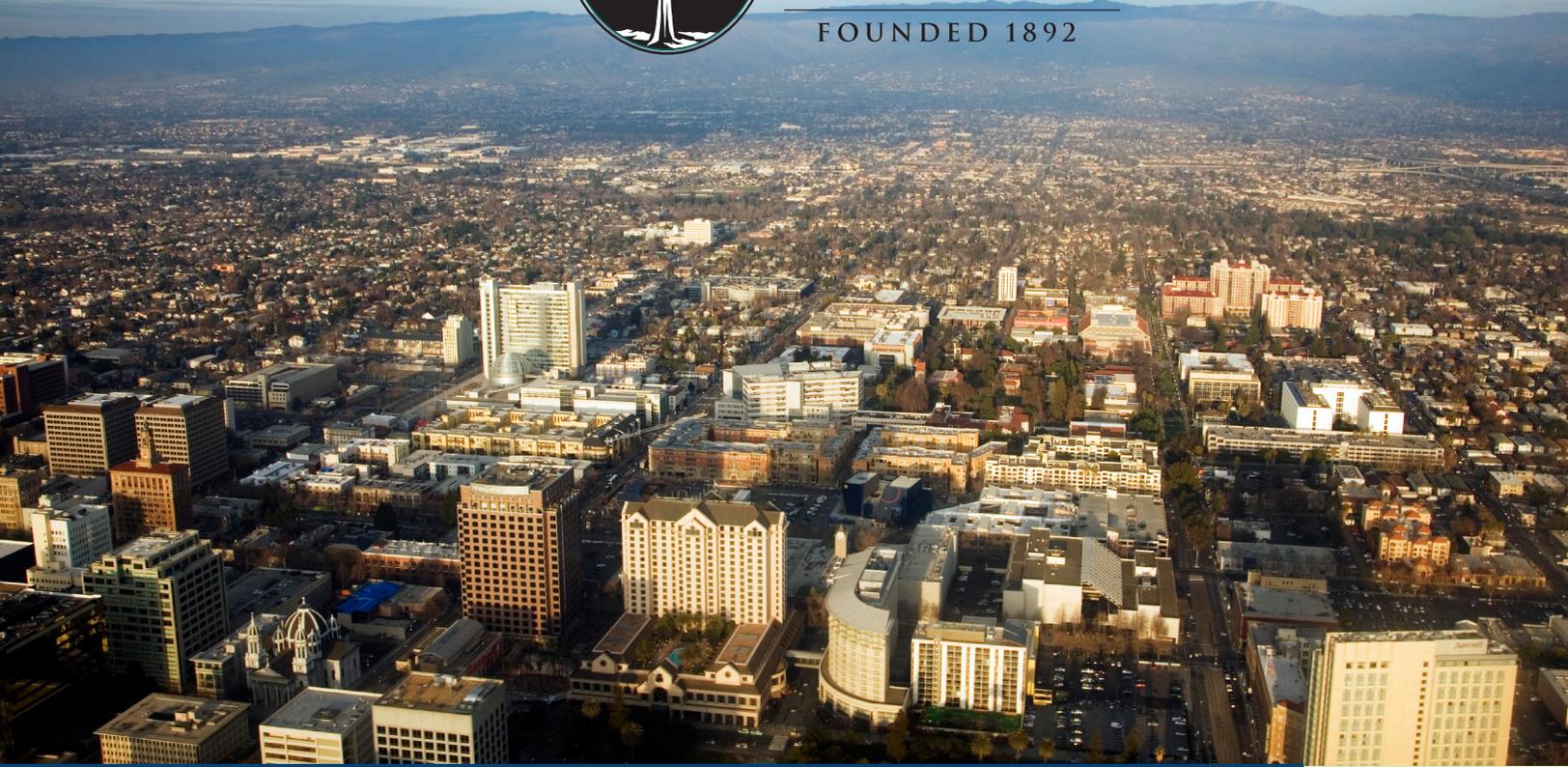


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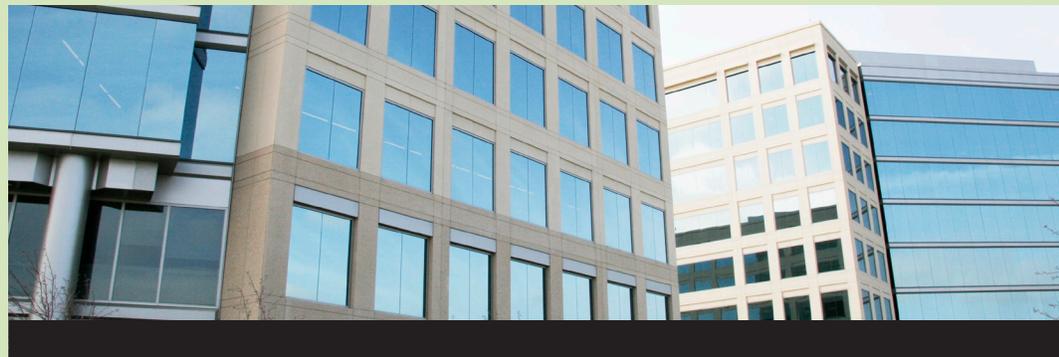


Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey

UPDATE 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection Policies
and Practices in San Mateo and Santa Clara
County Jurisdictions*

ISSUED DECEMBER 17, 2009





The Loma Prieta Chapter's Climate Action Campaign

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Acknowledgements:

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Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

Executive Summary

The Cool Cities Campaign of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club (1) undertook a follow-up survey of the climate protection practices and policies of city and county governments in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties during the summer of 2009. This report presents a summary of the results of our latest survey and highlights changes that have occurred during the 1-year period between August 2008 and August 2009. **Key results and conclusions include:**

1. The rate of increase of the number of responding local governments that took key climate protection actions between August 2008 and August 2009 was high.

2. The total number of responding jurisdictions that had taken key climate protection actions as of August 2009 generally still remained relatively small in the two-county area.

3. Eight jurisdictions (Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, Sunnyvale, Brisbane, Burlingame, Hillsborough, and San Mateo County) increased their number of achieved milestones by five or more between August 2008 and August 2009. This increase occurred during the peak of the most severe economic downturn in a generation and is a remarkable demonstration of leadership on climate change. Given recent studies quantifying the economic benefits of so-called green job creation, these local government leaders have also likely helped lay a foundation for economic benefits to their communities.

4. In each of the two counties, the three local jurisdictions with the highest number of achieved climate protection milestones (Palo Alto, San Jose, Sunnyvale; Burlingame, San Mateo, and San Mateo County) had very active Cool Cities / Cool Counties Campaign Teams, suggesting the important role and impact of citizen engagement on local government climate action.

5. As national governments seek to commit to and coordinate action on climate change in Copenhagen on the release date of this report, our results suggest that local government action in the Silicon Valley Region potentially provides an important opportunity and model for early decisive local action on climate change. To bring this opportunity to fruition, the high rate of increase of action seen between August 2008 and August 2009 must continue and accelerate in 2010.



Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

Introduction

The Cool Cities Campaign of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club (1) undertook a follow-up survey of the climate protection practices and policies of city and county governments in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties during the summer of 2009. This report presents a summary of the results of our latest survey and highlights changes that have occurred during the 1-year period between August 2008 and August 2009. A more detailed presentation of background material and the original survey results from 2008 can be found in *Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey 2008: A Report on Climate Protection Policies and Practices in San Mateo and Santa Clara County Jurisdictions* (2).

Twenty-eight (28) of the 37 jurisdictions (76% by number, 90% by population) in the two-county area responded to the original 2008 survey. During the summer of 2009, we sent a letter to each jurisdiction that responded in 2008 and requested updates on the status of 21 climate protection milestones that formed the basis of our 2008 survey. Follow-up phone calls and e-mails were made to all jurisdictions to obtain maximum participation in our survey. Twenty-four (24) jurisdictions of the original 28 responded to our 2009 update survey and one new city contributed data for both years. Therefore, our data presents a snapshot in time of progress by a large sampling (65%) of the jurisdictions in the two counties during the one-year period from August 2008 to August 2009.

The goals of this report are to:

1. Increase awareness of the state of climate action by local governments in our area and in particular to evaluate actions taken during the 1-year period from our original survey in August 2008 to August 2009.
2. Facilitate the exchange of best practices;
3. Advocate for decisive action worthy of the magnitude of the climate change/ clean & efficient energy challenge.

Results

Climate Protection Planning Milestones

Individual results for each responding jurisdiction are presented in **Table 1** (included in the centerfold of this report), which is an updated version of Table 1 in our original report. The data present a snapshot as of August 2009. Changes between August 2008 and August 2009 are indicated by filled rectangles with the superimposed text “2009”. Reported plans for achieving particular milestones by the end of 2009 are indicated by “(X)”. The survey assesses progress on 21 climate protection milestones in three areas—Climate Action: Commitment & Planning Milestones, Transportation Policy Milestones, and Green Building Incentives & Requirements—which are arranged horizontally along the top of the table. The responding jurisdictions from each county are listed vertically along the left side. Note that five cities in Santa Clara County—Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Milpitas, and Monte Sereno—did not provide additional data for 2009 but are included in this listing since they participated in 2008. Specific milestones are explained in greater detail in the caption of Table 1.

