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## **Board Adopts County's Climate Action Plan**

This month the Board of Supervisors adopted the Marin County Climate Action Plan (CAP), a plan to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with both community and municipal County government activities. The CAP covers the unincorporated County - the areas under County jurisdiction. It does not include the incorporated cities.

Marin County was one of the first counties in California to take formal action to address GHG emissions when it adopted the Marin County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan in 2006. Responding to Assembly Bill 32 emission reduction requirements, the plan set a target to reduce GHG emissions in the unincorporated areas of Marin County by at least 15% below 1990 levels by 2020. By 2012, the County had already reduced community emissions to 15% below 1990 levels, eight years ahead of the 2020 target.

The newly adopted CAP updates and builds on the County's 2006 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and provides an update of GHG emissions in 2012, forecasts of emissions for 2020, and an assessment of actions that the County will take to further reduce emissions by 2020. The CAP sets a new 2020 community emissions reduction target of 30% below 1990 levels by 2020. This target was determined in response to two California Executive Orders signed by the Governor: 2005 Executive Order S-03-05 which articulates a long-term goal for the state to reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 emissions levels by 2050 and 2015 Executive Order B-30-15, which commits the state to reducing GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. By adopting the CAP, Marin County is getting ahead of the curve to be on track to meet these new targets.

The CAP includes a variety of regulatory, incentive-based and voluntary strategies that will reduce emissions from both existing and new development in Marin County. Several of the CAP strategies build on existing County programs, and others provide new opportunities to address climate change. Community and municipal County government activities fall into the following categories: energy efficiency and renewable energy; land use, transportation and off-road equipment; waste reduction, reuse and recycling; water conservation and wastewater treatment; agriculture; and County government vehicle fleet and employee commute. Initiating programs in the CAP will not only help reduce GHG emissions, but also has the potential to generate several co-benefits for our community including: energy savings, air quality improvements, public health improvements, job creation, resource conservation, and cost savings.

Marin County has a long history of promoting initiatives to protect and enhance our environment, and the CAP is another example of Marin's leadership on these important issues. For more information and to read the Marin County Climate Action Plan, visit the County website at [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org).

I also wanted to share that I have been working with the family of a young woman in Novato that is afflicted with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS). CRPS is a chronic pain condition most often affecting one of the limbs (arms, legs, hands, or feet), usually after an injury or trauma to that limb and is believed to be caused by damage to, or malfunction of, the central nervous system. CRPS is currently incurable, debilitating, and the suicide rate among CRPS sufferers is extremely high due to the intensity of the never-ending pain, sleep deprivation, frustration, social isolation, misunderstanding, and lack of support. Unfortunately there is no single diagnostic test to confirm CRPS and it is often under diagnosed. There are treatments available which may provide hope yet reform of state legislation is necessary to allow for greater flexibility.

Increased awareness and knowledge of CRPS will allow the community to better support those with the challenges of this chronic pain illness, which is why the Marin County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 2, 2015 as CRPS Awareness Day. To learn more about CRPS you can go to: <http://www.nih.gov/>

As always, my door is open to you. I welcome your suggestions and ideas. You can reach me at: (415) 473-7331 or [jarnold@marincounty.org](mailto:jarnold@marincounty.org).

