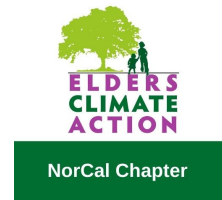


 SILICON VALLEY
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION



October 1, 2021

President Wasserman and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street
East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

RE: Support for Establishing a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

As devastating wildfires have swept across California, fueled by a climate-driven drought, extreme heat and high winds, the need for action on climate change has never been more urgent. In response to the County’s [declaration of a climate emergency](#)¹, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) and the undersigned urge the County Board of Supervisors to support Supervisor Lee’s referral and to establish a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission.

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action has been advocating for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to invest in outreach and education efforts around combating climate change.

Taking a look at our neighboring counties and their Office of Sustainability budgets listed in the comparative chart below, we can see that Santa Clara County is **not investing sufficient resources** behind these efforts.

<u>San Francisco</u>	<u>San Mateo</u>	<u>Santa Clara</u>
Pop: 875K <small>(2019 estimate)</small>	Pop: 767K <small>(2019 estimate)</small>	Pop: 1927K <small>(2019 estimate)</small>
97 Environmental FTE <small>(2021 Rec Salary)</small>	28 Sustainability FTE <small>(2021 Rec Budget)</small>	6 Sustainability FTE <small>(2021 Rec Budget)</small>
\$22.309M <small>(2021 Rec Budget)</small>	\$36.329M <small>(2021 Rec Budget)</small>	\$1.256M <small>(2021 Rec Budget)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partners w/ key stakeholders ● Env. Education Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual Presentations for K-12 students ● Ambitious recycling & composting programs in schools & businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership with SMCOE for climate outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Solutionary Fair” ● Youth Climate Ambassador Program w/hands-on projects ● SMC BPAC for walking/biking monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diesel-Free by 2033 + carbon-neutrality by 2045 ● Silicon Valley 2.0 Climate Change Preparedness Decision Support Tool ● Very little climate education to students!

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action has proposed that the County Board of Supervisors **take the following three actions:** 1) Invest resources and investment in the County Office of Sustainability, including staffing positions 2) Establish a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission, and 3) Partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to support comprehensive Environmental Literacy and Education across our county, including opportunities for students to get involved.

The County of Santa Clara boasts over 75 Boards and Commissions, yet none of these are bodies specifically focused on furthering the County’s Sustainability efforts. Even Commissions such as the County’s Recycling and Waste Management Commission lack the scope to tackle the variety of climate initiatives needed across many sectors of Santa Clara’s community and economy.

As we’re continually reminded, unless we take transformative action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, things will only get worse. In response to the latest IPCC Climate Report, UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ stated, “The internationally agreed threshold of 1.5°C is perilously close. We are at imminent risk of hitting 1.5°C in the near term. The only way to prevent exceeding this threshold is by urgently stepping up our

efforts and pursuing the most ambitious path.¹ Already, as part of the first major effects of climate change, up to 200 species each day are going extinct. Wildfires are destroying our western forests and many homes, creating air pollution harmful to our health and the environment. Historic floods threaten the coasts and many cities around the world including cities in Santa Clara County.

And more than 230 Medical Journals warn that our climate crisis is our [greatest global public health crisis](#).²

The County and Board must work with our County Office of Sustainability and the community to expand upon their existing efforts to combat climate change, transition to clean energy, support public transportation, implement conservative and biodiversity efforts, and support an economic plan to drive green job growth.

To expand upon the collaborative efforts being led by the County Office of Sustainability, the Commission can bring community members and stakeholders together behind comprehensive climate and sustainability initiatives, with the goal of reducing emissions aggressively. We must empower stakeholders and community members to support outreach and education related activities, provide resources and support to help build capacity, and engage youth and students in the process.

We urge the Board to consider engaging students in these sustainability efforts including on this new Sustainability Commission as it is the younger generation that bear the greatest burdens from oncoming climate change and many in this generation are now taking the boldest actions to mitigate this threat.

Lastly, the undersigned believe that environmental justice, economic justice and social justice must all work in conjunction. To this end, a truly “just” environmental transition should provide good jobs with pay, benefits, and working conditions that meet our local community's standards and reduce harmful health impacts on the county's workers and residents, especially on vulnerable populations such as children and seniors.