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

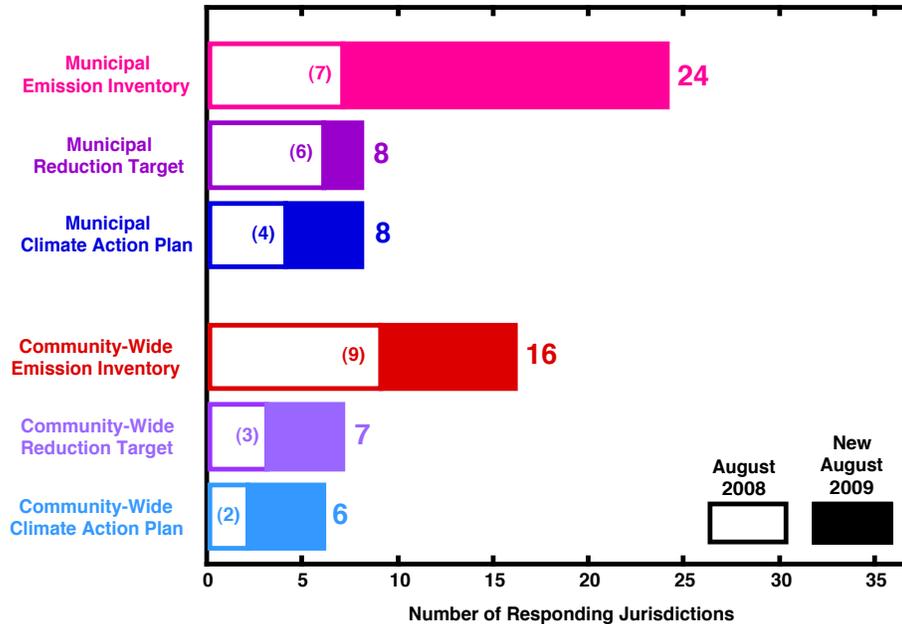


Figure 1: Climate action planning milestones achieved by the responding jurisdictions as of August 2009.

Figure 1 presents the number of jurisdictions that, as of August 2009, had (i) Completed a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with local government operations and facilities, (ii) Adopted municipal GHG emission reduction targets, (iii) Adopted a Municipal Climate Action Plan to achieve the emission reduction targets, (iv) Completed a community-wide baseline emission inventory, (v) Adopted a community-wide emission reduction target, (vi) Adopted a community-wide Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions from the baseline levels to established reduction targets. Each stacked bar separately displays the original totals from the August 2008 survey and totals from the 2009 survey that reflect completed milestones up to August 2009.

Figure 1 summarizes the number of jurisdictions that had achieved key climate protection planning milestones by August 2009 and the change between August 2008 and August 2009. The figure shows progress over a 1-year period on both key municipal as well as community-wide milestones. The figure does not reflect any achievements since August 2009.

Highlights of the results in Figure 1 include the following:

- Municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories had been completed by 24 of the responding jurisdictions, representing an over 200% increase between our two surveys. The total number exceeded 85% of the responding jurisdictions and 60% of the total number of jurisdictions in the two counties.

- Community-wide GHG emission inventories had been completed by 16 of the responding jurisdictions, representing an over 75% increase between our two surveys. The total number exceeded 50% of the responding jurisdictions and 40% of the total number of jurisdictions in the two counties.

A looming large increase in GHG emission inventories was suggested by our 2008 survey as many cities and counties indicated they planned to complete such inventories by the end of the year. The large increase in municipal emission inventories was accelerated by Joint Venture Silicon Valley (JVSV) Network’s *Climate Protection Initiative* (3), which negotiated a special volume purchase agreement with the nonprofit ICLEI (4) to reduce the cost of having individual public agencies in

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties perform such inventories.

In addition, the City/ County Association of Governments (C/CAG) in San Mateo County (5) created a program to provide \$6,500 to each city in San Mateo County that agreed to participate in the JSV program. Table 1 shows that every responding jurisdiction except one in San Mateo County (93% of the responding jurisdictions) had completed a municipal emission inventory by August 2009, suggesting the C/CAG program likely had an important impact in San Mateo County. For comparison, note that 73% of jurisdictions in Santa Clara County had completed a municipal inventory by August 2009.

Additional highlights of the results in Figure 1 include the following:

- Municipal Climate Action Plans to achieve emission reduction targets starting from the municipal emission inventory levels had been completed by 8 of the responding jurisdictions, representing a striking 100% increase between the two surveys. However, the absolute number was still only about 30% of the responding jurisdictions.
- Community-wide GHG emission reduction targets had been completed by 7 of the responding jurisdictions, representing an over 130% increase between our two surveys. However, the absolute number was still only 25% of the responding jurisdictions.
- Community-Wide Climate Action Plans had been adopted by 6 of the responding jurisdictions, representing a quite impressive 200% increase between our two surveys. Again, the absolute number was still only about 20% of the responding jurisdictions.

These results represent very good progress on an annual percentage basis and provide a foundation for implementing GHG emissions reductions in our region. However, for the Silicon Valley to rise to the challenge of reducing emissions substantially and quickly, the total number of jurisdictions achieving these milestones must rapidly increase at an annual percentage rate at least matching and hopefully exceeding that seen between August 2008 and August 2009. In addition and very importantly, Climate Action Plans developed by local governments must be aggressively implemented for actual emissions reductions to be achieved.

