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DATE JUL 21 2010

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The Advantage | Location › **Innovation** › Talent

## Why San Francisco?

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- » **Workforce:** San Francisco, named "The Best Educated City in the Nation" by Money Magazine, boasts one of the most creative, most highly educated workforces worldwide (44% of residents have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher).
- » **Leader in Green Movement:** San Francisco has received abundant recognition and was ranked first in the nation in *City Innovation*, *Energy & Climate Change*, and *Waste Management* by SustainLane.



## Policy



- » **Concentration of Activity:** San Francisco is home to conferences like the Cleantech Forum, West Coast Green, GreenNet and Intersolar North America. The **dense concentration of major cleantech companies** creates opportunities for collaboration, sharing infrastructure, and aggregating resources.
- » **Geography:** Proximity to Sacramento & Silicon Valley, at the center of financial services & venture capital as well as proximity to SFO & OAK Airports are key. San Francisco is also surrounded by world-class educational and research institutions, like UCSF, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Davis and Lawrence National Laboratories.



## Policy

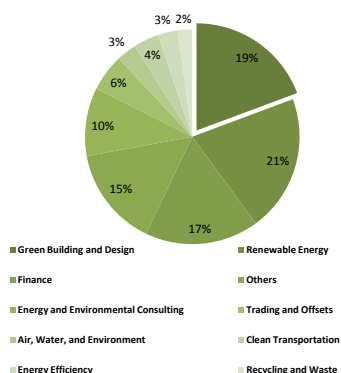
- » **Climate Action Plan (2004)**
- » **Citywide Green Building Ordinance (2008)**
  - » LEED Priority Permitting Program
- » **GoSolarSF (2008)**
  - » In its first year, resulted in a 450% increase in solar installation activity and applications.
- » **Regional Collaboration on EV Readiness**
- » **Green Finance SF (2010)**



## SF Cleantech Economy

*Over 225 cleantech companies are located in San Francisco*

San Francisco's Cleantech Economy



### » International Reach

» Leading global cleantech firms are located in SF.

» GA Solar, Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, Suntech Power, Yingli Solar, UpSolar, Kaco New Energy.

» Over 40 venture capital and finance firms with cleantech portfolios are located in SF.



## Office of Economic and Workforce Development

*Supporting the City's Ongoing Economic Vitality*

- » OEWD provides **city-wide leadership** for workforce development, business attraction and retention, neighborhood commercial revitalization, international business and development planning.
- » By providing **one point of contact** for a variety of essential City programs and services, OEWD's goal is to ensure that San Francisco will always be what it is today: one of the best places on the planet to live, work and play.



## Tax Incentives

- » In 2006, the City of San Francisco passed the **Cleantech Payroll Tax Exclusion**. The **10-year exclusion** for companies under 100 employees includes business activities related to clean energy (the production of, as well as creation of products powered by) as well as material improvement of energy efficiency, water conservation or air quality.
- » The City also highly leverages statewide programs, most notably the **Enterprise Zone** designation.



Photo via SOS Ministries



## Innovation Corridor

