



GSA Transportation Services Annual Report

FY 2012/13

Transportation Services Annual Report – FY 2012/13

FOREWORD

The County of Alameda has a long history of taking action to preserve natural resources for current and future generations and is committed to sustainability. Today global climate change is one of the most significant threats facing the County, one that will have far-reaching impacts on the entire community and affect the County's ability to deliver services. By acting now, the County can reduce the severity of these impacts as well as take advantage of the opportunity to rethink how government services are provided in the twenty-first century.



GSA Director, Aki Nakao

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator has shown strong leadership on this issue by passing resolutions that commit the County to address climate change. In 2006, the Board passed the Climate Change Leadership Resolution, which directed County staff to create a comprehensive climate action plan to address the environmental impact of County operations and services as well as from the community of unincorporated areas in the County. The result of this effort was the Alameda County Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Government Services and Operations, which creates a blueprint for key actions to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions by building on existing successful County initiatives.

The Transportation sector accounts for a significant component of the County's emissions, and we are leading the way in efficient and advanced – fuel vehicles, the electric vehicle charging station infrastructure to spur a growing movement, and incentives and educational campaigns to encourage employees to use clean commutes. These efforts were recently recognized by Green Fleet Magazine, which named Alameda County as the 17th greenest fleet in North America in October 2013.

This report takes our sustainability efforts a step further and puts it on display to inform the public and open a dialogue on how we can all reduce our environmental footprint. It is my hope that you will find the material both interesting and informative.

To learn more about the County's sustainability initiatives, please visit <http://www.acgov.org/sustain/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aki Nakao". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Aki K. Nakao
Director, Alameda County General Services Agency

Lead Author: Phillip Kobernick
Cover Design: Virginia Hazlewood

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Alameda County Transportation Services has produced its first annual report to help contribute to the dialogue about public fleet management, share our own experiences, and learn from others as we continue to improve the safety, effectiveness, and sustainability of our County’s transportation program.

We are working diligently to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction in a number of ways including the introduction of new technology such as GPS devices to help us detect potential safety problems before they occur and advanced fuel systems that allow for a seamless experience for our employees and customers.

We are also actively looking to provide the same reliable services to County departments and agencies while reducing the overall size of the fleet through “right-typing” and “right-sizing” initiatives – ensuring that the right type and number of vehicles are being utilized for the right jobs.

Please help us continue the conversation by contacting us with your own experiences and insights.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Bond". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug Bond
Alameda County General Services Agency, Transportation Services Manager

Welcome to Alameda County Transportation Services first fiscal-year annual report. This new venture represents our core values of transparency and customer service and our commitment to environmental stewardship.

The County has set aggressive climate action goals – a 15-20% reduction in operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and 80+% reduction by 2050. Transportation accounts for an overwhelming component of the County’s current GHG pollution – over half of all County climate emissions stems from employee commuting and internal fleet operations. But we are making tremendous progress to improving our footprint, as you will discover in the following pages.



Thanks for taking the time to join us in this endeavor. We welcome your feedback and comments as we further institutionalize our goals and strategies to create more sustainable transportation solutions for Alameda County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Kobernick". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Phillip Kobernick
Alameda County General Services Agency, Sustainability Specialist, Transportation Services

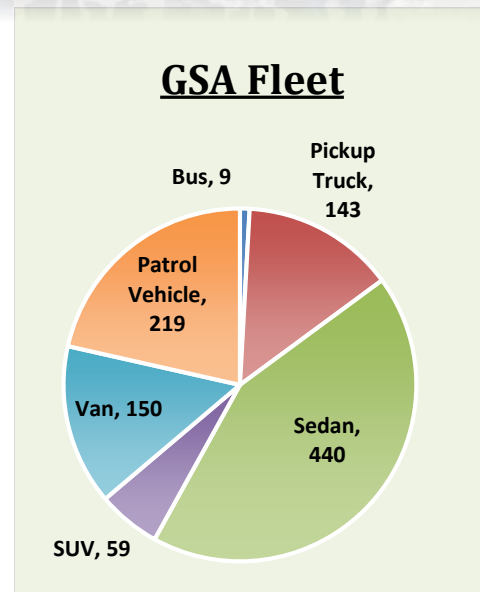
About Alameda County Transportation Services

