Chapter Z. Local Governments

Z.1 Vision

By 2025, California’s local governments, individually and through regional efforts, will be leaders in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in their communities and will have the resources and capabilities to do so. Local government efforts will be fully integrated with those of other stakeholders working to implement the State’s energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Z.2 Profile

California’s 500-plus local governments are remarkably diverse—they range from the largest county in the United States to small towns; from busy agricultural centers to residential suburbs and world-renowned cities.[[1]](#endnote-1) This diversity extends to energy efficiency: California’s local governments and their communities face different circumstances, have different constituen­cies, and are at different levels of commitment and capacity. Many of them, however, are paying significant attention to energy efficiency and climate change and are interested in doing what they can, as quickly as they can, and in collabora­tion with their residents and businesses, other local governments, State government, utilities and other key participants.

Local governments share energy-related authorities and opportunities:

**Energy Use for Government Facilities.** Local governments can be significant energy end users in their own buildings and facilities, from wastewater treatment plants to City Hall. These facilities provide an opportunity to “lead by example” by improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and cutting government energy costs. They can also use these facilities to showcase the new products and practices that will become commonplace in a “zero net energy” world.

**Energy Leadership in Local Communities.** Local governments can play an important role in influencing the energy attitudes and actions of their residents and businesses. This can take many forms, from public education to adopting innovative policies and initiatives, to integrating actions addressing energy efficiency, climate change and sustainability.

**Regulatory Authority.** Local governments have significant powers that can improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings. These include:

* Ensuring compliance and enforcement of the Title 24 energy code for residen­tial and commercial buildings.
* Adopting green building codes (and potentially beyond Title 24 energy requirements).
* Supporting highly efficient projects that voluntarily exceed minimum energy codes through favorable fee structures, fast-tracked permitting and other innovative and locally appropriate approaches.
* Enacting programs and ordinances that spur efficiency actions in existing privately owned buildings.

**Collaboration with Other Public and Private Entities**. Local governments can join with other cities and counties in regional efforts to share resources, maximize economies of scale, and provide services and expertise to smaller communities that would otherwise be left behind. They can establish public/public partnerships with school districts, water districts, and others, and public/private partnerships with local industries including energy utilities, that benefit from each partner’s unique capabilities. And they are the best trainers for each other in peer-to-peer sharing of policies, programs and best practices.

**The Unique Role of Local Governments**. The CPUC has long-recognized the role of local governments in fostering innovation. Almost 15 years ago, the CPUC directed utilities to consider programs that take advantage of the unique expertise, relationships with customers, and ability to coordinate among related activities offered by individual or groups of local government.[[2]](#endnote-2) Local governments have lead efficiency innovation on their own and through their associations – the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, and Local Government Commission.

The State Attorney General’s Office has called upon local governments to use their CEQA[[3]](#endnote-3) compliance responsibilities to address greenhouse gas impacts and mitigation strategies of local development policies. Other legislation, such as AB 758 and AB 1103, also requires direct local government actions for implementation. Energy efficiency policies and initiatives are among the options available to communities. The goal of zero net energy usage in buildings will require the installation of generation facilities associated with those buildings, and so they must also be integrated with other demand side management strategies into local government efforts.

Local governments are constantly interacting with and making decisions about multiple inputs that affect their communities, such as demographics, transportation, housing, businesses and jobs, etc. The way they deal with these inputs is unique to each local government based on local values and resources. They weave together these inputs to create the fabric of their communities; and each one is different.

The goal of this strategic plan chapter is to incorporate all the opportunities that local governments have to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in their communities, while allowing each city or county to address these issues in a way that is right for them, in a way that doesn’t alter the fabric of their community. That means keeping the options wide and flexible.

In order to be full participants in the planning and implementation of energy efficiency programs in California, cities and counties need access to data such as energy use intensity of larger buildings, ownership status of customers, commercial and multi-family aggregated whole building usage for benchmarking ordinances and compliance, aggregated residential usage data, and utility program participation.

Energy usage data, appropriately aggregated and with anonymity, should be transmitted to those entities that require the data to help California meet its energy and environmental goals. Data should be provided timely, in a consistent format that allows data to be manipulated electronically, and that allows local governments to perform the analysis required to implement and evaluate programs and policies.

