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ALAMEDA COUNTY TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN TAKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE
Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Adopted

Oakland, CA – Alameda County today adopted the *Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations*, a 10-year plan to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions at least 15% by 2020, modernize services, and grow the green economy.

“We are committed to creating a vibrant local economy offering more green jobs for Alameda County residents,” said Supervisor Keith Carson. “The Climate Action Plan is part of an economic development strategy that provides a market for green products and services which will benefit our residents and businesses. The County is working closely with cities, other counties, and regional and state government to build sustainable communities.”

“We hope this plan will inspire Bay Area businesses and governments to look more comprehensively at how actions that reduce emissions can at the same time achieve long-term cost management, attract and retain high-performing employees, and promote the use of innovative technologies,” said Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

The Climate Action Plan establishes 16 Commitments to Climate Protection that set goals to be achieved by 2020 and recommends 80 specific actions that will achieve these goals. The recommended actions put the County on the path to reduce emissions 80% by 2050, in line with statewide targets and State of California guidelines for local governments.

The plan promotes environmental sustainability and provides other benefits. Among the specific actions outlined in the plan are: offering employees and visitors to County buildings more alternatives to driving, such as shuttles from BART and online services, to reduce congestion and air pollution; generating energy from clean, renewable sources to promote local green jobs; purchasing reusable, long-lasting items to help expand the market for green products; planting trees to provide shade and promote water quality.

“The Climate Action Plan will not only protect our environment but also help transform the County’s operations to systems that are more efficient, resilient, and sustainable,” said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi. “County residents will see direct benefits including more convenient access to services, as well as experience a better quality of life from a healthier environment.”

The plan, focused on emissions produced from municipal operations, was developed through a multi-year process. An initial step was to measure greenhouse gas emissions produced in the normal course of operations to provide services to the public. Several hundred employees representing 20 County divisions gave input on the plan. A related plan, currently in public review, has been developed in parallel for the unincorporated communities of Alameda County.

“As a recognized leader in green building, sustainable fleets, and solar energy, Alameda County has made great strides,” said Carolyn Bloede, Alameda County’s Sustainability Program Manager, who led plan development. “Now we are calling on every County agency and employee to take action to transform how we provide services to our community.”

Actions prioritized for early implementation will be those that provide cost savings and meet other strategic priorities. Progress will be monitored through performance indicators, agency progress reports, and annual updates to the Board of Supervisors and the public. For more information, see <http://www.acsustain.org>