Transportation Services, a division of the Alameda County General Services Agency (GSA), takes a holistic approach to addressing the transportation needs of employees and the public. Transportation Services oversees County business travel needs and employee commuting, managing the Motor Vehicle Division, Business Travel Alternatives initiative, Clean Commute Program, Parking Division, and Messenger Service.

The Motor Vehicle Division operates the County's fleet, the main mechanism for business travel. The fleet includes shared pool vehicles that are available to any employee and agency-specific vehicles that are utilized for duties ranging from the provision of social services to health inspections to law enforcement. At the end of FY 2012/13, there were 1,020 vehicles in the fleet, primarily consisting of light-duty sedans and trucks (see figure to the right).

To reduce the County's transportation impact, Transportation Services, in a collaborative project with the Auditor-Controller office, is leading the County's business travel alternative initiative. This initiative produced a streamlined way for employees to check out Clipper Cards, the local inter-agency transit card, to encourage public transportation use for business travel and supported the rollout of a virtual meeting plan for employees to reduce the need to travel in the first place.

To address the County's largest climate impact, employee commutes, Transportation Services launched the Clean Commute Program to encourage employees to try alternative transit modes rather than driving alone to work. Employees can now find carpools via an online carpool matching service and are now connected to regional transit through County-operated shuttles.



Another important division within Transportation Services is the Parking Division, which oversees 15 County-owned parking garages and lots and provides free parking to carpools of two or more to promote clean commuting.

GSA Transportation Services also operates the Messenger Service, an intra-County mail delivery system. The Messenger Service delivers most mail to County locations the same or next day. They also collect and transport batteries for proper recycling.

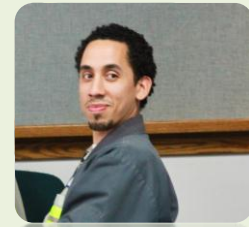
The Year in Review

Right-Sizing - Alameda County is committed to “right-sizing,” making sure to use the right amount of vehicles, and no more, to reduce the size of our fleet and improve efficiency. One solution we are implementing is the Invers Motor Pool, an online reservation system. Currently in 5 locations (three new in 2012-13), the Invers Motor Pool promotes vehicle sharing within the County's decentralized departments by allowing employees to reserve vehicles by the hour. This allows for the same vehicle to be used efficiently throughout the day. By making it easier for departments to share vehicles, we not only create a more efficient fleet, we also reduce the County's commuting impact. The Invers system also allows employees to reserve a vehicle days in advance for business travel. This helps employees overcome a major barrier to clean commuting by allowing them to feel secure that they'll have access to a County vehicle when they need it and can leave their personal vehicle at home.

Another tool to help the County's right-sizing efforts is GPS, which have been added in more than 400 vehicles, with plans for an additional 200 this year. This installation will continue in future years until the entire fleet has GPS. We track our actual utilization through the GPS system and use this information to continue to right size the fleet by reducing unter-utilized vehicles.

“My job not only tackles energy usage directly, but also helps to spread the message of sustainability to the public. My new County hybrid vehicle is extremely fuel efficient, and also garners quite a bit of attention from the public and our customers, allowing me to explain gas mileage and battery efficiency. Spreading awareness is a great part of my job. Becoming more sustainable is a shift in one's thought process that can begin in the workplace.”

- Ian Meader, Transportation Services Attendant



Improved Systems - A major accomplishment in the prior year was the successful upgrade of the County's fuel stations. The previous system required manual entry of odometer mileage, which occasionally provided inaccurate readings. The new system allows the fuel pump to interact directly with a vehicle's on-board computer and gather precise information, while also improving the overall customer experience. This new system has provided more accurate fuel-efficiency information on the fleet and the vehicles that are serviced by Transportation Services.

