City of Palo Alto Sustainability Policy

It is the intent of the City of Palo Alto to be a sustainable community – one which meets its current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In adopting this policy, the City of Palo Alto accepts its responsibility, through its programs and services, to:

- **Economy:** Maintain a healthy, thriving and well-balanced economy comprised of a blend of large and small business, which encourages the development of independent businesses and is resilient to the economic changes common to California’s economy.
- **Social Equity:** Continuously improve the quality of life for all Palo Alto community members.
- **Environment:** Reduce resource use and pollution in a cost-effective manner while striving to protect and enhance the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources; promote and support the conservation of native vegetation, fish, wildlife habitats and other ecosystems; and minimize human impacts on local and regional ecosystems.

In working toward these goals, the City will, when appropriate, align and partner with community groups, businesses and non-profits.

June 7, 2007

### Task Force Mission, Goal & Work Plan

**Mission:** To recommend an achievable and measurable set of policies and actions to meet or beat the Governor’s greenhouse gas emission-cutting goals:
- 2000 levels by 2010
- 1990 levels by 2020, and
- 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050

**Goal:** To achieve significant, measurable reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Palo Alto/Stanford area through positive actions in all sectors of the population.

**Work Plan:**
- **Five Subcommittees:**
  - Baseline, Energy, Transportation, Built Environment, Education/Motivation
  - Regular Meetings
  - Yahoo! Group
  - Prioritization facilitation by IDEO
  - Report to Council December 18, 2006 (9 months)
  - Over 50 participants

**Core Task Force Recommendations**

**OVERALL:**
- Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan

**BASELINE:**
- Inventory emissions for City operations
- Encourage/challenge businesses to participate
- Develop emissions estimation tools

**REDUCTION STRATEGIES:**
- Energy
- Transportation
- Built Environment

**EDUCATION:**
- Instill a Moral Imperative
- Familiarize and Motivate
- Public-Private Partnership

**Reduction Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENERGY</th>
<th>TRANSPORTATION</th>
<th>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and natural gas usage to achieve climate neutrality by 2020</td>
<td>Reduce emissions from City vehicle fleet and commuting activities. Work with regional transportation agencies to advance availability and ridership of public transportation and low-emissions transportation</td>
<td>Evolve green building and transit-oriented development from exception to mainstream.</td>
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<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>Fuel-efficient vehicles</td>
<td>Green Buildings</td>
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<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>Alternative fuels</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
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<td>Urban forest</td>
<td>Mass transit availability</td>
<td>Solar Energy</td>
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<td>Projects or offsets</td>
<td>Parking incentives</td>
<td>Residential energy consumption ordinance (RECO)</td>
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<td>Emissions inventory Research and development</td>
<td>Biking and walking</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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<td>Electronic alternatives to travel</td>
<td>Pedestrian and Transit Planning</td>
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<td>School commuting</td>
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<td>Lobbying – Region, State, National</td>
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**Task Force Follow-Up**

- Reconvene Periodically (first was in April 2007)
- Meetings Planned with:
  - Neighborhood Organizations
  - Faith Groups
- School District has Sustainable Schools Committee
- Chamber of Commerce launched "Palo Alto Business Goes Green"
- Local non-profit Acterra launched Green@Home program

**ICLEI Milestones to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- Conduct an inventory
- Establish a reduction target
- Develop an action plan
- Implement the action plan
- Monitor and report progress; update plan
Palo Alto Major CO₂ Emissions by Source – 2005

Task Force estimated 644,000 metric tons in 2005 (community-wide)
- City operations account for ~3% of total (22,240 metric tons - certified)
- 95% of non-commute personal transport emissions due to cars
- 90% of commute emissions are generated by single occupants in vehicles
- Trucks and other vehicles are the biggest portion of road transport emissions

For travelers, flights are a major source of emissions

Utilities - Electric
- Distribution Losses
- COTP Transmission Losses
- Electricity End Use

Utilities - Natural Gas
- Mobile
- Stationary

Liquid Fuels - Mobile
- Stationary

Lighting
- Cooling
- Refrigeration
- Office Equipment
- Ventilation
- Pools
- Laundry

Climate Protection Action Plan

- Utilities
- Purchasing
- Vehicles and Commuting
- Regional Transportation
- Built Environment
- Education and Motivation

Initiatives

- Green Building
- Urban Forest Master Plan
- Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance
- Zero Waste Plan
- Ahwahnee Water Principles
- Cool Commute
- Energy Efficiency
- Alternative Energy Supply
- PV Demonstration Project

Implementation: Regional Efforts

- Sustainable Silicon Valley
- Santa Clara County
  - Green Business Certification
  - BAAQMD/MTC
  - Joint Policy Committee
  - League of California Cities
  - Santa Clara County Cities Association
  - Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network
  - Climate Protection Task Force

Joint Action is Essential

- Leverage Scarce Resources
- Minimize Duplication
- Learn from Each Other
- Make Tangible Progress
Implementation: Growing Partnerships

- Chamber of Commerce
  - "Palo Alto Business Goes Green"
- School District
  - Sustainability Committee, Green Teams
- Green Ribbon Task Force
  - Education & Motivation
- Community Organizations
  - Neighborhood Associations
  - Faith Groups
  - Acterra

GRTF Suggested Reductions Targets

- Meet or beat Governor’s goals:
  - 2000 levels by 2010;
  - 1990 levels by 2020;
  - 80% below 1990 levels by 2050
- Climate neutrality in utilities operations by 2020