

Dear Friends,

KyotoUSA will be out of touch for the next several weeks (3/19 – 4/4), so we thought we'd put out a quick update on our progress, offer a couple of “**action items**” that you can move on right now to reduce your greenhouse gases (and put some money in your pocket at the same time), and to ask that those of you who live in the San Francisco Bay Area to attend **our next KyotoUSA meeting in Berkeley on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 - 8:30pm** at 800 Hearst Ave. (x 5th Street) and help us chart out our activities for the next few months.

Update

The number and scope of activities that are forming to address climate change that we are involved in, or are hearing about, is just amazing! Great progress is being achieved in engaging Alameda County's 14 cities in an effort that will result in a reduction in the greenhouse gases the cities and their residents produce.

- Alamedans are gearing up to ask that the City of Alameda join [ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection](#). If you reside in Alameda, you (and any local organizations you belong to) can sign on to the letter that is being sent to the Mayor and City Council. [Alamedans for Climate Protection](#) will be meeting at Peet's on Park Street on Friday, March 24th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm to add signatures. Drop by if you can.
- The City of Albany, CA has just signed on to Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Climate Protection Agreement (CPA) (see, <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/>). 213 US cities have now endorsed the CPA and the number is growing. Check out the Mayor's website and see if your hometown has signed on. If it has, contact your mayor and thank him or her for doing so and urge the city to follow through on its endorsement. If your city hasn't signed on and you want to talk about how you might go about getting your city motivated to do so, call or write to us and we'll discuss.
- Ft. Bragg in Mendocino County is joining [ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection](#) and there are efforts under way to get the County and its other cities to join. If you live in Mendocino County and want to get involved, let us know and we'll pass your contact info on.
- Lafayette (Contra Costa County) established an Environmental Strategy Task Force to develop principles and goals for reducing the City's impact on the environment. Comments encouraging the City to be aware of its greenhouse gas emissions and the steps it can take to reduce them can be sent to [Joanne Robbins](#), City Clerk (925) 299-3210.
- The City of Berkeley is beginning to develop a plan to engage every resident, business, and institution in the city in an effort to get everyone who lives, studies, or works in Berkeley involved in reducing greenhouse gases. If you'd like to be a part of that process, let us know and we'll get you an invitation from the Mayor.
- Summits are beginning **to be** planned and discussed by UC Berkeley, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and others to see how these institutions

can introduce measures to reduce GHGs. KyotoUSA has been invited to participate with both UC Berkeley and the Air District in the planning process.

Action Items

1. Here's an easy one. Let's all stop drinking bottled water! Most of us in the U.S. can count on the water coming out of our taps to be potable. The amount of energy that goes into producing and transporting bottled water is huge – not to mention disposing of petroleum based plastics that are polluting the planet. Check out this study for all the facts. It is eye-opening!

Although in the industrial world bottled water is often no healthier than tap water, it can cost up to 10,000 times more. Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 U.S. cars for a year. [Bottled water: Pouring resources down the drain](#). Published by [Earth Policy Institute](#). [\[related story\]](#)

2. Check out [New American Dream](#) and its [Live Consciously](#), [Buy Wisely](#), and [Make a Difference](#) campaigns. Everyone will find something they can do right now that will be effective in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

That's it for the moment. Please keep up all your good efforts. We ARE making progress!

Tom

P.S. Visit KyotoUSA's "upcoming events" page at <http://www.kyotousa.org/index.php?p=upcoming> for a list of events occurring near you. Let us know if you'd like us to publicize an activity related to climate change and we'll post it.

And if you get the urge to help us pay the rent and phone bill, you can do so here:



or send a check payable to Sequoia Foundation/KyotoUSA, 2166 Avenida de la Playa, Suite D, La Jolla, CA 92037. Thanks!