



# Greening the Golden State



## Counties... Part of the Climate Change Solution

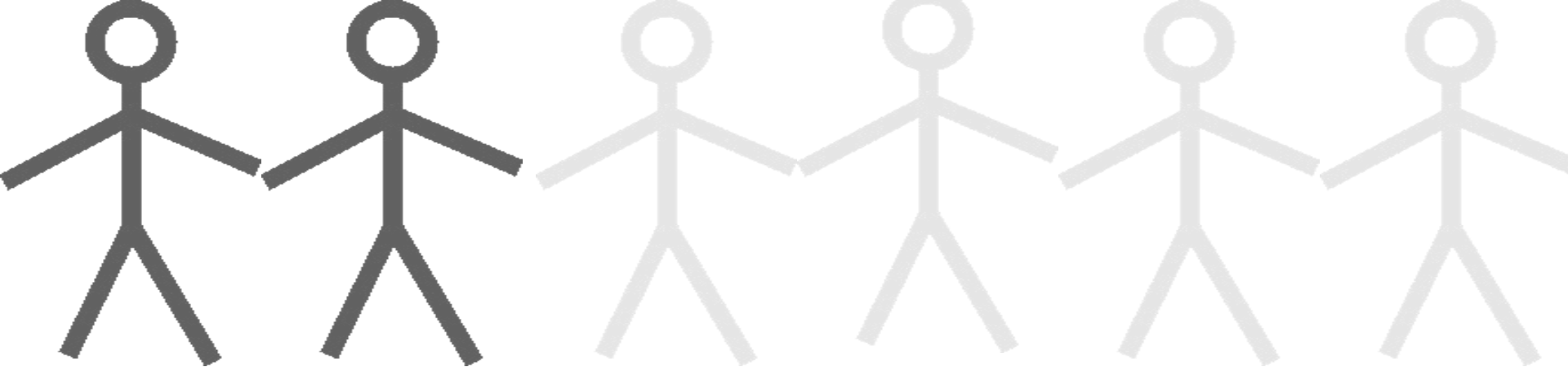
**Ryan Bell**

**Sustainability Project Manager**

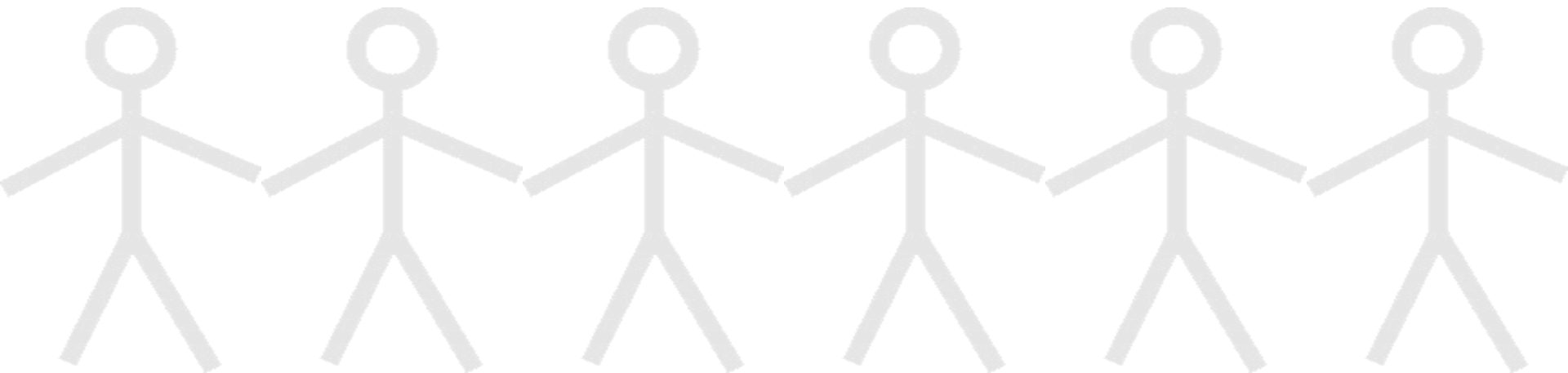
**Alameda County**

**Carbonopoly – CRRRA's 32<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**

**August 6, 2008**



**It Affects Our  
Citizens**



# Sea Level Rise



# Critically Dry Years



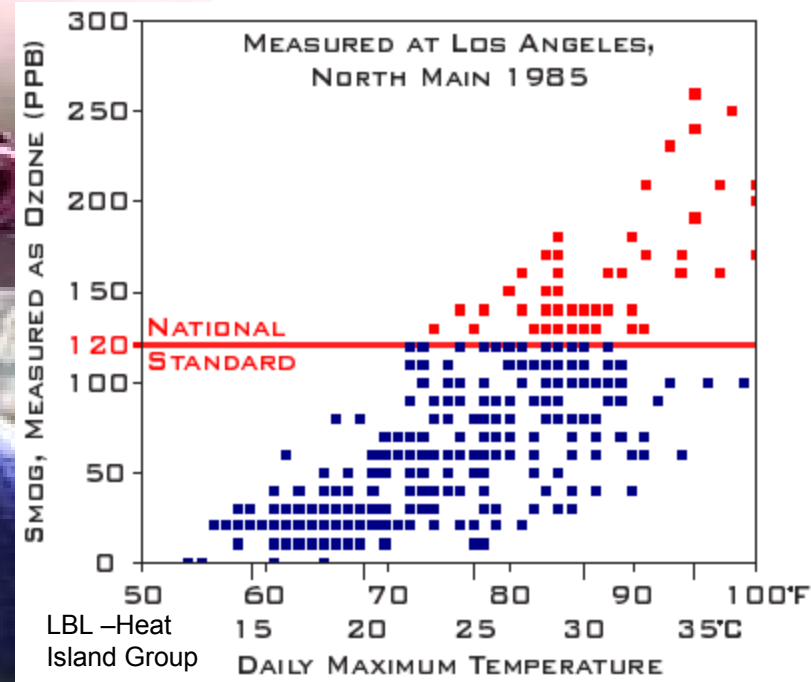
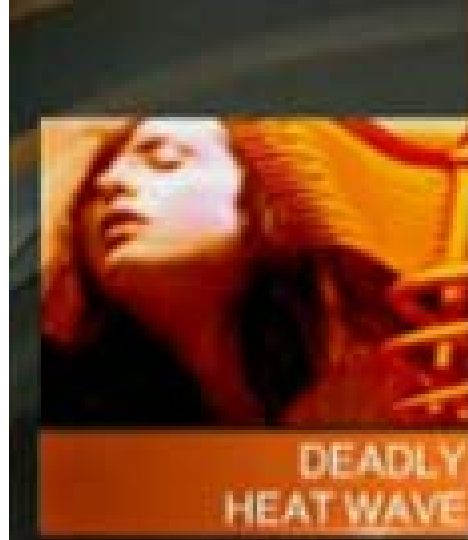
# Risk of Large Wildfires



