

DALY CITY

Known as the “Gateway to the Peninsula,” Daly City has the largest population of all cities in San Mateo County. Located at the northernmost edge of the county adjacent to San Francisco County, it has become a regional hub for retail, health care, and small business. Following are some ways the City is moving toward sustainability.

Carbon Emissions

Daly City is a member of the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, a joint powers authority formed to address regional transportation issues. Daly City, in conjunction with Seton Medical Center, provides a free shuttle from the Daly City BART station to the Civic Center and Seton. The Top of the Hill Mission Street Muni stop is the most frequently boarded bus stop west of the Mississippi River. In addition to its fixed-route service, the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) also operates a free shuttle service in the Bayshore neighborhood of Daly City.

Daly City purchases Energy Star certified products whenever possible and includes energy conservation measures in its building specifications. Where practical the City has retrofitted buildings such as City Hall with energy-efficient lighting and heating systems.

Housing

Daly City maintains inclusionary housing requirements mandating 15 percent of new housing construction in its two redevelopment areas be affordable to low-income residents. The City utilizes a variety of funding sources to subsidize the development of affordable housing. The City works with affordable housing developers to ensure that its scarce housing funds are used as effectively as possible. The City conducts at least two public hearings each year to obtain citizen comment on community development needs, the City’s funding plan, and community development accomplishments.

Of all the sustainability initiatives in the community, the City is most proud of the development of the Habitat for Humanity housing units on Third Avenue. Seven families, composed of 35 family members, have become first-time homeowners at 173 Third Avenue, formerly a flower nursery. The development consists of two- and three-bedroom townhouses, including one unit that is completely accessible to persons with disabilities. The City of Daly City provided \$1,040,076 in subsidy financing for Habitat Way.

Water

Beginning in August 2004, Daly City has delivered tertiary recycled water to the Olympic Club, the Lake Merced Golf Club, the San Francisco Golf Club, and landscaped median islands along John Daly Boulevard. Since the inception of the program through September 2006, a total of 349.3 million gallons (1,072 acre feet) of recycled water has been delivered.

Daly City has been an ongoing participant in conjunctive water use in northern San Mateo County with San Bruno and the California Water Service. More than four billion gallons (more than 12,275 acre feet) of water have been stored within the Westside Basin Groundwater Aquifer between 2002 and 2005. This storage has resulted from using available surplus surface water off the Hetch Hetchy and local reservoir system in lieu of groundwater pumping. The additional water stored provides water for use in a future drought or water emergency.

Through 2005-06, 1,307 rebates for water-saving washing machines have been provided to Daly City residents. Each account that received a rebate saves roughly 968 gallons of water per month (totaling 46.6 acre feet per year for all accounts).

Average treated wastewater, in million gallons, in the past five years: 2,536 in 2001, 2,428 in 2002, 2,645 in 2003, 2,723 in 2004, and 2,714 in 2005.

Reportable sanitary sewer overflows in the past five years: one in 2001-02, zero in 2002-03, zero in 2003-04, one in 2004-05, and three in 2005-06. (Note that reporting standards for overflows decreased as of December 1, 2004 from 1,000 gallons or more to 100 gallons or more.)

Other

Daly City employs a pay-as-you-throw variable rate for solid waste collection. This incentive-based system encourages customers to recycle more and discard less into the waste stream. The majority of households in Daly City choose a 32-gallon container (or smaller) for weekly collection. Daly City has a per capita disposal rate of less than two pounds per day, among the lowest of comparably-sized cities in California.

Daly City offers both a residential and commercial curbside recycling program for the collection of mixed paper, metals, glass, and plastic. Additionally, a biweekly curbside yard waste recycling program is available for residential and commercial customers.