The previous year also saw several additions to the Transportation Services team. Several vehicle installers, working previously with GSA Communications, have been moved to our team, where they will continue their important work – preparing law enforcement vehicles with equipment outfitting services for patrol vehicles. The merger provides an excellent opportunity for Transportation Services to better assist the Alameda County Sheriff's Office in their day-to-day duties.



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Key Focus Areas

Transportation Services is committed to advancing the goals of Alameda County’s Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations (CAP). The table below highlights the department’s sustainability strategies, as well past and future actions related to the Climate Action Plan. To read the CAP, please visit <http://www.acgov.org/sustain/next/plan.htm>.

Commuting

- Significant progress taken/on target for goals
- Opportunity for improvement
- Significant work still needed

Strategy	Actions Taken	Upcoming Actions	Related CAP Item
Promote bicycling/walking as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel to/from County facilities	Annual participation in Bike to Work Day; bicycle safety classes facilitated for employees	Additional bicycle commuting education planned for next year	T-1
Increase the infrastructure available to facilitate biking and walking as viable options for accessing County facilities	Many bicycle racks available at locations throughout the County	Major upgrade of bicycle parking facilities, including secured parking, planned for FY 2013/2014	T-2
Develop comprehensive employee education and outreach strategy on commute alternatives	Carpool matching service provided through Zimride; Clean Commute Fairs organized for employees; Commuter of the Month recognition; regular competitions and incentives for clean commuting	Ongoing events and trainings around clean commuting	T-3, T-4, T-8
Implement and promote a comprehensive Countywide flexible work program to achieve 20% employee participation within 5 years	Draft Alternative Work Arrangement Guidelines created by Cross-Agency Climate Team	Flex work components such as “hoteling” are being integrated into future County buildings	T-5, T-10, T-12
Develop and promote shuttles to connect major County facilities with transit systems	Three shuttles connect County facilities in Oakland, San Leandro, and Hayward to nearby BART stations	Continued tracking of shuttle use and promotion of service; future expansion possible	T-6
Adjust parking policies to de-emphasize single-occupancy vehicle commutes	Free parking provided for carpools of two or more people		T-7
Develop a fee-based car-share program that allows personal use of County fleet vehicles for errands or carpooling	Discounted membership for Zipcar available to employees	Vanpool pilot planned that would allow for use of County vehicles for commuting with employee contributions	T-11

