enforcement of NPDES permit guidelines, conduct inspections of businesses and construction projects, and provide education and guidance to residents and businesses on proper stormwater management.

### Stormwater Management: Protecting Water Quality

*Rain becomes “stormwater” when it reaches the ground. In U.S. cities, stormwater typically flows from paved surfaces into streets and drains, then is conveyed into basins or into channels that discharge into natural water systems. During this process, stormwater often encounters contaminants which it carries into creeks and the ocean—including fertilizer, motor oil, and animal waste.*

**NPDES**— The Clean Water Act requires that all municipal, industrial, and commercial facilities that discharge wastewater or stormwater into water bodies such as creeks and oceans must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Through these permits, agencies and businesses commit to conduct activities that remove pollutants from stormwater or keep stormwater from coming into contact with pollutants in the first place.

**SWPPP**— Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) are prepared to comply with Federal and State stormwater regulations, and provide project-specific best management practices for preventing stormwater pollution during construction.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Energy Generation and Conservation

## Goal 9

*Greenhouse gas emissions from energy production are minimized through reduced energy demand and expanded use of renewable energy sources.*

### Policy 9.1

#### *Increased Energy Efficiency*

Encourage high energy efficiency for all buildings through demonstration, education, and incentives.

## **Policy 9.2**

### *Renewable Energy Systems*

Promote the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems such as solar panels and wind turbines in new and existing development.

## **Policy 9.3**

### *Solar-Ready Roofs*

For new construction and renovations, encourage builders to provide roofs that are solar panel-ready, particularly commercial roofs.

## **Goal 10**

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*Monterey Park is a leader in energy efficiency.*

## **Policy 10.1**

### *Energy Wise Partnership*

Encourage activities which assist the City in achieving the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership Platinum Level, which recognizes cities that are committed to reducing energy consumption.

## **Policy 10.2**

### *Climate Action Plan Activities*

Facilitate activities which contribute towards meeting the goals of the adopted Climate Action Plan regarding energy efficiency and conservation.

## **Policy 10.3**

### *Renewable Energy in City Facilities*

Promote the use of renewable energy in City-owned facilities to reduce the municipal “carbon footprint” (total greenhouse gas emissions from energy production).

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Green Infrastructure**

## **Goal 11**

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*Vegetation and open space throughout the city serves as “green infrastructure” providing recreation, stormwater filtration, aesthetic value, and other benefits.*

## **Policy 11.1**

### *Green Space*

Support increasing the amount of green space and parkland accessible to all residents.

## **Policy 11.2**

### *Trees and Vegetation*

Promote the use of trees and vegetation throughout the city for shade, air filtration, and other benefits.

## **Policy 11.3**

### *Vegetation for Stormwater Infiltration*

Promote the use of vegetation to allow stormwater to be absorbed through streetscapes and landscapes into the soil and groundwater system.

## **Policy 11.4**

### *Green Parking Lots*

Encourage landscaping plans for parking lots that retain and filter stormwater runoff while also reducing the heat island effect and creating a comfortable and safe pedestrian environment.

## **Policy 11.5**

### *Green Roofs*

Encourage green, vegetated roofs on public and private buildings to reduce impervious surfaces and increase opportunities for access to green space.

## **WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION**

### Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Composting

## **Goal 12**

*Discarded material resources are reduced, re-used, and recycled back into nature or the marketplace in a manner that protects human health and the environment—with all materials being managed to the highest and best use, eliminating waste sent to landfill.*

## **Policy 12.1**

### *Waste Reduction and Diversion*

Support individual efforts to reduce waste generation, and divert waste from landfills by promoting material re-use, recycling, and composting.

## **Policy 12.2**

### *Municipal Waste*

Reduce municipal waste generation.

## **Policy 12.3**

### *Public Involvement*

Consider introducing waste reduction and diversion programs that allow more active participation by residents to increase awareness and personal ownership.

## Policy 12.4

### *Local Recycling Facilities*

Support the development of local recycling centers at schools to serve the community. Provide large scale recycling bins at neighborhood clean ups.

## Policy 12.5

### *Large Scale Recycling*

Support recycling programs that allow schools or organizations to collect CRV (California Redemption Value) items and redeem them for cash.

## Policy 12.6

### *Environmentally Preferred Purchasing*

Ensure products purchased by the City are from green sources and have high recycled-material content, as economically feasible (also known as “Environmentally Preferred Purchasing”).

## WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION

### Reducing Litter

## Goal 13

*Public spaces and rights-of-way are free of litter.*

## Policy 13.1

### *Waste Receptacles*

Ensure that public spaces and private properties with publicly accessible gathering spaces have sufficient and clearly labeled waste and recycling receptacles.

## Policy 13.2

### *Community Cleanup*

Encourage community members to participate in maintaining and enhancing their neighborhoods by sponsoring community cleanups and facilitating efforts by individuals and community organizations.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY

### Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency

## Goal 14

*Monterey Park is a resilient city that is prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies.*



### **Policy 14.1**

#### *Emergency Preparedness Agency Coordination*

Coordinate with other jurisdictions, agencies and schools to educate community members about preparing for emergencies and assisting in emergency response.

### **Policy 14.2**

#### *Emergency Plan Integration*

Identify synergies between the City's emergency preparedness, hazard reduction, and safety element planning efforts.

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **Community Participation and Communication**

## **Goal 15**

*Engaged community members and community partners understand sustainable practices and contribute towards a sustainable environment.*

### **Policy 15.1**

#### *Sustainable Education*

Promote community knowledge about sustainable practices through coordinated outreach and education.

### **Policy 15.2**

#### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Promote opportunities for residents to volunteer their time and talents to contribute to community sustainability.