

8-2-09

Mr. Lee

Please stop the
Russell City Energy Plant
on Depot Rd. in Hayward
We have lived in
Hayward since 1958
and enjoy our Hayward
shoreline and clean
air.

Thanks

Janet + Jim
Whitaker

1185 HURON LN.
HAYWARD, CALIF, 94545

Hayward adopts plan to curb emissions

By Eric Kurth

ekurth@bayareanewsgroup.com

HAYWARD — With the City Council's passage of a climate action plan last week, Hayward joined the ranks of cities with an official strategy for curbing greenhouse gases.

The plan sets three specific goals — a 6 percent reduction by 2013, a 12.5 percent cut by 2020 and an 82.5 percent reduction by 2050. All the figures are compared with a baseline 2005 level of 1,183,279 metric tons of emissions.

The plan outlines scores of actions to be taken in different areas — with each expected to help Hayward reduce emissions.

Some actions will focus on transit-oriented development and benefits for commuters who use mass transit, while others involve incentives for residents to purchase low-emission vehicles.

The plan calls for the city to become an active advocate for alternative and low-emission fuels, and reduce energy use in existing buildings. The city already took a step regarding new construction when it passed a "green building" ordinance last year. Council members unanimously applauded and approved last week's plan, which was spearheaded by senior city planner Eric Pearson.

Pearson acknowledged that

much of the gases created within city limits come from vehicles, and from motorists on interstates 880 or 580.

"Less than 1 percent of Hayward's greenhouse gases come from municipal operations," Pearson said. "That's a clear indicator that this must be a communitywide effort."

Part of the plan includes working with other agencies such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments on matters such as commuter highway traffic.

While there are no penalties for noncompliance with the set goals, achieving them would put the city

HAYWARD'S EMISSIONS GOALS

- 2013: 6 percent reduction
- 2020: 12.5 percent reduction
- 2050: 82.5 percent reduction

Note: All figures based on 2005 level of 1,183,279 metric tons of emissions.

in a good position to apply for environmental-related grants, Pearson said. In the future, he said, the state or federal government could start imposing similar guidelines, so by adopting a climate action plan early, Hayward will be ahead of the curve.

Need WE SAY MORE?