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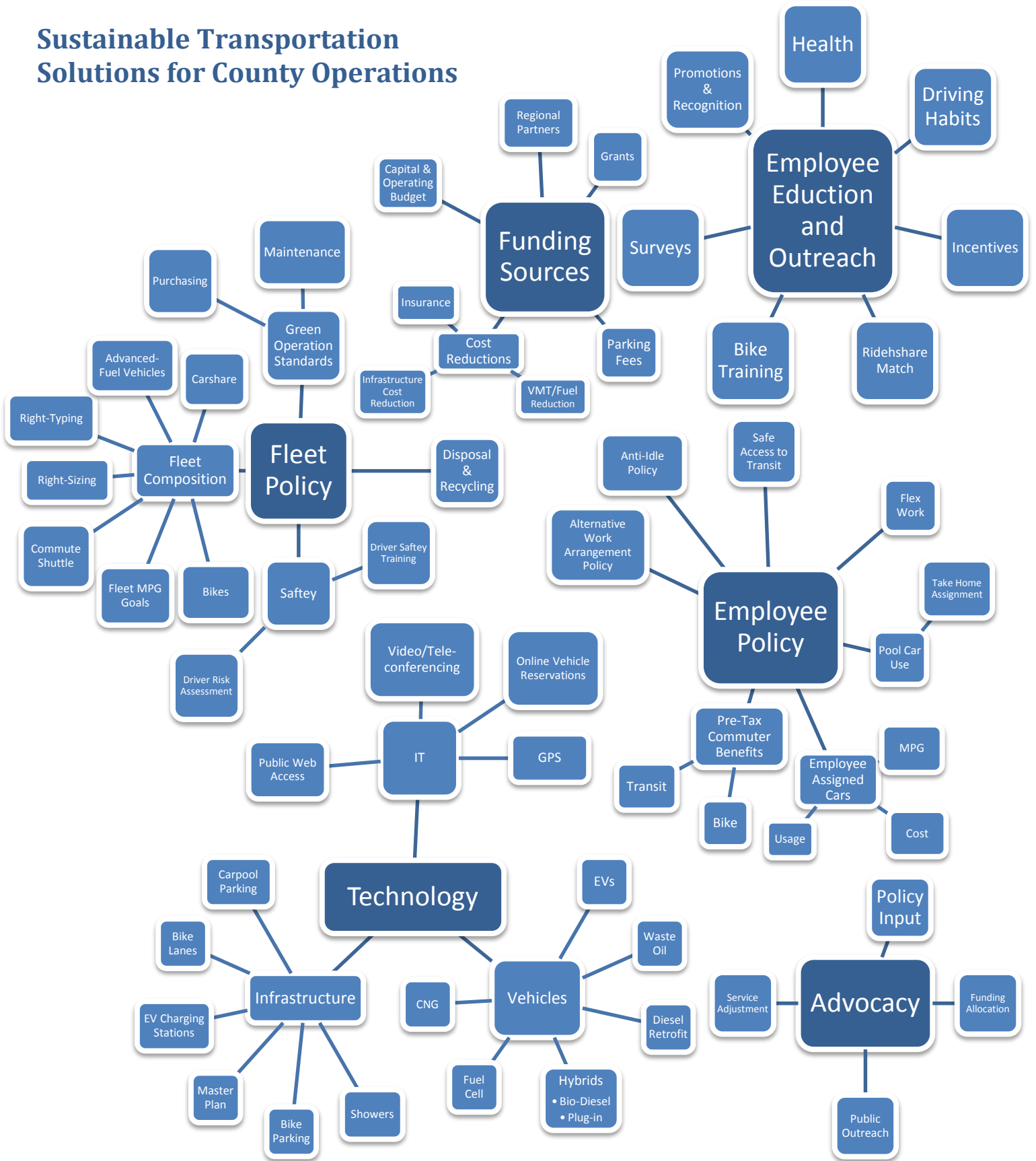
Green Fleet

- Significant progress taken/on target for goals
- Opportunity for improvement
- Significant work still needed

Strategy	Actions Taken	Upcoming Actions	Related CAP Item
Utilize “right-sizing” to promote efficiencies and minimize emissions	Minimum utilization levels set and larger vehicles (SUV, etc.) need justification to be purchased	Ongoing effort when vehicles are replaced annually	T-13
Implement advanced fleet management technologies to measure and improve fleet efficiency	New fuel system and GPS improve data collection ability; online vehicle reservations promote better vehicle utilization	Additional GPS units are being phased in until all fleet vehicles are equipped	T-14
Promote alternative modes for business travel	Employees can now check out transit cards for business travel; web conferencing is being rolled out	Expansion of transit card pilot; education and training for virtual meetings to be conducted	T-15
Expand the use of high-efficiency and advanced-fuel vehicles in all County fleets	65 new hybrids and EVs purchased last year	Conventional vehicles continuously phased out each year for hybrids, EVs, etc.	T-16
Adopt operational maintenance best practices to promote vehicle efficiency	The Motor Vehicle Department conducts regular preventive maintenance to keep vehicles running safely and efficiently	Transportation Services is testing reusable oil filters to reduce waste	T-17
Reduce emissions from idling	County policy dictates no idling unless necessary; pilot project with Sheriff’s office tested anti-idle battery equipment	Potential expansion of anti-idle technology in different applications and education	T-18
Minimize use of personal vehicles for County business	The County began tracking personal vehicle miles and total business travel trips taken this past year	Additional training and better accessibility to fleet vehicles through online reservations planned	T-19, T-15-16
Develop enhanced driver training classes on safety, efficiency, and advanced-fuel vehicles	The County’s first EV ride/drive training was conducted last year	Additional trainings on maximizing fuel efficiency when driving conventional and EVs; “eco-driving” pilot project to promote efficient driving behavior	T-20