Z.3 Goals

1. Local governments lead by example reducing their own energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

*Goal Results: Local government municipal energy use is reduced by X% by 2020 and by Y% by 2025.*

2.Local governments lead their communities with innovative policies and programs for energy efficiency that are integrated with broader energy, sustainability and climate goals.

*Goal Results: By 2018, 50% of local governments have adopted energy efficiency/sustainability/climate change action plans for their communities and 100% by 2025, with implementation and tracking of achievements.*

3. Local governments accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction measures through the use of their permitting authority.

*Goal results:*

4. Local government and community energy efficiency expertise becomes widespread and typical.

*Goal results: By 2025, regional energy efforts cover the state. Each region has a workforce of and market for energy efficiency providers including planning, design and installation contractors.*

Z.4 Approaches

The four key approaches for local government action are:

* Lead by Example: Local government facilities achieve economic energy efficiency, reduce greenhouseemissions, and showcase promising energy efficiency, demand side management and renewable energy products and practices.
* Community Leadership: Local governments lead their communities to support energy efficiency and greenhouse gas goals.
* Tap Local Government Authority: Local governments use their authority over planning and permitting to maximize energy efficiency in privately owned new construction and existing buildings.
* Develop Energy Efficiency Partnerships: Local governments establish regional energy centers to improve the delivery of energy efficiency services and information to all California communities, and public/public and public/private partnerships to develop and implement local and regional energy programs.

There are three important associations of local governments that are key to these strategies: ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Institute for Local Government (Institute), and the Local Government Commission (LGC). ICLEI, ILG and LGC have formed the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) partnership with the investor owned utilities to assist local governments in their efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse emissions in their communities. Together with the Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator (Coordinator), the SEEC partnership provides resources, technical assistance, and networking opportunities for cities and counties working to implement the goals and strategies in this Strategic Plan.

Z.5 implementation plan

Four main goals and the strategies associated with them have been identified and described below. However, as is evident since the Strategic Plan was adopted in 2008[[4]](#endnote-4), there needs to be a way to incorporate additional goals and strategies before the next update to this chapter. In order to accommodate new ideas or legislation, the following criteria will be used to judge the appropriateness of local government strategies not included below:

* Things that are uniquely applicable to local governments due to their responsibilities and authorities.
* Things that access local and regional markets.
* Things that increase the effectiveness and scope of energy efficiency activities.
* Things that result in long-term market awareness and change.
* Things that result in higher prioritization and increased capacity for energy efficiency in local government.
* Things that support other State Energy Plan goals or strategies.

**Goal 1:** Local governments lead by example by reducing their own energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

*Goal Results: Local government municipal energy use is reduced by X% by 2020 and by Y% by 2025.*

Cities and counties can lead by example by embracing energy efficiency in their facilities. Examples of specific strategies that local governments can choose for their facilities include:

* Tracking and controlling municipal energy use through such things as benchmarking, software controls, commissioning, operator training, and employee behavior modification.
* Adopting procurement policies including joint procurement opportunities that encourage purchasing and using energy efficient products.
* Developing financing options such as utilizing on bill financing (OBF) and revolving funds.
* Serving as a venue for piloting new technologies and practices to get to zero net energy non-residential buildings.

A sustained, comprehensive effort to extend these efforts statewide should be undertaken. In order to accomplish this goal, providing local government facility personnel with additional staff, expert assistance and/or technical resources is needed.

Goal 1: **Lead by Example**

**Strategy 1-1:** Track and control municipal energy use. Examples:

* Utilizing energy management software, including software controls
* Benchmarking facilities
* Commissioning or retro-commissioning facilities
* Training facility operators
* Educating municipal employees
* Adopting integrated demand side management practices including energy efficiency, demand reduction, distributed generation and renewable energy projects
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Benchmark existing buildings against ratings such as Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

Test commissioning programs on selected high-use buildings.

Develop retro-commissioning assistance/guidance for smaller buildings.

Adopt or encourage benchmarking and commissioning requirements for local government facilities statewide by 12/2014.

Develop a training program for facility operators, including understanding and acting on Smart Meter data. Develop a municipal building portfolio Playbook to guide energy efficiency implementation in individual government buildings.

Develop energy saving behavior change online modules directed at municipal employees.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing refinement and improvement.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing.

