



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005**

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## **Air District Establishes Climate Change Protection Program**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors today established a Climate Protection Program and acknowledged the overwhelming scientific evidence that the temperature of the earth's surface and oceans are rising. The Climate Protection Program will address greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change and have the potential to increase smog in the region.

"The fact is, higher temperatures increase air pollution emissions and smog. Climate change has the potential to erode air quality improvements we've made in the Bay Area," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's Executive Officer. "To protect public health, we want to be proactive in the climate change dialogue. By establishing a Climate Protection Program, we can support and provide technical assistance to programs currently underway to reduce greenhouse gases and stimulate additional activities to reduce emissions," Broadbent said.

The Board resolution acknowledges overwhelming scientific evidence that shows concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing steadily. Global climate change can affect local weather conditions by increasing temperatures and extending warm weather seasons, leading to increased smog and particulate matter formation in the region.

Because human activities -- especially the use of fossil fuels -- are accelerating concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides, actions individuals can take to improve energy efficiency, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and develop alternative sources of energy can improve air quality and also slow down climate change.

There are a number of climate change programs already underway in the region. Future Air District activities to protect the climate may include public outreach and education campaigns, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, hosting a regional conference on climate protection, and support and leadership for local efforts in the Bay Area to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

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