Green Building Milestones

Figure 2 summarizes the number of jurisdictions that had achieved key green building milestones by August 2009 and the change between August 2008 and August 2009. Details on the milestones can be found in the figure caption and in the caption of Table 1. Since about 40% of U.S. emissions are associated with buildings (6), increasing the energy and resource efficiency of buildings is a critical early emission reduction measure for local jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions play an essential role in addressing GHG emissions associated with buildings since they have jurisdiction over building permits and codes.

Key results from Figure 2 pertaining to municipal government buildings include:

- Green building requirements for new municipal buildings had been adopted by 15 of the responding jurisdictions, representing an over 65% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. These 15 jurisdictions represent over 50% of the responding jurisdictions and over

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

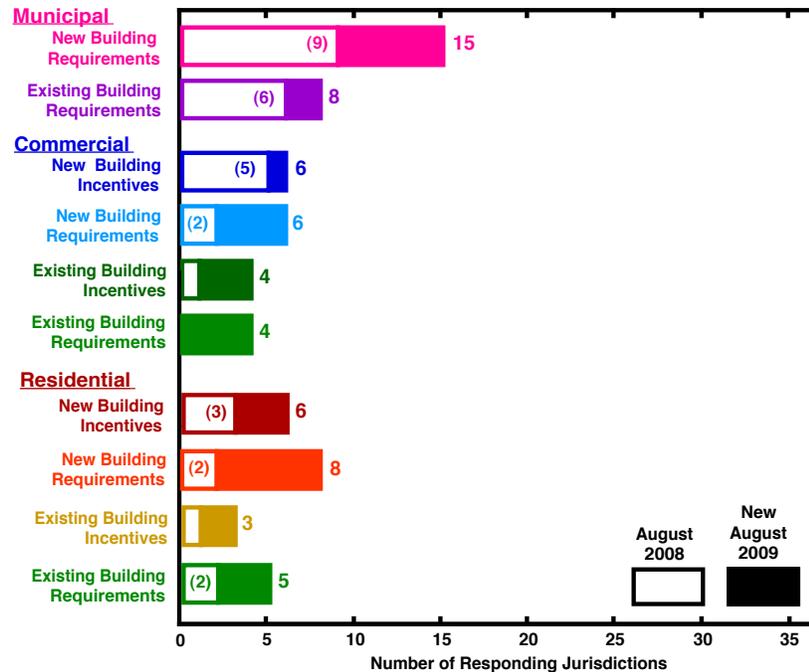


Figure 2: Green building incentives & requirements for the responding jurisdictions as of August 2009.

Figure 2 presents the number of jurisdictions with the following green building policies in August 2009 and the total number that had such policies in August 2008. New municipal building and commercial building incentives and requirements are for those that meet U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver certification (7), equivalent or better. Existing municipal and commercial building incentives and requirements are for those meeting LEED-EB Certified level, equivalent or better. New residential building incentives and requirements are for those buildings that meet Build It Green (8) GreenPoint-Rated 50 points, equivalent or better. Finally, for existing residential structures, incentives and requirements are based on a minimum number of BIG GreenPoint-Rated points.

40% of the total number of cities and counties in the two counties.

- Green building requirements for existing buildings had been adopted by 8 jurisdictions, representing a 30% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. These 8 jurisdictions represent about 30% of the responding jurisdictions.

Although municipal government buildings represent a small percentage of total GHG emissions associated with the buildings in a community, direct action by local governments to reduce emissions associated with their buildings is an essential first step. Such action demonstrates leadership

and public commitment and helps introduce new green building technologies and practices to the community.

The significant percentage of responding jurisdictions with requirements on new government buildings as of August 2009 is encouraging. However, far fewer local governments had requirements on existing government buildings. Since most buildings are existing buildings, increasing the energy efficiency of existing buildings is essential to reduce GHG emissions. **Our results suggest that local governments in San Mateo and Santa Clara County need to show more leadership on green building by addressing their existing buildings.**

TABLE 1: Cool Cities Local Government Results as of August 2009

Not implemented or planned
 Implemented by August 2008
 2009
 Implemented by August 2009

	<i>Climate Action: Commitment & Planning Milestones</i>							<i>Transportation Policies</i>		
	Municipal				Community-Wide			Procurement Policies Favoring Green Fleets	Municipal Employment Incentives	
	MCPA/ Cool Counties Signings	Multiple Participant Engagement	Municipal Emission Inventories	Municipal Reduction Targets	Municipal Climate Action Plans	Community-Wide Emission Inventories	Community-Wide Reduction Targets			Climate Action Plans
SAN MATEO COUNTY										
Atherton			2009	(X)	(X)	2009	(X)	(X)		
Belmont			2009		(X)			(X)	(X)	
Brisbane		2009	2009			(X)			(X)	
Burlingame			2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009		
Foster City			2009			2009	2009	2009		
Hillsborough			2009		(X)	2009		(X)		
Menlo Park					2009			2009		
Pacifica			2009	(X)	(X)	2009	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Redwood City		2009	(X)	(X)	(X)		(X)	(X)		
San Bruno			2009	(X)	(X)		(X)	(X)		
San Mateo										
San Mateo County			2009	(X)	(X)	2009	(X)	(X)		
South San Francisco			2009							
Woodside			2009		(X)	(X)			2009	
SANTA CLARA COUNTY										
Campbell			2009	(X)	(X)					
Cupertino			2009	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)		(X)
Gilroy*										
Los Altos*			(X)							
Los Altos Hills*			(X)		(X)	(X)				
Los Gatos			2009		(X)		(X)			
Milpitas*									(X)	
Monte Sereno			(X)			(X)			(X)	
Morgan Hill		2009					2009		(X)	2009
Mountain View			2009	(X)		2009	(X)			
Palo Alto									(X)	
San Jose							2009	2009		
Santa Clara			2009	2009	2009	(X)	(X)	(X)		
Santa Clara County			2009		2009	(X)	(X)	(X)		
Sunnyvale						(X)		(X)		

