

Climate Change and Sustainability

Sustainable Development Policies that Address Climate Change and Support the Wellbeing of Residents

Greenhouse gases produced by cities like Los Angeles contribute significantly to droughts, extreme heat, sea level rise, and destructive wildfires. Boyle Heights residents experience some of the worst air pollution in the state, making issues of wellness and sustainability especially relevant for the community. Planning for the future requires that the Boyle Heights Community Plan Update incorporate policies that aim to reduce impacts on the environment and adapt to the current and future needs of residents.

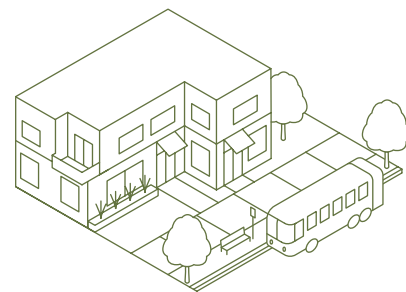


Encouraging New Housing and Employment Near Sustainable Transit Options

Vehicle emissions are a leading cause of pollution and climate change. For Boyle Heights, a community bisected by freeways and truck routes, decreased reliance on cars is key to the long term health and wellbeing of residents. Plan policies respond to this by accommodating growth near more sustainable transit options that reduce individual vehicle miles traveled, traffic and emissions.

Land Use Policies 6.1, 6.3 and 6.4

promote development around transit stations that mixes residential and neighborhood-serving commercial uses, as well as community amenities and jobs, while fostering a vibrant pedestrian environment through mobile sidewalk vending plazas near transit.



Land Use Policy 9.4

considers further reductions in parking requirements for projects when located within walking distance of major transit stations and bus stops.

Improve Environmental Quality through Sustainable Urban Development

The Plan recognizes the immediate health impacts of existing highways, refineries, auto body shops, rail yards, and manufacturing facilities on residents of Boyle Heights and the long term impacts the uses pose on the environment. It also establishes a direction for sustainable urban development that minimizes impacts to the environment while enhancing the well-being of residents. Plan policies promote landscaping, streetscape and design elements along with updated land use designations that help counter urban heat island effects, improve air quality and enhance community aesthetics.



Land Use Policies 26.1, 26.3, and 26.4

guide building form and frontage design and building orientation around passive heating and cooling techniques; encourage paved areas to be designed with permeable surfaces to increase infiltration and reduce runoff; and promote building designs and features that minimize exposure to air quality pollution, and landscaping with vegetation proven to filter particulate matter pollution.

Land Use Policy 28.1

encourages the planting of shade trees in the public right-of-way and private property in order to mitigate urban heat island effects and contribute to the health of the community's urban forest.

Land Use Policies 13.5 and 18.5

promote the adaptive reuse of existing buildings as a sustainable option for development, as well as a method to preserve the neighborhood character of Boyle Heights.

Enhanced Pedestrian Amenities and Connections

Boyle Heights has many residents who walk to and from school or work and to connect to transit. In order to create a safer pedestrian environment, the Community Plan includes policies to encourage better pedestrian connectivity and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the Plan Area. The Plan prioritizes a street network that offers a safe and pleasant walking environment that connects residents to transit and local goods and services, while reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Land Use Policies 15.1–15.6, 25.1, 25.2 and 25.5

prioritize a pedestrian oriented built environment that promotes a walkable environment and reduces the negative impacts of driving while increasing physical activity and physical access to goods and services. Form and Frontage Districts applied along corridors require building design and elements that improve pedestrian access to businesses and residences.

Public and Open Space Policies 1.8 and 2.1

explore ways to connect neighborhoods divided by freeways through pedestrian improvements, and enhancing corridors by expanding sidewalk space and incorporating seating, landscaping, and opportunities for street vending into the streetscape.

Mobility and Connectivity Policies 1.7, 2.1 and 3.2

establish the objectives of improving safety and connectivity for people walking and bicycling as well as improving alleyways with permeable walking surfaces and streetscape amenities such as pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and public art.

Land Use Policy 8.5

and the Use Districts applied through the zoning discourage new uses on corridors that contribute to the production of greenhouse gases and diminish a healthy and active pedestrian street life, such as businesses featuring vehicle repair, drive throughs, fueling stations, and storage facilities.