Sincerely,
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
svyouthclimate@gmail.com
www.svyouthclimateaction.org

Organizational Endorsements

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
California Environmental Caucus
Harker Green Team
Silicon Valley Climate Reality Project
Women's March San Jose
Menlo Spark
Together We Will - San José
Asian Law Alliance
Coltura
1000 Grandma for Future Generation
San Jose Nikke Resisters
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Acterra
Elder Climate Action, Northern CA Chapter

¹ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sgsm20847.doc.htm>

Project Green Home
350 Silicon Valley
Bay Area for Clean Environment
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Green Sanctuary Committee
Peninsula Peace and Justice Center

*****All titles below are for identification purposes only***

1. Peri Plantenberg, Coordinator, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Homestead High School
2. Igor Tregub, Chair, California Democratic Party Environmental Caucus, Berkeley, C
3. Tara Sreekrishnan, Governing Board Member, Santa Clara County Board of Education & Co-Founder, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
4. Linda Sell, President, Sunnyvale Democratic Club & Co-Founder, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
5. Hoi Poon, Chair, Environmental Committee, Silicon Valley Democratic Club, Co-Founder, SVYCA
6. Darren Chiu, Monta Vista High School, Student Leader, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
7. Elise Chiu, Student Co-Lead, Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team, Monta Vista High School
8. Gary Ding, Vice President, Harker Green Team, Student Co-Lead, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
9. Radhika Goel, Sunnyvale Resident, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Coordinator of Climate Curriculum, Homestead High School
10. Steven Luo, Co-Chair, Santa Clara County Youth Task Force, San Jose, Evergreen Valley High School
11. Janelle London, co-Executive Director, Coltura
12. Diane Bailey, Executive Director, Menlo Spark
13. Gary Latshaw, Chair of the Guadalupe Regional Group of the Sierra Club, Chair of the Cupertino Rotary Climate Action Committee, and Staff Scientist with Securethefuture2100.org
14. Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
15. Abhimanyu Jayaraman, co-lead, State advocacy SVYCA, Cupertino HS
16. Diya Kandhra, Co-President, Ann Sobrato High School Environmental Club; Student Co-lead, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
17. Debbie Mytels, Chair, Outreach Committee, Fossil Free Buildings Silicon Valley
18. Rod Diridon Sr., Emeritus Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute
19. Bob Levy, Board member, League of Conservation Voters, Santa Clara County Planning Comm.
20. Charles Piercey, ROV Volunteer, Board Member Festival of Lights, PM at KIOXIA
21. Bill DeVincenzi, Faculty in Residence for Sustainability, San Jose State University
22. Pamela Bond, Volunteer, Van Meter Elementary Home and School Club Ecology Team member and School Garden Program Lead
23. Sara Olsen, Milpitas resident, parent, and business owner, Founder and CEO of Social Venture Technology Group (SVT Group)
24. Ragini Srinivasan, Coordinator, Sunrise Silicon Valley

25. Anika Khandavalli, Student Leader, Fremont High Environmental Club, Sunnyvale Team of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
26. Amelia DeLaPaz, science teacher, Los Gatos High School
27. Sameena Usman, Santa Clara resident, parent, civil rights activist, CADEM AD 25 Delegate, and CA-17 DNC Delegate
28. Kristel Wickham, Sunnyvale Sustainability Commission Chair, Adult advisor to Sunnyvale Youth Climate Action Team
29. Peter Pham, Board member, Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters
30. Pragma Natarajan, Cupertino High School, Silicon Valley Youth Climate action
31. Michelle Garcia Winner, Think Social Publishing, Inc. CEO and President
32. Mark Grossman, Palo Alto, with 350 Silicon Valley
33. Jenny Higgins, Executive Board member DAWN
34. Vanessa Shin, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
35. Kunal Gupta, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Environmental Club Cupertino High School
36. Barbara Mackraz, Founder & Executive Director of OliveSeed.org, resident of Palo Alto
37. Rani Fischer, Sunnyvale resident, South Bay Chapter of California Interfaith Power & Light, SV-CAN, 350.org
38. Jenny Green, San Jose resident and Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley leadership volunteer
39. Kris Jensen, Executive Director of GreenTown Los Altos
40. Christine Salloom, Science Teacher, parent, citizen, San Jose
41. Todd Weber, San Jose/Willow Glen, Co-Leader Elders Climate Action (ECA) NorCal Chapter
42. Jennie Hutchinson, PhD, President of Silicon Valley Democratic Club, Co-Chair of Women's March San Jose, Co-Chair of Enough is Enough Voter Project
43. Barbara Bird, concerned senior
44. Lydia Yiu, Civil Engineer and Green Team board member at Valley Water
45. John Petro, CEO FluxDyn
46. Anne-Marie Bonneau, Sustainable Food Writer and Speaker
47. Roxanne Dubois
48. Jeanine Lee, Parent, Resident of Santa Clara and San Jose
49. Beatrice Pangilinan, parent and resident of Santa Clara County
50. Kendra Swirsding, biologist, parent, resident
51. Karen Warner Nelson, Chair, CLimate Reality: Silicon Valley
52. Leane Eberhart, San Mateo Architect
53. Sindhu Saggeri, Student Leader, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara High School
54. Kathleen Willey, parent, Los Gatos resident
55. George Baker, Sales Operations Sr. Manager, San Jose Resident
56. Bette Gambonini, Sunnyvale resident
57. Huan Pham, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator, Asian Law Alliance
58. Sue Ann Lorig, Los Gatos resident
59. John Petro, Los Altos resident and CEO of FluxDynamics, Inc.
60. Felicia Gershberg, Co-lead, Together We Will - San José, and Sunnyvale resident

