



# MEMORANDUM

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

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**TO:** Climate Protection Task Force

**FROM:** Leslie Lambert, Planning Manager

**DATE:** September 27, 2006

**RE:** Introductory Meeting, October 3, 2006

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Town Council authorized the Mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. The Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement was initiated by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels in 2005 to encourage the nation's cities and towns to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to at least 7 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012. As of August 2006, 291 Mayors of cities and towns representing more than 49 million Americans have committed to the agreement.

The Town already has a number of measures in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, these include:

- Green Building Approach to New Town Center Construction
- Recycling and Diversion of Construction and Demolition Debris
- Waste Diversion/Business and Residential Recycling Programs
- Encouraging Green Building Practices, including Mandatory Review of Green Design Elements in the ASCC Process
- Design Guidelines that encourage vegetation preservation, planting of natives, and a minimal approach to lighting
- Promote sustainability and encouraging the use of solar energy and installation of photovoltaic solar, \$50.00 flat rate permit fee established
- Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Bicycling/Walking/Pedestrian Facilities
- Open Space Preservation Program

There are additional steps that the Town could take, and we seek the energetic involvement of residents in undertaking actions to meet the Town's goal.

Many local governments are already well underway with climate protection actions, plans and policies. There are many examples that may be helpful tools for cities just getting started, like us. It has been suggested from several sources, that one good starting point is to join International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Their Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP) is designed specifically for local governments to take action on climate change. A number of cities have joined local governments from around the world in an effort to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within their communities.

The CCP Campaign is an international effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming by implementing measures at the local level in transportation, energy and waste sectors. Over 145 cities and counties in the U.S. have joined the campaign, which is coordinated by ICLEI. The CCP Program is divided into five main stages:

- First Stage: the city conducts a base year emission analysis of the whole community, as well as municipal operations.
- Second Stage: the city calculates a forecast for the emissions in a business as usual scenario, if no measures were introduced to reduce emissions.
- Third Stage: an emission reduction target is determined, which establishes the goal and timetable within which city measures will be implemented.
- Fourth Stage: the city develops a Local Action Plan (LAP), including emission reduction measures for the transportation, energy and waste sectors.
- Fifth Stage: implement and further develop the measures in the Local Action Plan.

The ICLEI program does provide assistance with our inventory and setting a baseline. There is a \$600 membership fee, and any specific activities add additional costs. ICLEI approach is very comprehensive.

There is also Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) a collaborative of businesses, governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations that are identifying and addressing environmental and resource pressures in the Valley. Their goal is to reduce carbon dioxide in Silicon Valley to 20% below the 1990 levels by the year 2010. They focus on outcome rather than compliance driven standards, participants can choose the methods to reach that outcome. Each organization or city picks their baseline year and their target. Members that join SSV benefit from the education and support provided by SSV and from collaboration with colleagues working towards a common goal. SSV hosts ongoing educational forums, they have access to incentive funds for energy-saving projects, and they have tools and resources available to assist the town. The annual partnership dues are \$1,000/year. SSV is an easy way to get into the Climate Action Process.