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Alameda County Commits to Climate Protection Strategy
County Will Measure, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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On June 6, 2006 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a County Climate Change Leadership Strategy. This resolution commits the County to reduce its contribution of climate-changing gases such as carbon dioxide. In adopting this resolution, the County encourages other local governments throughout the country to take on the challenge of global warming.

A climate change strategy is vital for the County to fulfill its commitment to its 1.5 million citizens to ensure the long-term health, social well-being and economic vitality of the community. "Climate change is a public health and quality of life issue. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions now is an investment in reducing both the costs of delivering services today and the future costs of adapting to global warming effects," said Keith Carson, President, Board of Supervisors.

To implement the resolution, County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi will establish a Sustainability Executive Committee and an inter-agency Climate Action Team. The Team will inventory the greenhouse gas emissions from internal government operations and from residential, commercial, and industrial activities in the unincorporated areas. The County will develop a comprehensive plan and will implement the most cost-effective actions in areas such as energy conservation and clean energy, purchasing, and community planning. Global warming mitigation strategies will be integrated into general plans, agency strategic plans, the capital planning process, budgeting, and training.

"Local governments can lead by example in the operation of governmental facilities. This resolution builds on our national leadership in solar energy production and green building," said Muranishi. Alameda County has joined nine Alameda County cities in a coordinated effort to address the causes and impacts of global warming as part of the Alameda County Climate Protection Project. This Project, kicked off on June 15, 2006, will increase the regional effectiveness of this effort and is being coordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability with support from StopWaste.Org. Local governments around the world are taking the leadership role in climate change action. Alameda County is among 670 local governments internationally to join the network of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

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