Climate-Safe California: accelerating equitable climate action

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The Climate Center

Who we are

We are a statewide climate and energy policy nonprofit founded in 2001, working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale, starting in California.

What we do

We turn good ideas into policy. That means... we get things done!
Our impact

We know what it takes to turn good ideas into policy.

We played a key role in growing Community Choice Energy to 23 Community Choice Agencies.

These agencies now serve 80-90% GHG-free electricity to 11 million Californians representing one quarter of the state!

https://theclimatecenter.org/our-work/community-choice/
https://cal-cca.org/cca-impact/
Together with our partners, we’re pushing Sacramento to pursue bolder, faster, and more equitable climate action — and we’re getting results. In the last two years, we have:

• Influenced Governor Newsom to publicly acknowledge we are in a “climate damn emergency” and direct the California Air Resources Board to assess moving California’s climate targets up a full decade to 2035.

• Convened a microgrid equity coalition and secured $200 million through the California Public Utilities Commission to build microgrids in frontline, lower-income communities.

• Catalyzed the first bill in California history with a net-negative emissions target, changing the conversation in Sacramento.

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Climate-Safe California
Campaign for Rapid Decarbonization

Goal: By 2025, CA will have enacted the bold policies required by science to secure resilient communities, dramatically reduce emissions, and remove more climate pollution than we emit by 2030, inspiring global action
“Code red for humanity…. This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.”

-UN Secretary General António Guterres, Aug 9 2021, re: IPCC 6th Assessment Report
Fall fire weather days have doubled since 1980 in California. We can prevent further catastrophe with major GHG reductions.
Western US now in global warming-induced megadrought

- 2000 to 2018: **2nd** driest period in 1,200 years
- Dust bowl conditions by as early as 2027 in California
- 2015 drought cost ~$2.7 billion and 20k lost ag jobs in California
Climate inaction is bankrupting our economy

- \$148 billion in insured and uninsured losses in California in 2018 alone due to wildfires
- **One year delay** in adopting the (conservative IPCC) 1.5C pathway globally costs >\$5 trillion - 2020 NCAR report
- Damages from **delayed GHG reductions in the US** now cost \$600 billion per year - 2020 NOAA report
Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

- Injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts
- Asthma, cardiovascular disease
- Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure
- Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus
- Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts
- Respiratory allergies, asthma
- Extreme heat
- Changes in vector ecology
- Increasing allergens
- Water and food supply impacts
- Increasing CO2 levels
- Water quality impacts
- Malnutrition, diarrheal disease
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms
Will pass 1.5°C dangerous warming by 2030 (10 years earlier than projected)

Global warming will happen faster than we think.

Three trends will combine to hasten it, warn Yangyang Xu, Veerabhadran Ramanathan and David G. Victor.
California is behind on climate goals

✔ EUROPEAN UNION: Cut GHGs by at least 55% by 2030 ... from 1990 levels to reach net zero emissions by 2050

✔ UK: Cut GHGs 68% by 2030 from 1990 levels & 100% ZEV sales by 2030

✔ RHODE ISLAND: 100% GHG free electricity by 2030

✔ PRESIDENT BIDEN
  - Cut GHGs 50% below 2005 by 2030
  - 100% GHG free electricity by 2035
  - 40% investments to lower-income communities
  - Invest $2 trillion (= ~$292 Billion in CA @ 14.6% GDP)
The nation and the world are looking to California...
Bold targets work!

- AB1493 (2002) **tailpipe emissions cuts**
  - later adopted by 13 other states; basis for 2010 national clean car standards

- SB100 (2017)- **100% carbon-free electricity** by 2045
  - already adopted by 10 other states and Biden Administration with earlier deadlines

- CA launched **Under2 Coalition** (2017); now includes 220 jurisdictions with 1.3 billion people and 43% of the world economy

- Gov. Newsom EO **100% ZEV car sales** by 2035 (Sept 2020) – must be earlier but…
  - GM announces will sell only 100% ZEV cars by 2035 (Jan 2021); Volvo by 2030 (Mar 2021); New York State (Sept 2021)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344784830_Sociotechnical_typologies_for_national_energy_transitions
https://www.theclimagroup.org/under2-coalition
Climate-Safe California accelerates existing state goals 15 years… 2045 is too late

- **Net-negative emissions by 2030** (drawdown greater than emissions) *(Brown 2018 EO by 2045)*
  - 80% below 1990 GHG levels by 2030 *(Schwarzenegger 2005 EO by 2050)*
Policies Required by Science to Reach Carbon Negative by 2030

1. Phase out fossil fuels from vehicles, electricity, our homes, and more;
2. Invest in resilient communities and clean energy systems;
3. Scale up carbon sequestration in soils and habitats; and
4. Unlock public and private funding for climate action.

www.climatesafeca.org
Guiding principles for Climate-Safe CA targets, policies and programs

1) Prioritize **climate justice** and ensure lower-income communities are no longer disproportionately harmed by fossil fuels

2) Based on the **latest science**

3) Ensure a **just transition** for fossil fuel workers
Over 1,400 endorsements of Climate-Safe California including:

• **ELECTEDS and APPOINTED**
  - Congressmen Jared Huffman, Mike Thompson
  - State Senators Henry Stern, Mike McGuire
  - CA State Assoc of Counties,* Chair, James Gore
  - Angelina Galiteva, CAISO Board member*

• **ACADEMICS and ECONOMISTS**
  - Dan Kammen, PhD, UC Berkeley*
  - Steve Weissman, PhD, UC Berkeley*

• **FAITH**
  - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton

• **BUSINESS**
  - Terry Tamminen, Seventh Generation Advisors*
  - Simpliphi Power
  - Enphase

• **NGOs**
  - CARA
  - Little Manila Rising
  - Local Government Commission
  - Mi Familia Vota
Actions we can take right now!

1. Endorse Climate-Safe California and engage your local elected leaders to endorse

2. Tell Governor Newsom to stand up to oil and gas corporations

3. Tell Congress: No cuts to climate, care, jobs, or justice
California can remove more climate pollution than we emit by 2030

Learn more about our campaign for a healthy, hopeful & equitable future at www.climatesafecca.org

Thank you!

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