

How Upland Can Address Global Warming

Upland's new development can be in the forefront with California's new Global Warming Solutions bill.

Upland is already working on several excellent projects that improve our lives and the environment:

- Providing catchment basins ensures our city's water supply for the future
- Recycling of wastes not only leaves less for the landfill, but actually saves the environment from other pollutants, including the green-house gas CO₂.
- The new bicycle path encourages more and more people to find their bicycles and use them for local transportation.

The city is beginning to work with energy-saving methods, such as the new traffic lights. Saving on the city's use of energy makes good sense for the city's budget, and also has an important impact on the emissions of CO₂ that the city generates.

Upland can go even further by requiring energy conserving materials, appliances and renewable energy sources as part of the building code for all new development and large conversions of existing buildings, for example using the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

(<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=1>).

Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) provides useful information and tips for local governments on how to implement green building codes at

http://www.pprc.org/pubs/greencon/code_std.cfm. In the article America's Cities 'LEED' the Way <http://www.buildings.com/Articles/detail.asp?articleID=2475> you can read about some of the solutions being implemented.

Among ideas that Upland could require for future buildings – both private and public are:

- Energy Star rated appliances and Energy Saving fluorescent lighting
- Sufficient insulation and insulating windows.
- Renewable energy sources, which could be solar heating panels, photovoltaic panels or even Geothermal exchange heat pumps
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geothermal_exchange_heat_pump)
- Paths that encourage walking and biking to nearby stores and other facilities

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Supporting Materials

I have prepared a CD with many of the PDFs mentioned below.

Click the file [California Solutions for Global Warming -index to pdf materials.htm](#) on the CD for an organized index with the correct names of the documents. The html page is from the site: <http://www.solutionsforglobalwarming.com> with a number of additional materials and links.

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California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32)

Sponsors: Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) and Member Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) <http://www.solutionsforglobalwarming.com/>

Senate Environmental Quality Committee Votes On Historic Legislation

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?ContentID=5308> Posted on: 06/27/2006

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (June 27, 2006) -- The California Senate Environmental Quality Committee passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) (see <http://www.solutionsforglobalwarming.com>) by a margin of 4-2 yesterday. The passage indicates increasing support for limiting greenhouse gas pollution in California. The bill was jointly authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblymember Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), on April 3, 2006. The bill's passage is a milestone for the global warming legislation as it must be passed in the Senate and Assembly before going to Governor Schwarzenegger.

"The world is taking action on global warming, and yesterday's vote shows that California is ready to be a leader in the US in tackling the most urgent challenge of our generation," said Karen Douglas, director of the California Climate Initiative of Environmental Defense.

"Those who voted yes know that by acting now we can fight global warming and benefit the economy."

AB 32 is the first statewide effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of California's economy. It would set a firm cap that would ensure that California's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 25% by the year 2020, putting teeth in Governor Schwarzenegger's goal to reduce California's emissions. AB 32 is another milestone in state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollutants. On July 22, 2002, Assembly Bill (AB) 1493 was signed into law, requiring California to develop and adopt the nation's first greenhouse gas emission standards for automobiles.

"Today's action in California sets the stage for real action to combat global warming," said Ann Notthoff, California Advocacy Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). "The sooner we act the sooner we can unleash California's technological prowess and environmental leadership to transform our energy economy, clean our environment and reduce our dependence upon foreign oil."

The scientific community continues to urge immediate action to reduce global warming pollution. Just last week the National Academy of Sciences issued a report confirming a dramatic rise in the world's temperature over the last 400 years. At the same time, the Southwest U.S. is suffering under extreme drought, and there are new scientific reports documenting accelerated melting of major ice sheets that will lead to destructive sea level rise. Evidence continues to build that hurricanes are growing more intense as a result of rising temperatures.

Global warming threatens California's economy, environment and way of life, leading scientists say. According to recent studies published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, rising temperatures will shrink the Sierra snow pack, the largest source of California's drinking and irrigation water, by 30 to 90 percent. In a warmer climate, sea levels are expected to rise and heat waves, smoggy days and wildfires will become more common, while demand for electricity soars during peak summer demand.

"Global warming is not only a scientific problem – but the most important moral issue of our time," said Reverend Sally Bingham of the Episcopal Diocese of California. "It directly affects the survival of future generations."

