

# CITY OF ALBANY



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Gerald D. Jennings**  
MAYOR

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DEPUTY MAYOR

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## OFFICE OF ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY ESTABLISHES GREENHOUSE GAS AND ENERGY USE BASELINE

### *MAYOR ANNOUNCES REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR 2011*

**ALBANY, N.Y.** – Mayor Jennings joined city officials today to announce the findings of the Office of Energy and Sustainability’s greenhouse gas inventory. Established in September, this new office was the direct result of several years of planning based on the goals laid out in the City of Albany’s sustainability agenda, which Mayor Jennings established in April of 2009.

The Office of Energy and Sustainability, directed by the Mayor’s Office and City Planning Department staff has been working closely with their consultant VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C. (VHB) and department heads from across the City to collect data on energy use and various processes to calculate the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the government operations and the entire City.

By establishing a benchmark for emissions, City staff and VHB are able to map out a plan for reducing emissions and finding other efficiencies. Utilizing the Mayor’s Sustainability Agenda and the results of the GHG inventory, the Sustainability Working Group, formed in September 2010, has already identified the top priorities for government operations for 2011. These include a Green Fleet Program, an Energy Conservation Policy, and a Municipal Waste Reduction Program. To address the emissions from the community, the Mayor is creating a Community Advisory Committee, made up of Albany residents and stakeholders, who will be charged with identifying and implementing energy use and GHG reduction strategies at the community level.

“This is an important step forward for the City of Albany. You can’t manage what you don’t measure. By completing this baseline assessment of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions we can effectively track our progress towards our reduction goals and have clear metrics to communicate to the community,” said Mayor Jennings. “The Office of Energy and Sustainability has made excellent progress in its first four months and it is going to be a valuable tool for identifying cost savings, increasing efficiencies, and making Albany a greener city.”

Albany is among the first cities in the Capital Region to take inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions. Details of the inventory can be found on the Office of Energy and Sustainability’s newly launched website: [www.albanysustainability.org](http://www.albanysustainability.org)

“The Office has made tremendous progress already by completing the greenhouse gas inventory,” said Doug Melnick, Director of Planning for the City of Albany who oversees the office operation for the Mayor’s Office. “Now that we’ve completed the inventory, we can begin coordinating with city departments to reduce emissions from government operations, and work with the community to identify reduction targets and a climate action plan for the entire city.”

## **City of Albany Reduction Targets**

### **Building Energy Use**

**Target:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the city’s buildings and facilities by 25 percent by 2030 and generate 15 percent of energy used by the City from renewable sources by 2030.

### **Municipal Fleet**

**Target:** Replace 10 percent of the City’s gasoline or diesel vehicles with alternative fueled vehicles by 2030.

### **Solid Waste**

**Target:** Divert 65 percent of solid waste from the landfill by 2030

The Office of Energy and Sustainability is possible in large part due to a \$1.04 million federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. That grant was offered through the U.S. Dept. of Energy to implement energy efficiency and conservation strategies to reduce fossil fuel use; to reduce total energy use; and to improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors.

The Office of Energy and Sustainability supports the goals identified in the 2009 sustainability agenda. One of the key initiatives from that Executive Order was to, “expand sustainability-oriented operations in City Hall and explore funding mechanisms and sources to hire a full-time Energy and Sustainability Coordinator.”

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