**Strategy 1-2:** Improve the energy efficiency of municipal facilities and equipment. Examples:

* Adopting LEED-like requirements for municipal facilities
* Adopting green procurement policies
* Developing regional or statewide networks to jointly procure energy efficient products
* Participating in utility energy efficiency programs for new and existing buildings
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Adopt or encourage local government green building policies, including ZNE facilities.

Develop model green procurement policy for adoption or modification.

Work with regional networks to develop standard/typical energy efficiency offerings and/or joint procurement for local government facilities.

Increase the number of local governments in partnerships with investor owned utilities and/or accessing utility energy efficiency assistance.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing refinement and improvement.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing

**Strategy 1-3:** Improve access to favorable financing terms for energy efficiency and other demand side management programs. Examples:

* California Energy Commission Energy Partnership loans and assistance
* On Bill Financing programs
* Third Party financing
* Revolving Energy funds
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Identify and share various financing tools available to local governments.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing refinement and improvement.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing.

**Strategy 1-4:** Develop an innovation incubator that competitively selects energy design, technology, and system initiatives for local government pilot projects. Examples:

* Local governments serve as hosts for new technology testing
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Work with interested local governments to test implementation of new energy efficiency technologies.

Coordinate this approach with Research & Technology activities,

Develop and begin first projects by 12/2014.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing refinement and expansion.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing.

**Goal 2:** Local governments lead their communities with innovative policies and programs for energy efficiency that integrate with broader energy, sustainability and climate goals.

*Goal Results: By 2018, 50% of local governments have adopted energy efficiency/sustainability/climate change action plans for their communities and 100% by 2025, with implementation and tracking of achievements.*

Local governments are in a unique position to implement innovative, long-term, cross-cutting programs promoting energy efficiency, sustainability, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Their ability to interact with businesses and residents to work towards integrated sustainable communities is unique and needs to be engaged beyond current efforts to support California’s aggressive energy efficiency and global warming goals.

Various resources are available to aid local governments to help them save energy, address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agency facilities and the community. For example, non-profit associations, businesses, state agencies, utilities and others can offer a variety of technical assistance, tools, best practices, and sometimes funding to local governments. Once successful effort is the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC), a partnership between three statewide non-profit organizations (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Institute for Local Government (ILG), and the Local Government Commission (LGC)) and California’s four investor-owned utilities. SEEC provides free technical assistance from ICLEI for climate action planning, recognition and best practices from the ILG for communities taking action to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and networking and learning opportunities from the LGC. See Goal 4 for strategies related to this.

Additionally, local governments can and do commit themselves and/or their communities to externally developed relevant goals, such as the United Nation’s Urban Environmental Accord and the U.S Conference of Mayor’s Climate Protection agreement.

Local governments have also worked to provide energy financing programs to their constituents. Fresno, San Jose and Santa Monica have each worked with local banks and/or credit unions to develop energy financing products for members of their communities. Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs have been increasing across the state, especially for nonresidential properties.

The success of this goal will require not only resources from the State, utilities, non-profits and the business community but the commitment of local governments and their leaders to use their leadership and legal authority in new and often challenging ways.

A necessary step is to support organizations serving local governments at the state level (e.g., League of California Cities; California State Association of Counties; ILG), regional levels (e.g., Association of Bay Area Governments, Association of Monterrey Bay Area Governments, San Diego Association of Governments, Southern California Association of Governments), and non-profits (ICLEI, LGC) so they can leverage their activities with other local governments on energy and environmental issues. This includes the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) and the Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator (Coordinator) focused on energy efficiency programs; enhanced and expanded technical assistance; targeted online tools; information on best practices; and conference and workshop activities.

Strategies within this goal include:

* Adopting planning documents that provide vision and lead to implementation in Goal 3.
* Developing local energy financing programs.
* Providing public education and outreach on the importance and value of energy efficiency.

Goal 2: **Community Leadership**

**Strategy 2-1:** Use local governments’ planning documents to promote energy efficiency, sustainability and climate change. Examples:

* Energy Action Plans (EAP)
* Climate Action Plans (CAP)
* Housing Elements or Energy Elements of General Plans
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop energy efficiency language and CAP/EAP templates for community-level and municipal operations.

Develop model General Plan language that promotes energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction.

Leaders among local governments adopt CAPs/EAPs and policies in General Plan elements.

Publicize to other local governments.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand inclusion in general plans and CAP/EAP adoption. By 2020, adopted byb50% of local governments.

