



San Diegans Have Bigger Carbon Footprint than L.A.

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By Ed Joyce

A San Diego based think tank says the city lags behind Los Angeles in policies and programs to reduce energy use. The Center for Policy Initiatives says San Diegans also use more energy per person than Los Angeles residents. KPBS Environment Reporter Ed Joyce has details.

The Center for Policy Initiatives says San Diegans drive about 9,000 more miles per person each year on average than people in LA.

The study also shows that less than 6 percent of San Diego's energy comes from renewable sources, far below the state-mandated 20 percent utility companies are required to reach next year.

CPI Research and Policy Director Murtaza Baxamusa says Los Angeles is a leader in policy innovation to reduce energy use while policies in the City of San Diego are lacking.

"The approach in San Diego is based exclusively on voluntary incentives compared to a combination of policies in Los Angeles that uses incentives, standards and public investment," Baxamusa said.

For example he says LA is retrofitting all city-owned buildings to meet green standards while San Diego applies the standards only to new and remodeled city-owned buildings.