



NEWS

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Bay Area Air District Goes Carbon Neutral

New Policy Enhances Climate Protection Efforts

San Francisco, Calif. – **The Bay Area Air Quality Management District** (Air District) today announced that it has become a carbon neutral agency. This announcement comes on the two-year anniversary date of adoption of its Climate Protection Program. Over the past two years, the Air District has been working to integrate climate protection into all aspects of its programs and operations.

In going climate neutral, the Air District has adopted climate-friendly business practices, quantified the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations for calendar year 2006, and purchased renewable energy certificates in order to offset its 2006 emissions. This is the first time the Air District has offset an entire year of operational emissions. Being climate-neutral is a new policy the Air District plans to make a regular part of its business practice.

Air District greenhouse gas emissions for calendar year 2006 totaled 1,645 metric tons. Offsets were purchased through Native Energy. Offset monies will be invested in the 30 MW Owl Feather War Bonnet Wind Farm project in South Dakota scheduled for installation in 2008.

As part of its overall Climate Protection Program, the Air District developed a Bay Area Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory, funded a study to evaluate greenhouse gas emission-control technologies for its permitted sources, hosted a regional climate protection summit, and implemented policies to lessen its energy usage and fuel consumption. The Air District will continue its commitment to climate protection by carrying out regional efforts and striving to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation practices.

"Every organization can make changes to reduce its carbon footprint and, in doing so, protect the gains we have made in air quality over the past fifty years," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent, "since higher temperatures associated with climate change would likely result in increased ozone levels. Local agencies must lead by example—by implementing this policy the Air District is signaling its full commitment to climate protection in the Bay Area."

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The Air District has historically used climate-friendly business practices in its day-to-day operations, including:

- Use of fuel cell, hybrid and CNG vehicles in the Air District fleet;
- An employee commuter benefits program which garnered the U.S. Department of Transportation's Best Workplaces award;
- A 9-day, 80-hour flexible work schedule that reduces commute travel by 10 percent; and
- Green purchasing practices

The Air District recently became the first government agency in San Francisco to be awarded certification as a Green Business by the Bay Area Green Business Program.

For further information on the District's Climate Protection program, visit the Air District's website at www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climatechange.htm

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