

Dear Friends of KyotoUSA,

We have many positive activities to report as people and government – at all levels – are taking action to reduce climate altering greenhouse gases. Increasingly obvious impacts of climate change, Al Gore's remarkable film [An Inconvenient Truth](#), and people and their governments are awakening to their responsibility for reducing the greenhouse gases for which they are responsible. Here's what's happening at the local, state and federal level along with some simple ways to get involved that will have a huge impact!

Berkeley

Berkeley is very close to approving a November [ballot measure](#) (advisory) that will ask the City's residents to 1) declare 2007 as **Stop Global Warming Year**, and 2) support the City in its efforts to reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. One way Berkeley residents can show their support for this measure (ensuring that it will be approved by the City Council) is by responding to this e-mail with your name and address. We'll compile a list and send it on to Mayor Bates with a cover letter. Please respond IMMEDIATELY as the measure could go before the City Council as early as July 11 or as late as July 18. Or [call your Councilmember](#) to express your support for the measure.

Alameda County

The majority of Alameda County's [14 cities](#) and the County itself are now united under the banner of the "[Alameda County Climate Protection Project](#)" and are working with ICLEI's [Cities for Climate Protection](#) to establish city and county-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories and establish local plans for their reduction. The costs for this project were borne by [StopWaste.org](#), the County Waste Management Agency (check out their big electronic recycling [2 day event](#) on July 14-15, open to all residents of the State). Curiously, three cities chose not to participate – [Dublin](#), [Fremont](#), and [Livermore](#). Curiously, Dublin and Fremont signed Seattle Mayor Nickels' [Climate Protection Agreement](#) where they promised to work with ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection to reduce their greenhouse gases! It really wouldn't hurt (in fact, it's important that they know of your concern) to [contact the City Councils](#) (sample letter) from those three cities and ask them why they did not take advantage of StopWaste's generous offer. And a [thank you note](#) to the Mayor and City Councils of the participating cities would go a long way toward encouraging them to be aggressive in reducing their greenhouse gases.

California

The California Senate Environmental Quality Committee passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) by a margin of 4-2 on June 27th. The passage indicates increasing support for limiting greenhouse gas pollution in California. The bill was jointly authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblymember Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills). The bill must be passed in the Senate and Assembly before going to Governor Schwarzenegger. This bill, if enacted into law, will put some real teeth into Governor Schwarzenegger's well publicized [promise](#) to reduce California's greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. You can find your Assemblymember and Senator [here](#) and ask that they become co-sponsors of the legislation. **And**, you can host a [House Party for the Planet](#) (sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists) on July 27th to learn about the potential **impacts** of climate change here in California and to help UCS lobby your State Senator and Assemblymember.

Federal

Not much enlightenment emanating from the White House, but two recent developments suggest that we are breaking through the intransigence and mediocrity. Harlan Watson, chief US climate change negotiator said recently that he thought it possible that the US could [join the](#)

[rest of the developed world](#) in discussions about the next phase of the Kyoto Protocol. It's interesting because he actually spoke about what the challenges would be to a US entry into the next phase, rather than simply declining to comment. More importantly, Congressman Henry Waxman has introduced the [Safe Climate Act](#) (H.R. 5642) which is an extraordinary piece of legislation and, if enacted, would put the US on a fast track to substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Visit the Sierra Club to [send a letter](#) to your Representative in support of the ground-breaking legislation.

So – there's something embedded in this message that every one can do. No more complaining about the weather folks – let's do something about it. Now is the time to act! And if you're involved in reducing GHGs where you live, let us know and we'll mention your activities in our next message.

And if you're inclined to support this on-going volunteer effort, we'd be pleased to receive your tax-deductible contribution. You can donate through our website (www.kyotousa.org)



or by sending a check made payable to:

The Sequoia Foundation/KyotoUSA
800 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94710

Thanks! All the best!

Tom