



# BART Sustainability Action Plan

Executive Summary



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## Executive Summary: Sustainability in Action

Sustainability at BART is both **what BART does** and **how BART does it**. BART supports a sustainable and prosperous Bay Area by connecting communities with seamless mobility. BART does this via safe, reliable, clean, quality transit service for riders.

**What BART Does:** BART’s transit services are essential to the mobility, economy and livability of the Bay Area, for riders and non-riders alike. BART plays a central role in meeting the region’s sustainability goals by providing a reliable transit option that significantly reduces the region’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**How We Do Our Work:** BART’s Strategic Plan identifies Environment, Equity, and Economy as key goals. As part of its mission, BART is committed to integrating sustainability into its daily operations, and future transit investments. In April 2017, the BART Board adopted an updated [Sustainability Policy](#), which frames the overarching Sustainability Policy for the District. To implement this policy, the Sustainability Group created this Sustainability Action Plan with input from over a dozen BART Departments. Coordinated with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Transit Sustainability Commitment, this Plan identifies, evaluates and prioritizes the most important actions BART can take to advance sustainability from today to 2025.

“The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) is committed to advancing regional sustainability by providing safe, affordable, equitable, and environmentally-friendly transit to move people to jobs, recreation, and services.”

**Sustainability Policy Vision  
Adopted 2017**

The Plan summarizes BART’s goals and commitments, current achievements, and future actions for the seven sustainability categories below. Each category includes metrics to monitor program outcomes, and track performance in coordination with the Strategic Plan. BART Sustainability also supports BART’s Asset Management, Environmental Justice, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and Systems Access programs. BART’s Sustainability staff will primarily focus on those actions in the Environmental Performance and Operations and System Resilience categories.





## Sustainability Goals and 2025 Targets

The Plan sets both aspirational and committed targets for energy, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and water conservation. It also identifies targets for Operations and Systems Resilience and Patron Experience as shown below.

Establishing baseline information and appropriate data monitoring practices allows year to year comparisons and gives decision makers relevant information to adjust approaches.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE GOALS



Use **energy** efficiently and minimize related emissions.



Optimize use of potable and non-potable **water**.



Reduce **waste** generation and storm water emissions.

#### 2025 Targets (Commitment | Aspirational)

83% | 87% Reduce Total *GHG Emissions* per vehicle revenue mile.\*

4% | 6% Reduce District *Energy* use per vehicle revenue mile.\*

6% | 17% Reduce District *Water* Use.\*

To Be Determined Reduce District *Waste* (Total Tons/Vehicle Revenue Mile); and Increase Landfill diversion rate.

### OPERATIONS AND SYSTEMS RESILIENCE GOALS



Choose sustainable **materials, construction practices, and approaches to operations**.



**Resilient response** to extreme weather, earthquakes, and potential natural disasters or shocks.

#### 2025 Targets

100% Train BART Project Delivery staff in BART Facilities Standards (BFS) Sustainability Controls.

100% Implement High Priority Actions in the BART Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE GOALS



Promote **smart land use, livable neighborhoods** and sustainable access.



Improve the quality of **ambient environment at BART stations** and on the BART system for patrons and employees.

#### 2025 Targets

24% Reduce per passenger GHG emissions associated with access to stations by shifting passengers to greener modes of transportation and developing TOD adjacent to stations.\*

100% Meet all adopted Performance Standards for both System Safety and Patron Comfort.

\* Compared to 2025 Business as Usual projections

## Sustainability Priority Actions

Each Sustainability category includes a table of actions detailing the most significant sustainability opportunities for BART to address in the near term. Sustainability actions encompass not only system planning and design, maintenance, operations, and new construction but also new tools and internal procedures.

The actions were prioritized and assessed with respect to their impact, co-benefits, feasibility, funding and visibility.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PRIORITY ACTIONS



#### Resource Conservation - Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- RCE 1** Increase Capacity to Support Regional Greenhouse Gas Goals
- RCE 2** Adopt a Strategic Energy Plan
- RCE 3** Make Renewable Energy Purchases
- RCE 4** Invest in On-Site Energy Generation
- RCE 7** Invest in District Lighting Retrofits
- RCE 8** Onboard new Energy Efficient Train Cars



#### Resource Conservation - Water

- RCW 1** Regularly Audit Water Use and Correct Issues
- RCW 3** Upgrade Water Fixtures



#### Emissions and Pollution Control

- EP 1** Support Solid Waste Reduction
- EP 4** Improve Recycling at All District Shops and Yards
- EP 9** Clean and Reuse Water

### OPERATIONS AND SYSTEMS RESILIENCE PRIORITY ACTIONS



#### Materials and Construction Operations Optimization

- MC 2** Update the BART Facilities Standards (BFS) for Construction Activities
- MC 6** Develop Sustainability Design Guidance



#### Extreme Weather Adaptation and Resilience

- EWA 1** Coordinate with Regional Agencies in Climate Adaptation Planning and Implementation
- EWA 2** Conduct Hazard Mitigation Planning

### COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE PRIORITY ACTIONS



#### Smart Land Use and Livable Neighborhoods

- SLU 1** Improve Station Character and Community Fit
- SLU 2** Continue to Lead the Region in Transit Oriented Development
- SLU 3** Connect to Community - Station Access



#### Patron Experience

- PE 1** Create Cleaner Station Environments
- PE 2** Create Safer Station Environments

## Accountability and Implementation

In 2015, the District established the Sustainability Group and began to develop internal protocols for sustainability implementation. BART established a Sustainability Executive Committee in 2016. This committee is comprised of executive-level staff with the authority to approve and direct sustainability action implementation.

This first Sustainability Action Plan is a key step to embracing all potential benefits of sustainability including environmental benefits, economic efficiencies and positive societal outcomes. The plan includes the following implementation activities:

- Targets and action status will be assessed annually for progress towards 2025 goals. This information will be presented to the Sustainability Executive Committee.
- BART will commit to a culture of sustainability and ensure that identified actions have adequate resources and are included in annual work plans and budgets.
- New actions and action prioritization will be updated as needed.
- The Sustainability Action Plan will be updated every five years.
- BART will work to identify new funding sources, external grants and partnerships.

## Building a Sustainability Culture

BART will ensure that every employee can participate in its sustainability program. Achieving ambitious sustainability targets requires information sharing and cross-department collaborations. The Plan includes a chapter on Governance, outlining eight steps to integrate sustainability practices throughout the District.

BART is already a national leader in sustainability, achieving the 2016 APTA Transit Sustainability Silver recognition Award for its Sustainability program. It is on the path to the highest levels of recognition.

## Achieving Sustainable Outcomes

At this time, BART is working to transition to a carbon-free and low carbon energy supply, conserve water, reduce waste, manage costs related to system maintenance, and enhance system resilience in the face of extreme weather events and climate change. These practices are already paying off with more to come in the future.

