



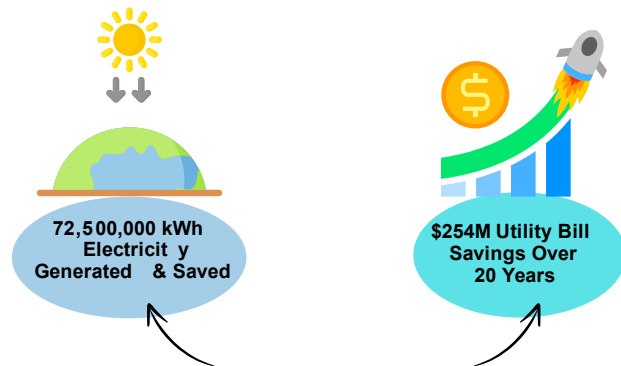
# City of Fresno Public Works - Sustainability Division

## Energy Resources Management Progress Report

October 2024

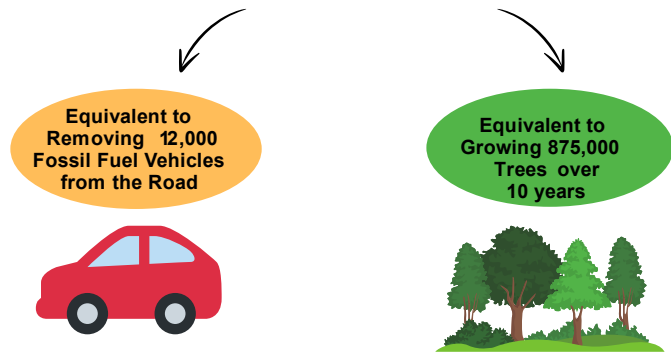
The City of Fresno's Sustainability Division was launched by the Public Works Department in 2019 and was created to help the City improve its energy efficiency and renewable energy goals in City owned facilities. As the 5<sup>th</sup> largest city in California, the focus has been on reducing the City's carbon footprint and energy costs by lowering energy consumption and increasing renewable energy.

Since its inception, the Sustainability Division has been active in implementing several transformative initiatives citywide. The City's renewable energy portfolio has grown from a solar offset in 2020 of 1.7% to 46.3% in 2024, with projects completed, or currently under construction and final design. This was achieved by negotiating and developing over 34 megawatts (MW) of new solar and battery storage projects at 10 citywide sites, which is projected to save taxpayers over \$143 million over the next 20 years with low fixed electricity rates. This critical energy work has also included the upgrade of over 43,000 City streetlights to light emitting diode (LEDs), and the development and completion of energy efficiency projects at 76 different sites. This includes the City's Municipal Service Center, Parks, Fire, Police, and the Department of Public Utilities Regional Wastewater Reclamation facility. A remarkable element of these accomplishments is that these projects represent over \$61 million in capital investments which have not required any out-of-pocket capital expenditures by the City. These energy efficiency projects have all been developed and designed using an industry best practice called energy performance contract financing, and PG&E On Bill Financing (OBF). The energy performance contract guarantee and OBF ensures the PG&E bill savings will cover the annual payments due on the energy loan financing. So far, the PG&E bill savings for both energy efficiency projects and solar have far



### Environment & Savings

Thanks to renewable energy and efficiency investments, the City of Fresno is estimated by 2045 to have saved over \$254 million in taxpayer dollars otherwise directed to utility bills.



outperformed the guaranteed projections. In addition to saving the City money, all projects have included a focus on energy job training and local labor.

These combined energy initiatives will save taxpayers well over **\$254 million** during the next 20 years. What's more, environmentally this equates to removing more than 12,000 vehicles off the roads, or growing over 875,000 trees over 10 years, and decreasing CO2 emissions by over 50,000 metric tons.

As the Division continues to move towards managing energy use and costs by lowering Fresno's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, the department is eager to implement additional energy related improvements to help in managing the City's 2,400+ electricity accounts.

The City is motivated to efficiently manage energy usage because the cost per kilowatt of electricity in California is far more than double the national average and PG&E rates are reported as the highest in the nation. In addition to the consistent rising costs of electricity, state agencies are moving towards mandatory reporting requirements of energy use and renewable energy credits (REC). At some point the City will also need to implement a program to monitor and track the City's electricity usage and accounts which will also help determine the effectiveness of the measures Fresno has taken so far. It will also allow the City to accurately report its usage and help pinpoint the areas and accounts that need attention.

The Division remains committed to implementing the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) which works to provide livable, equitable, and economically vibrant communities which includes the reduction of GHG emissions. By using energy more efficiently, harnessing renewable energy to power buildings and enhancing access to sustainable practices, the City retains dollars in the local economy, creates jobs, and improves the community's quality of life. The City has already implemented a number of sustainability and conservation efforts as a municipality to include the City's established clean energy use goal of 50% renewable energy by 2025. The progress made by the Division in just five years is impressive and has positioned the City to align with the robust clean energy goals adopted by the State of California.

