

**TEAM FINLAND VISIT TO LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO
ON MAY 30 – JUNE 3, 2016
LED BY MINISTER REHN AND PERMANENT SECRETARY GUSTAFSSON**

Why California?

Cleantech Clusters: Described in recent years as the epicenter of U.S. cleantech, the State of California is ranked 1st in Clean Edge's *2015 U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index* for the sixth year in a row. And among the largest metropolitan areas in the USA, California's cities take a leading role in the latest Clean Edge ranking, with San Francisco ranked 1st, San Jose 2nd, San Diego 4th, and Los Angeles 6th. These rankings are based on more than 100 indicators of advanced transportation, clean energy, green buildings, clean tech innovation, policy, and capital.

Venture Capital & Incubation: In ResearchWhitepaper's *Global CleanTech Capital Providers Guide*, San Diego is ranked 1st, San Francisco is ranked 4th and San Jose is ranked 5th among the top ten U.S. cities supporting cleantech investment. Furthermore, on 15 December 2015, UBI Global announced that the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) was ranked 3rd on the list of *World Top University Associated Business Incubators* for 2015.

Renewable Energy: California's Governor Jerry Brown set a target of 50% generation from renewables by 2030 in his January 2015 State of the State address. The California cities of San Francisco, San Jose, and San Diego have set even more aggressive targets, with renewable energy goals of 100%.

Energy Storage: California is becoming the U.S. leader in energy storage after the state's 2013 mandate that its largest utilities have 1,325 megawatts — roughly enough for 1 million homes — of electricity storage operating by 2024 as one step to fight climate change. Storage will help the state reach its climate goal of having 50 percent of its electricity supplied by renewables by 2030. For example, by the end of 2015, one of the state's largest electric utilities, PG&E, estimated that about 30 percent of its retail electric deliveries will come from renewable sources. Energy storage will help integrate many of those resources, such as wind and solar, which are intermittent or provide peak output during times of low demand.

Energy Efficiency: On 21 October 2015, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) published the ninth annual State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, ranking California 2nd among the fifty U.S. states. ACEEE notes in California that requirements for reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, major efforts to achieve energy efficiency in schools, and implementation of a cap-and-trade program earned the state several more points in 2015, putting it only a half-point behind Massachusetts in the state rankings.

Green Building: 'Green Building' in many quarters in the USA is viewed as "the new norm", and it is reported that "California Continues to Lead the Way in Green Building Boom", with the USA's first ever statewide 'green building' code, covering sustainable building practices in planning & design, energy efficiency, water efficiency & conservation, material conservation & resource efficiency, and environmental quality.

Source: *Finpro Silicon Valley*