Provide necessary assistance to all local governments to develop energy action plans for their communities, including the necessary community energy consumption.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing implementation, with full adoption by 2025.

**Strategy 2-2:** Develop local energy efficiency financing tools such as:

* Programs in conjunction with local financial institutions.
* Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop model mechanisms for funding sources.

Launch in pilot cities.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting local financing mechanisms.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand statewide.

**Strategy 2-3:** Utilize local government outreach avenues and trust among constituents to promote the value of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction strategies and programs offered in California. Examples:

* Promote energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction programs through municipal outreach such as utility bill inserts, permit counter displays, community access television, community events
* Develop a community energy and/or sustainability scorecard based on locally adopted goals
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Identify opportunities and challenges for more energy/environmentally education.

Develop studies showing how to move businesses and individuals to take action on energy efficiency programs.

Develop materials and trainings for local government use based on the study above.

Develop a template for a community scorecard with periodic reporting.

Develop and implement pilot projects.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties implementing community outreach programs.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand statewide.

**Goal 3:** Local governments accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction measures through the use of their permitting authority.

*Goal Results:*

Under State law, local governments, through their building permit and inspection processes, are responsible for enforcement of Titles 20 and 24 energy codes. While there is inadequate understanding of code compliance rates and the resulting degradation in performance, more than 30% of the technical energy savings from California’s statewide energy codes may be lost due to non-compliance. A 2007 study estimated noncompliance rates with the Energy Commission statewide building measures ranging from 28 to 100% and with appliances standards from 0% to 63%.[[5]](#endnote-5) (are there any newer studies?)

Generally, the lack of financial resources (e.g., funds to cover the cost to inspect for energy code compliance) is a barrier to enforcement. Inspections and enforcement are funded through local permit fees. However, local governments are often reluctant to raise fees to cover full costs of standards compliance if those fee levels would rise above neighboring jurisdictions.

A comprehensive, adequately funded statewide program for State building code compliance that strongly supports local government compliance responsibilities is key to obtaining full savings from California’s aggressive building and appliance standards.

Local governments have a number of regulatory carrots and sticks including: community design requirements, land use and zoning policies that promote energy efficiency and smart growth, income-eligible housing programs they control, and negotiating energy efficiency into developer agreements on major projects.

In addition to enforcing compliance with Title 24 and Title 20 standards, local governments can encourage or require greener, more efficient buildings. CalGreen is California’s statewide green building program and includes optional tiers of energy efficiency savings above Title 24 that local governments can adopt.

Existing buildings provide an even bigger challenge to reducing energy consumption. It is estimated that only X% (has a study been done?) of residential HVAC replacements get local government permits that could ensure code compliance. Energy Upgrade California (EUC) is the statewide program to improve energy efficiency in existing homes that encourages a holistic approach to improving energy efficiency. Each county has a web site dedicated to EUC including local contractors to perform the work.

Some communities have adopted time of sale energy efficiency ordinances (sometimes called Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO) and Commercial Energy Conservation Ordinance (CECO)) that require a minimal investment in energy efficiency improvements at the time of sale of a property or substantial improvement/addition to a property.

Recent legislation adds another layer to the work that local governments can perform to improve energy efficiency in existing buildings, for example, AB 758 (Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) and AB 1103 (Nonresidential Building Energy Use Disclosure Program).

Strategies within this goal include:

* Improving compliance with Title 24.
* Adopting green building policies and programs.
* Promoting Energy Upgrade California.
* Accessing income-eligible services of local governments to encourage energy efficiency opportunities.

Goal 3: **Permitting Authority**

**Strategy 3-1:** Statewide assessment of local government code enforcement and recommendations for change. Examples:

* Code compliance study identifying the rate of non-compliance statewide of Title 24 energy code.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop and conduct assessment.

Develop set of recommended improvements (e.g., via compliance tools, information, training, modified standards, and/or funding).

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing.

**Strategy 3-2:** Dramatically improve compliance with and enforcement of Title 24, including HVAC permitting and inspection requirements (including focus on peak load reductions in inland areas). Examples:

* Trainings on the 2013 Title 24 Building Energy Codes (in effect January 2014).
* Local inspectors and contractors hired by local governments shall meet the requirements of the energy component of their professional licensing (as such energy components are adopted).
* Fund regional energy compliance inspectors as part of regional energy efforts (regional local government partnerships, Regional Energy Networks, and others)
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Provide trainings.

