



**Sustainable
Santa
Barbara**

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

Contact: Nina Johnson, Assistant to the City Administrator
(805) 564-5307

NJohnson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Barbara Becomes First Southern California City to Certify Global Warming Emissions

SANTA BARBARA, CA – May 22, 2007

The City of Santa Barbara became the first Southern California city to certify its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory with the California Climate Action Registry, earning the Registry's distinction of *Climate Action Leader*[™]. Reducing emissions from the City's operations helps protect the environment from climate change. Measuring the emissions is the first step in understanding how the City can reduce its carbon footprint. The City will now analyze the data and develop a strategy to reduce emissions.

The City is taking many steps to reduce global warming emissions throughout its vehicle fleet and facilities. The City uses B20 biodiesel fuel in City vehicles, including fire engines and construction equipment. Whenever available, the City purchases alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles. Employees are encouraged to ride a bicycle, walk, or carpool to run errands between City facilities. Flexible schedules and telecommuting are also promoted to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

Energy conservation and the use of renewable energy in facilities is a top priority. All traffic signals operate on Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting. A Green Building Policy was adopted to curb energy consumption in new construction, major renovations, and building retrofits. A recently completed fuel cell generator at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant transforms methane gas to electrical energy on a daily basis, supplying enough energy for 500 homes. Approximately 23% of the City's total electrical energy use is derived from renewable energy.

The Climate Action Registry is a non-profit public/private partnership that helps companies and organizations throughout the United States to track, publicly report and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Independent third parties certify the results to ensure compliance with Registry protocols and standardization across participants and sectors. The Registry is recognized as the gold standard for public reporting of greenhouse gases.

"The environmental leadership that the City of Santa Barbara is demonstrating is an example for other cities in Southern California to follow," said Diane Wittenberg, President of the California Climate Action Registry.

To learn more information about the City of Santa Barbara's efforts to prevent climate change and become more sustainable, check out the 2007 Annual Sustainable Santa Barbara Report on the City's website at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.