



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council

FROM: Vice Mayor Dave Cortese
Councilmember Forrest Williams
Councilmember Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Judy Chirco

SUBJECT: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal

DATE: June 4, 2007

APPROVED:

DATE:

David Cortese *Forrest Williams* *6/4/07*
Sam Liccardo

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the City Council:

- A) Approve staff's recommendations to:
1. Accept status report on the City's climate change activities
 2. Recommend City Council adoption of the following targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction for municipal activities:
 - **2012:** GHG emissions 25% below 1990 levels
 - **2015:** GHG emissions 30% below 1990 levels
 - **2020:** GHG emissions 35% below 1990 levels
 - **2030:** GHG emissions 50% below 1990 levels
 - **2045:** GHG emissions 80% below 1990 levels
 3. Initiate dialogue with relevant stakeholders on determining a "community" greenhouse gas reduction goal.
 4. Return to T&E Committee in Fall 2007 with a status report on the municipal climate action plan goal.
- B) Direct staff to work with each Council Office on identifying potential stakeholders to take part in the formation of a regional climate action plan for the purposes of establishing a communitywide goal for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

BACKGROUND

San Jose continues to lead in innovative policies, strategies and practices that underscore our commitment to sustainable living. This is most recently evidenced by our decision to become a signatory to the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. An important step in orienting city practices to be consistent with climate protection is the establishment of a target for greenhouse gas emission reduction with respect to municipal activities. The Transportation & Environment Committee unanimously approved the strategy as outlined by staff, including the pursuit of specific targets for emissions reduction. As staff has pointed out, these are manageable goals based on current and future city strategies. They do not over-commit the city to an unrealistic path, yet they

are provocative enough to encourage each function of the city to evaluate how it individually can contribute towards municipal greenhouse gas emission reduction. In adopting such targets, San Jose joins the ranks of other great cities that have made similar commitments to sustainable living, including New York, San Diego, Boston and Oakland.

Conventional wisdom informs us that a comprehensive emission reduction plan must include a community component. Staff's recommendation to embark on a process to reduce emissions as a community is exciting because it recognizes how everyday members of our society can play a role in climate protection. It also recognizes the importance of assembling all of the organizations already involved in climate protection so there is no duplication of efforts, but instead a concerted and organized strategy that builds upon each organization's talents and resources. To ensure we have outreached to as many stakeholders possible, it is recommended that staff work with each Council Office to obtain a list of potential participants in the establishment of a communitywide goal.