

Background Information

This information sheet provides a summary of current City activities related to planning for climate change. The City is committed to addressing the issue of climate change and preparing a plan for the community that reduces local greenhouse gas emissions and outlines strategies for adapting to changing climatic conditions here in the Central Valley.

Background

In 1999, Davis joined a small group of cities calling for local action and a national policy on climate change. In 2006, the City joined the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement that called for local and national action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). In a follow up action in spring 2007, the Davis City Council unanimously adopted a strategy to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions.

Based on this Council action, the City joined the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program along with hundreds of other communities across the globe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. The program is designed to educate and empower local governments to take action on climate change. The CCP is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability within their municipalities. The framework includes the following 5 steps:

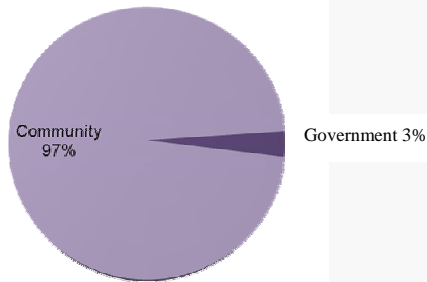
1. **Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.**
2. **Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year.**
3. **Develop a Local Action Plan.**
4. **Implement policies and measures.**
5. **Monitor and verify results.**

City of Davis efforts to complete these steps

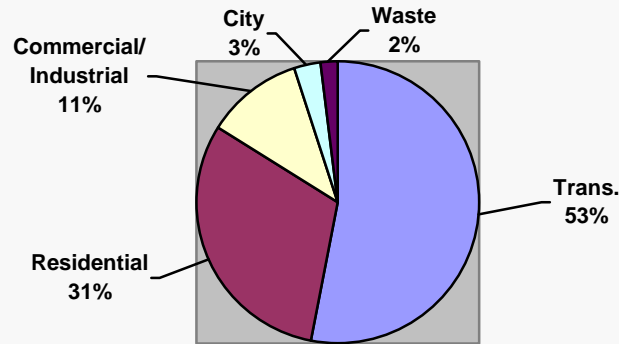
Step 1 – Conduct GHG Inventory/Forecast - Completed

The City has completed its baseline inventory and forecast of greenhouse gasses (step 1). The overall results of the inventory showed that approximately 3% of the total GHG emissions in Davis result from City operations, with the remaining 97% coming from the day to day activities of citizens and businesses. This information provides a baseline for the City to develop, implement, and evaluate actions to reduce local GHG emissions. The charts below provide summary data from the inventory. More information is available on the City's Climate Change web site at: <http://www.cityofdavis.org/cmo/Sustainability/ClimateChng.cfm>

Davis GHG Emissions



Davis GHG Emissions, by Sector



Source: City of Davis GHG Inventory, May 2008

Step 2 - Set Targets – Underway

The City is currently analyzing GHG reduction targets. As a guide, the City is considering reduction targets established by the State of California and international organizations. Establishment of reduction targets will allow the City to identify the actions necessary to meet those targets.

Step 3 – Adopt Action Plan - Underway

The Climate Action Team along with the Natural Resources Commission is identifying and beginning to analyze potential actions that could be included in the Davis Climate Action Plan. Actions in these four key sectors have been identified by the Climate Action Team:

- Transportation
- Energy Efficiency/Production
- Land Use and Community Design
- Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Climate Action Team, Natural Resources Commission and City staff are working to present a draft climate action plan to the City Council by the end of 2008. The City will continue to identify and implement actions to reduce local GHG emissions even while the plan is being drafted. In combination with the extensive list of existing actions taken by the Davis community over that past four decades, this will give us a head-start in reducing local GHG emissions.

Step 4 - Implement Policies and Measures - Future

Step 5 - Monitor and Verify Results - Future

For additional information and to track progress, please visit the City Climate Change web page at: <http://www.cityofdavis.org/cmo/Sustainability/ClimateChng.cfm>