

National Association of Counties



Green Government

An initiative of the National Association of Counties



Green Government Initiative



About the NACo Green Government Initiative

The NACo Green Government Initiative provides comprehensive resources for counties on all things green, including...

- ➔ Alternative Fuels and Vehicles
- ➔ Climate Protection and Air Quality
- ➔ Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings
- ➔ Green Economy and Green Jobs
- ➔ Land Use
- ➔ Renewable Energy
- ➔ Purchasing and Procurement
- ➔ Waste Management and Recycling
- ➔ Water Quality



www.greencounties.org

With the support of its sponsors, the NACo Green Government Initiative serves as a catalyst between counties and the private sector to facilitate green practices, products and policies that result in both financial and environmental savings for county governments.

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10 Ways to Go Green

Going green is an incremental process involving all aspects of county government. Counties may consider the following 10 Ways to Go Green list when evaluating their current efforts and planning for future green goals ...

- ➔ Create a Green Team
- ➔ Improve Energy Use and Practice Integrated Environmental Design
- ➔ Commit to Climate Protection
- ➔ Conserve and Protect Land and Water Resources
- ➔ Support Renewable and Alternative Energies
- ➔ Implement Green Fleet Policies
- ➔ Plan for Sustainable Communities and Transit-Oriented Development
- ➔ Make Informed Environmental Purchases
- ➔ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- ➔ Educate, Communicate, Celebrate



Green Government Services and Resources

The goal of NACo's Green Government Initiative is to assist counties with efforts to protect and improve the environment, especially through emissions reductions, while saving taxpayer dollars and improving services. Among the services and resources available to counties through this Initiative are ...

Training and Technical Assistance

Webinars – utilizing the internet, NACo provides training and networking opportunities to elected county officials and staff on a variety of green subject areas. Each webinar provides best practice examples for counties across the country, expert advice, and is recorded for viewing at a later time.

Fact Sheets and Publications – with a focus on sharing best practice examples and emphasizing cost-benefit analyses of green technologies and services, NACo's green government fact sheets, bi-monthly newsletters, guides, and surveys, provide the perfect starting point for counties researching green options and looking to learn from the experiences of others.

Workshops – throughout the year, NACo provides presentations on how counties are going green to national, regional, and state audiences. NACo also creates workshops with panels of experts on specific green subjects for county officials and staff. Presentations are available online.

Energy Benchmarking – through its County ENERGY STAR Program, NACo provides cost-free technical assistance in benchmarking the energy use of county buildings and assisting those counties in working to earn an ENERGY STAR designation for one or more of their buildings.

Information Sharing

Electronic Network – individuals may register for the cost-free Electronic Green Government Network and receive important updates on funding opportunities, new resources, and requests for information.

News and Emerging Trends – with weekly media scans, NACo tracks the latest green news at the county level and shares this information with the Electronic Green Government Network.

Database – an online searchable database helps counties avoid 'reinventing the wheel' by providing copies of green policies, plans, resolutions, staff descriptions, outreach materials and more. Search the database by green issue area, document type, keyword, county size or state.

Best Practice Videos – new in 2009, counties will be able to view best practices from other counties across the nation on NACo's YouTube Channel. NACo is working with counties to record videos that showcase how their county is going green.

Products and Services

Company Connections – NACo works daily with its Green Government Initiative Sponsors and connects counties with their green products and services, even working with some counties to participate in pilot projects.

Green Exhibits – the NACo Annual Conference and Exposition is the perfect opportunity to learn about green technologies and services. The designated Green Government Exhibit Area makes it easy for attendees to find green companies and organizations.

NACo

Infrastructure and Sustainability Programs

NACo also offers the following infrastructure and sustainability programs for counties ...

Building County Capacity to Reduce Wildfire Risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface – works with elected county officials and planners to identify current best practices and innovative strategies in the area of wildfire risk reduction and mitigation.

Coastal County Restoration Program – provides grants for marine habitat restoration projects on a competitive basis to innovative, county-led or supported projects.

County Climate Protection Program – provides counties with best practices, tools and resources to assist them in developing and implementing successful climate change programs at home.

County ENERGY STAR Program – provides resources to help counties be more energy efficient in their own buildings and to convey the energy efficiency message to other sectors of their communities.

County Solutions to Improve Rural Road Safety – provides (through trainings, a best practices publication, and a peer-exchange network) information on the tools and techniques that will help counties reduce fatalities on rural and isolated roads.

Digital Coast Initiative – provides tools and resources to develop county capacity and needs regarding coastal issues with the data and tools utilized in coastal management.

Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program – provides modest financial assistance for wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects.

Go Green, Get Healthy Campaign – provides tips and resources for individuals to help the environment, improve their health, and save money with a selection of activities easy to implement in daily life – at home, at work, and around town.

Green Infrastructure and Community Forestry Project – provides members with information and training on natural resource management in local communities. Information includes how counties can use trees, parks, streams and other green spaces to improve air and water quality while saving energy and money.

Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) – helps to build county officials' awareness and capacity to improve transmission pipeline, especially through local land use practices and pipeline safety.

Watershed Management and Wetlands Protection Program – provides the monthly Water Quality Newsletter and topical Issue Briefs, workshops and training on water quality issues for counties.



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