



Berkeley Climate Action Plan: Tracking our Progress Building Energy Use – Green Building Case Study



Project Name: Oxford Plaza

Location: 2121 Kittredge Street

Building Type: Affordable Housing

Square Feet: 97,000

Year Built: 2009

Green Certification: [Certified GreenPoint Rated](#)

Project Team: Resources for Community
Development (RCD)

Performance Highlights: Low utility bills due to investments in energy efficiency.

“We made durable design choices because we are in it for the long haul and want our residents to be healthy. If you have asthma this is the building to be in.” Lisa Motayama, Director of Housing Development, Resources for Community Development (RCD)

Oxford Plaza provides 97 units of affordable workforce housing for families and individuals as well as ground-floor retail. Located in Downtown Berkeley and within walking distance of major employers and transit linkages, it is a model of urban infill development that enables residents to live close to their daily needs. Oxford Plaza is also adjacent to the David Brower Center, a LEED Platinum-rated building and environmental center.

In addition to its transit and pedestrian-friendly location, Oxford Plaza makes it easier for residents to go without a car by providing ample bicycle parking and reduced rates on City CarShare membership.

The project also incorporated several green elements into its construction. Building materials such as low-VOC paints, natural linoleum, and recycled carpeting were chosen to maintain healthy indoor air quality. The building is also designed to be energy efficient (constructed to exceed Title 24 by over 15%). Features include Energy Star appliances, highly energy efficient lighting, and a solar hot water system, which offsets some of the building's natural gas load. Residents maintain a rooftop garden that shares space with the solar hot water panels.

Tracking our progress: Review Climate Action Plan performance metrics at www.cityofberkeley.info/climate