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Sustainable Transportation Solutions for County Operations



Driving Sustainability in FY 2012/13

Making Alameda County “EV Ready” - In the last year, Alameda County installed its first 40 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that made most of these stations available for free to the public until the end of 2014 to promote the early adoption of EVs. Next year, another 40 stations will be added to support fleet operations. Find out more at www.acgov.org/sustain/what/transportation/evp.htm

Increasing fuel efficiency - Dozens of vehicles were replaced with smaller, more efficient vehicles in the past year. In total, 65 new hybrids and electric vehicles were purchased, bringing their total share of the non-law enforcement fleet to 25%.

Fighting idling - To demonstrate fuel and emissions savings, Transportation Services piloted new technology for the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) to reduce engine idling for patrol officers. The battery system allows officers to run all of their electronic equipment directly off the battery during stops, reducing the need to power equipment using their vehicle’s engine.

Encouraging clean commuting – Transportation Services undertook a major employee engagement campaign this year to provide fun and educational messaging on the benefits of clean commuting. Two Clean Commute Fairs were organized in the spring and featured local transit representatives, an “iPad App Showcase” to display transportation apps, clean commute calculators, a bike mechanic, and more. Clean Commute Challenges followed the Fairs, and consisted of a County-wide game encouraging employees to log their clean commuting to help their department or agency win.

Hayward shuttle launch - County employees are urged to use alternative transportation instead of driving for commuting and on the job travel to help reduce emissions and the size of the overall fleet. To provide more convenient and practical access to regional transportation, Transportation Services operates multiple shuttle busses that connect major County campuses in Oakland, San Leandro, and Hayward offices (as of May 2013), to BART, the local Bay Area rapid transit. These services are provided for free to employees to encourage clean commuting and business travel without cars. Since their launch in 2009, these shuttle busses have transported over 183,000 riders.



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The Horizon

Much is in store for the coming year.

Alameda County GSA Transportation Services is leading the federally-funded Local Government EV Fleet Demonstration project. The goal of this project is to prove cost and environmental savings from EVs in local government fleets by purchasing 90 electric vehicles and charging stations across 10 government agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area. As the lead agency, Alameda County GSA is spear-heading the architectural design process for many of the participating agencies, running the collaborative procurement process, and working with the agencies to prepare their sites for EVs and help them to comply with federal funding regulations. As a participant in this project, the County will also be receiving 24 EVs and EV charging stations within the next year.



Photo: Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Biking in Alameda County has increased significantly in the past several years and is likely to further increase as more residents and employees are turning to cleaner commute options. According to a 2012 Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) report, at least 85,000 trips are made daily by bicycle within the County. The number of bike commuters in Alameda County increased 21% from 2006-2008 and now represents 2% of all commute trips. To further encourage the increase in bicycle utilization, Transportation Services

will expand its bicycle parking facilities for employees and the public across the County, including the installation of secured bicycle parking.

Transportation Services often pilots new technology and techniques to help reduce costs and improve the department's environmental impact. The most recent technology tested is an eco-meter, a dashboard mounted gauge that displays real-time fuel efficiency to the driver. This information should help drivers drive in a more "eco-friendly" and fuel-efficient manner – exactly how much fuel can be saved will be tracked over the coming year.