# Floods & Natural Disasters



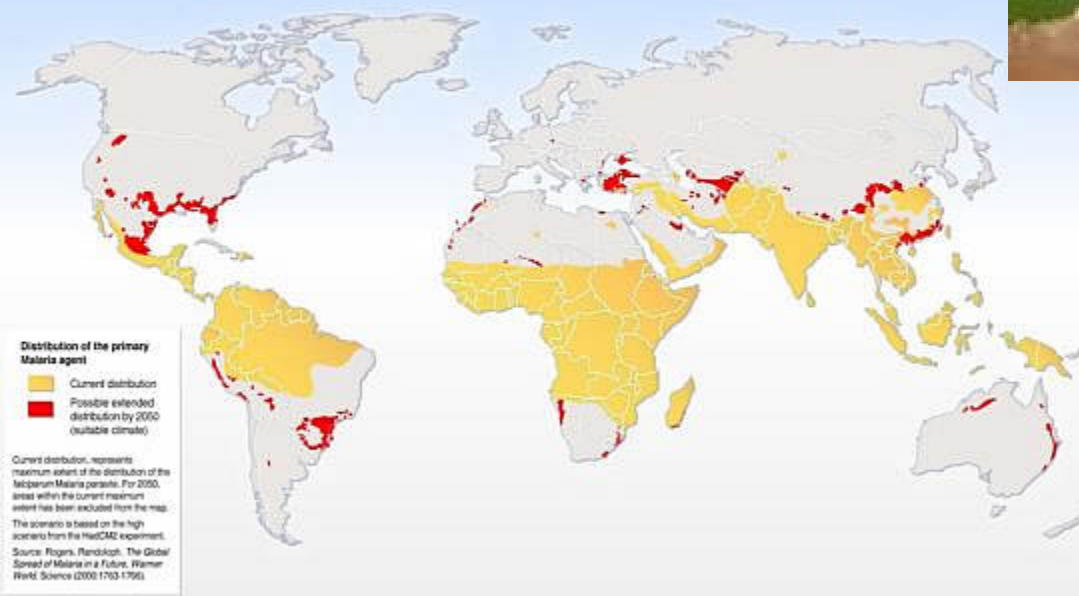
# Heat, Health, and Bad Air Days

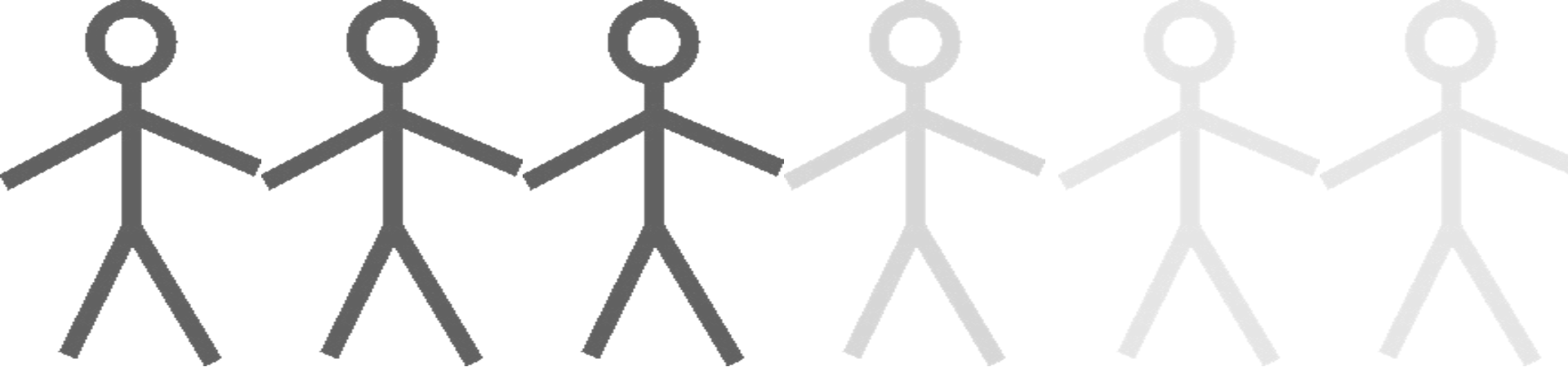


# Pests and Disease

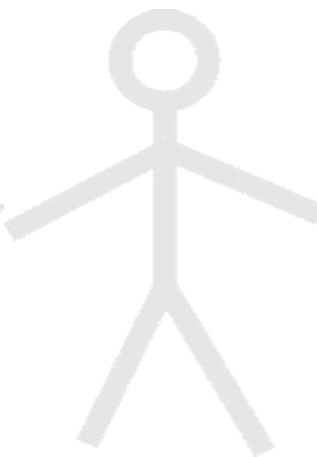
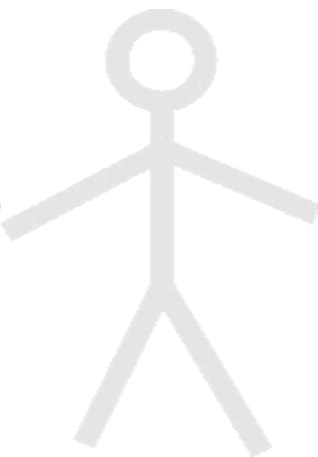
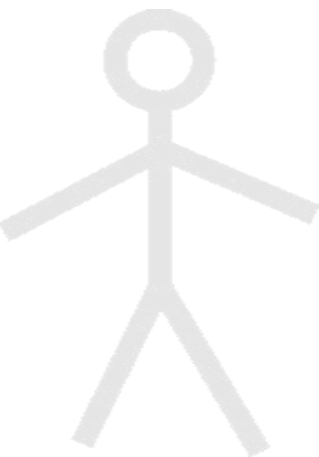
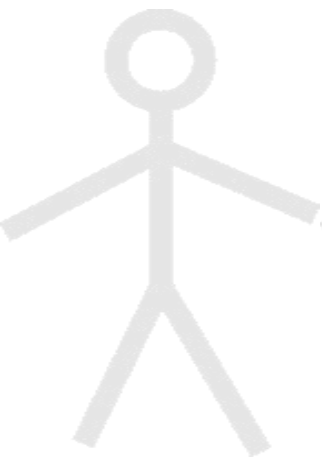
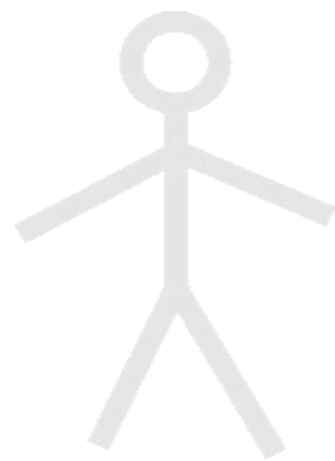
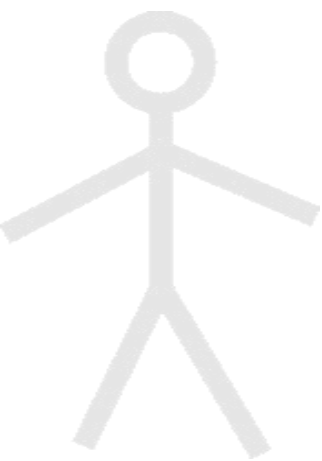


