

ENERGY AND WASTE

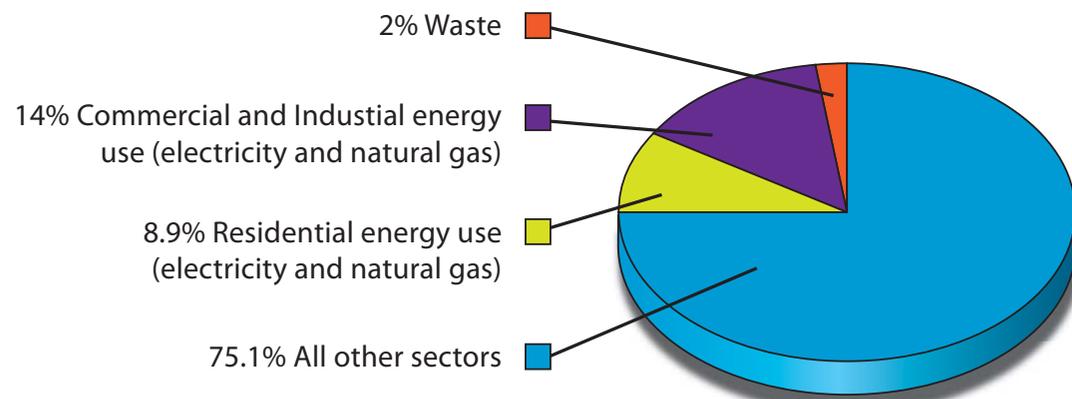
Economic Consideration: Energy powers and sustains our economy, directly providing over 109,000 jobs for San Luis Obispo County and providing the power that supports nearly every other job.

Thriving communities rely on a stable energy supply and available resources. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are created as a byproduct of necessary energy and resource usage. Combined, energy and waste contribute 25% of the county's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- Energy emissions result from the production of electricity consumed within the county, or the combustion of natural gas that takes place within the county.
- Waste emissions result from the decomposition of waste that is sent to the landfill.

Community-Wide GHG Emissions by Sector in 2006

Percentage of Total Metric Tons of CO₂e Emissions



From the Community-wide and County Government Operations 2006 Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory (revised April 2010).

The County has taken action to sustain resources and protect our long-term legacy. Energy and resources can be consumed more wisely to reduce waste and the impact of energy consumption. Many such examples abound in the county, and several are listed below. These types of strategies serve as models to achieve the vision of a long-term, viable legacy.

- **Financing for energy-efficiency and conservation.** On January 19, 2010, the County Board of Supervisors approved participation in the State's California-FIRST Pilot Program. Through this program, the County will offer a new finance mechanism for property owners to fund energy-efficiency retrofits and renewable energy installations.
- **Waste reduction at construction sites.** The County recycles at least 50% of all waste generated at construction and demolition projects.
- **Sustainability in Practice (SIP) Program.** The Central Coast Vineyard Team is a local non-profit that advocates sustainable winegrowing. It has established a voluntary rating program – SIP – that establishes sustainable farming standards that reduce energy use. Over 11,000 acres of Central Coast vineyards have been certified through the program.
- **Native Landscaping Demonstration Project.** The County is working with the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden to reduce water consumption and landscape maintenance costs at the historic Courthouse Building and Government Center.