

DRAFT/ Climate Action Program Strategic Plan 2011-13

In 2008, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) were 6,956 million tons of CO₂ (equivalent). Overall, total U.S. emissions have risen by approximately 14 percent from 1990 levels. San Francisco, at approximately .26% of the U.S. population, produces approximately 6.97 million tons, less than .1% of the rest of the nation. Therefore, San Francisco is comparatively efficient – to be expected given the mild climate, dense transit-friendly urban form, and a very small industrial sector. Even so, San Francisco is far above the level needed for our share of global climate stability, approximately 1.46 million tons. In 2004, the San Francisco Climate Action Plan set a reduction objective for our community of 20% below the 1990 baseline by 2012 and 80% below by 2050.

As of 2008 we have achieved a 7% reduction below the 1990 level. Almost a fifth of this comes from carbon sequestration in our urban forest. Other reductions have been seen in the following sectors: interregional road travel, residential electricity and natural gas, and commercial and municipal electricity. The decrease in emissions from road travel can primarily be attributed to the economic down turn. In-city vehicle emissions and overall electricity usage have remained relatively stable, in part due to the effectiveness of the City's transportation planning and energy efficiency efforts. The largest portion of emissions reductions has come from electricity becoming progressively cleaner due to the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard, the closing of the Hunters Point Power Plant and Hetch Hetchy's clean power.

To meet the 2012 objective we need to reduce emissions by another 13% or 973,968.3 metric tons of greenhouse gases. Closure of the Potrero Power Plant will provide another 1% reduction from the electricity sector. Efficiency and renewable programs are seeking an additional 5% reduction in GHG's from energy use in the building sector. Climate benefits of our Zero Waste Program are expected yield 3-5%. An additional 2-5% reduction is required to meet our overall reduction goal in the next three years. In light of this, we must continue to support and expand existing programs, while also targeting the areas of **transportation, natural gas consumption** and increased **local renewable power production and procurement**. Addressing the first two areas will be a challenge in light of Muni cutbacks and the current trend of natural gas increases in the commercial and industrial sectors. Local renewable energy production and procurement offers the largest single opportunity to reduce emissions. For this reason SFE is dedicated to working with SFPUC to bring about Community Choice Aggregation and a clear internal electricity rate structure.

The City can advocate for strong action by federal and state governments, and even effect change globally as other cities look to our example. Because of the fossil energy and natural resource intensive nature of our society and economy changes must be made at all levels of the system; individual, private business and government. For local government this means creating a framework built on education, incentives and mandates to shape our daily choices, from what we buy to how we get around, to the primary sources of energy that power our community. As providers of social services, local security and transportation infrastructure we as a City also have the responsibility to plan and prepare for the effects climate change will have on our community. It is critical that we work to actively maintain and rebuild the ecosystems that act as climate stabilizers and provide other essential public services to our residents and businesses.

