

San Jose 2020 General Plan  
Goals and Policies  
Related to Energy

**Residential Land Use**

**Goals:**

1. Provide a high quality of living environment in residential neighborhoods.
2. Ensure that lands planned for residential use are fully and efficiently utilized to maximize the City's housing supply.

**Policies:**

1. Roads, buildings and landscaping for new residential projects should be designed and oriented to maximize energy conservation benefits for space heating and cooling to the extent feasible.

**Commercial Land Use**

**Goal:** Provide a pattern of commercial development which best serves community needs through maximum efficiency and accessibility.

1. Roads, buildings and landscaping for new commercial development should be designed and oriented to maximize energy conservation benefits for space heating and cooling to the extent feasible.

**Industrial Land Use**

**Goal:** Provide sufficient land for a variety of industrial uses that is distributed to provide optimum commute access and to promote a balanced distribution of jobs and housing to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

**Policies:**

1. Roads, buildings and landscaping for new industrial projects should be designed and oriented to maximize energy conservation benefits for space heating and cooling to the extent feasible.

**Urban Design**

**Goal:** Require the highest standards of architectural and site design, and encourage the use of "Green Building" techniques for all development projects, both public and private.

**Policies:**

1. Private development should include adequate landscaped areas. Landscaped areas should utilize water efficient plant materials and irrigation systems. Energy conservation techniques such as vegetative cooling and wind shielding should also be utilized. All landscaped areas should include provision for ongoing landscape maintenance.

## HOUSING

### Housing

#### **Goals:**

1. Offer the people of San José, when seeking housing, an equal opportunity to live in economically and ethnically/racially mixed neighborhoods.
2. Provide decent housing in a livable environment for all persons, including the homeless, regardless of such factors as age, race, sex, marital status, ethnic background or income.
3. Provide housing sites and structures by location, type, price and tenure that respond to the needs of all economic segments of the community. Housing type may include alternative housing forms such as shared housing.
4. Increase housing opportunities for lower income families through the goals and policies of this General Plan, and through the City's housing programs identified in the Consolidated Plan and the General Plan.
5. Incorporate good design, foster aesthetics, and promote usable open space, and encourage use of alternative energy sources and energy conservation techniques in residential development.
6. Promote the cooperation of public and private sectors of the economy to expand housing opportunities and to provide housing which:
  - Complies with the provisions of the Building Code and the Housing Code.
  - Is adequately insulated and reasonably energy efficient.
  - Is within the economic means of the households who occupy it.
  - Is available to all persons and not subject to discriminatory practices.
  - Is situated in an environment which does not endanger the health, safety or well-being of its occupants.
  - Provides convenient access to employment as well as to adequate services and facilities.
  - Promotes and encourages pedestrian, bicycle and transit use.
7. Promote the rehabilitation of deteriorating housing.

#### **Policies:**

##### *Distribution:*

1. As part of the rehabilitation of existing housing units, the installation of insulation and other retrofit techniques should be promoted to reduce energy use.

### Solid Waste

#### **Goals:**

1. Recover the resource value of solid waste and foster the establishment of facilities in San José which constructively use and reinvest such resources in the local economy.
2. Extend the life span of existing landfills by promoting source reduction, recycling, composting and transformation of solid wastes.
3. Locate and operate solid waste sites in a manner which protects environmental resources.
4. Locate and operate solid waste disposal facilities in a manner compatible with existing and planned surrounding land uses.
5. Achieve a high level of public awareness of solid waste issues and alternatives to landfilling.
6. Promote the equitable distribution of Santa Clara County's solid waste disposal capacity among all jurisdictions within the County.

#### **Policies:**

*Siting Criteria for other Solid Waste Management Facilities:*

1. Solid waste reduction techniques, including source reduction, reuse, recycling, source separation and energy recovery, should be encouraged.

### **Urban Forest**

**Goal:** Preserve, protect, and increase plantings of urban trees within the City.

**Policies:**

1. The City should encourage the selection of trees appropriate for a particular urban site. Tree placement should consider energy saving values, nearby powerlines, and root characteristics.

### **Air Quality**

**Goal:** Maintain acceptable levels of air quality for the residents of San José and minimize the air pollution produced by new development.

**Policies:**

1. Expansion and improvement of public transportation services and facilities should be promoted, where appropriate, to both encourage energy conservation and reduce air pollution.

### **Energy**

**Goal:** Consistent with Sustainable City Strategy Goals, the City should foster development which, by its location and design, reduces the use of non-renewable energy resources in transportation, buildings and urban services (utilities) and expands the use of renewable energy resources.

**Policies:**

1. The City should promote development in areas served by public transit and other existing services. Higher residential densities should be encouraged to locate in areas served by primary public transit routes and close to major employment centers.
2. Decisions on land use should consider the proximity of industrial and commercial uses to major residential areas in order to reduce the energy used for commuting.
3. Public facilities should be encouraged to locate in areas easily served by public transportation.
4. The energy-efficiency of proposed new development should be considered when land use and development review decisions are made. The City's design techniques include provisions for solar access, for siting structures to maximize natural heating and cooling, and for landscaping to aid passive cooling protection from prevailing winds and maximum year-round solar access.
5. The City should encourage owners and residents of existing developments to implement programs to use energy more efficiently in buildings and in their transportation choices, to reduce dependency on automobiles, and to explore alternative energy sources.
6. All street lights in areas outside of the Downtown Core Area should use the low-pressure sodium. Within the Downtown Core Area, high pressure sodium street lights should be used. Along designated Neighborhood Business Districts and public streets identified as Pedestrian Corridors in adopted Neighborhood Improvement Plans completed for the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Redevelopment Project Area, up to 300 high pressure sodium lights may be allowed if the

street lighting is attractive and compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods, and does not significantly impact the Lick Observatory's operations. Prior to approval, all proposals for high pressure sodium street lighting should be referred to the Lick Observatory for comments.

7. The City should require low-pressure sodium lighting for outdoor, unroofed areas in all new developments and encourage existing development to retrofit using low-pressure sodium lighting.
8. The City should continue to pursue energy-efficiency in City operations.
9. The City should encourage the development of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels and cooperate with other public and quasi-public agencies in furthering this policy.