Commitment and Planning Milestones: “MCPA/ Cool Counties Signings”: Signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) or U.S. Cool Counties Stabilization Declaration (Cool Counties Declaration). “Multiple Participant Engagement”: Engaged multiple participants such as city staff, consultants, and community members to assist with climate action planning. “Municipal Emission Inventory”: Completed a baseline inventory of GHG emissions associated with local government operations and facilities. “Municipal Reduction Targets”: Adopted municipal GHG emission reduction targets. “Municipal Climate

Action Plan”: Adopted a Municipal Climate Action Plan to achieve the emission reduction targets. “Community-Wide Emission Inventories”: Completed a community-wide baseline emission inventory. “Community-Wide Reduction Targets”: Adopted a community-wide emission reduction target. “Climate Action Plans”: Adopted a community-wide Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions from the baseline levels to the established reduction targets. Responses indicating that milestone will be completed by the end of 2009 are also indicated. Cities that did not respond to our 2009 survey are indicated by an asterisk.

2009 Climate Action Survey Update 2009: by Responding Jurisdiction

August 2009

(X) Planned by end of 2009

Policy Milestone	Green Building Incentives & Requirements									
	Municipal			Commercial				Residential		
Transit-Oriented, etc. Development Encouragement	New Buildings	Existing Buildings	New Building Incentives	New Building Requirements	Existing Building Incentives	Existing Building Requirements	New Building Incentives	New Building Requirements	Existing Building Incentives	Existing Building Requirements
							(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
	2009					2009		2009		
							2009		2009	
	2009							2009		2009
	(X)		(X)				(X)	(X)		
	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
			(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
	2009			2009	2009	2009				
			(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
				(X)	(X)	(X)		(X)	(X)	(X)
	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
								(X)	(X)	
			(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)				
							(X)		(X)	
			(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
	2009									
	2009	2009		2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009
				2009	(X)	(X)	(X)	2009		(X)
		2009			2009					
	2009	(X)						2009		2009
			2009	2009		2009	2009	2009		

Transportation Policy Milestones: "Procurement Policies Favoring Green Fleets": jurisdiction had policy favoring the purchase of alternative technology or alternative fuel vehicles ("green vehicles"). "Municipal Employee Commute Incentives": jurisdiction had incentives for municipal employees to commute using modes other than single-occupancy vehicles. "Transit-Oriented, etc. Development Encouragement": jurisdiction stated it has policies that encourage transit-orientated or mixed-use development.

Green Building Incentives & Requirements: New municipal building and commercial building incentives and requirements are for those that meet LEED Silver certification (7), equivalent or better. Existing municipal and commercial building incentives and requirements are for those meeting LEED-EB Certified level, equivalent or better. New residential building incentives and requirements are for those buildings that meet BIG GreenPoint-Rated (8) 50 points, equivalent or better. Finally, for existing residential structures, incentives and requirements are based on a minimum number of BIG GreenPoint-Rated points.

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

Key results from Figure 2 pertaining to privately-owned buildings include:

- New commercial green building requirements had been adopted by 6 jurisdictions, representing a 200% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. However, this total represented only 20% of the total number of responding jurisdictions.
- Existing commercial green building incentives had been adopted by 4 jurisdictions, representing a 300% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. However, this total represented a mere 14% of the responding jurisdictions
- Existing commercial green building requirements had been adopted by 4 jurisdictions. Since none of the responding jurisdictions had such requirements in 2008, this change represents important progress. However, again, this total represented a mere 14% of the responding jurisdictions
- New residential green building incentives had been adopted by 6 jurisdictions, representing a 100% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. However, this number of jurisdictions represented only 20% of the responding jurisdictions.
- New residential green building requirements had been adopted by 8 jurisdictions, representing a 300% increase between 2008 and 2009.
- Existing residential green building incentives had been adopted by 3 jurisdictions, representing a 200% increase since 2008.
- Existing residential green building requirements had been adopted by 5 jurisdictions, representing a 150% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. These 5 jurisdictions

represented only 18% of the responding jurisdictions.

