



...for a greener city

Starting with research, strategies, and plans, we made Los Angeles a global leader in environmental sustainability. We made history by setting a date to become independent of coal—the first big city to do so. We reduced overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by nearly 30 percent and launched the most far-reaching Port Cleanup program in the world, which cut Port of Los Angeles air pollution by up to 76 percent of sulfur oxides, and by more than 50 percent of nitrogen oxides. Truck diesel emissions have been cut by nearly 90 percent.

We quadrupled our use of renewable energy, increased recycling rates to over 75 percent, and opened over 650 acres of parkland—twice the amount created by the previous two administrations combined. With the 50 Parks Initiative, we are putting parks in neighborhoods that need them the most.

We championed a “Low Impact Development Ordinance” and developed the nation’s first ever standard plans for Green Streets, innovative designs that use natural processes to capture and clean stormwater, which can be the biggest source of polluted runoff to our beautiful beaches.

We are leading the world in converting our traffic lights and street lights to energy efficient lights.

A Million Trees was meant to be a context-changing concept. The idea was to encourage Angelenos to think about the environmental value of the urban forest. We started with a canopy analysis, to help us see where trees were needed most. Our plan was to concentrate plantings in tree-poor neighborhoods as much as we could. Eight years later over 400,000 trees have been planted in the city—more trees than any other such initiative has planted in the same period of time.

We got “riverly.” After completing the L.A. River Revitalization Master Plan, we created the L.A. River Revitalization Corporation, and worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to officially recognize the river as a “traditional navigable water,” formally placing it under federal environmental protection.

Kayakable, walkable, bike-able L.A.—in a better environment.



“Mayor Villaraigosa’s decision to end Los Angeles’ reliance on dirty coal and guide the city to a more sustainable future is a bold step on the path towards solving the climate crisis...[t]his courageous action should serve as an example to leaders all across our country; we have the tools at hand, it’s time to act.”

– Vice President Al Gore, Chairman of Climate Reality Project

WORKED TO COMBAT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, AND REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS

Our “Green L.A. Climate Action Plan” laid the framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from municipal operations 35 percent by 2030. It called on every City department—from Recreation and Parks to the Port of Los Angeles—to achieve this goal.

We collaboratively developed the Clean Air Action Plan for the Port, establishing a comprehensive air pollution mitigation strategy. We launched the most aggressive Clean Truck Program in the world, putting more than 8,000 clean trucks in operation and banning those that did not meet 2007 US EPA standards—reducing truck emissions at the Port by nearly 90 percent. A blue-green alliance of environmentalists and labor was critical to the success of this work. By converting the City’s vehicle fleet to clean fuel, and synchronizing City traffic signals to reduce auto idling, we further reduced emissions. As a result, toxic sulfur oxides and diesel particulates in our air have been reduced by 76 percent and 71 percent respectively, and nitrogen oxides by 51 percent throughout the Harbor communities.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) grew its portfolio with 20 percent renewable energy, including solar, wind and geothermal power—the most dramatic major utility improvement in California. A quadrupling of renewable energy use kept 2.5 million metric tons

of CO2 emissions per year out of our air—the equivalent of removing 750,000 households from the power grid—and LADWP worked to raise its renewable use to 33 percent by 2020. In 2013, LADWP and Mayor Villaraigosa made history by announcing that by 2025, L.A. would become the first big U.S. city to stop relying on coal-fired power plants. As of early 2013, citywide and municipal CO2 emissions were 28 and 30 percent below 1990 levels respectively. Overall GHG emissions were down nearly 30 percent.

CREATED POLICIES TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Since 2006, nearly 80,000 Angelenos were rewarded with rebates for taking water and energy-saving measures. More than 1.2 million residents received complimentary compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) through the CFL Distribution program, saving LADWP and Angelenos approximately \$60 million over the lifespan of the bulbs. In partnership with Repower LA, energy efficiency efforts at DWP expanded. Through retrofitting one million square feet of municipal buildings with the help of our Green Retrofit and Workforce program, supporting the efforts of the city’s commercial building owners and implementing new standards for green construction, L.A. became home to more LEED and Energy Star rated buildings than any other city in the country.



SAVED ENERGY THROUGH LED REPLACEMENT OF CITY STREETLIGHTS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS

In partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative, the Mayor’s Streetlight Retrofit Program replaced existing incandescent streetlights with LED units—the largest such program ever undertaken by a municipality. The streetlight retrofit will result in over \$10 million a year in energy and repair cost savings, and reduce 40,500 metric tons a year in CO2 emissions, and generate more than 60 percent renewable energy efficiency. Launched in July 2006, the LED Traffic Signal Light Conversion Program similarly converted incandescent traffic and pedestrian lights into LED technology units. With all City traffic lights converted to LED, the City will save \$4 million annually while reducing signal energy use by 85 percent.



