

VTA'S SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

VTA is committed to creating a greener Santa Clara Valley. VTA's Sustainability Program will strengthen VTA's commitment to the environment through the conservation of natural resources, the reduction of greenhouse gases, the prevention of pollution, and the use of renewable energy and materials.

GOAL:

To proactively reduce the consumption of natural resources, the creation of greenhouse gases, and the generation of pollution in the provision of public transportation services.

VTA's goal and the strategies that follow are designed to improve the sustainability of VTA's operations by achieving the Bay Area Green Business Program's objectives; complying with all applicable environmental regulations and striving to exceed compliance; conserving energy, water and other natural resources; developing and implementing practices that prevent pollution and waste; and acting as an environmentally responsible business within the community.

STRATEGIES:

- 1) Develop and implement public educational programs that promote the environmental benefits of public transit.
- 2) Support sustainable, transit-oriented development along major transit corridors to maximize the use of VTA's buses and light rail system as environmentally friendly alternative to the single-occupant automobile.
- 3) Evaluate the sustainability of VTA's existing facilities. Implement cost-effective sustainable maintenance and operational measures that recognizes life-cycle returns on investments from the efficient use of energy, the reduction of waste, and the conservation of natural resources.
- 4) Incorporate sustainability and green building principles and practices in the planning, design, construction and operation of new VTA facilities.
- 5) Develop procurement strategies that incorporate sustainability criteria compatible with federal and state regulations.
- 6) Establish benchmarks to measure the progress and performance of VTA's sustainability program and report back to the VTA Board of Directors on an annual basis. Among other actions, this report will involve reassessing VTA's fuel, electrical, and water usage on a regular basis.

SUSTAINABILITY- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.