61. Bethany L. Casarez, Freelance Designer in Santa Clara
62. Rev. Charlotte Bear, Climate Reality Project and Green Faith
63. Samina Sundas, American Muslim Voice Foundation, Palo Alto resident
64. JoAnne Swirsding, retired, Los Altos resident
65. Carl Swirsding, retired, Los Altos resident
66. Lynn Golbetz, parent, San Jose resident
67. Jared Johnson, Sr. Manager of Policy and External Relations, Acterra
68. Esther Duong, Co-lead of San Jose team, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Milpitas resident, UC Davis
69. Rita Norton
70. Megan Shumway BSN, Climate Health Now
71. Carolyn Zhao, Co-lead of Santa Clara Youth Climate Action, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, SFHS Environmental Club, Sunnyvale Resident
72. Gwyn Azar, co-leading Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Cupertino high school environmental club, Cupertino resident
73. Sandi Spires, retired, Sunnyvale resident
74. Naomi Schulze, member of the Los Altos High School Green Team
75. Jennifer Greene, parent, resident of Cupertino
76. Terry Nagel, former Mayor, Burlingame
77. Stuart Norton, software engineer, Sunnyvale
78. Stephen RoSenblum, Palo Alto, 350SV member
79. Mary Buxton, 350 Silicon Valley
80. Michelle Matsumoto, Mountain View resident
81. Virginie Mitchem
82. Jean Staats
83. Debra Christenson, Vision Specialist, SCCOE
84. Kathryn Funk, 350 Silicon Valley - San Jose Team member
85. Lily Owen, Sunnyvale resident
86. Dorothy Zheng, Monta Vista High School, Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team of SVYCA
87. Janhavi Singhal, Homestead High School, Los Altos Resident
88. Cynthia Fan, Los Gatos resident and parent
89. Michael Young, Co-President, Los Altos High School Green Team, Los Altos Resident
90. Kristen Manies, Sunnyvale resident
91. Odin Bruyere, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale resident,
92. Shalini Satish, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Homestead High School
93. Lexi Crilley, Environmental Justice Coalition, Los Altos Resident
94. Roberta Ahlquist, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Peninsula Branch
95. Maddy Randall, Co-Activity Chair, Los Altos High School Green Team, Los Altos Resident
96. Susan Hayase, San Jose Nikkei Resisters
97. Alex Mabanta, Saratoga resident
98. Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, Sunnyvale Resident, Executive Director, Leadership Sunnyvale

99. Carmen Brammer, San Jose Resident
100. Debra Robeson PT, Parent, Concerned Citizen, Mountain
101. Rev. Charlotte Bear, Climate Reality Project and Green Faith
102. Hon. Melinda Hamilton, Sunnyvale resident; President, Sunnyvale Education Foundation; former mayor, City of Sunnyvale
103. Cynthia Alderson, member UUFS Climate Action Team
104. Rob Means, Secretary, LoopWorks (MilpitasPRT.com)
105. Monica Mallon, transit advocate and district 4 resident
106. Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Co-founder, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, resident of San José
107. Jenni Chapman, CEO of Jenni Chapman Photography, Campbell Resident
108. Marnie Singer, concerned citizen and lay leader in First Unitarian Church of San Jose
109. Yuki Lapin, Sunnyvale resident
110. Pallavi Pandit, President, Technix LLC, Milpitas, CA
111. Atul Gupta, Sr. Manager, Technix LLC, Milpitas, CA
112. Pranjal Gupta, Student, John Sinnott Elementary School, Milpitas, CA
113. Brian Haberly, San Jose resident
114. Bruce Paton, Sunnyvale resident, Professor Emeritus at Menlo College, former Chair of Sunnyvale Sustainability Commission
115. Susan Butler-Graham, San Jose resident and Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley team coordinator
116. Julie Matthews, Los Gatos resident and parent and concerned citizen.
117. Deven Sutaria, Santa Clara County Resident, Student at De Anza College
118. Martha Menestrina, Sunnyvale Resident, Sunnyvale Democratic Club member
119. Tal Dickman, Santa Clara County resident, student at Brown University
120. Margaret Okuzumi, Sunnyvale resident
121. Barbara Fukumoto, Sunnyvale Cool Leadership Team
122. Steve Eittreim Palo Alto grandfather and 350 member
123. Laura Robichek, Sunnyvale resident
124. Nina Zheng, Santa Clara resident
125. Mark Hoffberg, Palo Alto resident, with 350 Silicon Valley
126. Giorgio Ballardin, parent, data scientist, San Jose resident
127. Donna Beres, Our Daily Bread Board member, SVdP Council Vice President
128. Genie Bernardini, Mothers Out Front member
129. Allison Davis, Harvest for Neighbors, Mountain View resident
130. Saswati Das, Milpitas resident, Engineer and a mother.
131. Mark Robichek, Sunnyvale resident
132. Kathleen Kramer, Palo Alto resident, Co-Founder, Project Green Home, EV driver & Parent
133. Sven Thesen, Palo Alto resident, Founder BeniSol, LLC, EV driver & Dad
134. Aaruni Gupta, Milpitas Resident, Publicist of Milpitas HS Environmental Society
135. Roma Shah, Student Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
136. John Cordes, Sierra Club leader, Sunnyvale resident