Our results pertaining to privately-owned buildings show an encouraging trend with generally quite large percentage increases in the number of jurisdictions with incentives and requirements for both new and existing privately-owned buildings. However, it should be noted that this progress, while important, represents the achievements of a small percentage of responding jurisdictions; 15% have enacted measures pertaining to existing buildings and 30% have addressed new buildings.

Seeing the very large rise in private existing building incentives and requirements is especially important since most buildings are existing buildings and improving the energy and resource efficiency of existing buildings is essential to reduce the 40% of GHG emissions due to buildings in the U.S. The large percentage increases between August 2008 and August 2009 need to be sustained and accelerated if our region intends to make a significant reduction in GHG emissions associated with building use.

Total Achieved Milestones by Jurisdiction

Figure 3 summarizes the number of climate protection milestones achieved by jurisdictions in Santa Clara County as of August 2009 and the change between August 2008 and August 2009.

Several jurisdictions greatly increased the number of climate protection milestones they achieved.

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

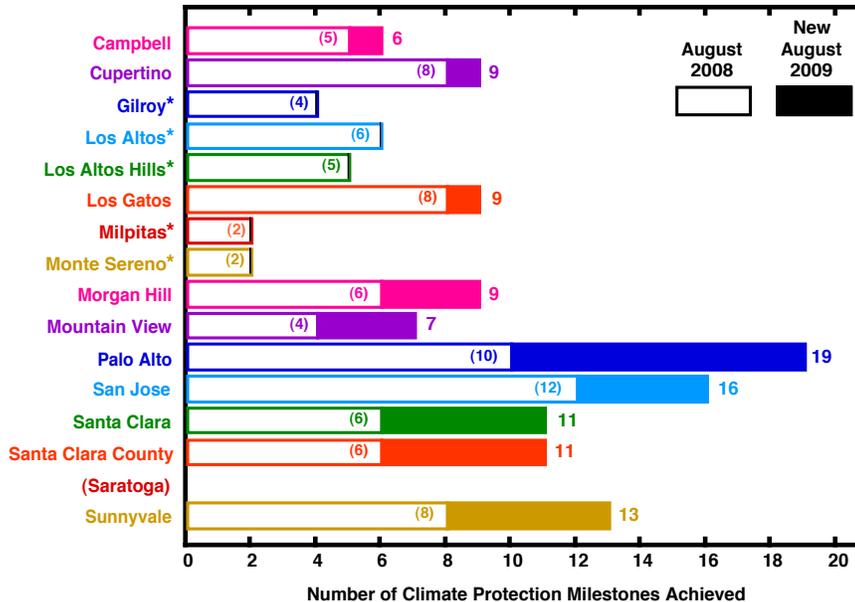


Figure 3: Number of Climate Protection Milestones Achieved by Jurisdictions in Santa Clara County as of August 2009. Each stacked bar presents the total number of climate protection action milestones achieved by responding jurisdictions in Santa Clara County as of August 2009. Results from the 2008 survey are also displayed to illustrate the changes between August 2008 and August 2009. The climate protection milestones are the 21 milestones listed in Table I. All cities in Santa Clara County are listed. Those cities that did not respond to our original survey in 2008 are enclosed in parentheses, and cities that did not respond to our 2009 survey are indicated by asterisks.

Exemplary leaders include:

- **Palo Alto** had achieved 19 of the 21 milestones about which we inquired and nearly doubled the number of milestones between August 2008 and August 2009
- **San Jose** was a close second by achieving 16 milestones with 4 of those milestones achieved between the two surveys.
- **Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, and Sunnyvale** are noteworthy for large increases in the number of milestones achieved between August 2008 and August 2009.
- Five jurisdictions (**Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, and Sunnyvale**) had achieved over 50% of the milestones
- **Morgan Hill and Mountain View** significantly increased their achieved milestones between

August 2008 and August 2009 by 50% and 75%, respectively

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter's Cool Cities Campaign has had active teams or other residents engaged in Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Palo Alto. Their engagement with city elected leaders and staff has been a demonstrably important factor in the achievement of climate protection milestones in these three cities. An active Cool Cities Team in Mountain View helped contribute to the rise in this city's climate protection milestones through citizen engagement with elected leaders and staff and by providing members to the city's sustainability task force.

Cool Cities

Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

A Status Report on Climate Protection Policies and Practices in San Mateo and Santa Clara County Jurisdictions