Develop strategies for improved compliance.

Fund regionally shared inspectors.

Test pilot programs in 2014.

Put initial improvements in place statewide by 12/2015.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand statewide

Strengthen compliance solutions

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing.

**Strategy 3-3:** Develop, adopt and implement model policies and programs focusing on improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings. Examples:

* Develop, adopt and implement programs to increase local participation in Energy Upgrade California.
* Develop a program to increase the number of permits pulled for residential energy equipment replacement.
* Develop, adopt and encourage point-of-sale programs or ordinances to increase efficiency in existing buildings.
* Develop a program for holding annual building energy savings competitions. (AB 758)
* Develop a plan to engage multi-family dwellings. (AB 758)
* Develop policies and procedures for annual non-residential energy disclosure. (AB 1103)
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop model codes and programs in 2014.

Launch pilot programs in 2015.

Implement statewide building energy ratings disclosure system by 2015.

Implement requirements beyond disclosure, such as ratings and/or energy upgrades at sale of properties by 2016.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing refinement and implementation.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing implementation.

**Strategy 3-4:** Develop, adopt and implement model green building energy policies and codes on both a mandatory and voluntary basis. Examples:

* Promote CalGreen Energy Tiers for adoption by cities and counties.
* Develop and implement model incentives, such as expedited permitting and reduced fee structures, for new green buildings and other above-code developments.
* Develop model policies and programs, including model permitting language and procedures, to increase the number of renewable energy installations in California.
* Develop/promote a pathway to approve a zero net energy (NZE) building.
* Adopt a Reach Code.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Early adopter local governments adopt CalGreen Energy Tiers.

Launch statewide campaign for adoption.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting CalGreen tiers; monitor effectiveness and upgrade model codes.

Work with Residential & Nonresidential New Construction stakeholders to develop model ZNE homes and commercial buildings, their economics, and a strategy for promoting their construction.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand to statewide program.

**Strategy 3-5:** Use local governments’ income-eligible programs to require more efficient facilities. Examples:

* Low-income housing assistance/grants
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Identify opportunities and challenges for tapping income-eligible programs to increase energy efficiency.

Develop and implement pilot projects.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand implementation.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing implementation.

**Goal 4:** Local government and community energy efficiency expertise becomes widespread and prevalent.

*Goal results: By 2025, regional energy efforts cover the state. Each region has a workforce of and market for energy efficiency providers including planning, design and installation contractors.*

Many local governments do not have adequate dedicated staff or resources to move proactively on energy efficiency in their own or community buildings. They also often lack capacity or awareness to promote building and zoning codes that would dramatically accelerate green, efficient buildings within their jurisdictions.

Even so, a focused effort on development of local government energy efficiency expertise is critical to the State’s energy efficiency goals. Programs such as the regional technical assistance and education centers in Humboldt, Marin and San Diego that work with local governments, schools, and special districts in their areas, are an example of effective training programs. Regional efforts are becoming more prevalent with many regional local government partnerships and the two Regional Energy Networks.

In addition to regional efforts to assist cities and counties, there is also the opportunity for public-public partnerships between local governments (or regional entities representing local governments including councils of government and non-profit organizations) and schools, colleges and universities, and special districts, including water districts. Public-private partnerships with investor owned utilities and others access the unique expertise of each partner.

In order to fully implement the potential of community-led energy efficiency, not just cities and counties need to be engaged. Building the capacity and the commitment of the members of communities are also important. Research to guide development of effective public engagement programs will be critical.

Strategies include:

* Cross-departmental engagement
* Peer-to-peer sharing and technical assistance
* Regional efforts, including Regional Energy Networks
* Public-public partnerships (schools, universities, special districts including water districts)
* Public-private partnerships
* Workforce education and training to build local EE workforce
* Green Building Market Development Zone

Goal 4: **Local Energy Efficiency Expertise**

**Strategy 4-1:** Engage elected officials and multiple departments in the planning, implementation and operation of energy efficiency programs and projects. Examples:

* Empower local jurisdictions’ staff with data from local utilities to help make case for need for investments in EE for consideration by local elected officials.
* Staff an ‘energy manager’ position within the city or county.
* Develop a city or county ‘green team,’ engaging many departments.
* Work with professional associations, such as the American Planners Association, to provide continuing education credits for trainings in energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Work with utilities and local government energy staff to develop elected officials data needs and presentation materials.

