



Don't forget to sign the CAP letter.

CAP letter to Planning Commissioners

1/1/2014

To: Tryan@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us
Cc: gcaruso@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Fri, Apr 25, 2014 at 3:35 PM

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I'd like to make three comments regarding the Climate Action Plan before you on Monday.

1. We on the Sustainability Commission have noticed that scientific reports on climate change are increasingly emphasizing that climate change has already begun. For example:

- **National Association for the Advancement of Science, *What We Know*** backgrounder, March, 2014: "Climate scientists agree: climate change is happening here and now. Based on well-established evidence, about 97% of climate scientists have concluded that human-caused climate change is happening." <http://www.aaas.org/news/aaas-kicks-initiative-recognize-climate-change-risks>
- **National Academies of Science/Royal Society Report, *Climate Change: Evidence and Causes***, February, 2014: "It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes." (first paragraph of forward) <https://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/more-resources-on-climate-change/climate-change-evidence-and-causes/>
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability***: "Human interference with the climate system is occurring, and climate change poses risks for human and natural systems..." (first sentence) http://ipccwg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SPM_Approved.pdf
- **California EPA report, August, 2013**: "Climate change is having a significant and measurable impact on California's environment, according to a new state report that tracks 36 indicators of climate change and its effects." (first sentence) <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Pressroom/Releases/2013/ClimateRpt.pdf>

2. California recommends a greenhouse gas reduction goal of 1990 levels by 2020. There are other jurisdictions that set more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and are meeting or surpassing them:

- **Marin County expects to meet its 2020 GHG reduction goal of 15% below 1990 levels five years early**, mostly due to the lower carbon footprint from the energy provided through Community Choice Aggregation (private conversation with Ann Hancock, Sonoma Climate Protection Campaign). Marin County goal: <http://www.marincounty.org/main/newsroom/press-releases/2014/climate-plan>
- **By 2010, the City of Portland had reduced carbon emissions 6% below**

1990 levels, despite rapid population growth. (Their first climate action plan was adopted in 1993.) <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/393345>

- **"While EU GDP grew by 45% between 1990 and 2011, total greenhouse gas emissions from today's 28 Member States... were 16.9% below the 1990 level in 2011 and an estimated 18% below 1990 in 2012. Member states' latest projections show that total emissions in 2020, including international aviation, will be 21% below the 1990 level."** http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/index_en.htm In contrast US GHG emissions have risen 4.7% between 1990 and 2012. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/ghgemissions/US-GHG-Inventory-2014-Chapter-Executive-Summary.pdf>
- 3. **While the online survey on our draft climate action plan does indicate the range of views within our city, it of course is not a random sample. In fact, the percentages in the survey differ significantly from San Francisco and California polling done by the Yale University Project on Climate Change Communication. I'd argue that we in Silicon Valley are more like San Franciscans than Californians as a whole.**
 - *Climate Change in the San Franciscan Mind*, October 2013 <http://environment.yale.edu/climate-communication/P18>
 - 87% of San Franciscans believe that global warming is happening; 5% believe it is not happening.
 - 67% believe that if global warming is happening, it is mostly human-caused. 69% understand that there is widespread agreement among scientists that climate change is happening.
 - Majorities say that more should be done by governments at all levels, 63% that local government should do more.
 - *Climate Change and the American Mind, Focus on California, Colorado, Ohio and Texas*, October, 2013 <http://environment.yale.edu/climate-communication/P18>
 - 79% of Californians believe climate change is happening.
 - 58% of Californians agree that if climate change is happening it is mostly caused by humans.
 - 55% of Californians understand that scientific consensus is that climate change is happening.

If you are interested, here is a recent paper published in the about the 97% consensus of climate scientists that human-caused climate change is happening and the public misperception of this consensus: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2013EF000226/pdf>

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Fukumoto
Sunnyvale resident, not writing in any official capacity