



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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31 July 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Alameda County Challenges 57 California Counties
to Join “Cool Counties” –
Major Global Warming Initiative Adopted Today**
Calls for 80% Reduction in Carbon Emissions by 2050

(Oakland, CA) – The Alameda County Board of Supervisors today challenged California’s other 57 counties to join it in curbing greenhouse gas emissions in a collaborative effort to stave off the potentially catastrophic effects of global warming. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration and urges all other counties across California to join this major new initiative to combat rising world temperatures.

On July 16, 2007, Alameda County joined 11 other counties nationwide in launching the Cool Counties initiative, which calls on participants to work with other regional leaders to reduce local global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050, an achievable average annual reduction of 2 percent. Counties will also join together in urging the federal government to adopt legislation requiring an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050 and raising fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon within a decade.

“Local governments are already leading the nation in modeling ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “We know that local impacts such as drought, heat waves and poor air quality are affecting our citizens today. We can’t wait to act. And we need Congress to be bold.”

Haggerty is contacting all 57 other counties in California and challenging fellow elected officials to help make California a 100% Cool Counties state.

“We are speaking from experience when we say that a regional approach is more effective than working alone. The County and all 14 cities in the county are coordinating efforts to measure and reduce global warming emissions through the Alameda County Climate Protection Project,” said Supervisor Keith Carson. “We are only the second county in the nation where all cities and the county government are joining the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.”

Haggerty predicts that a majority of California’s counties will join by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) meeting hosted by Alameda County this November. “I’m optimistic. It was just two years ago that our counterparts in the nation’s cities launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, also known as Cool Counties. Participation now exceeds 600 mayors, representing 72 million people,” said Haggerty.

Sharing information through Cool Counties will enable local governments to act more quickly and will make climate protection more practical for smaller counties by reducing planning costs. Alameda County will share lessons learned in energy efficiency, green building, fleet greening, recycling, and waste reduction.

Alameda County has already demonstrated that clean technologies make business sense. County facilities are conserving \$6 million of energy a year and generating on-site power through 3.1 megawatts of solar installations and a 1 megawatt fuel cell. For the 1.5 million residents of Alameda County, living in a Cool County will mean shorter commutes, more green-collar jobs, cleaner air, more green space, and stronger communities.

The counties that launched the Cool Counties Declaration earlier this month represent a diverse array of some of America's largest counties. Over 17 million people across ten states live in the founding counties. In addition to Alameda County, the founding governments include King (WA), Fairfax and Arlington (VA), Nassau (NY), Montgomery and Queen Anne's (MD), Miami-Dade (FL), Cook (IL), Shelby (TN), Hennepin (MN) and Dane (WI).

Alameda County’s challenge to California counties is only the beginning of the Cool Counties campaign. The launch counties and national partner, the Sierra Club, will begin a major effort to add new counties to the initiative, help members implement mitigation and adaptation measures, and coordinate legislative recommendations to Congress.

“With the State of California and our Cool Counties partners, we continue to call on the federal government to set strong national goals, support state and local leadership, and realign national energy, transportation and agriculture policies until climate stabilization is achieved,” said Haggerty.

For more information, visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties>.

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