



California Climate Action Network (CaliforniaCAN!)

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CALIFORNIACAN!)

California is at the forefront of the worldwide effort to tackle the causes - and consequences - of global warming. The state has set ambitious goals to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Strong state goals require aggressive local action. By implementing a variety of climate action strategies, local communities can play a leadership role in California both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for the consequences of the changing climate.

Helping Local Communities Lead the Way

The Institute for Local Government is building upon its close ties with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties to partner on climate action programs with a broad array of local officials and staff. The Institute recently launched the California Climate Action Network (CCAN) to assist local officials and other community leaders.



- **Providing Climate Action Resources and Tools**

CCAN offers access to the latest *climate action resources, best practices and case studies* for local communities through its website (www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange) and other avenues.

Many of these resources are made available to local communities through CCAN's partnerships with local and regional agencies, statewide associations, non-profit organizations, public and investor-owned utilities, and others.

- **Connecting Local Officials for Education and Action**

CCAN organizes statewide networks of local officials, technical advisors, community leaders and others to share information and ideas and work together on innovative climate action programs. CCAN works with its partners to bring local leaders together to learn through meetings, workshops, conferences, on-line technologies and other means. These networks help create and strengthen local and regional partnerships to take action on climate change.

- **Certifying Best Practices and Recognizing Achievements**

CCAN is developing a *Climate Action Certification and Recognition Program* for exemplary local efforts. Beginning in 2008, the program will certify a set of best practices for climate protection and recognize three levels of achievement for voluntary local efforts to combat global warming. Local agencies that meet the certification standards can apply to receive recognition from the program for their achievements in addressing climate change.

Climate Change: It's Time to Think Globally and Act Locally

THE SCIENCE AND POLICY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Greenhouse Effect.

According to scientific studies conducted by a host of academic and national research institutions throughout the world, global warming is already underway. The past century has witnessed a long-term buildup of carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases in the atmosphere. These gases act as a "greenhouse," trapping heat from the sun that would otherwise radiate back into space. This greenhouse effect has resulted in rising land and ocean temperatures, changes in storm and rainfall patterns, seasonal temperature variations, and rising sea levels.

The Human Factor.

The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has been linked to a variety of man-made causes. Some of these include:

- Increased burning of fossil fuels
- Industrial and agricultural practices
- Loss of forests and other biological systems that store carbon

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Effective Climate Change Strategies and Resources.

There are many strategies that local communities can employ to reduce carbon emissions and combat global warming, both in their own operations and throughout the community at large. In most cases, these strategies not only help the environment, they also save money and make great economic sense.

Designing green buildings can reduce the substantial amount of energy it takes to construct and operate residential, commercial, industrial, and public buildings.

Using nature to store carbon, for example by planting trees and maintaining forests, is the other side of the climate change equation.

Reducing waste and recycling cuts the amount of greenhouse gases that are generated to manufacture, package, transport, and dispose of products and materials.

Conserving energy and using it more efficiently reduces the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are pumped into the atmosphere.

Planning and building "smart growth" communities can cut carbon emissions by reducing travel distances and making it easier to walk, bicycle, and use transit.

Buying "green" products and services harnesses the purchasing power of public agencies to improve environmental quality and reduce global warming.

Promoting individual and community action encourages people from all walks of life to reduce their own contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Using lower carbon fuels to power vehicles, run business, and generate electricity can cut carbon emissions substantially, while creating new local industries.



Additional information on the California Climate Action Network can be found on the Institute for Local Government's website at: www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange

Recognizing Local Actions that Make a Difference

Best Practices for Climate Protection - Some Examples

Action	Good	Better	Best
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit agency buildings and facilities for energy efficiency	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replace street and parking lot lights with more efficient alternatives		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner with local utilities on community energy efficiency programs			X
GREEN BUILDINGS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construct new agency buildings to meet green building standards	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce water consumption by 75% in new landscaping		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require all new buildings to exceed Title 24 energy standards by 25%			X
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implement comprehensive agency-wide waste reduction and recycling	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner with local schools to reduce waste and recycle		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceed state waste diversion and recycling goals			X
CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PURCHASING			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require that new agency equipment meet Energy Star standards	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buy computer equipment that meets silver EPEAT standards		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract with vendors that follow green practices			X
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND LOW-CARBON FUELS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convert or replace agency vehicles to run on non-fossil fuels	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install photovoltaic systems on agency buildings and parking lots		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recover methane gas from wastes and use to generate electricity			X
LAND USE AND SMART GROWTH			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee incentives for alternatives to single-occupant auto commuting	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install traffic calming systems to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporate smart growth design standards in local plans and zoning			X
STORING AND OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preserve and enhance trees and vegetation on agency property	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implement a community-wide urban forestry program		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steer new development away from forests, farms and open spaces			X
PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY ACTION			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a community-wide climate education initiative	X		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Join a regional climate action partnership with other communities		X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish an international climate partnership with a global sister city			X

We Welcome Your Feedback and Participation!

CCAN is working with a broad array of technical advisors to develop a Climate Action Best Practices Certification Program for local climate protection efforts. For more information on the program, or to offer comments on our latest draft of the certification standards, contact us at climatechange@ca-ilg.org.

Join the California Climate Action Network!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL LEADERSHIP

The California Climate Action Network brings together city, county and other local officials, community and business leaders, concerned residents, technical experts, and others who want to help California's communities meet the challenge of global warming.

Members of the Network can learn about new research on climate change, tools and resources for climate protection, and opportunities to connect with experts and practitioners in a variety of fields related to global warming.

Interested in learning more?

Log onto the website at www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange or contact us by e-mail at climatechange@ca-ilg.org.

Thank You to the Sponsors, Founding Partners and Technical Advisors of the California Climate Action Network:

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Waste Management Foundation

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