Climate Change and Malaria

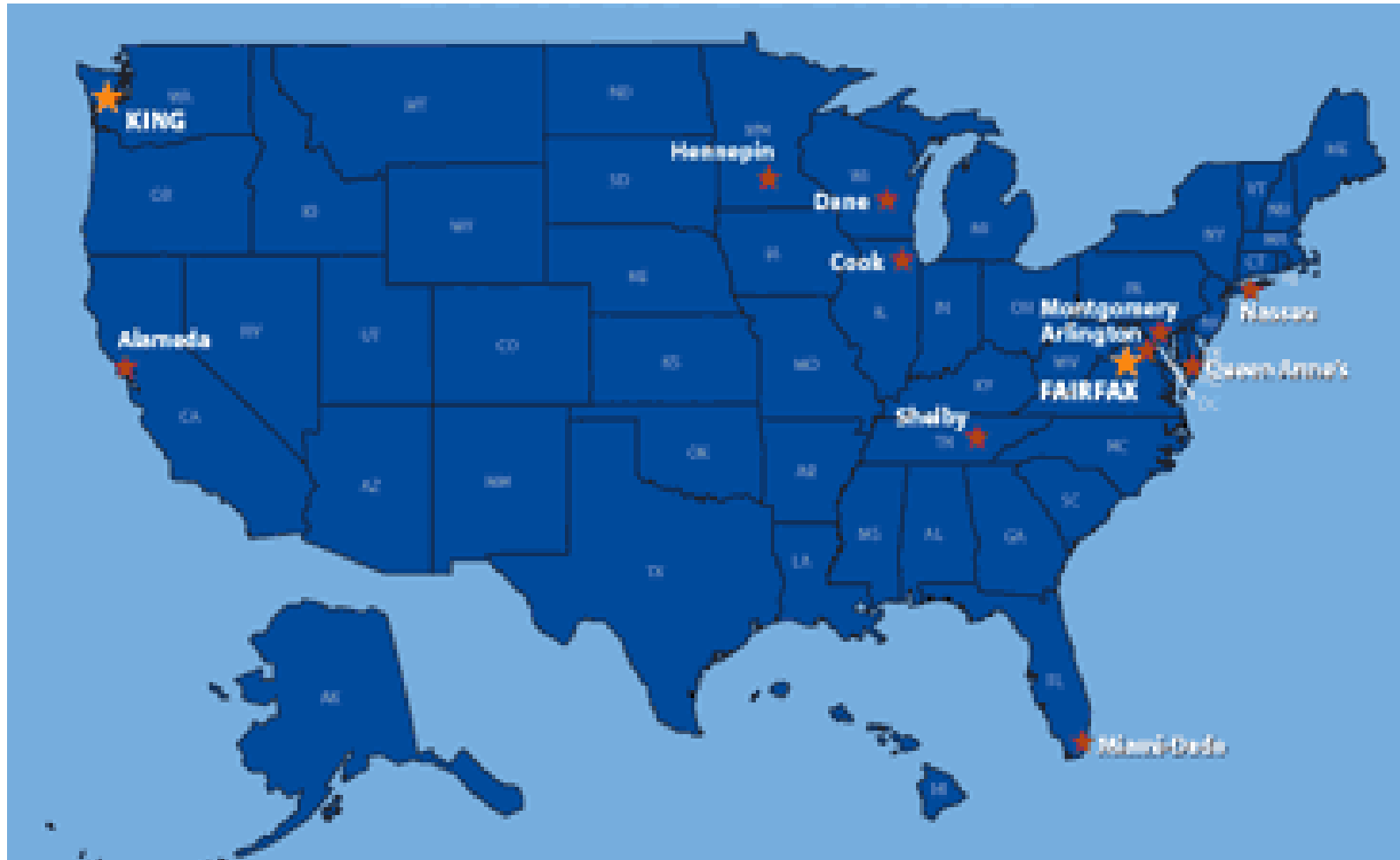




# **Cool Counties: Committing to Action**



# Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration



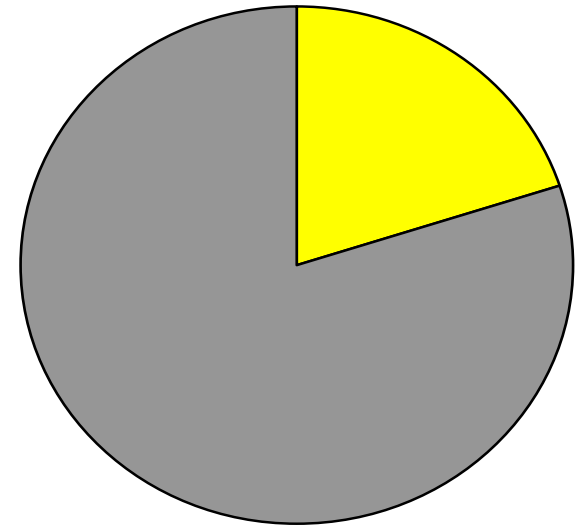
July 16, 2007: 12 Charter Signatories



# Greening the Golden State

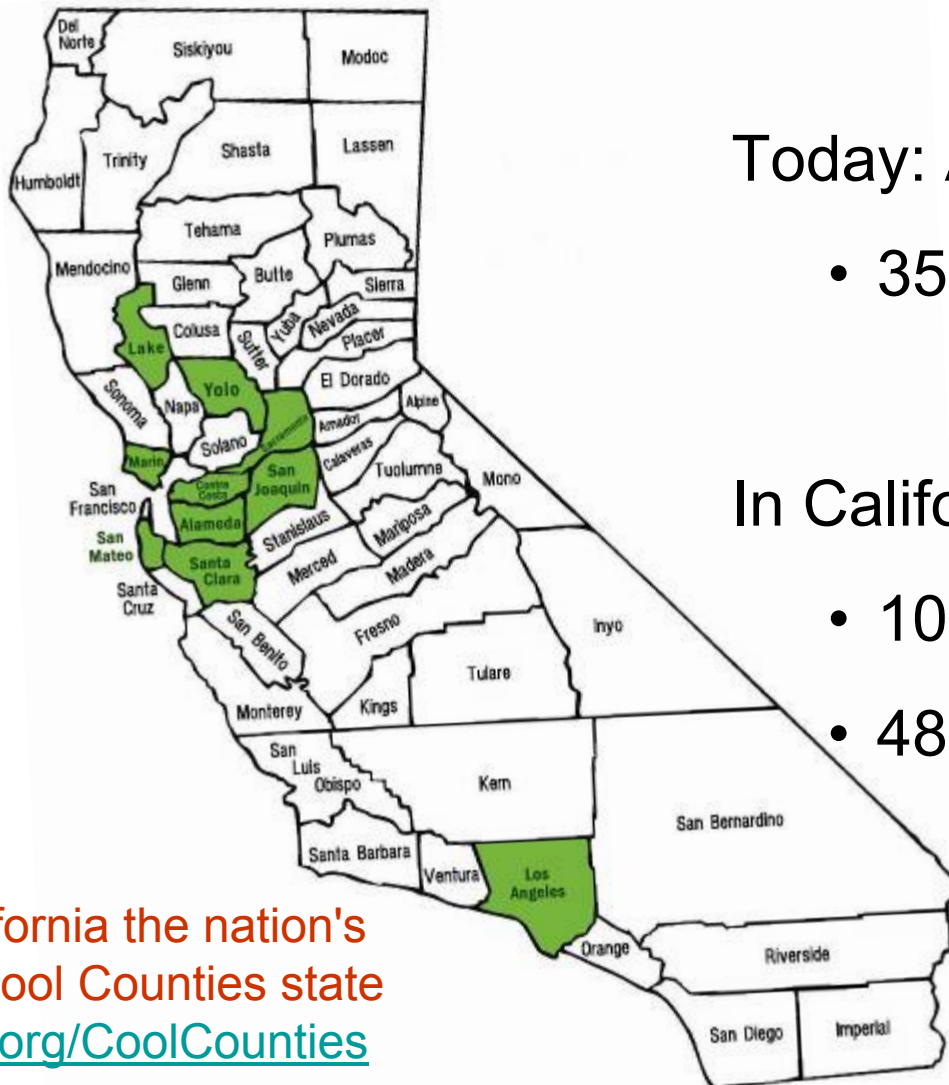
## Commits you to 4 smart actions:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by **government operations**
2. Show **regional leadership** - work with other local leaders on reducing emissions 80% by 2050
3. Partner with other counties in calling for **federal legislation** to help us meet our goals
4. Plan for **local vulnerabilities** to climate change effects





