

COUNTY'S CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Climate Change Guiding Principles on March 17, 2009 to establish a foundation for a climate strategy, as follows:

- (1) Protecting the community from the effects of climate change is a high priority;
- (2) The County recognizes the State's climate change goals, regulations, and requirements set forth by AB 32 to reduce Statewide GHG emissions and will implement programs to comply with these requirements;
- (3) The benefits of investing in actions to reduce GHG emissions can outweigh the costs in numerous ways, including: economic vitality, public health and safety, natural resource protection, and infrastructure stability;
- (4) In order to maintain long-term regional well-being, health and prosperity of current residents, as well as future generations of residents, the County will preserve and balance its shared social wellbeing, economic prosperity, environmental resources, and biodiversity;
- (5) The County recognizes that challenges associated with climate change are regional in nature and can best be addressed in partnership with both public and private sectors;
- (6) The County has three strategic roles to play in reducing GHG emissions as a producer, a regulator and an incentivizer;
- (7) The County will preserve its fiscal health by conserving resources and promoting renewable resources, thereby reducing costs;
- (8) The County will enhance its local economy through the incubation of clean technology, by attracting innovative firms and talent through private sector incentives, and by creating opportunities for local residents to attain jobs and training in the growing regional green economy;
- (9) A key component in a successful climate strategy is the development of an effective and inclusive decision making process that promotes the sharing of information and encourages diverse public input; and,
- (10) Through coordinated planning, measurement, evaluation, and reporting, the County will continue to address State requirements, capitalize on economic opportunities, and protect the regional quality of life while strategically progressing towards regional sustainability.