"Eight years ago, the idea of visiting Los Angeles without a car would have seemed impossible, but with the leadership of Mayor Villaraigosa, our city has changed, both in the public's imagination and in the way we live our lives on a day-to-day basis."

- Aaron Paley, Co-Founder and Executive Director, CicLAvia



WORKED TO PREPARE THE CITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Fighting climate change is vital, but adaptation to what may be coming is also essential. In recognition, the Mayor established partnerships with local universities to conduct cutting-edge studies that could help the city prepare. A UCLA study conducted by Dr. Alex Hall was the most sophisticated regional climate study ever developed, revealing detailed data on the effects of GHG emissions in Los Angeles on a two-kilometer neighborhood scale. Research done in partnership with USC Sea Grant, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography investigated the impacts of potential coastal change and sea level rise on the city's infrastructure and properties. These studies will contribute to the City's development of climate adaptation strategies for the future.

PROMOTED WATER CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Water is a precious resource in our dry region, and the Mayor took important steps to build on the City's past efforts in protecting and conserving the water that enters the city. By 2013, L.A. had the lowest per capita water use among any major US city. We have one million more people than we did 40 years ago, but use the same amount of water.

Nearly a century after City engineers completed the 233 mile aqueduct that brought water from the Owens River to Los Angeles, the Mayor opened flood control gates to return water to 62 miles of dry riverbed in the Owens Valley. The Lower Owens River Project is the largest river restoration project of its kind in the U.S. The river now has a steady year-round supply of water and several permanent lakes, ponds, and wetland habitats.

BROUGHT THE CITY CLOSER TO A ZERO WASTE GOAL

L.A. is now on its way to meeting a "zero waste" goal. By expanding and improving acclaimed programs and policies, the city achieved a 75 percent recycling rate, the highest of any major city in the country. L.A. has the largest carton recycling program in the state, and the largest curbside recycling program in the country, providing weekly service to over 750,000 households. The expansion of the Multi-Family Recycling program now covers an additional one million Angelenos, and the franchising of the commercial waste stream promises to greatly increase the recycling rate, composting and other capacity.

PROMOTED CICLAVIA TO INTRODUCE ALTERNATIVES TO CAR CULTURE

With CicLAvia, the Mayor launched the largest no cost, car-free event in the nation, which lets thousands of Angelenos experience their city in an environmentally friendly way. Up to 15 miles of streets are temporarily closed off to motorized vehicles, allowing people to walk, run, bike, skateboard, or rollerblade through the city's diverse neighborhood streets. By June 30, 2013, Los Angeles hosted eight CicLAvia events, attracting more than 700,000 participants.

CREATED NEW PARKS AND RECREATIONAL SPACE

Aware of the environmental and social benefits of open and green space, as well as the city's historical shortage of both, the Mayor began his administration with a commitment to expanding parks in the city. During his tenure, 68 parks were built, adding approximately 670 acres of new open space. With additional areas planned and funded by the 50 Parks Initiative, and the approved Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, Angelenos are assured greater access to open space for the long-term future.



TOGETHER PLANTED OVER 400,000 NEW TREES

To ensure that Angelenos receive the environmental benefits provided by an urban tree canopy, in 2006 Mayor Villaraigosa launched the Million Trees Los Angeles (MTLA) initiative. Since then, MTLA has planted over 407,000 trees, in the process creating more than 1,000 youth jobs. MTLA created public-private partnerships to accomplish this, which allowed a low investment of taxpayer funds. A great majority of the trees have flourished: the city's new tree mortality rate is four percent while the nation's rate is 10-12 percent, and in 2011, the US Forest Service (USFS) declared MTLA a top model for large urban planting programs.

More recently, USFS partnered with MTLA and the City of Los Angeles to establish the first USFS Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability Research Center, a prototype for future USFS Research Centers in the Western US.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 20% Renewable Energy
- 75% Recycling of Solid Waste
- 669 New Acres of Open Space
- 140,000 Street Lights Changed to LED
- Port Emissions Down More Than 50%
- 412,000 New Trees
- 68 New Parks

"Under Mayor Villaraigosa's leadership, Los Angeles has become one of our greenest big cities."

- President Bill Clinton, Founder of the William J. Clinton Foundation and 42nd President of the United States.