

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has long-held commitments matched with actions that reduce construction and supply chain greenhouse gas emissions while delivering a system that is the backbone for transferring medium and long-distance trips to completely zero-carbon rail.

In Construction

The Authority committed to a zero-emissions construction site, and has already delivered projects that provide more than 422,000 metric tons of CO₂e sequestered or avoided that offset the 75,000 MTCO₂e from construction.

We have additionally avoided 445,000 pounds of pollution and are 60% cleaner than average construction sites in California.

We will further minimize pollution by increasing the use of clean equipment and requiring zero-emissions trucks and vehicles.



In Operation

High-speed rail will use solar and battery storage to reduce operational electricity costs by 72%, providing resiliency to the system and reducing load on the power grid during times of high energy demand. High-speed rail will further reduce CO₂e emissions by 2 million metric tons. Emissions savings also conservatively account for the capture of air travel and for the uptake of zero emissions vehicles.

Without high-speed rail as part of the transportation network, congestion and economic expansion suffer.

Economic Benefits

High-speed rail has supported businesses in disadvantaged communities with an average of \$700 million/year since FY 2016/2017. In FY 2020-2021, 57% of the investment in the system occurred in designated disadvantaged communities.

The Authority is committed to implementing 30% overall small business participation for Authority contracts, including 10% Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation and 3% Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises.

As of May 31, 2022, the number of small businesses participating in the project has increased by nearly 130% since 2015.

The ongoing construction is projected to produce nearly 200,000 job-years of employment and over \$41 billion in economic activity.



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