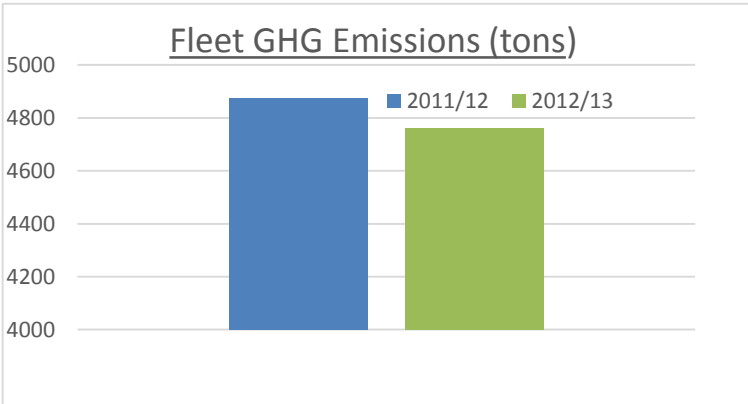
Finally, Transportation Services will conduct the County's first dedicated commuter survey in the next year. This survey will allow staff to track progress in reducing "drive-alone" commuting and provide a baseline moving forward to meet the County's goal of reducing drive-alone commutes by 20% in the next four years.



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Tracking Progress

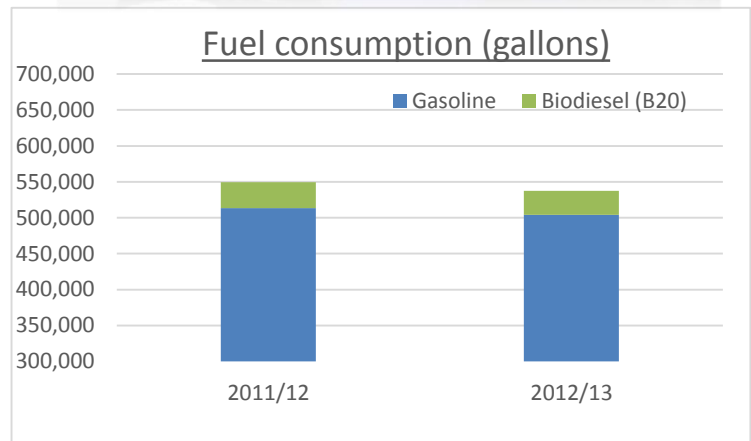
Making progress begins with measurement and tracking. Below is a summary of the key performance indicators that we use to track progress.



	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
GHG emissions (tons)‡	4,877	4,764

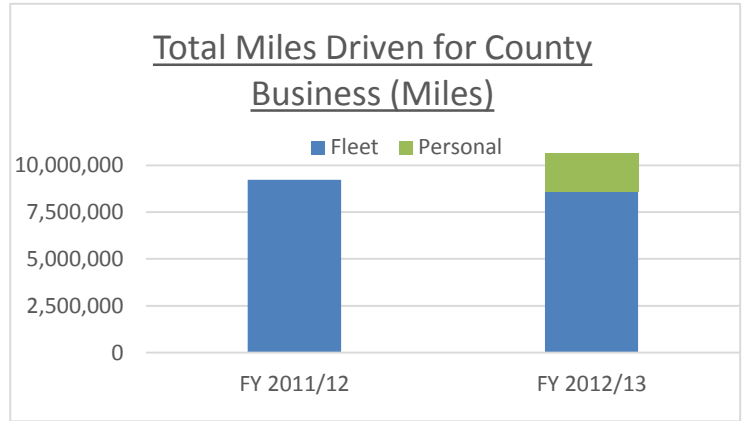
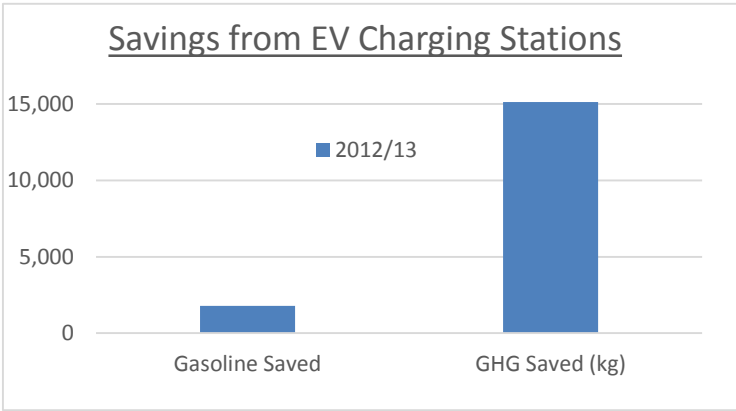
Savings

By utilizing hybrid and electric vehicles, Alameda County saved over \$176,000 in fuel costs and conserved at least 44,000 gallons of fuel in the last year.