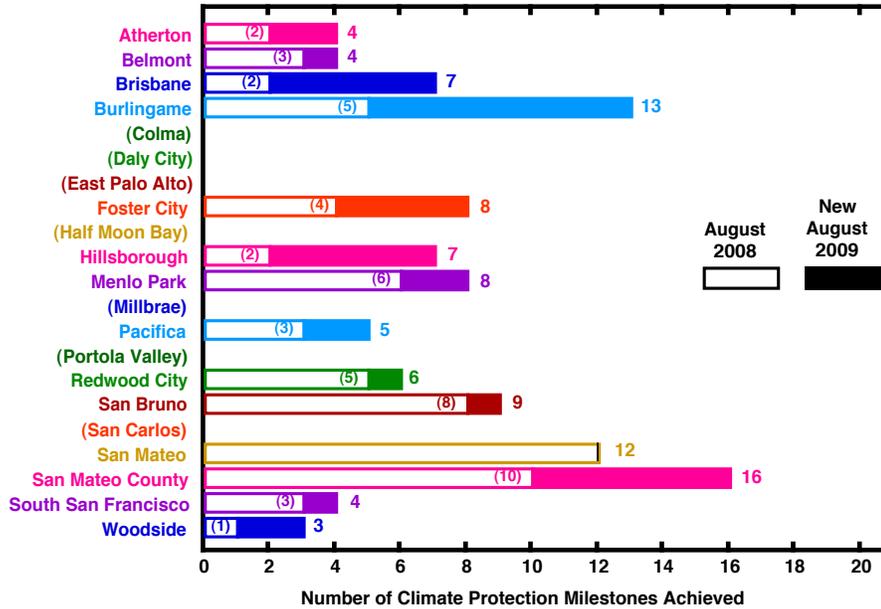


Figure 4: Number of Climate Protection Milestones Achieved by Jurisdictions in San Mateo County as of August 2009. Each stacked bar presents the total number of climate protection action milestones achieved by responding jurisdictions in San Mateo County as of August 2009. Results from the 2008 survey are also displayed. The climate protection milestones are the 21 milestones listed in Table I. All cities in San Mateo County are listed. Those cities that did not respond to our original survey in 2008 are enclosed in parentheses, and cities that did not respond to our 2009 survey are indicated by asterisks.

Figure 4 summarizes the number of climate protection milestones achieved by jurisdictions in San Mateo County by August 2009 and the change between August 2008 and August 2009. Several jurisdictions in San Mateo County also greatly increased the number of climate protection milestones they achieved between August 2008 and August 2009. **Exemplary leaders include:**

- **Burlingame** greatly increased its achieved climate protection milestones between August 2008 and August 2009 to a total of 13 milestones. This rise is significant both on a percentage basis (160%) and in absolute terms. Burlingame had the second highest number of achieved milestones of the responding jurisdictions in San Mateo County.
- **Brisbane** and **Hillsborough** showed very large percentage increases in achieved

milestones between August 2008 and August 2009, achieving 250% increases to a total of 7 milestones each.

- **San Mateo County** had achieved 16 of the milestones about which we inquired, representing a 60% increase between August 2008 and August 2009. San Mateo County had the highest milestone total of the responding jurisdictions in San Mateo County
- **Foster City** increased its achieved milestones to 8, representing a 100% increase
- Three jurisdictions in San Mateo County (**San Mateo County**, **San Mateo**, and **Burlingame**) had achieved over 50% of the 21 climate protection milestones in our survey as of August 2009

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

The three jurisdictions in San Mateo County with the highest total achieved milestones – San Mateo County, Burlingame, and San Mateo—had especially active Cool Cities / Cool Counties Teams which have demonstrably contributed to the achievement of these milestones. One important factor in the large rise in the achieved milestones by Burlingame was the Cool Cities Team’s direct engagement with the city’s elected leaders and staff. In particular, the Team made use of our 2008 survey results and report to influence the climate protection actions undertaken by Burlingame.

Conclusions

Our Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009 shows large percentage increases in the number of jurisdictions that achieved key climate protection planning milestones between August 2008 and August 2009. These large percentage increases are encouraging and are important. However, the absolute number of jurisdictions in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties with emission reduction targets and climate action plans remained relatively small compared to the total number of jurisdictions in these two counties. A large rise in these numbers is needed if our region is to address the major climate change challenge by reducing GHG emissions. In particular, far more local jurisdictions need to develop Community-Wide Climate Action Plans that will lead to significant GHG emission reductions. Moreover, as with any plan, city leaders and engaged citizens must make sure these plans are implemented.

Since about 40% of U.S. GHG emissions result from energy consumption in buildings, a key early action item for local governments is to address the energy

and resource efficiency of buildings through the adoption of significant green building requirements and/or incentives. Our survey results show large percentage increases in the number of jurisdictions with such policies between August 2008 and August 2009. In particular, an encouraging rise in the number of jurisdictions with policies applicable to privately-owned buildings and also existing buildings was evident. Since the vast majority of buildings are existing buildings, it is especially important to address this component of the building stock. However, the absolute number of jurisdictions with such policies was still low.

Several exemplary local jurisdictions emerged from our survey. Eight (8) cities or counties in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties (Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, Burlingame, San Mateo, San Mateo County) had achieved over 50% of the climate protection milestones about which we inquired by August 2009. Moreover, eight (8) of the jurisdictions in these two counties (Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, Sunnyvale, Brisbane, Burlingame, Hillsborough, and San Mateo County) increased their number of achieved milestones by five or more between August 2008 and August 2009. Given the national and regional economic downturn and state and local government budget deficits during this time period, these results are especially striking. The results demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate change challenge in difficult budgetary and economic times.

