

[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/  
Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



**Ad hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee team:** From left, Stephanie Negriff, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Director; Metro Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers representing CEO Roger Snoble; Karen Heit, representing Metro Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal; Facilities Operations Director Tim Lindholm; Committee Chair and Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor; Transportation Planning Manager Tim Papandreou; Clean Air Task Force coordinators Michael Lambeth, vehicle support group analyst and Vehicle Acquisition Manager John Drayton; Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer K.N. Murthy; Environmental Compliance and Services Manager Cris Liban; Marilyn Lyon, representing Jacki Bacharach of South Bay Council of Governments, and Karly Katona, representing Metro Board Member Yvonne B. Burke.  
*Photo by Gayle Anderson*

## Sustainability and Climate Change Committee provides guiding light for Metro's ongoing sustainable efforts

- [Who's Who:](#) Metro Sustainability Implementation Plan on the job

BY GAYLE ANDERSON

(August 13, 2008) The fiscal year begins anew, like spring itself, with budgets either nourishing or constraining a fresh crop of projects. But budding forth through a mass of concrete, traffic congestion and pollution, Metro's sustainability task force continues its worthy work, this time under the protective shade and bracing structure of the Metro Sustainability Implementation Plan adopted by the Board at its final meeting of FY2008.

The concept of sustainable development entered into the engineering stream of consciousness in the late 1940s, along with the post-war advent of consumerism and peace-time prosperity.

"We haven't caught up with those concepts until recently, in the last decade or so," said Cris Liban, one of the sustainability program coordinators and manager of environmental compliance and services.

Environmental policies and regulations developed in the 1960s and 1970s raised consciousness on this concept but are not as far-reaching as the current sensibilities, he said.

In light of dwindling resources and increasing environmental issues, a new perspective of sustainability has evolved into a mainstream discussion of building a present and future with renewable resources.

**On the Job: Metro Sustainability Implementation Plan**

**Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee Directors**

- Pam O'Connor, Chair
- Yvonne B. Burke
- Bonnie Lowenthal
- Jacki Bacharach, South Bay Council of Governments
- Stephanie Negriff, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Director

**Sustainability Program Coordinators are Metro staff members who assist in the implementation of the sustainability program**

- John Drayton for Clean Air Task Force Coordination
- Cris Liban for Environmental Management Systems, Sustainability Design Criteria, and Sustainability Program Support Efforts
- Tim Lindholm for Renewable Energy Projects
- Tim Papandreou for Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change Management

**Executive Staff Sponsors**

- Carolyn Flowers
- Carol Inge
- K.N. Murthy

**First-ever Regional Sustainability Summit**

The nature of public transportation already defines Metro as a green function of the region's infrastructure, CEO Roger Snoble told an audience of civic leaders attending the regions' first-ever regional sustainability summit hosted by Metro, May 28.

At that summit, a legion of stakeholders took first steps in a collaborative effort to develop a region-wide sustainability policy. Addressing the convening civic leaders and local government staff, then-Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor, who chairs the ad hoc committee and convened the summit, called for "collective action" needed to achieve a more sustainable region.

"No one agency or department can do this on its own, but together, we can work to meet the goals that we decide for the future we want," she said.

The regional conversation took a tangible shape one month later with the adoption of Metro's Sustainability Implementation Plan, catapulting the transportation agency to a leadership position in the regional quest for sustainability through

**Metro Green**

fiscal responsibility, social equity and environmental stewardship.

**A place for 'green' projects**

Projects instigated by sustainability principles completed before the organizing efforts took root now had a home.

Projects with a decidedly environmental bent have included recycling and solar projects, energy-efficient buildings, water- and energy-saving plantings along the Metro Orange Line and developing and operating high-tech alternative fuel buses, CEO Snoble noted at the sustainability summit.

Chief among notable achievements are the construction of the landmark Metro San Gabriel Valley headquarters built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver Certified guidelines and the installation of solar panels at Metro Bus yards in Sun Valley, Chatsworth and Carson.

**The short-term agenda**

Continuing these efforts - now supported by the agency's formal commitment - are energy-saving initiatives that trim upwards of 20 percent off electricity costs, such as implementation of a three-year plan to install solar panels for every feasible Metro facility in cooperation with local utilities. Currently, a solar panel installation is under construction at Metro Support Services Center.

Also being developed is a countywide greenhouse gas emissions management system that will measure Metro's carbon footprint, coordinate input to development of regional and national Climate Change policy and raise the bar for transit industry protocols for registering carbon emissions.

A third task on the short-term agenda will establish the Sustainable and Environmental Management Systems. A pilot program underway at Gateway Division 10 to capture best practices will help determine sustainable and environmental protocol for all divisions.

"Capturing the best practices means documenting processes that use chemicals, cleaning supplies, maintenance materials, and how we recycle batteries and tires," said Liban.

"We'll follow where materials go and track the credits generated by recycling," he said. "The



Landscaping greens the Metro Orange Line alignment



Metro runs the largest clean air fleet in the nation.



The landmark Metro San Gabriel Valley building was built to meet (LEED®) Silver Certified guidelines



idea is to return sustainable materials to use and earn credits rather than fill landfills.”

Solar panels at Metro Bus yards in Sun Valley, Chatsworth and Carson supply an average 20 percent of division energy needs

More profoundly, the intent of developing environmental management systems within each bus and rail division is the identification of opportunities for improvements and cost-savings. Cost savings can be used to implement future projects that produce other cost-savings opportunities.

**Longer-term projects**

Longer-term projects in the sustainability queue are an ever-growing wish list, their priority dependent upon Board approval, funding and key stakeholder input.

These include development of a new set of implementation tools to manage air quality and climate change issues. Also high on the list is a means to develop and explore other sources of renewable energy and develop a comprehensive energy strategy.

When the ad hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee, as chaired by Board Member Pam O’Connor, reconvenes in the fall, the task force will be braced by progress made since the plan’s adoption on June 24. “We will be updating activity undertaken in the first quarter of FY09,” said Liban.

On the agenda is the much-anticipated analysis of the countywide sustainability survey of 88 cities, Los Angeles County departments and districts undertaken in early 2008. The results of the survey will establish a countywide baseline on climate change management efforts and implementation underway as well as a regional needs assessment.

- Online: More about Metro’s Sustainability Program  
[http://www.metro.net/about\\_us/sustainability/default.htm](http://www.metro.net/about_us/sustainability/default.htm)