

EQUINOX CENTER

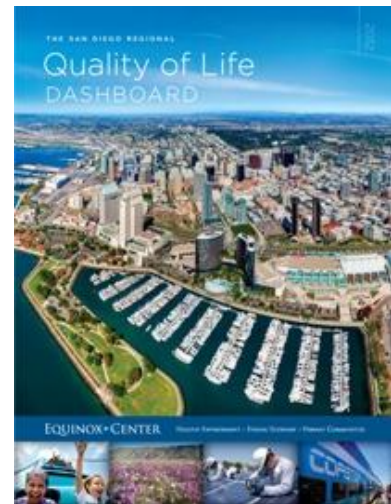
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT STRONG ECONOMY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Fact Sheet: 2012 San Diego Regional Quality of Life Dashboard

Measuring What Matters to Our Quality of Life

Produced on an annual basis, the *San Diego Regional Quality of Life Dashboard* was initiated in 2009 to shine a spotlight on the questions that truly matter to San Diegans:

- Are we leaving our children a heritage of thriving, rejuvenating natural areas?
- Will our businesses have access to adequate, affordable resources such as energy and water in order to grow and create jobs?
- Do we have efficient and adequate transportation options to get ourselves and our needed goods to their destinations?
- Are we using our finite natural resources wisely, and creating innovative new options for renewable alternatives?



A Tool for Decision Makers and the Public

The San Diego Regional Quality of Life Dashboard is distributed to elected officials, business and community leaders throughout San Diego County through printed copies as well as electronically. Anyone can download a free copy of the Dashboard by visiting:

<http://www.equinoxcenter.org/Regional-Dashboard.html>

Each year, the Dashboard also goes “on tour,” presented by Equinox Center staff and volunteers to more than 1,000 community members and leaders including City Councils and planning commissions, chambers of commerce and other business groups, community and student groups. In addition, Equinox Center forums and salons throughout the year invite the public and decision makers to come together for dialogue about key issues highlighted in the Dashboard.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who produces the Dashboard?

Development of the Dashboard is led by Equinox Center's experienced policy staff and guided by dozens of expert advisors, volunteers and contributors from across the political spectrum. For a complete listing of contributors to the 2012 Dashboard, visit:

<http://www.equinoxcenter.org/Regional-Dashboard/contributors>

What is Equinox's research methodology?

Equinox's data is taken from credible, trusted sources and vetted internally and with multiple community groups and government agencies. For example, the Dashboard is reviewed by our expert advisory panel, which includes an award-winning scientist from UC San Diego and the head of the Energy Policy Initiative Center at the University of San Diego. The Equinox research team has more than 40 years of combined public policy, research and nonprofit experience.

Where do policy ideas and "bright spots" come from? How does Equinox Center vet them?

Policy ideas and "bright spots" are researched, identified and vetted by Equinox Center's staff and research interns in a number of ways, including: review of academic papers, case studies and best practices, discussions with experts in other regions, suggestions submitted by organizations or policy makers working in a given Indicator area, review of media coverage over the prior year, related studies, conferences and reports. From a selection of dozens of bright spots, Equinox Center identifies select examples to highlight in the Dashboard and on our website based on their proven results, level of innovation and applicability to the greater San Diego region.

Who funds production of the Quality of Life Dashboard?

The annual Quality of Life Dashboard is produced through underwriting support from a diverse group of individuals, foundations and businesses. Our donors represent all ends of the political spectrum, and Equinox makes clear to each supporter that our research and recommendations will be objective and unbiased. For a complete list of 2012 Dashboard sponsors, visit: <http://www.equinoxcenter.org/Regional-Dashboard/sponsors>

About Equinox Center

Equinox Center is an independent, non-partisan, not for profit research and policy center that turns research into action to help the San Diego region achieve a more prosperous economy, healthy environment and outstanding quality of life for all its residents as it grows. Through in-depth research, policy analysis, communications and convenings, Equinox inspires, informs and engages the public and decision makers in crafting better solutions to our region's growth challenges. www.equinoxcenter.org