# Greening the Golden State



Today: A growing movement

- 35 counties nationwide

In California

- 10 Counties have joined
- 48% of the population

## The Goal:

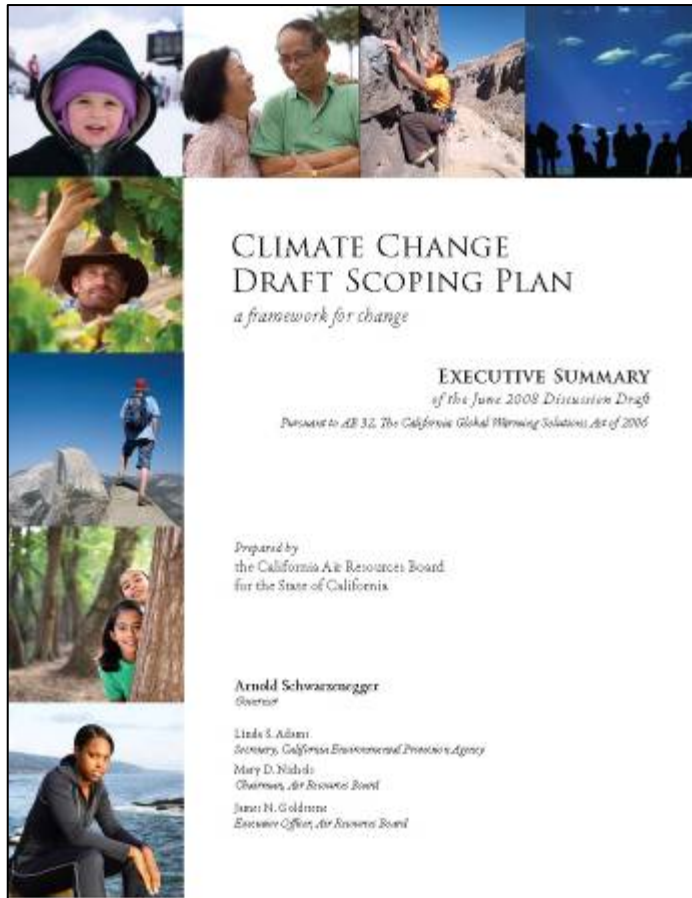
Making California the nation's first 100% Cool Counties state

[www.acgov.org/CoolCounties](http://www.acgov.org/CoolCounties)



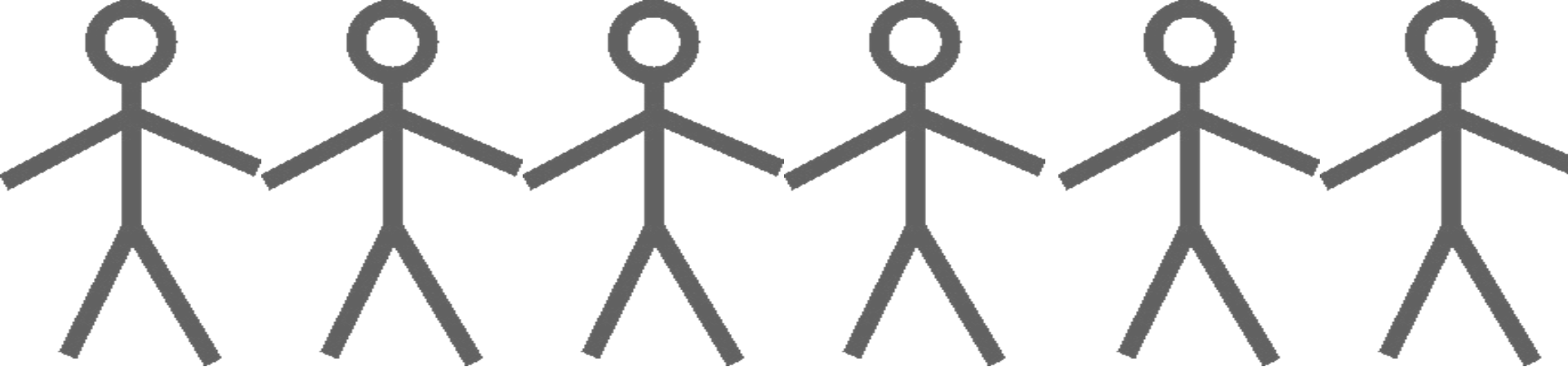
# Greening the Golden State

## Signing the Cool Counties Declaration

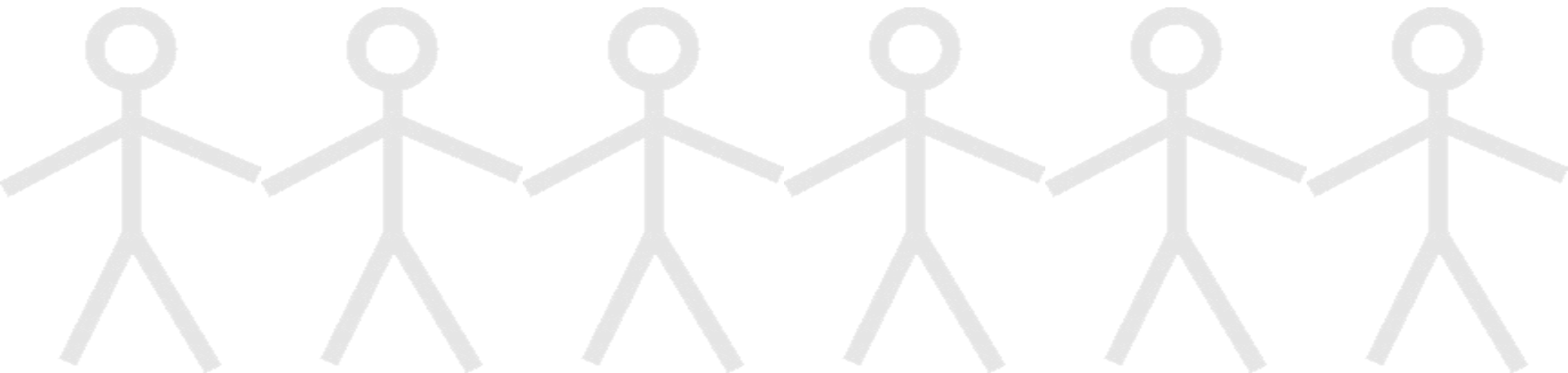
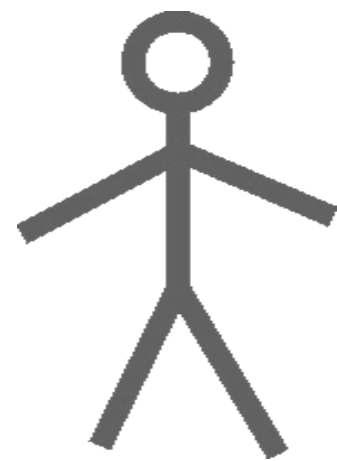
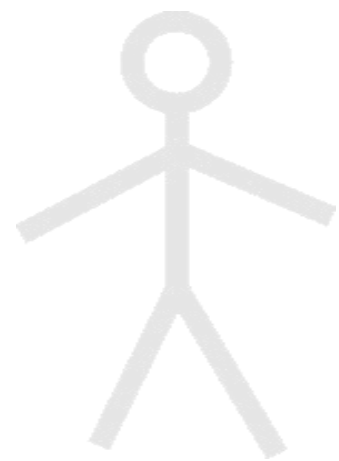


