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**For Immediate Release  
December 19, 2007**

# NEWS

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## **Bay Area Air District Awards \$3 Million in Local Climate Protection Grants**

*Climate Protection Grant Program the First of its Kind in the Nation*

**San Francisco, CA.** – **The Bay Area Air Quality Management District** today announced that it has approved \$3 million through its Climate Protection Grant Program to fund 53 local projects that will significantly reduce the Bay Area’s carbon footprint. This \$3 million represents the largest single source of funding available for climate protection projects in the Bay Area, and makes the Air District one of the top funders of climate protection activities in the country.

“The range of activities and level of innovation these projects demonstrate is truly remarkable,” said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. “We are eagerly looking forward to the air quality and climate protection benefits that will result from these projects and hope that our program can serve as a model for other regions across the country.”

Grants will go to local governments and non-profit organizations in all nine of the Bay Area counties. A total of 81 applications were initially received, and the projects selected range from establishing standards for reducing traffic in new developments, to training high school students to install energy-saving upgrades in affordable housing, to developing innovative financing systems to help residents purchase solar power.

The projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a variety of ways. Some projects will achieve direct reductions and should decrease greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 350,000 tons within five years. Other projects will reduce emissions indirectly, by incorporating climate protection into local long-term planning efforts and effecting changes to energy consumption, land use, zoning, transportation planning, and waste management. And finally, some projects involve youth education and training to ensure that the Air District’s grants program leaves a climate protection legacy that will continue to achieve significant emission reductions well into the future.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health and the environment.

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