

City of Murrieta

Steps We Are Taking Toward a Sustainable Community

Please fill out points you are working on under the 12 fields below.

We will remove the fields you are not yet working on.

If we are missing a field, please let us know and we will consider revising the 12 fields.

1. Environmental Awareness

- The City uses its government access cable channel to provide educational programs for its residents. Currently, the City shows the Curiosity Quest series, an innovative environmental awareness program for all age ranges. Also included in the programming are episodes of National Geographic, Shamu, Huell Howser and shows from the Centers for Disease Control.

2. Natural Capitalism

3. Waste Hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

- The City is required by state law to divert half of its waste stream from landfills. While this could be an impossible task from many jurisdictions, the City of Murrieta has devised numerous programs to help meet that mandate. One of the most innovative programs is a pilot project between the City and Waste Management to provide pre-paid battery recycling containers to residents. These small boxes allow residents to conveniently recycle old batteries by sending them to a recycling facility through the mail. Waste Management pays for the cost of postage for each box, and the City promotes the pilot project at City functions. The project appears to be a success, and Waste Management is exploring the projects implementation in other jurisdictions. Additionally, the City is getting ready to meet the 2012 mandatory commercial waste recycling requirements.

4. Sustainable Homes

- The City's Building and Safety Department is currently updating its building codes to meet (and in many cases exceed) the requirements of the 2011 California Green Building Standards Code.

5. Sustainable Buildings/Sustainable Schools

- The City's Building and Safety Department is currently researching software that will allow residents and the business community to apply for construction permits online, rather than in person. This will increase efficiency for both the community and City staff, while saving customers time. The added benefit is the amount of trips this process will save for those applying for construction permits, thus reducing automobile emissions.

6. Sustainable Health/Nutrition

In 2008, City staff implemented the Healthy Murrieta program. This program is aimed at providing opportunities to improve the health of our residents. One of the main goals of Healthy Murrieta is to encourage everyone to get out and walk, jog, run, and/or ride bikes. As a goal, Healthy Murrieta has challenged its members to go to the moon and back...or walk, jog and bike for 238,856 miles as a community. The City has a link on its website that provides nutritious recipes, articles about health and exercise, links to local family events, and tools to help track your progress.

7. Renewable Energy

- Almost two years ago, the City began researching an incentive-based program that would help overcome the largest obstacle to installing solar/photovoltaic systems in residential homes: upfront costs. The City discussed many different options, and in April 2010 launched the Murrieta Rebate Program. The program will provide \$1,000 rebate to the first 72 residents that have installed a residential solar system. The program has so far paid out roughly half of the incentive rebates. This year, the City has issued more permits for solar than in past years, which could be attributed to the rebate program.

8. Sustainable Transportation

- Using a state grant, the City implemented its first traffic synchronization project on the busy Murrieta Hot Springs Road last year. This 3.5 mile portion of roadway includes 15 traffic

signals and carries an estimated 58,400 vehicles per day. By synchronizing the timing of intersection signals, commuters now save approximately 24% of time idling at intersections on this roadway. Idling vehicles is a major contributor to harmful emissions, and City studies have shown a 13.28 kg reduction in CO₂ during peak hours. The City has begun a second phase of this project on Cal Oaks Road using a federal grant. Ultimately, the City is anticipating synchronizing 48 traffic intersections, which translates into an annual estimated reduction of 76,000 kg of CO₂.

9. Education for Sustainability/Environmental Curriculum

10. Sustainable Government

- The Riverside County region has made tremendous strides over the past three years towards energy efficiency in all phases of operations. This year, the City was a founding member of the Western Riverside Energy Leadership Partnership, a joint venture between eleven cities and Southern California Edison (energy provider) to substantially reduce energy consumption at government facilities. Murrieta has conducted an extensive energy audit, and the recommended measures are currently being implemented. These measures should allow the City to receive incentives that includes a maximum discount of 20% for the kW charge for electricity, thus providing a savings for taxpaying residents.

11. Sustainable Communities

- One of the largest contributors to a City's energy consumption is parking lot, traffic and street lights. Using the federal energy stimulus grant, the City is currently undergoing a major retrofit of its old low pressure sodium light fixtures at most City parking lots (City Hall, Cal Oaks Sports Park, Library, Police Department and others). These light fixtures will be replaced by the newest, most efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures. It is estimated that this project will result in thousands of dollars in energy savings and an approximate reduction of 44,130 lbs of carbon dioxide.

12. Environmental Stewardship