

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Recruiting drive for other Cool Counties

Supervisors call on peers around state to enact climate pact

Alameda County supervisors have issued a call to their counterparts around California to join them in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

The board voted Tuesday to ask other counties in the state to follow Alameda's lead in enacting the national Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. Local officials say county lawmakers can work together to urge federal legislators to raise fuel economy standards and therefore reduce emissions and global warming.

Bigger counties can also assist smaller counties with planning around energy efficiency, green building, fleet greening, recycling and waste reduction, thus saving them money, officials said.

"We know that local impacts such as drought, heat waves and poor air quality are affecting our citizens today," Scott Haggerty, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said in a statement. "We can't wait to act. And we need Congress to be bold. We are speaking from experience when we say that a regional approach is more effective than working alone."

Alameda County is conserving \$6 million worth of energy per year and generating power from cleaner solar and fuel cell sources, officials said. The county is one of the original 12 across the nation that began the Cool Counties campaign, which seeks an annual 2 percent reduction in carbon emissions until 2050.

— Chronicle staff report

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