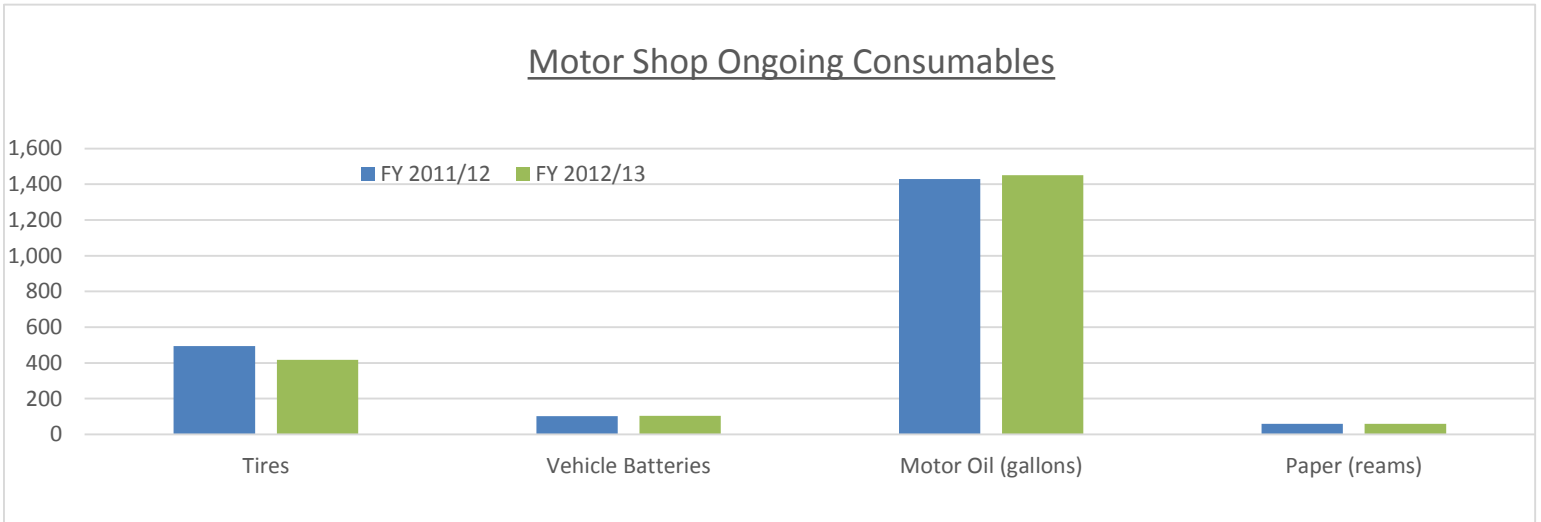
	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Gasoline	513,346	503,823
Biodiesel (B20)	36,191	33,823

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	FY 2012/13
Total gasoline saved*	1,778 gallons
GHG saved*	15,111 kg

	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Fleet Vehicles	9,222,562	8,595,158
Personal Vehicles	N/A	2,034,036†



	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Tires and Tubes	495	418
Vehicle Batteries	103	104
Motor Oil (gallons)	1,430	1,451
Paper	60	60

‡ Based on total fuel consumption and EPA’s Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator.

* Savings include internal fleet operations and savings to the public via public use of charging stations.

† Estimated. Alameda County began tracking this specific metric in January 2013.

HAVE A QUESTION OR SUGGESTION? CONTACT US!

Sustainable.transportation@acgov.org