

VTA Helps Keep the Valley Green!

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is committed to creating a greener Santa Clara Valley through its Sustainability Program. The program seeks to meet today's needs without compromising future generations. 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. Here are some ways VTA helps keep the valley green:



- **Providing Public Transit:** Utilizing public transit is one of the most effective actions to reduce greenhouse gases by individuals. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has reported that if one solo commuter in a household gives up their daily driving, it will reduce their household carbon



footprint by 10 percent. Giving up that second car for public transportation reduces a household's carbon emissions up to 30 percent! VTA offers transit riders Single Ride, Day, Month, Year passes and the Eco Pass Program. The Eco Pass Program is a transit pass program providing employers, educational institutions and residential communities of all sizes a way to offer an attractive, low-cost benefit. The Eco Pass is good for unlimited use of VTA Bus and Light Rail services, seven days a week.

- **Fuel Efficient Vehicles:** VTA has replaced 10 high-emission, non-revenue vehicles with 10 hybrid vehicles and more hybrid vehicle purchases are planned. Additionally, VTA's Community Bus service is replacing older 40-foot



buses with smaller, more fuel efficient 25-passenger vehicles in lower ridership corridors.



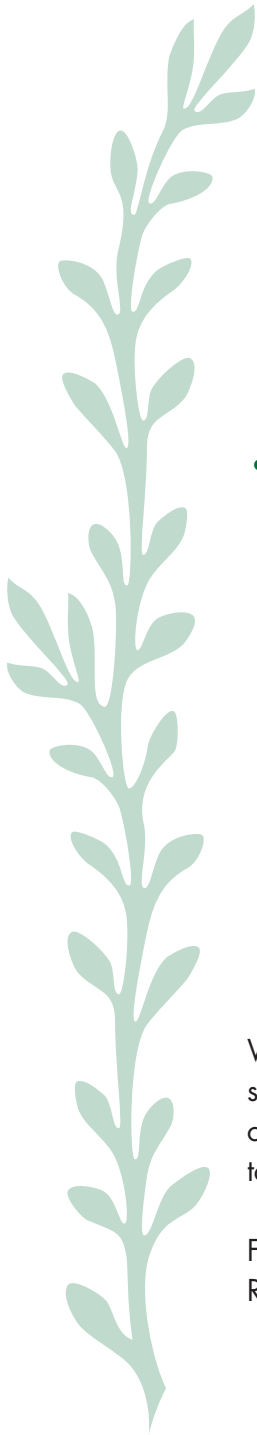
Outreach, VTA's paratransit provider, also operates over 60 hybrid vehicles to transport passengers that are unable to use VTA's fixed route system.

- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD):** TOD allows for growth to be focused and intensified around rail stations, which reduces reliance on the auto, helps contain sprawl, makes more efficient use of existing public transit services and strengthens the transit network. Essential to good TOD plans are a mix of uses within walking distance of each other, a site layout supportive of walking and transit use, and a well-designed pedestrian and bicycle system that emphasizes convenience and safety. The cities of Mountain View, Milpitas, Campbell and San Jose have all approved housing and mixed-use developments and General Plan amendments for sites along current and future light rail corridors.

- **Reduced Water Use and Hazardous Waste:** VTA uses less water and produces 39% less hazardous waste by utilizing recycled water in bus washers and equipping two VTA bus divisions with new wastewater treatment plants.



OVER



- **Solar-Powered Bus Stops:** VTA has partnered with Clear Channel, who provides the bus shelters, to utilize solar-powered lighting at bus stops throughout Santa Clara County that do not have access to a power source. These formerly non-illuminated bus shelters (29 in Palo Alto and 3 in San Jose) have been equipped with solar panels. The remaining bus shelters in Santa Clara County that do not have access to electricity are slated to be equipped with a solar-powered solution to lighting by the end of 2008.
- **Greening of VTA Properties:** Motion sensors on lights in conference rooms, energy-efficient fluorescent lighting at our administrative offices, reflective roofing material and recycling programs are saving energy and money at VTA properties. These improvements will assist VTA in achieving Green Business Certification for VTA's five major divisions.
- **Green Educational Campaign:** Because the largest (and easiest) energy efficiency improvements can be made by individuals, VTA's Sustainability Program has begun an educational program for all VTA personnel. Included in the curriculum are tips on more efficient task lighting and computer use as well as solid waste reduction and disposal.

Widespread international attention has been given to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability as it relates to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the overall effects on global climate change. To help VTA become more environmentally responsible, the VTA Board of Directors approved the Sustainability Program in February 2008.

For more information on VTA's Sustainability Program contact VTA Environmental Programs and Resources Management at (408) 321-5789.