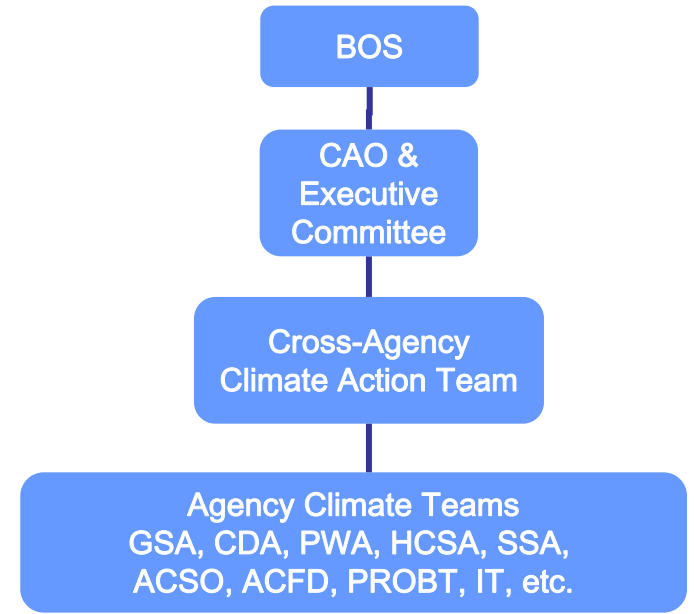
### Helps you to:

- A. Learn by sharing resources, tools, and experiences within the Cool Counties network;
- B. Save money from water, energy, and resource conservation;
- C. Create strong communities designed to promote healthy lifestyles;
- D. Gain public recognition for all that your county is doing to address climate change
- E. Stay a step ahead of the State of California's AB32 and CEQA implementation;



