



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2014

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Air District Board approves climate action work program

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the Board of Directors' approval of a 10-Point Climate Action Work Program, designed to guide and focus the Air District's climate protection activities and identify necessary resources for future action.

This work program was called for in the Air District's Climate Protection Resolution, passed in November 2013, which sets as a goal the reduction of greenhouse gas, or GHG, emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

"Climate change poses one of the greatest air quality challenges of our era," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's executive officer. "This 10-Point Climate Action Work Program charts the course for the Air District's climate protection activities in the near future, as we work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard the public from the air quality and health impacts of climate change in the region."

The Bay Area climate protection work program includes measures for updating efforts to inventory, forecast, and monitor GHGs, for initiating development of rules limiting GHG emissions, for expanding enforcement, and for working with state, regional, and local agencies as well as stakeholders to develop the regional climate action strategy.

The 10-Point Climate Action Work Plan includes the following elements:

1. Set a GHG reduction goal to reduce emissions in the Bay Area 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
2. Update the Air District's regional GHG emissions inventory for the Bay Area.
3. Implement local monitoring of certain GHGs, including methane and carbon dioxide.
4. Develop a regional climate action strategy to encourage regional and local economic approaches that support the GHG reduction goal.
5. Support and enhance local action through enhanced technical assistance to local government entities.
6. Initiate rule development to advance GHG reduction in sources subject to Air District regulatory authority, and identify opportunities to require GHG emission reductions in existing rules and policies.
7. Expand enforcement of statewide regulations to reduce GHGs.
8. Launch climate change and public health impacts initiative to collect and synthesize information, reports and data on climate change impacts related to air quality and public health.

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9. Report progress to the public in an informative and engaging manner.
10. Explore the Bay Area's energy future by assigning the Air District's Advisory Council to investigate related technical issues.

The work program reflects the Air District's strength in playing a coordinating role for policy implementation at the federal, state and local levels. The actions included will serve as the Air District's priorities for the next two years as the agency continues to work with many stakeholders to reduce the Bay Area's greenhouse gas emissions.

The November Climate Protection Resolution provides a framework for achieving significant, long-term GHG reductions. It sets a long-term GHG reduction goal for the Bay Area that matches that set out in an executive order by the Governor of California, and calls on the Air District to initiate a regional climate protection planning process. This regional climate protection strategy would complement the considerable climate planning efforts already taking place at state, regional, and local levels. It will be included as an element of the Air District's 2015 Clean Air Plan.

The Air District's Climate Protection program was established in 2005. Over the past eight years, the Air District has initiated numerous climate protection activities, including:

- awarding over \$7 million in grants to local governments, non-profits and schools to reduce GHG emissions, with allocations in 2007 and 2009;
- providing funding and technical support to local governments in local climate action plan development, beginning in 2007;
- adopting a cost-recovery permit fee for GHG-emitting facilities in 2008; and
- developing the first-ever California Environmental Quality Act thresholds of significance for GHG emissions for non-industrial projects in 2010.

With the Air District's assistance, about 50 local governments in the Bay Area have adopted local climate action plans, more than any other metropolitan region in the country.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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