Local governments establish multi-department green teams to coordinate energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction strategies.

Professional associations develop protocol for providing continuing education credits for energy efficiency, green building, and greenhouse gas reduction trainings.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting green team programs.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand statewide.

**Strategy 4-2:** Support a statewide technical assistance program for local governments, including peer-to-peer expertise exchange. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative and the Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator currently provide such services. Examples of activities:

* Offer a menu of resources to help local governments that currently lack deep expertise in energy efficiency.
* Develop educational materials for local government leaders, including best practices, case stories, workshops and online learning opportunities.
* Provide technical assistance and templates for energy action planning and climate action planning efforts.
* Provide recognition for local governments that are taking action to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in their communities.
* Provide networking opportunities for local government energy staff and elected officials.
* Provide workshops, webinars, webcasts and other education and training opportunities for local government energy personnel.
* Share best practices through fact sheets, newsletter stories and other materials.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Continue to fund SEEC and Statewide Coordinator position.

Develop additional resources, continue to provide educational and networking opportunities to share best practices.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Ongoing implementation.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing implementation.

**Strategy 4-3:** Develop and/or participate in regional energy efforts to reduce energy use in municipal operations and in the community. Regional efforts allow for shared resources and expertise, and economies of scale for energy efficiency services and products. Examples:

* Regional energy centers/partnerships/networks
* Peer-to-peer sharing and assistance
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop model approaches (e.g., joint powers authorities, memoranda of understanding, regional councils) by 2014.

Leader governments begin pilots.

Communicate information on a peer-to-peer basis.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand outreach on benefits of regional approaches to wider range of local governments.

Identify funding sources to support wider utilization.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Ongoing implementation.

**Strategy 4-4:** Develop public/public partnerships to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Possible partners include:

* School districts
* Colleges and universities (to develop energy efficiency degree programs and bring energy students into the public realm for real-life training and assistance)
* Special districts, such as water and parks districts (e.g., to partner on planning and implementing programs that save energy *and* water, including agricultural water)
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop model public-public partnership examples, for example city-university partnerships for climate inventories.

Develop city or county partnerships with water districts/agencies to co-develop and co-fund programs to reduce energy and water use. This may include advising on general plan updates, climate action plans and regional watershed management plans, and developing and adopting water conservation ordinances and programs.

Launch in pilot cities.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting public-public partnerships.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand statewide.

**Strategy 4-5:** Develop public/private partnerships to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Possible partners include:

* Electric and Gas Utilities
* Local non-profit organizations
* Local businesses
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Expand the number of cities and counties in local government partnerships with utilities.

Share examples of local government and non-profit energy partnerships, such as Strategic Energy Innovations’ Climate Corps Program.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting public-private partnerships.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Continue to encourage public-private partnerships.

**Strategy 4-6:** Develop Local Energy Efficiency Businesses and Workforces. Examples:

* Workforce Education & Training to develop local energy contractors & consultants
* Recruit green businesses/business development with an energy equivalent of Recycling Market Development Zones.
* Other?

**Outcomes**

**Near Term 2014-2016**

Develop model training programs for energy contractors that cities and counties can tailor to local circumstances.

Promote development of energy business incubator projects in several California cities and counties.

Launch in pilot cities and counties.

**Mid Term 2017-2020**

Expand percent of cities and counties adopting WE&T programs for energy contractors.

Expand the number of cities and counties developing energy business incubator projects.

**Long Term 2021-2025**

Expand statewide.

1. “Local governments” primarily refers to cities and counties, which have land use authority. However, there are also important roles for regional government, metropolitan planning organizations, school and special districts and other local and regional government entities. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. California Public Utilities Commission Decision 99-08-021, Ordering Para. 11. See also D.01-01-060 directing the utilities to increase partnerships with local governments to achieve energy efficiency at the local level. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. California Environmental Quality Act [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Energy Upgrade California, AB 758 and AB 1103 did not exist in 2008 and yet there is a role for local government in the implementation of each. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Quantec, Statewide Codes and Standards Market Adoption and Noncompliance Rates. Prepared for Southern California Edison, May 10, 2007. Available at: <http://www.californiaenergyefficiency.com/docs/hvac/references/Codes_and_Standards_Final_Report.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)