Yolo becomes a 'Cool County'
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Acting Tuesday, Yolo County joined the 12 charter member counties from every region
of the country, collectively representing over 17 million people, in pledging to participate
in the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a new initiative to combat global
warming.

"As a county government, we have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas
emissions as we set policy surrounding air quality, land use planning, transportation,
zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste
management," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Mariko Yamada.

As a participant, Yolo County will seek to reduce global warming emissions 80 percent
by 2050, an achievable annual average of two percent. Yolo County will also be asking
congress to adopt matching emissions reduction goals and enact legislation requiring fuel
economy standards to be set at 35 miles per gallon within ten years.

By taking part in the Cool Counties initiative Yolo County will be creating a greenhouse
gas inventory and implementing policies and programs to achieve significant, measurable
and sustainable reductions to operational GHG emissions. There are seven key areas for
possible reductions: energy efficiency, renewable energy, greening county vehicle fleets,
land use, transportation, water conservation, and educational outreach.

Cool Counties is an outgrowth of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program, a plan to
implement the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, initiated in 2005. Nearly 600
cities have signed on to that agreement, which also encourages the reduction of harmful
emissions.