In June 2005, Gov. Schwarzenegger set targets to reduce global warming emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The Global Warming Solutions Act would put teeth in the governor's Executive Order by establishing a binding statewide limit on global warming emissions. It also would set reporting requirements for industry to ensure that the 2020 targets are achieved.

The emissions reductions can be achieved with strategies such as increasing California's renewable energy supply to 33 percent by 2020; creating new energy efficiency performance standards; cleaning up motor vehicle emissions; and using more 'biofuels' made from agricultural products. Other strategies include improving transit alternatives and bolstering water conservation measures in order to reduce the energy needed for water transport and treatment.

The California Climate Change Center at the University of California at Berkeley found that California could achieve almost half of the governor's 2020 targets while increasing Gross State Product by about \$60 billion and creating more than 20,000 new jobs. "The Global Warming Solutions Act will draw the investment capital, companies and jobs needed to establish California as a leader in the competitive clean technology market," said Bob Epstein, co-founder of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) and a trustee of NRDC.

Cool Cities

The Sierra Club is working with many cities across the country to spread the **U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement** (www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/) initiated by the mayor of Seattle. The following is from the Cool Cities pages <http://www.coolcities.us/>

All over America, cities, counties and states are launching an exciting grassroots movement to help solve one of our country's most pressing problems: global warming. Frustrated by stalling on the federal level, local leaders are moving forward with innovative energy solutions that cut our dependence on oil, benefit public health and save taxpayer dollars. These mayors, county commissioners and governors are leading the way toward a safer and more secure future. The website provides a resource for citizens and local officials who are ready to start taking real action in their communities to solve global warming. Right now, communities are making a difference by investing in cleaner vehicles, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. Every one of these local solutions is already saving taxpayer dollars and improving public health by reducing energy waste and pollution. By taking innovative actions, forward-looking cities are re-energizing our nation, proving that we can solve global warming one city at a time.

Four Steps to Become a Cool City

<http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities/foursteps.asp>

Step 1: Take the "Cities for Climate Protection" Pledge

The first step towards curbing global warming pollution in your community is to ask your mayor to sign the **U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement**. This agreement sets the goal of reducing your city's global warming carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

Step 2: Conduct a Global Warming Emissions Inventory

The next step is to conduct an inventory of your city's current global warming emissions. This information will identify the city's major CO₂ sources (and the greatest opportunities for reductions), and will provide a baseline to judge the city's progress towards its goal. Technical assistance in conducting a global warming emissions inventory is available from a variety of sources, including the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives as well as state and federal agencies.

Step 3: Create a Solutions Plan

After completing its global warming inventory, your city will be ready to develop a solutions plan that can reduce emissions while lowering energy costs for the city. While every city's energy solutions plan will be unique, there are three important strategies: Green Vehicle Fleets, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. In some combination, these solutions, which are illustrated with specific success stories below, will form the foundation of your city's comprehensive energy-saving plan.

Step 4: Implement and Monitor Progress

Of course, a plan alone cannot cut global warming pollution. It is essential that your city put the plan into action and monitor its progress periodically. With a strong commitment, a sound plan and real action, your city will be on its way towards meeting the goals of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Utilities and renewable energy: A revolution in power

Power plants, particularly old, coal-fired power plants, are a big part of the global warming problem. In the U.S., energy utilities emit roughly 40% of our carbon dioxide pollution.

By establishing a national cap-and-trade program, we can create economic incentives for American energy companies to modernize and become more efficient. Clean, renewable energy alternatives, such as wind and solar, could become a much larger part of our nation's energy supply. Read more on "Green Energy Basics" at

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentid=5350> and the Department of Energy's page on "Buying Green Power" at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/index.shtml>.

Transportation: More efficient, less oil dependent

America's cars are one of the world's largest sources of global warming pollution. In 2004, our personal vehicles emitted 314 million metric tons of carbon dioxide—as much carbon in a coal train long enough to wrap around the world twice.

A national cap on global warming pollution will provide a strong incentive to raise auto fuel efficiency, create transportation alternatives and shift to low-carbon fuels.

These changes are not only critical to fighting global warming, but will also reduce America's oil dependence. In fact, a national climate policy that covers the transportation sector will do far more to enhance the country's energy security than the ill-considered energy policies Washington has pursued to date. Read more on American cars and global warming in "Tallying Greenhouse Gases From Cars: A new look at ways we can downshift heat-trapping emissions" at

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentid=5300>.

Download also the 43-page PDF report from the CD or

http://www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/5301_Globalwarmingontheroad.pdf