

### **About This Report**

The eighth edition of *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County* strives to stimulate a community-wide dialogue about bettering this special place where we work, play, and live. It challenges each of us to ask, “How do we *simultaneously* achieve the triple goals of a healthy economy, society, and environment in San Mateo County, while using only our fair share of the planet’s resources?” Propelled by the philosophy that “what gets measured gets managed,” this annual report card holds us collectively accountable for improvement in all areas.

This report aims to weave the concept of sustainability into the vocabulary of our leaders, residents, and workers, and ultimately into the fabric of our entire community. By providing fact-based information about local trends, it improves our ability to make sound decisions for the benefit of current and future generations.

A reflection of our community in more ways than one, this report would not be possible without the help of dozens of volunteers representing various walks of life in our county and beyond. These volunteers selflessly contributed their talents in research and the graphic arts. We are grateful for their assistance and the financial contributions of our sponsors.

### **About Sustainable San Mateo County**

Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the long-term improvement of our region’s environment, society, and economy through the promotion of sustainability.

Inspired by the 1992 Earth Summit, SSMC has been educating the community about sustainability for 11 years. In addition to publishing *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County: A Yearly Report Card on Our County's Quality of Life*, SSMC hosts an annual Sustainability Awards program to recognize San Mateo County businesses, community groups, and individuals that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to bringing sustainable practices to their work. SSMC, in partnership with San Mateo County RecycleWorks and the San Mateo County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, also sponsors a Green Building Award annually. Finally, SSMC organizes community events that support a wider understanding of issues affecting sustainability in the county and collaborates with community groups to develop programs that address specific community issues and needs.

### **Our Mission**

Sustainable San Mateo County exists to change the present and shape the future of our region's environmental health, economic vitality, and social equity so that each generation meets its needs in a sustainable way. Sustainability means that we meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

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“Sustainable development” is a “compelling moral  
and humanitarian issue.”

*Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State*

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### **Sponsors**

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“Plans don’t accomplish work.  
It is people who get things done.”  
*Colin Powell, Modern Maturity, January/February 2002*

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