This leadership on climate change may also be exactly what local economies need now. A 2009 US Green Building Council/Booz Allen Hamilton (9) report found that, despite a challenging economic outlook, green building will support nearly 8 million jobs in the U.S. economy and contribute \$554 Billion to U.S. GDP between 2009 and 2013, many times its contribution to jobs and GDP over the last eight years. In addition, an analysis by Jacobson and Delucchi (10) finds that it is both technically and

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

*A Status Report on Climate Protection
Policies and Practices in San Mateo and
Santa Clara County Jurisdictions*

economically feasible to meet all of the U.S. energy needs through increased energy efficiency and clean carbon-free energy sources by 2030. Jacobson and Delucchi demonstrate that the key obstacle to reducing GHG emissions is political will. Our study finds that elected leaders in several key local cities and counties are finding the necessary political will and laying the foundation for local economic growth based on “green jobs.”

Addressing climate change requires action at all levels of government as well as by individuals and private organizations. The California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) demonstrates excellent leadership by California’s elected leaders and provides a solid basis for state-level action on climate change (11). However, it is important to note the “four-year gap” between the adoption of a plan in 2008 and the implementation of the plan in 2012 (12). Federal legislation by Congress on climate change is still pending, and implementation of any legislation will still take years. At the international level, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 provides an important and critical moment to

coordinate international action on climate change. Any international agreement would begin to take effect in 2012 at the earliest, and the timescale for implementation of any agreement is years away.

As the world seeks to take action on climate change, early action by local jurisdictions is an essential part of reducing the severity of global climate change through early GHG emission reduction policies and other measures. Local jurisdictions have a unique role since they have legal jurisdiction over building policy and legal authority over development decisions which directly influence how much we drive. Local policies directly affect the two largest sources of GHG emissions in the Silicon Valley Region—energy use in buildings and transportation – which together make up over 80% of the region’s GHG emissions (13). The results of our survey suggest the trend line on climate action by local jurisdictions in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties is in the right direction, but these trends must continue and accelerate rapidly in the next year so that the Silicon Valley Region can decisively step up to the climate and clean and efficient energy challenge.



About the Global Warming Program of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club

The Cool Cities Campaign of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter is one of four initiatives in the Chapter’s Global Warming Program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Silicon Valley Region. The Cool Cities Campaign is a National Sierra Club Campaign that forms teams of volunteers in each city and county to work for local government action to reduce emissions. In 2010, the Chapter’s Cool Cities Campaign has two major campaigns: (1) The “Building Climate-Friendly Communities” campaign to work for transit-oriented development and other measures to reduce miles traveled by car (2) The “Green Buildings for Cool Cities” campaign to work for local government policies that enable energy and resource-efficient new and existing buildings. Other initiatives in the Chapter’s Global Warming Program include an Education and Outreach initiative, the Climate Action Team Program to work for emissions reductions and dollar savings by individuals and groups through adoption of low-energy behaviors, and an initiative to reduce local barriers to the installation of solar power.

For more information go to: <http://lomaprietaglobalwarming.sierraclub.org>, or contact the Global Warming Program Coordinator, Julio Magalhães, at e-mail: julio.magalhaes@sierraclub.org, phone: 650-390-8441.

Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey Update 2009

A Status Report on Climate Protection Policies and Practices in San Mateo and Santa Clara County Jurisdictions

(Endnotes)

1. Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club, Cool Cities Campaign (<http://lomaprietaglobalwarming.sierraclub.org>). The Cool Cities Campaign is a National Sierra Club campaign (www.coolcities.us) working for local government action to reduce municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by engaging teams of volunteers in each city. Cool Counties is an analogous effort to work for local action at the county level. Here we use the term “Cool Cities” to represent both efforts—Cool Cities and Cool Counties.
2. Electronic copies of our original report entitled *Cool Cities Local Government Climate Action Survey 2008: A Report on Climate Protection Policies and Practices in San Mateo and Santa Clara County Jurisdictions* and this update are available at http://lomaprietaglobalwarming.sierraclub.org/survey_results.php.
3. Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network’s Climate Protection Initiative (www.jointventure.org).
4. ICLEI (www.iclei.org)
5. City/ County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (www.ccag.ca.gov).
6. *The Building Sector: A Hidden Culprit* (www.architecture2030.org/current_situation/building_sector.html)
7. U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org)
8. Build It Green (www.builditgreen.org)
9. U.S. Green Building Council and Booz Allen Hamilton. “Green Jobs Study” (2009). (<http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=6435>)
10. Jacobson, M. Z. and M.A. Delucchi (2009). “A Path to Sustainable Energy By 2030”, *Scientific American*, November 2009, 58-65
11. California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), (www.climatechange.ca.gov/publications/legislation/ab_32_bill_20060927_chaptered.pdf)
12. California Air Resources Board *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>)
13. *Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) CHG Regional Inventory* (www.baaqmd.gov) and *City of San Mateo Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report*, October 24, 2007.

THE LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER of the



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Climate Action Campaign:

*Addressing Global Warming
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