



NEWS

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Air District Board passes climate protection resolution *Greenhouse gas reduction goal set at 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050*

SAN FRANCISCO - Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution committing the agency to developing a regional climate protection strategy and setting as a goal the reduction of greenhouse gas, or GHG, emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Under this resolution, Air District staff will prepare a Bay Area climate protection work program, to guide Air District climate protection activities and identify necessary resources for future action.

"Climate change is one of the major challenges the region will face in coming years," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's executive officer. "By adopting this resolution, the Air District is making a strong local commitment toward the development of climate protection activities that can also make a real difference for public health and well-being in the Bay Area."

Today's resolution will provide 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 2014 Clean Air Plan.

The Bay Area climate protection work program is expected to include measures for updating efforts to inventory, forecast, and monitor GHGs, for accelerating 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 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 plans and 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.baagmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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