

## BRISBANE

The City of Brisbane's General Plan includes numerous policies in its open space, conservation, and land use elements that promote sustainability. A General Plan update is underway that will incorporate many new policies and programs to encourage greater energy conservation and efficiency. Sustainable programs and practices undertaken in Brisbane address a variety of issues, including open space protection, energy and water conservation, and waste reduction and recycling.

### Carbon Emissions

The City has made significant efforts to reduce its energy use. The City has replaced office lighting at City Hall with fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, replaced old windows with double pane glass for increased insulation, and upgraded to energy saving flat panel computer monitors. Brisbane purchases recycled paper that contains as much post-consumer content as feasible. City facilities recycle mixed paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles. Brisbane City Hall also houses containers for citizens to drop off their old batteries, cell phones, and compact fluorescent bulbs for proper disposal.

A solar thermal supplemental heating system for Brisbane's community pool was installed in 2006. In order to encourage more residents and businesses to install photovoltaic systems, the City amended its master fee schedule. While building permit fees had previously been based on project valuation, the City now uses a flat fee for single-family residential solar installations, so that larger solar systems will not result in higher fees. Brisbane is planning to incorporate a rooftop photovoltaic system as part of a major remodel of City Hall projected for 2007.

To help reduce carbon emissions, resource consumption, and waste, the City is working on the development of a green building policy that will set sustainability standards for new construction. The program will utilize the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system for significant commercial construction and the GreenPoints rating system for large residential developments.

The City promotes public transportation by supporting a shuttle service for employees in Crocker Industrial Park. The shuttle runs between BART, Caltrain, and Brisbane's Crocker Industrial Park office buildings during commute hours. The City Council has also encouraged greater pedestrian and bicycle access by establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

The City has installed several new bike lanes this year and is in the process of applying for more funding to install others. It is also working on a safe routes to school program to encourage school kids to walk to school. The City also converted the old Crocker Park Southern Pacific Railway Right of Way to a new Crocker Park Recreational Trail geared for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists.

### Housing

Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, in cooperation with the City of Brisbane, has begun construction of seven affordable homes for very low-income families with occupancy projected for 2007. With partial construction financing provided by the Brisbane Redevelopment Agency, the homes are being built using green building principles, and include solar photovoltaic panels integrated into the roof of each unit to generate renewable energy for the owners.

Construction also began on a 15-unit condominium that includes two affordable units, with occupancy expected in late 2007 or early 2008. A 30-unit condominium with seven affordable units was also approved.

In addition to partnering with Peninsula Habitat for Humanity and offering a First Time Homebuyer Assistance program, Brisbane has implemented inclusionary housing requirements that mandate a percentage of affordable housing units. Brisbane has also adopted zoning codes that encourage mixed-use development.

### Water

The City is among the lowest per capita water users in San Mateo County. Brisbane has instituted a water conservation program that consists of public education efforts as well as two ordinances aimed at reducing excessive water use. A water-efficient landscaping ordinance requires large landscape plans use drought tolerant plants and water-efficient irrigation. Another ordinance prohibits water waste, such as excessive watering of impervious surfaces.

In an effort to improve the quality of water flowing into San Francisco Bay, the City has an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy requiring IPM plans to utilize nonpesticide alternatives when possible and, when necessary, the application of least toxic chemicals. These best practices are critical to ensuring the quality of storm water runoff into the Brisbane Lagoon and Bay. The City is also continuing its "Adopt-a-Drain" program this year with volunteers maintaining a storm drain in their neighborhoods to prevent flooding and reduce pollutant discharges.