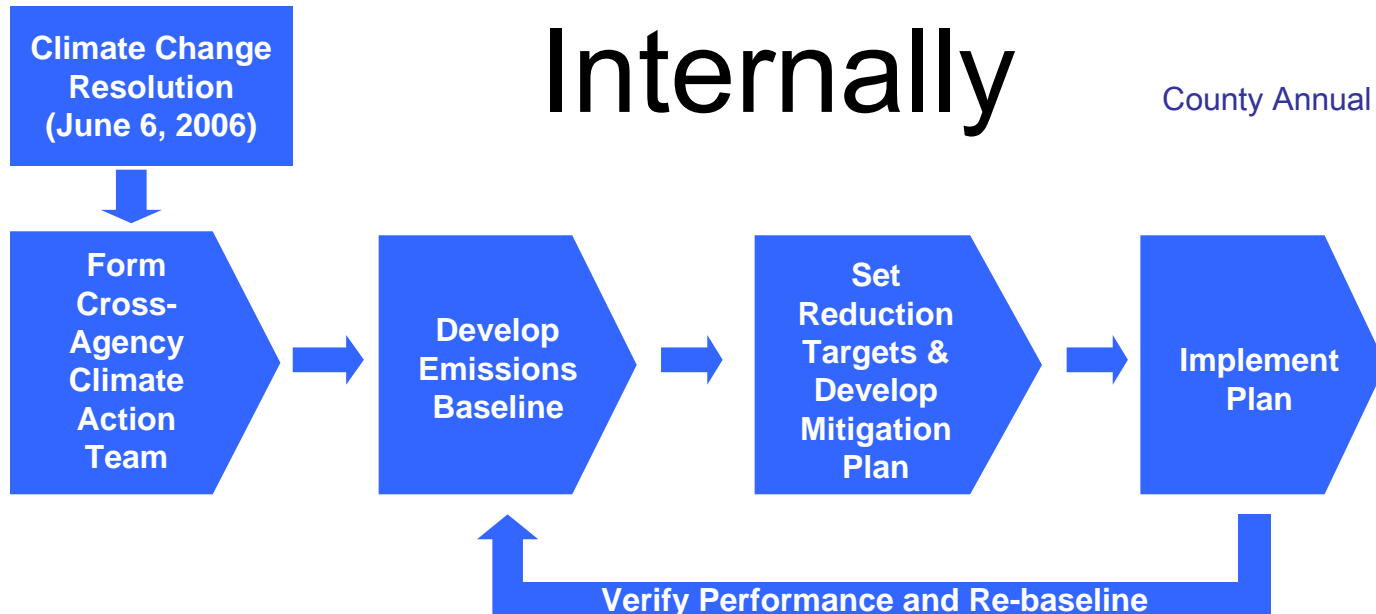
# **Taking a Multi- Faceted Approach**



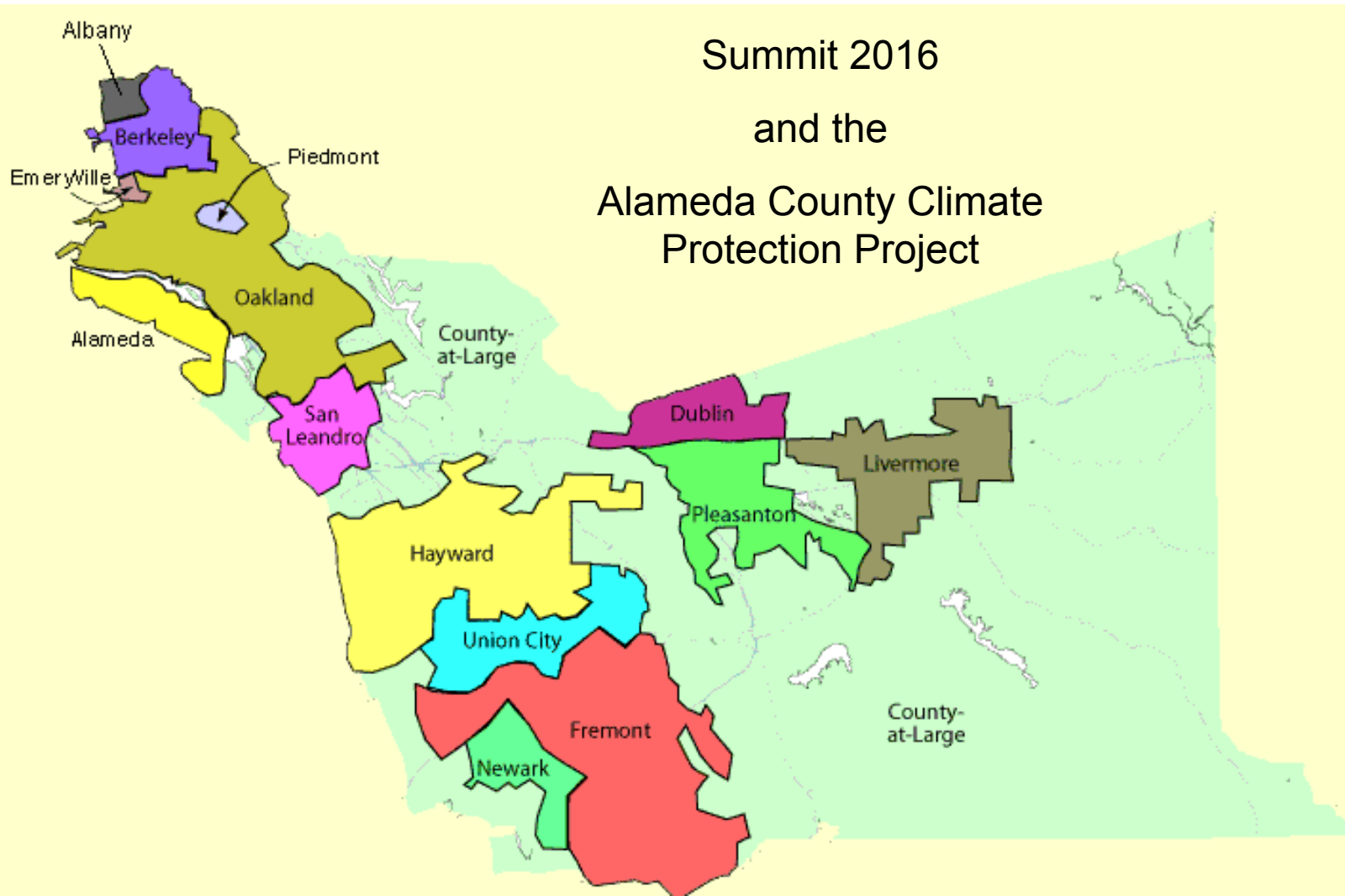


# Focusing Internally

County Annual Report to Alameda County Citizens



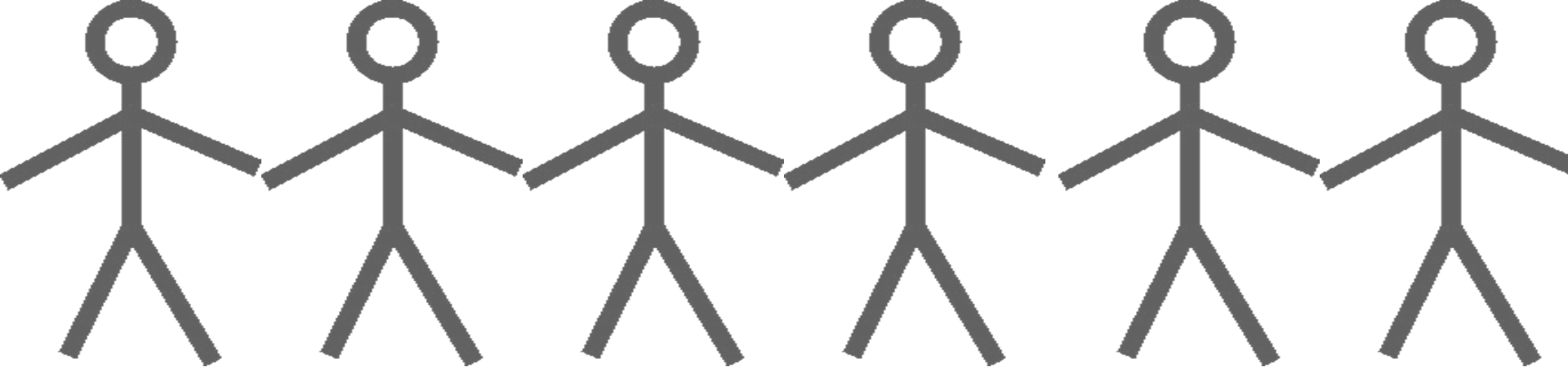
# Working Regionally



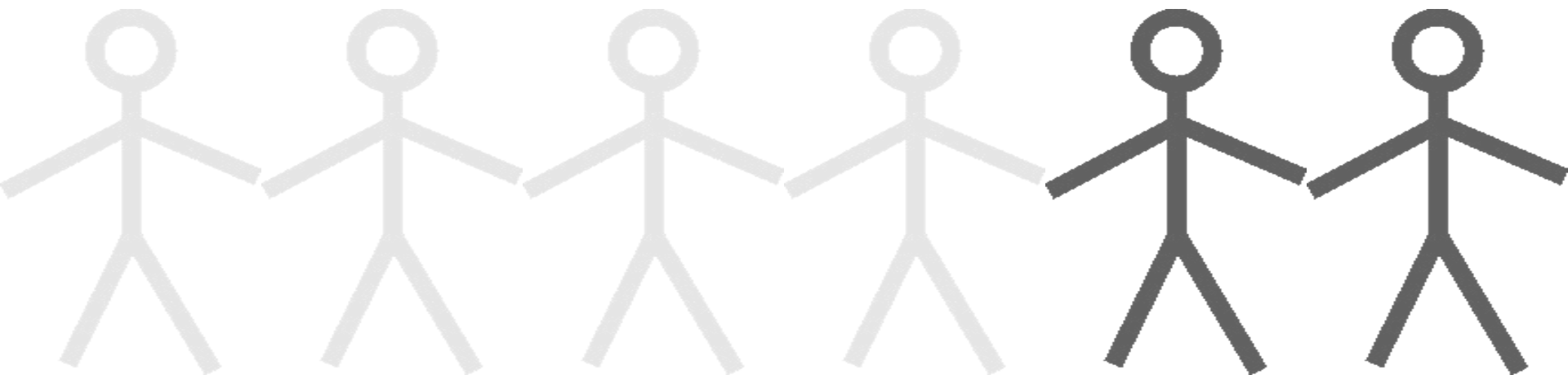
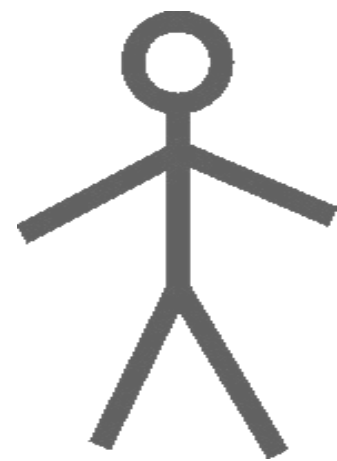
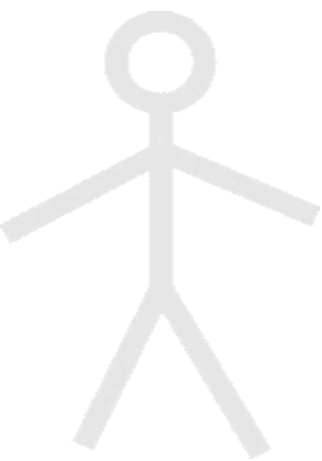
# Involving the Community

Climate action  
is an  
opportunity to  
reconnect  
with your  
citizens

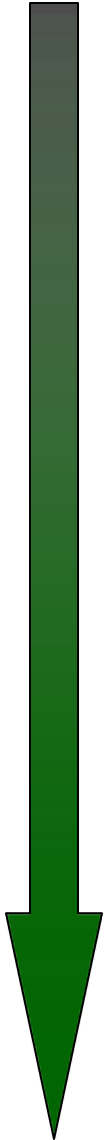




# Moving to Green



# Journey Beyond Recycling



Diversion targets

Waste reduction, recycling,  
recycled content products

Broader EPP bids

Green Building

Comprehensive  
climate & sustainability  
strategies



# Recycling



- Onsite Recycling in 120 facilities
  - Paper, cardboard, bottles & cans, toner cartridges, batteries
- On demand
  - Green waste, metals, plastics, electronic waste
- Special
  - 37,000 batteries recycled per year
  - C&D recycling standards in specifications
- Results
  - Materials recycled: 1.6M lbs/yr
  - Revenue generation: \$65,000/yr



