

## FOSTER CITY

### Carbon Emissions

Foster City encourages residents and workers in Foster City to reduce the number of single-rider trips they make. As a member of the Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, the City works with employers to ensure that trip-reducing alternatives are available, introduced to employees, and publicized on a regular basis. Specifically, Foster City sponsors a number of initiatives to encourage alternate transit strategies:

#### Shuttle services:

- Provides partial funding (with the remaining costs grant-funded) for the Connections Shuttle, an in-town shuttle service that is free to Foster City residents and employees of local businesses. This shuttle provides connections to recreational activities and to other regional mass transit alternatives.
- Promotes the AC Transit transbay bus service.
- Promotes employer-operated shuttles to and from the San Mateo Caltrain Station and the Millbrae Intermodal Station from three areas of town: Lincoln Centre, North Foster City, and Mariners Island.
- Operates a Senior Express Shuttle to transport groups of Foster City residents age 55 and older to events and activities in the region.

#### Bicycle alternatives:

- Requires that bicycle racks be installed at all new commercial/office developments in town. Bicycle racks are also on all shuttles.
- Maintains a bicycle/pedestrian path along the bayline—a leg of the Bay Trail that connects with trails maintained in neighboring cities and allows for easy commute between Foster City and a number of Peninsula cities.

#### Alternative fuel vehicles:

- The City currently has three hybrid vehicles in its fleet and has plans to increase the percentage of hybrids in the fleet as traditional vehicles are replaced.

Foster City's other carbon-reducing policies have included:

- Converted all traffic and pedestrian signals to light-emitting diodes (LED's); these lights use about 20 percent of the electricity of the older, halogen lights. Also, because they last much longer, they are cheaper to maintain.
- Installed 25 fully-actuated traffic signals to maximize traffic flow and minimize idling at intersections.
- Adopted regulations for wood burning appliances and materials.

### Housing

Foster City's Housing Element was approved by the State of California in 2002. In the approval letter, the state commended the City for "developing housing and land use strategies that maximize limited land resources to address projected housing needs and promote vital, livable neighborhoods." Specifically, policies include the following to address the City's housing needs:

- Requires all housing developers to have at least 20 percent of the units in their plans be affordable to low-income residents. Of the approximately 12,500 residential units, 295 are available to those that meet reduced income criteria.

- As a master-planned community, Foster City's founders planned for a variety of housing types, including multi-family townhouse, condominium, duplex, and apartment developments. A little over one-third of the residential units are single-family homes on generally small lots. Foster City also allows second units, which tend to be smaller, and therefore more affordable than larger-sized units.
- Offers first-time homebuyer/second mortgage program to assist buyers to get a start in the housing market.

### Water Conservation

Foster City's Parks Department is on the cutting edge of water conservation and has implemented the following water conservation practices in order to keep water usage down in City parks:

- Matched precipitation rated sprinkler heads to ensure that water is applied evenly over entire field areas, no matter what shape they are.
- Mulches all ground cover areas with fir bark to keep soil temperatures lower and to lower the evaporation rate.
- Controls all park sprinkler systems from a main computer so that irrigation can be constantly changed according to current weather conditions. Evolution controllers, which shut the system down if a water line leak is detected, are used in some parks. Sprinkler systems in some parks are equipped with rain sensors so they shut down automatically if the weather is wet.
- Generally selects drought tolerant plant materials for planting in City parks.
- Installed artificial "turf grass" in selected park locations; artificial turf requires less water and no fertilizers. Also, as it is highly resistant to damage, youth sport teams can use the fields after storms.
- Funds Energy Star washing machine and low-flow toilet rebates.

### Other

Foster City continues to look for ways to be sustainable through a number of methods and programs:

- Installed 2,100 high-efficiency, high-density pressure vapor street lights.
- With Audubon Society, created new seasonal wetlands for bird habitat as part of lagoon dredging project.
- Passed an ordinance requiring a minimum of 50 percent of the debris generated from certain construction and demolition projects be diverted from landfills to recycling facilities.
- Promotes residential and commercial recycling efforts. Foster City increased its solid waste diversion rate by five percent from 2004 to over 8,300 tons in 2005. Although final numbers have not been calculated, indicators in 2006 point to additional improvements in diversion rates for that year.
- Implemented integrated pesticide management program for all parks and grounds maintenance.
- Rehabilitated contaminated gas station and cleaners sites as part of shopping center redevelopment projects.