

April 2015

# Sustainability in San Antonio

*Thriving Economy, Healthy Environment, Inclusive & Fair Community*

## Why Sustainability?

San Antonio is a vibrant, culturally-diverse city that continues to attract growing numbers of tourists and new residents. By 2040, San Antonio is expected to grow by another 1,000,000 people. While this is an exciting time for our City's future, we must take steps to ensure we are prepared for this growth. With this in mind, the City of San Antonio has embarked on SA Tomorrow, an integrated, three-pronged planning effort to guide the City toward smart, sustainable growth. Through SA Tomorrow the City will complete three plans: a Comprehensive Plan, a Multimodal Transportation Plan, and a Sustainability Plan. A Sustainability Plan is a guide for enhancing a community's quality of life and overall resilience while balancing the impact of our expected growth with existing economic, environmental, and social resources.

## A Sustainable San Antonio

In 2011, the City of San Antonio identified its vision for a sustainable future through the SA 2020 process. This sustainability planning process is designed to create a roadmap to get to that vision. Throughout the planning process we will be asking for your help in determining sustainability goals and strategies, prioritizing strategies and developing steps to implement these strategies.



*Alamo 2 Solar Farm Courtesy of CPS Energy*

Through this planning effort, the City will:

- Create an inclusive and technically robust process that is grounded in the three pillars of sustainability – Social, Economic and Environmental - and leverages the nationally recognized STAR Communities Rating System
- Identify goals, actionable strategies, and targets in key areas such as green building, energy, food systems, and public health
- Develop a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast
- Complete a vulnerability assessment and make recommendations to enhance resilience
- Engage the San Antonio community to provide their concerns and offer ideas on how San Antonio can improve



*Síclovía attendees have the benefit of turning major city streets in to a safe place for people to exercise and play twice a year. Courtesy of SA Bikes*

A sustainable San Antonio has a thriving economy, a healthy environment, and an inclusive and fair community. Through this planning effort YOU have an opportunity to help shape San Antonio's future.



# Sustainability Planning Process

Through a sustainability planning process, a city identifies its priorities and applies them to a vision for the future. The community is engaged in the identification and prioritization of goals and strategies that can guide the city towards that vision. San Antonio will follow the process outlined below to develop the Sustainability Plan.

- *Develop draft plan based on the results of the previous steps in the process*
- *Solicit feedback from the public*
- *Finalize and publicize plan*
- *Report on progress through indicators on an annual basis*



- *Evaluate impact of strategies including cost and ability to meet sustainability goals*
- *Work with stakeholders and the public to prioritize which strategies should be implemented first*

- *Review existing plans, policies, and programs*
- *Assess existing conditions*
- *Confirm vision*

- *Engage key stakeholders and the public to identify goals for each focus area*
- *Brainstorm strategies that will achieve those goals*

## Focus Areas

A community requires certain elements to survive and thrive like water, energy, food and transportation. Since these elements are so vital to our communities, we want to find ways to conserve and optimize them. For the Sustainability Plan, we have identified 10 such elements we are calling “Focus Areas” that we will assess current conditions of and then create actionable strategies to manage these elements so they provide the most benefit to the community. San Antonio’s Focus Areas include:

- Green Buildings and Infrastructure
- Energy
- Food Systems
- Land Use and Smart Growth
- Natural Resources
- Public Health
- Solid Waste Resources
- Transportation and Connectivity

## Cross Cutting Themes

We need to be aware of certain factors that are important to every Focus Area. Understanding a Focus Area’s vulnerabilities, how much it will cost or how everyone will share it are “Cross Cutting Themes” that need to be evaluated when looking at each of the Focus Areas. San Antonio’s Cross Cutting Themes are:

- Air Quality
- Economic Vitality
- Equity
- Resilience
- Water Resources

## Get Involved!

This Sustainability Plan is YOUR plan for YOUR future, San Antonio! We encourage all residents to actively participate in the SA Tomorrow planning process. Throughout the planning process we will be utilizing MindMixer, a virtual townhall, where we can discuss issues and share ideas. Please join the conversation at [SATomorrow.MindMixer.com](http://SATomorrow.MindMixer.com).

We will also be getting out into the community and meeting with neighborhood groups, civic associations, business organizations, religious congregations, and various other community organizations. If you know of a meeting we can attend to talk about SA Tomorrow and the Sustainability Plan, please call the Office of Sustainability at 210.207.6103. Also visit [www.SATomorrow.com](http://www.SATomorrow.com) for additional ways to get involved and learn more about SA Tomorrow.



## What else is going on?

### SA TOMORROW TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A plan for all modes of transportation, including cars, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. The transportation plan will communicate the City’s transportation strategy and will serve as a tool to analyze transportation priorities to best meet community goals.

### SA TOMORROW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan will address land use, urban design and municipal policy to coordinate various City resources and incentive programs to accommodate projected growth and provide more choices for future and current residents.



Join the movement,  
[SARecycles.org](http://SARecycles.org)