# Reuse

- Office furniture, computers, printers, equipment, etc.
  - Saving \$84,000/yr
- Sell surplus items
  - \$100K/yr



# Composting



## Santa Rita Jail Food Waste

- 1,066 tons/yr
- \$64K/yr Savings
- Reusable Trays
- Bottles Recycling
- Switching to reusable plastic sporks



# Environmental Purchasing

Over \$20M in goods purchased with environmental specifications

- Office paper
- Janitorial papers
- Trash can liners
- Furniture
- Paint
- Carpet
- Vending machines



## Look For

- Recycled content
- Waste reduction
- Low toxicity
- Energy efficiency
- Equal performance
- Similar overall costs



# Chemical / Toxics Reduction

## Indoor Air Quality

- Low-VOC paints
- Green janitorial cleaners, microfiber cloths & recycled content paper products
- Low-mercury lighting and thermostats
- Carpet tiles



## Outdoor Chemical Use

- Integrated pest management
- Goat grazing
- Just-in-time chemical ordering



People are  
starting to  
make the  
connection

from waste  
and recycling

to climate  
change and  
sustainable  
lifestyles



# Clean / Renewable Power & Energy Conservation

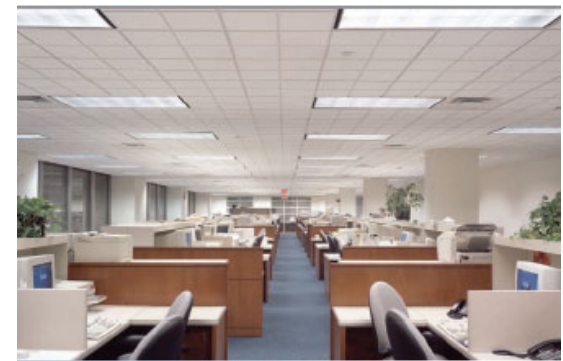


**10 Solar Power Installations  
3.3 MW of Onsite Solar  
\$820,000/yr saved**



**1 MW Fuel Cell**

**Lighting / HVAC /  
Chiller / Boiler Retrofits**



# Water Conservation



7% of California's Electricity is Used to Pump and Treat Water



- Low-flow toilets
- Flush controllers
- Watering controls
- Drought Resistant Groundcover
- Mulching / Mowing Practices



# Employee Mobility

- Encourage Biking, Carpooling, Public Transit
- Vehicles
  - 68 Hybrid vehicles
  - Biodiesel (B20) in all fueling stations
    - 183 vehicles
  - 5 waste vegetable oil vehicles
  - Electric golf carts
  - Bicycles
- Shop
  - Using re-refined motor oil & antifreeze
  - Biodegradable & low-VOC products
  - Refillable (non-aerosol) spray containers
  - Recycling oil, antifreeze, batteries, tires
  - Water-based parts washer
  - Asbestos-free brake materials

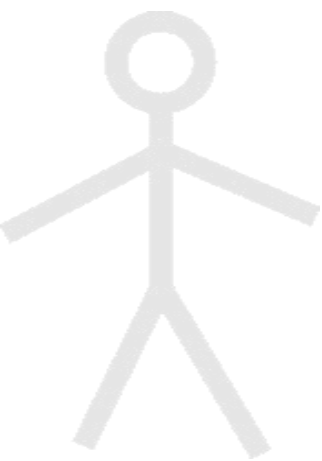
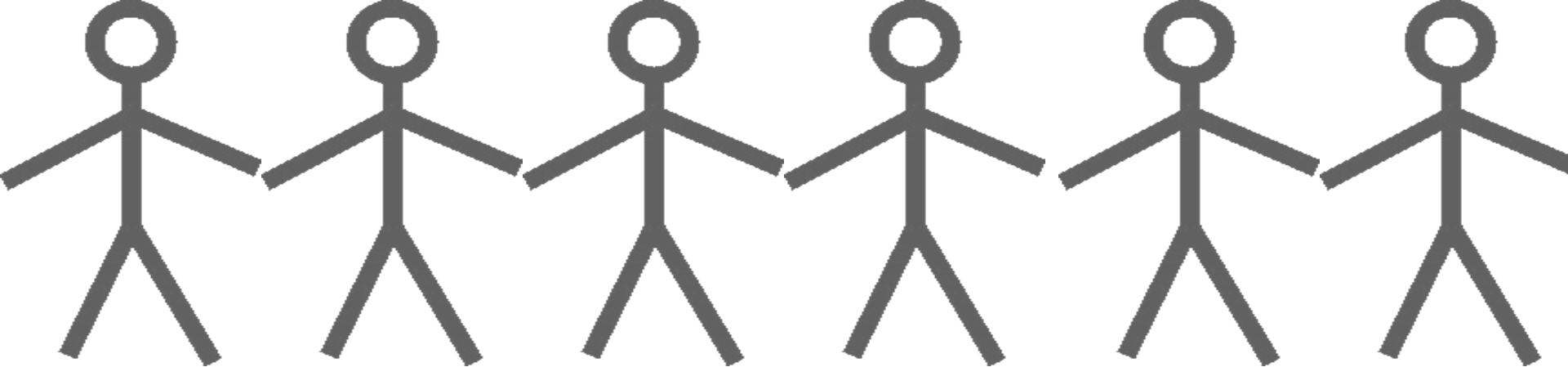


# Juvenile Justice Center

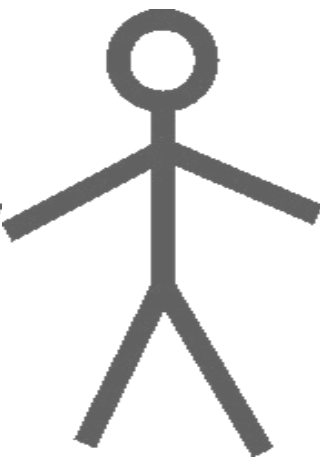
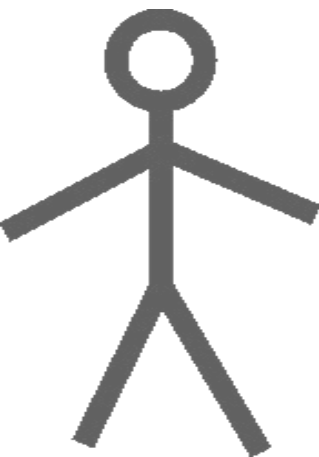
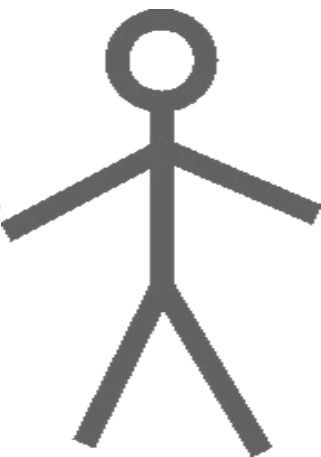
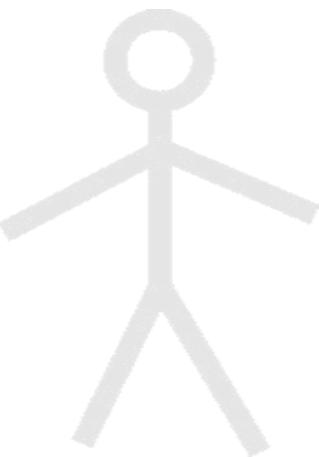
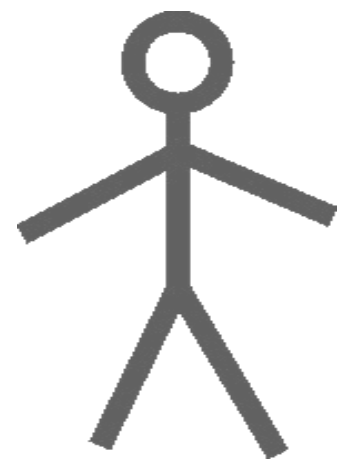