137. Trisha Sharan, Sunnyvale resident
138. Jennie Lu, Student Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
139. Cynthia Maciel, Student Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
140. Julia Wong, San Jose resident, member of FUSJ Church
141. Laurel Beecher, Sunnyvale resident
142. Pat Lang, Los Altos Hills resident
143. Kristi Iverson, Sunnyvale resident
144. Bill Hilton, Co-chair, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto Green Sanctuary Committee
145. Julissa Martinez, Student Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
146. Scott Nesmith, Sunnyvale resident
147. Kyla Spencer, Morgan Hill resident, Student Member, Morgan Hill Youth Climate Action Member, Ann Sobrato High School Environmental Club Member
148. Amanda Bancroft, 350 Silicon Valley Board Member
149. Kathleen Meagher, Sunnyvale resident
150. Michael Wittig, San Jose resident
151. Brian Forney, 350 Silicon Valley member, Mountain View resident
152. Janani Dhinakaran, Cupertino resident
153. Dan Hafeman, concerned citizen, Sunnyvale BPAC Commissioner
154. Sara Abdelhamid, Hub Coordinator/Student Leader Sunrise Silicon Valley, San Jose resident
155. Tobi Nielsen, Teacher, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Campbell resident
156. Swanee Edwards, Valley Water Ambassador, District 1, Santa Clara County Election's Commissioner, member Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, Resident City of Morgan Hill
157. Patricia Albers, 350 Silicon Valley
158. Susan Kirchoff, Co-President of Live Oak Environmental Club, student member of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Morgan Hill resident and student
159. Alexa Celis, Morgan Hill resident, Student Member, Morgan Hill Youth Climate ActTeam
160. Kevin Ma, Co-Chair of UUCPA Green Sanctuary Committee, CADEM AD24 Delegate
161. Sophia Kamra, Sunnyvale Fremont high school
162. Julia Miller
163. Barbara Goodwin, Retired, Santa Clara resident
164. Justin Gee, Palo Alto resident
165. Margaret Goka, Sunnyvale resident
166. Jocelyn Tao, San Jose resident, Lynbrook High School student, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action member
167. Ashley Sailor, Morgan Hill resident, Student Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Team
168. Sarah Liu, Student Co-lead, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Cupertino, Monta Vista High School
169. Ria Narang, Cupertino Resident, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, City Student Co-lead, Cupertino High School
170. Akanksha Roy, Cupertino Resident, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Monta Vista High School

171. Annabelle Law, Sunnyvale Resident, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale City Student Co-Lead, De Anza College
172. Shiv Shah, Cupertino High School, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
173. Frank Hobson, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale resident, Homestead High School
174. Ethan Mahimainathan, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Los Altos resident, Homestead High School
175. Jamie Nguyen, Sunnyvale Resident, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Homestead High School
176. Ivy Zhan, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale Resident, Homestead High School
177. Alexis Tan, Santa Clara Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Santa Clara Resident, Santa Clara High School

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) is a student-led nonprofit that empowers teens and young adults to combat climate change in their local community through impactful education and policy initiatives. We are composed of seven local city action teams that focus on policy advocacy as well as community education initiatives. These teams are located in Cupertino, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Saratoga/Los Gatos, Santa Clara, and Morgan Hill. In addition to these city-oriented teams, we also have a state advocacy team focused on statewide legislation, and a transit team focused on sustainable transportation in the Bay Area.

www.svyouthclimateaction.org

References

1. The County of Santa Clara California Resolution BOS-2019-111 Accepted as Amended, [Aug 27, 2019 9:30 AM](#), Adopt Resolution declaring a climate emergency that demands immediate action to halt, reverse, restore and address the consequences and causes of global warming. (Cortese)
http://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=SplitView&MeetingID=11135&MediaPosition=&ID=98193&CssClass=
2. Slate Magazine. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/09/medical-journals-climate-crisis-threat-public-health.html>