

Indicators

Drafting group

These indicators, sampled on a regular basis, will give a bird's-eye view of whether San Francisco is moving toward or away from a sustainable future. Of course, none of the topics below are completely covered by the few listed indicators, and there are certainly infinitely more things that could be tracked. These ongoing measures are meant to give an overall indication of whether the City is moving in the right direction, and provide a way of measuring significant trends without entailing major new expense for data-collection. Baselines for these indicators have yet to be researched.

An upward-pointing arrow indicates that the measurement should rise if the City is moving in the right direction; a downward-pointing arrow indicates that the measurement should fall.

INDICATOR	WHICH WAY SHOULD THINGS GO?
Air Quality	
Number of existing buildings that join the Building Air Quality Alliance Program (or similar voluntary programs).	UP
Number of people going to clinics for respiratory problems.	DOWN
Percentage of new cars registered in San Francisco which are alternatively fueled (e.g., California Air Resources Board-certified, low emission vehicles, ultra-low emission vehicles, or electric vehicles).	UP
Biodiversity	
Number of volunteer hours dedicated towards managing, monitoring, and conserving San Francisco's biodiversity.	UP
Number of square feet of the worst invasive species removed from natural areas.	UP
Number of surviving indigenous native plant species planted in developed parks, private landscapes and natural areas.	UP
Abundance and species diversity of birds, as indicated by the Golden Gate Audubon Society's Christmas bird counts.	UP
Energy, Climate Change and Ozone Depletion	
Ratio of renewable to non-renewable energy consumption.	UP
Energy cost per tax dollar.	DOWN
Food and Agriculture	
Number of public agricultural gardens.	UP
Quantity of food and agricultural residuals recycled.	UP
Number of school, vocational and community education and training programs about sustainable agriculture and nutrition.	UP
Hazardous Materials	
Difference between motor oil purchased in the City and the amount that is properly recycled or disposed.	UP

Equitable distribution of the hazardous material/waste exposure (load) throughout the City.	UP
Number of contaminated sites within City borders.	UP
Public awareness of hazardous materials/waste issues (especially proper use and disposal and knowledge of alternatives) as measured by annual survey (to measure effectiveness of outreach).	UP
Human Health	
New cases of asthma.	DOWN
Number of people attending organized wellness classes.	UP
Participation in organized youth programs at city recreation centers.	UP
Parks, Open Spaces and Streetscapes	
Percentage of the population with a recreational facility and a natural setting within a ten-minute walk.	UP
Number of neighborhood green street corridors created annually.	UP
Number of volunteer hours spent annually on maintenance of open space.	UP
Annual municipal expenditures on parks, open space, and streetscapes.	UP
Solid Waste	
Tons of waste landfilled annually.	DOWN
Recycling rate as a percentage of material generated.	UP
Percentage of residents, businesses, and institutions that participate in recycling programs.	UP
Transportation	
Auto registration.	DOWN
Parking-spot inventory.	DOWN
Muni ridership.	UP
Muni route running time on key routes.	DOWN
Water and Wastewater	
Per capita water consumption measured by the San Francisco Water Department.	DOWN
Mass of pollutants in wastewater.	DOWN
Mass and frequency of combined sewer overflows.	DOWN
Recycled water use.	UP
Acres of habitat restored.	UP

Topics that Span Many Issues

Economy and Economic Development	
Number of San Francisco enterprises adopting ISO 14000 standards.	UP
Number of San Francisco neighborhoods with unemployment rates higher than the government-defined "full employment" rate.	DOWN
Difference between the highest neighborhood unemployment rate and the full employment rate.	DOWN
Number of San Francisco manufacturers using recovered secondary materials as raw material.	UP
Percentage of people employed in San Francisco who live in San Francisco.	UP
Environmental Justice	
Mean income level of people in historically disadvantaged communities.	UP
Proportion of environmental pollution sources in historically disadvantaged communities with respect to San Francisco's other communities.	DOWN
Participation of historically disadvantaged communities as a whole and their indigenous self-selected representatives in decision-making processes.	UP
Municipal Expenditures	
Number of items of legislation adopted by the Board of Supervisors that advance sustainability goals.	UP
Number of service providers and companies on the Green Vendors list.	UP
Percentage of budget allocated utilizing sustainability criteria.	UP
Percentage of budget that is devoted to facility maintenance.	UP
Public Information and Education	
Number of schools that integrate and progressively update environmental education in their curricula.	UP
Conservation and waste reduction as measured by volume of garbage produced per capita and units of electricity used per capita.	DOWN
Number of volunteers working on environmental projects as measured through the largest volunteer clearinghouse that refers or mobilizes people to do community service.	UP
Risk Management (Activities of High Environmental Risk)	
Number of businesses that train employees in the Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams program.	UP
Number of seismically upgraded buildings.	UP
Number of hazardous materials incidents.	DOWN