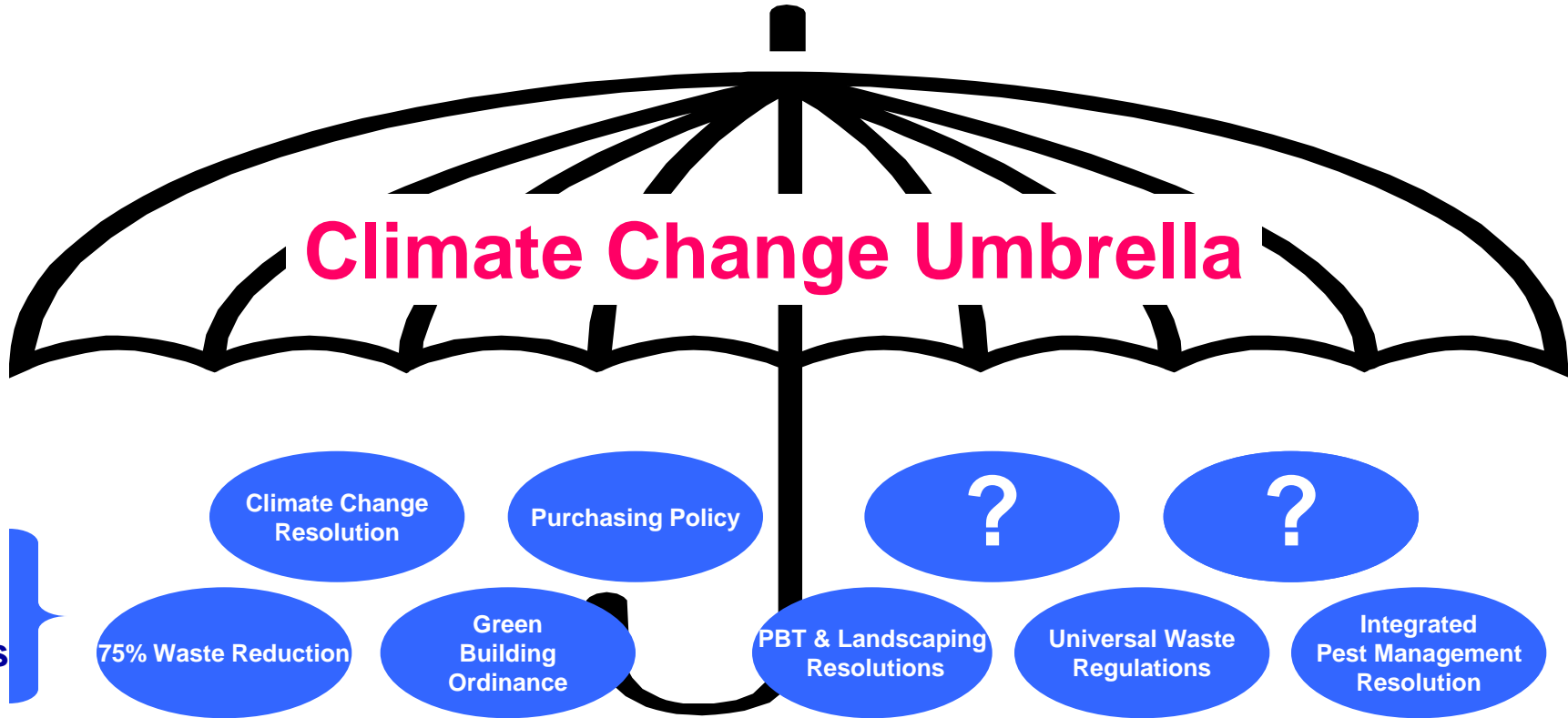
**CERTIFIED  
GOLD!**





**So In Short...**





# Climate Change Umbrella

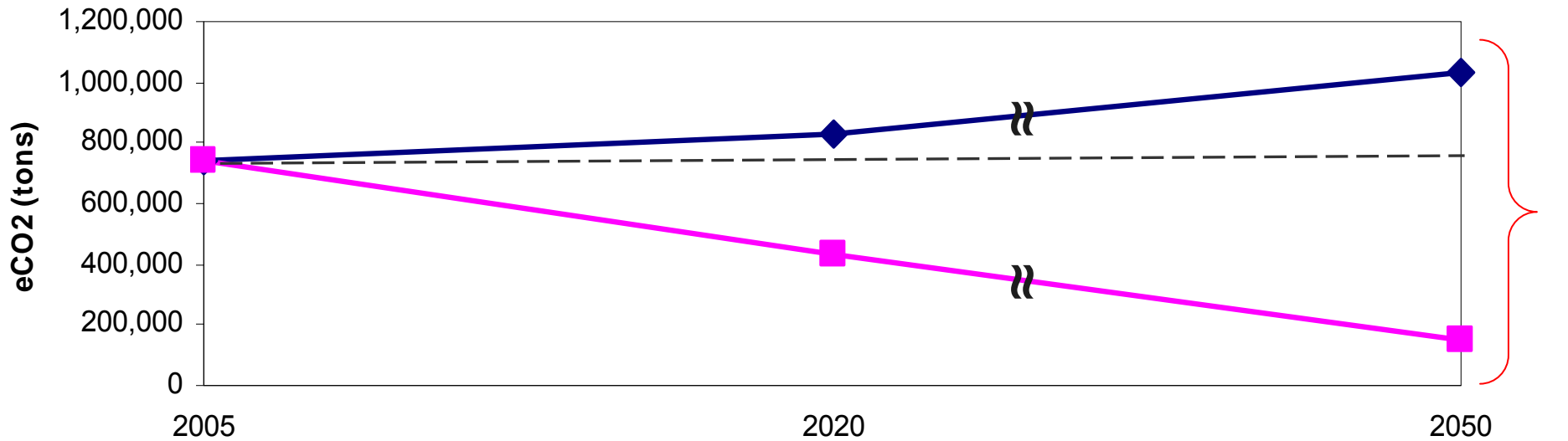
## Formal Policies

- Climate Change Resolution
- Purchasing Policy
- ?
- ?
- 75% Waste Reduction
- Green Building Ordinance
- PBT & Landscaping Resolutions
- Universal Waste Regulations
- Integrated Pest Management Resolution

## Active Efforts

- Climate Change
- Resource Conservation & Reuse
- Water Conservation
- Universal Waste
- Reuse
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Environmental Compliance
- Green Business Program
- Community & Business Outreach
- Transportation
- Energy Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Green Operations & Maintenance
- General Plan

# Cool Counties: On the Path to 80%



## LEGEND

--- Base Year Emissions Level

— Business as Usual Emissions Growth

— Emission Levels Needed to Reach the Cool Counties 80% Reduction Target

} Reduction in Annual Emissions Needed to Meet the Target



# These Solutions Save Money and Improve Quality of Life





# Greening the Golden State

Ryan Bell

Alameda County General Services Agency

Sustainability Project Manager

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## Cool Counties

- California: [www.acgov.org/CoolCounties](http://www.acgov.org/CoolCounties)
- National: [www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties](http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties)