Policy Toolkit

A guide to climate policy

California

The Climate Initiative

Introduction

Hello!

My name is Javan Santos and I am the Policy Manager for The Climate Initiative. Through these policy toolkits, I hope to show youth that policy can be simple and accessible for young people who are passionate about making change in their community. I started writing policy when I was in high school and have worked in policy for almost seven years now. The experience and knowledge from those years are poured into these toolkits for youth to use to make a difference in climate advocacy. Whether you are hoping to analyze policy, talk to a policymaker, or learn about what it takes to turn an idea into a law, I hope that you will learn something helpful in the resources these toolkits provide.

After you learn the fundamentals of navigating policy, this toolkit also comes with a run down of several different state-specific policy tools. In it, you'll find a history of climate policy in your state, legislators that are supportive of climate policy according to organizations within your state, and other useful information. Climate advocacy is not easy, and there is so much at stake for youth if nothing is done. My hope is that these toolkits will provide you all you need to make much needed change in your state and your community!

If you have any questions or thoughts on how we at The Climate Initiative can help your advocacy, please feel free to reach out to me at: **javan@theclimateinitiative.org**

Javan

Javan Santos
Policy Manager

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California Policy Landscape

California is one of the country's leaders when it comes to climate change policy. Below are several laws and bills that are discussed to address the climate crisis. Knowing what policies are already enacted in your state is useful as a policy advocate, so you can focus your advocacy on what additional changes need to be made.

Currently Enacted Laws

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

- Aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- Established CARB to develop policies to achieve this.
- Senate Bill 32 (2016), Assembly bill 32 (2006) [Both passed].

Renewable Energy Procurement

- State to procure 60% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and 100% from carbon-free sources by 2045.
- Also double the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- Greater electric utility investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Senate Bill 100 (2018) [Enacted]
- Senate Bill 350 (2015) [Enacted]

Transportation Infrastructure Funding

- Increases state gasoline tax by $0.12 per gallon.
- This raises $5 billion per year for transportation projects.
- Senate Bill 1 (2017) [Enacted]

Sustainable Transportation Planning

- Sets regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles.
- Requires agencies to assess vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts.
- Senate bill 375 (2008) [Enacted]

Community Air Protection

- Increased air monitoring requirements and penalties for polluters.
- Assembly Bill 617 (2017) [Enacted]

Disadvantaged Community Benefits

- Legislation requires the state to direct 25% of state cap-and-trade revenue to projects that are located/benefit disadvantaged communities.
- Senate Bill 535 (2012), Assembly Bill 1550 (2016) [Enacted]

Adaptation and Resiliency

- Laws calling for prep of state climate adaptation strategy.
- Establish OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program.
- Specifically requires state agencies to account for climate change when creating new infrastructure.
- Assembly Bill 1482 (Gordon, 2015); Senate Bill 246 (Wieckowski, 2015); Senate Bill 379 (Jackson, 2015); Assembly Bill 2800 (Quirk, 2016); Senate Bill 1035 (Jackson, 2018); Senate Bill 30 (Lara, 2018).

Energy Storage

- Requires electric utilities to install minimum levels of grid-scale energy storage infrastructure.
- Assembly Bill 2514 (2010) [Enacted]

Automobile Emission Standards

- State law requires first set of greenhouse gas emission standards for passenger vehicles.
- Assembly Bill 1493 (2002) [Enacted]

Short Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction

- Legislation requiring a strategy for and reductions in emissions of short-lived climate pollutants by 40-50% below 2013 levels by 2030.
- Senate Bill 605 (2014), Senate Bill 1383 (2016) [Enacted]

CARB Oversight And Reporting

- Companion law to SB 32.
- Requires CARB to report regularly to the state legislature on its progress in implementing the state's climate and air pollution-related policies.
- Assembly Bill 197 (2016) [Enacted]

California Climate Registry

- Law creates California Climate Registry.
- Cataloged early greenhouse gas emission reductions and set goals and standards for measurements and verification.
- Precursor to AB 32
- Senate Bill 1771 (2000) [Enacted]

Electric Vehicle Charging

- Law requires local governments to develop "streamlined" ordinances for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Assembly Bill 1236 (2015) [Enacted]

Bills Not Enacted

California Senate Bill 260: Climate Corporate Accountability Act

- Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco)'s SB 260.
- Passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.
- Would be first law in country that requires US based companies to disclose all their greenhouse gas emissions to California Air Resources Board (CARB).
  - Applicable to businesses that transact in California and generate over $1 billion in gross annual revenue.
  - CARB publishes report detailing the necessary reductions that will be needed.
- Co-sponsored by Carbon Accountable, Sunrise Bay Area, and the California League of Conservation Voters.
- In yearly public disclosures they must include:
  - Complete carbon emissions inventory
  - Corporations' direct emissions including fuel combustion
  - Emissions from purchasing and using electricity
  - Indirect emissions stemming from different sources but mainly corporation's supply chain.
- Click here for a summary and analysis of the bill and its implications
- SB 260 could be challenged on First Amendment or Dormant Commerce Clause Grounds *if enacted*.

Public Utility Greenhouse Gas Reporting

- A 242 (2021) introduced by Assembly member Holden (D) 2021, Pending.
- Requires every entity that offers an electricity product for sale to retail consumers in California to disclose its electricity sources and the associated intensity of greenhouse gas emissions for the previous calendar year via website and written promotional materials.

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

- A 585, Introduced by Rivas (D) 2021, Pending.
- Establishes the extreme heat and community resilience program to coordinate state efforts and fund local and regional efforts to mitigate the impacts of, and reduce the public health risks of, extreme heat and the urban heat island effect.

California - China Policy Institute

- A 39 (2020): Introduced by Assembly Member Chau, Pending.
- Allows the Regents of the University of California to establish the California-Climate Policy Institute to partner with Tsinghua University.

California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority

- A 56 (2020) Introduced by Garcia, FAILED.
- Creates a new government organization, the Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, which would be authorized to procure resources for electrical corporations instead of the corporation itself.

Microgrids

- AB 740, Introduced by Burke, FAILED.
- Prevents the P.U.C. from creating size caps for customer funded microgrids, allowing the expansion of microgrid renewable energy.

Agricultural Climate Adaptation Tools Program

- A 409 (2019) Introduced by Limon, Pending.
- Requires the Strategic Growth Council to create the Agricultural Climate Adaptation Tools Program, which would fund specified pilot projects to meet the needs of certain farmers.

Water Borne Low Carbon Transit Funding

- S 231 (2015) introduced by Gaines T (R), Enacted.
- Includes water-borne transit as an eligible project that may be funded under the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.

Use of Landfill and Organic Waste

- AB 794 (2014) Introduced by Gorell (R) FAILED.
- Exempts projects from California Environmental Quality Act requirements as long as they take landfill materials and turns them into renewable green energy or non chemical soil fertilizer.

Sustainable Communities For All

- AB 1051 (2014) Introduced by Bocanegra (D), FAILED.
- Creates a Sustainable Communities for All program to fund transit-related projects and housing development projects close to transit stations.

All full texts of these policies are compiled by Berkeley Law here

Besides laws, there are many programs that the government of the State of California currently implement.

Currently Enacted California Climate Programs

Cap and Trade Program

- Power plants, refineries, large facilities, etc, buy and sell greenhouse gas emissions allowances to meet emissions limits set by CARB.
- CARB Cap-and-Trade Program Page

Climate Change Scoping Plan

- Outlines state's approach to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- Includes SB 32's goal to reduce emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- CARB Scoping Plan Page.

Renewables Portfolio Standard

- California's statewide requirement that electricity providers obtain energy from renewable sources.
- 33% of total electricity by 2020
- 60% total electricity by 2030
- CEC RPS Program Page

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

- Requires transportation fuel producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity of their products.
- Covers extraction, refining, and ultimately end use.
- CARB LCFS Program Page

Green Building Standard

- Reduce energy use in California buildings.
- Energy efficiency standards for new construction and also retrofits for existing buildings.
- CARB Green Building Standard Program Page
- CEC Building Energy Efficiency Program Page

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- Allocates proceeds from cap-and-trade auctions to support investments and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California.
- CARB California Climate Investments Program Page
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Project Map

Advanced Clean Cars Program

- Reduce greenhouse gas and smog from pollutant emissions from cars
- Introduction of zero-emission vehicles by 2025.
- CARB ACC Program Page

Transformative Climate Communities Program

- Overseen by Strategic growth Council.
- Awards competitive grants to under-resourced communities to fund their own goals, strategies, and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally.
- TCC Program Page

GHG Emission Inventory

- Program to estimate, evaluate, and track GHG emissions from industrial, mobile, natural, etc, sources of emissions.
- CARB GHG Emission Inventory Program Page

Another useful thing to know are the organizations tasked with regulating. These are government agencies that monitor and create rules for the State of California. These organizations can provide important info or can be useful to contact to advocate for certain policies.

California Climate Regulators

- California Air Resources Board
- California Energy Commission
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
- California Natural Resources Agency
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- SGC Website
- Strategic Growth Council
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Independent System Operator
- CalRecycle

California Climate Leaders

Understanding the leaders of your state and their role in the government is another important thing to learn in order to be a great climate advocate. By learning who are the change makers in your government, you can understand who to contact and who are most likely to support you in your climate policy.

Executive Branch

Governor Gavin Newsom (D)
Governor signs or vetoes laws passed by legislature, proposes state budget, and more.

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis (D)
President of California Senate, acts as governor when he is out of office.

- Secretary of State Shirley Weber (D)
- Attorney General Rob Bonta (D)
- State Treasurer Fiona Ma (D)
- State Controller Betty Yee (D)
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (D)
- Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara (D)
- Offices are elected separately on four year terms (max elected twice).
- State Agencies
  - Departments grouped together into several huge Cabinet-level agencies, or "super agencies".

Legislative Branch

Assembly

- 80 members elected on two year terms.
- If elected after passage of Proposition 28 in 2012, the lifetime max you can serve is 12 years in State Legislature.
- Assembly members have both Capitol and district offices.
- Assembly Members are assigned to various committees to review bills according to subject area.
- Based on your address you can find your assembly members based on your district.
- Speaker of the California State Assembly: Anthony Rendon (D)
- All California State Assembly members
- Committees Info
- List of committees
  - Standing
  - Sub-committees
  - Select
  - Joint
  - Special

Senate

- 40 members elected on four year terms.
- Proposition 28 means the same for the Senate.
- Also are assigned to various committees to review bills/policies according to subject area.
- Based on your address you can find your state members based on your district.
- All California State Assembly Members
- Senate Committees
  - List of Committees
  - Standing committees are where bills are heard.
  - Joint committees have both houses present and consider issues of joint concern.

Click here for a great source on the legislative process in California!

Judicial Branch

- Interprets and applies the law.
- Superior Courts (primary trial courts)
- Courts of Appeal (primary appellate courts)
- Supreme Court (top of the hierarchical structure)
  - Chief Justice of California: Tani Cantil-Sakauye
- Judicial Council (rule-making arm of judiciary)

Key Climate Officials

Identified with Data from the Climate Center and California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV)

One important part of advocating is knowing who to talk to! Here's some information on some of the state legislators that other orgs have found to be aligned with environmental and climate missions.

California State Senators

- Senator Henry Stern (D) District 27
  - 99% 2020 CLCV Score, 97% Lifetime score.
  - Wrote four Bills supported by the Climate Center in the last two years.
- Senator Ben Allen (D)
  - CLCV Score of 100% in 2020, 98% Lifetime score.
  - Has not written a bill supported by the Climate Center this term.
  - Wrote SB 45 in the previous term, that the Climate Center supports, sought to have the voters vote on a 5.51B dollar bond to go towards wildfire prevention and drought and flood mitigation, did not get enacted.
- Senator Bill Dodd (D) District 3
  - Has a 2020 CLCV Score of 99%, 89% Lifetime score.
  - Introduced a bill sponsored by the Climate Center, The Community Energy Resilience Act of 2021, SB 99.
- Senator Lena Gonzalez (D) District 33
  - 99% CLCV Score in 2020 as well as lifetime.
- Senator Richard Pan (D) District 6
  - 92% CLCV 2020 Score, 86% Lifetime score.
  - Wrote the bill establishing the state Office of Racial Equity, supported by the Climate Center.
- Senator Anthony Portantino (D) District 25
  - 99% 2020 CLCV Score, 91% Lifetime score.
  - Wrote a bill supported by the Climate Center fixing the charges from certain utilities (question of cost shifting? Further research needed).

- Senator Nancy Skinner (D) District 9
  - 99% 2020 and Lifetime CLCV Score
  - Wrote two bills that the Climate Center is inclined to support:
    - Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resilience Project Registry
    - Green Hydrogen bills (partial support by the Climate Center)
- Assembly member Marc Berman (D) District 24
  - 100% 2020 and Lifetime CLCV Score
  - Legislation requiring all small off roading vehicles after 2024 to be zero emission which the Climate Center supports.
- Assembly member Bonta (D) District 18
  - 99% 2020 and 100% Lifetime CLCV Score
  - Wrote three bills that the Climate Center supports.
- Assembly member Jesse Gabriel (D) District 45
  - Has a 99% Lifetime and 2020 Score from CLCV.
- Assembly member Kevin McCarty
  - 100% Track Record for CLCV
- Assembly member Robert Rivas
  - Drafted three bills that the Climate Center supports:
    - AB 284 A bill that includes many important changes to the Air Resources Board, including requiring a 2045 climate goal with interim milestones.
    - AB 1110 which seeks to provide technical and financial support to local governments so that they can electrify their governmental vehicle fleet, (i.e., school busses, fire trucks, public transit busses. Police cars).
    - AB 2954 would have required the state to identify by July 1, 2021 an overall climate goal for the states natural and working lands to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - 100% 2020 Score and 97% Lifetime score.

California State Policy History

Found below are some policies that California implemented throughout history that were the state's first steps towards addressing climate change and other environmental issues. It's important to know the history of climate policy in your state in order to understand how far your state has come in implementing climate policy.

AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006)

- Pavley (D- Aguora Hills) and Nunes (D-Los Angeles)
- 2005 Schwarzenegger Executive Order S-3-05
  - Established actual greenhouse gas emission targets.
  - Required the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions levels to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020, and to a level 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
  - This led to CARB receiving authority to implement the program through the Global Warming Solutions Act.
- Developed regulations and market mechanisms to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 375 (Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008)

- Exemplifies the issues with passing into law unfunded mandates.
- Sets regional emissions' reduction targets for passenger vehicles in certain municipal planning areas (as set forth in the chart below).
- SB 375 serves as the nation's first ever law to associate global warming with land use planning and transportation.
- SB 375 went into effect on January 1, 2009 and endured twelve amendments from various groups which modified its initially more stringent mandates.
- One significant obstacle that SB 375 has faced relates to the lack of a permanent funding source.
- Regional targets:

MPO	2020	2035
San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)	7%	15%
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)	7%	13%
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)	7%	16%
San Joaquin Valley MPOs (8 in total)	5%	10%
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)	8%	13%
6 Other MPOs		
Tahoe	7%	5%
Shasta	0%	0%
Butte	1%	1%
San Luis Obispo	8%	8%
Santa Barbara	0%	0%
Monterey Bay	0%	5%

AB 1493 (2002)

- Successor bill to AB 1058
- Enacted by Governor Davis
- Mandates the California Air Resources Board to develop and implement greenhouse gas emissions limits in model year 2009.
- Restricts the amount of tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases cars in California are allowed to emit.
- The automotive industry has sued, claiming this is simply a way to impose gas mileage standards on automobiles.
- A federal district court ruled on December 12, 2007, that the state and federal laws could co-exist.
- Obama eventually gave the waiver needed to implement these emission limits in 2009, and made them applicable nationwide, though California's emissions requirements were not as ambitious as the U.S., Trump tried to roll the federal limits back unsuccessfully.

SB 1771 (2000)

- One of California's first climate pieces of legislation, created the California Climate Action Registry which soon became the Climate Registry later on.

California Environmental Quality Act (Signed by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1970)

- Goes beyond the National Environmental Policy Act by requiring all feasible mitigation efforts for climate policy to be implemented.
- Critics of the policy state that CEQA has been used as a scapegoat to prevent certain developments, like homeless shelters and low income housing from being developed, and it's important to recognize this as we balance ecological and sociocultural lenses.

1976 Energy Efficiency Policy

- Successfully blocked a nuclear energy plant by passing a law mandating energy efficient appliances that saved in power generation more than what the nuclear power plant would have generated.

1980 Decoupling Policy

- Decoupled profit from sales in utilities.
- Fixed the profit of the utility industry and allowed any excess revenues to be returned to the ratepayer and any under sales of power to be offset by an increase in rates.
- Had an uphill battle because of deregulation that caused price spikes and blackouts, cementing the end of California's deregulation experiment, and fostering in more regulations for the energy industry such as decoupling.

Bill Guide

california legislature—2021–22 regular session

ASSEMBLY BILL **No. 46**

Introduced by Assembly Member Luz Rivas

December 7, 2020

An act to add Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 8260) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to youth.

legislative counsel's digest

AB 46, as introduced, Luz Rivas. California Youth Empowerment Act.

Existing law establishes various social services and programs to address the needs of young people in this state including the California Youth Leadership Project to support and promote civic engagement through scholarships to disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

This bill would create the California Youth Empowerment Act to address, among other issues, the growing need to engage youth directly with policymakers. The bill would establish the California Youth Empowerment Commission in state government consisting of 25 voting commissioners between 14 and 25 years of age and meeting specified requirements, with 21 members appointed by the Governor, 2 at-large members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 2 at-large members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, along with several ex officio, nonvoting members from various geographic regions of the state. The bill would establish the commission to be advisory in nature, for the main purpose of providing meaningful opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth. The bill would require the commission to conduct regular meetings, in accordance with specified timeframes and procedures, and, among other duties, formally advise and make

99

Bill Number

Tells you which chamber the bill is from and assigns a number for easy reference

Sponsor Line

Tells you the primary sponsor, or who is leading the push for the bill

Bill Title

States what part of law is amended and describes what the bill is related to

Legislative Digest

A brief summary created by lawyers of the legislature to help understand a bill

Short Title

States what part of law is amended and describes what the bill is related to

Bill Guide

recommendations to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor, on various legislative and fiscal issues affecting youth. The bill would also authorize the commission to draft and approve resolutions, draft model legislation, provide testimony during legislative committee meetings, conduct public hearings, and award prizes or direct grants to organizations.

The bill would require the Governor to appoint an executive director of the California Youth Empowerment Commission to assist the commission in carrying out its work, would authorize the commission to accept gifts and grants, and would create the Youth Commission Fund in the State Treasury, with moneys deposited in the fund available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the duties of the commission.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 8260) is added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

Chapter 3.4. California Youth Empowerment Act

Article 1. Title

8260. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Youth Empowerment Act.

Article 2. Legislative Findings and Declarations

8261. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The needs and issues affecting youth are most accurately addressed by youth themselves.

(b) Young people in California have demonstrated their passion for the civic process and getting involved, as seen in the spike in voter turnout from the 2014 midterm elections, where 8 percent of California voters between 18 and 24 years of age voted, to the 2018 midterm elections, where 27.5 percent of California voters between 18 and 24 years of age voted.

Line Numbers

Line numbers are required in every section of the bill to allow for easy reference

Section Title

States what legislative action is taking place. (Amend, Add, Repeal, etc) Also states what part of law is changed

Legislative Findings

States the research that led to the creation of the bill, is not binding law but provides evidence to support the passage of the law

Bill Guide

(c) Young people have also shown their desire for change in social and public policy, as shown in advocacy efforts relating to gun reform, education, affordable housing, juvenile justice, health, jobs, and climate change.

(d) There are over 9,000,000 youths in California under 18 years of age as of the most recent data, compiled in 2017. Of those, an estimated 14,660 unaccompanied minors and youths between 18 and 24 years of age experience homelessness each year. Research shows that approximately 60,000 children are in the foster care system in California at any one time, and less than 1 percent of the 225,000 youths arrested in California currently occupy juvenile justice facilities. Youth who are homeless, in the juvenile justice system, or in foster care have limited opportunities to participate in the policy process that ultimately impacts their well-being.

(e) The government is designed to address input and participation from the people being served; however, youth under 18 years of age who cannot vote do not have a formal way to participate in the civic process.

(f) There is a growing need to engage our youth directly with policymakers in a manner that will provide genuine opportunities for our youth to acquire civic knowledge and develop the skills necessary to participate fully in a democratic society.

(g) Over 20 other states have statewide youth entities codified into law for the purpose of advising their respective legislatures and governors.

(h) The California Youth Empowerment Commission, as established by this chapter, is intended to provide model legislation and advocacy for the needs of youth.

Article 3. Definitions

8262. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Commission" means the California Youth Empowerment Commission established in Section 8263.

(b) "Commissioner" means a voting member of the California Youth Empowerment Commission.

Definitions Section

A list of terms that will be used throughout the bill and their exact meaning for the purposes of this bill

Bill Guide

Article 4. Creation and Membership

8263. (a) There is in the state government the California Youth Empowerment Commission. The commission shall consist of 25 voting commissioners to be appointed as follows:

(1) Twenty-one public members appointed by the Governor, subject to the following requirements:

(A) The terms of these commissioners initially shall be staggered so that 10 members serve one-year terms and 11 members serve two-year terms. To achieve the staggering of terms, the Governor shall designate the terms of the present members of the commission who have been appointed by the Governor.

(B) Two of the commissioners shall reside, work, or attend school in each region described in subdivision (b), with the exception of the at-large commissioner.

(C) Ten of the commissioners shall be between the ages of 14 and 18.

(D) Ten of the commissioners shall be between the ages of 18 and 25.

(E) At least 10 commissioners shall have experienced a physical disability, youth homelessness, foster care, or juvenile incarceration.

(F) One at-large commissioner, who may be between the ages of 14 and 25.

(2) Two at-large public members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(3) Two at-large public members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(b) For the purposes of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), these regions are defined as follows:

(1) The Superior California region consists of the Counties of Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba.

(2) The North Coast region consists of the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma, and Trinity.

(3) The San Francisco Bay area region consists of the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco.

Substantive Language

The Language that dictates policy! In this section, Article 4 describes qualifications for this commission, which must be followed if past into law. All the sections and language of the bill prior to this section are considered "nonsubstantive."

To find the complete version of this and other bills, visit https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov and use the search engine to find other bills and laws.

California City & County Climate Change Policies

Climate change policy does not only happen on the national or state level, it also happens on the local level! Though smaller in scale, the local level can be the best chance to have direct conversations, and see the impacts of climate change in your community. Knowing how your local governments are set up and ways local leaders seek to mitigate climate change is another great tool in your climate advocacy.

California Local Government Fact Sheet

- 58 counties
- 10 largest cities
  - LA, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento, Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim

Los Angeles County

- Community Climate Action Plan
  - Adopted in 2015, look to reduce GHG emissions from community activities in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County by 11% below 2010 levels by 2020
  - https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ccap_final-august2015.pdf
  - Addresses emissions from building energy, land use and transportation, water consumption, and waste generation.
- CCAP Implementation Ordinances 2017
  - Department of Regional Planning works with other County Departments and works on implementation ordinances for Title 22.
    - Title 22 Compatibility for Cool Roofs and Cool Pavement
    - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure as an Accessory Use
    - Idle Reduction
    - Secondary Uses Under High-Voltage Power Lines
    - https://planning.lacounty.gov/ccapio2016
- 2020 CCAP was adopted as part of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 and is incorporated into the Air Quality Element.

Ventura County

- New Ventura County Climate Emergency Council
  - Created from citizens wishing to help in the implementation of the climate action plan in their county in November 2020.
  - Every meeting allows county citizens to provide public comment on what they should be doing in their county to mitigate climate change.

Buena Park

- Lowered the temperature threshold for cooling centers to be opened to allow people to find a place to stay cool.
- Important because climate advocates always talk about climate mitigation, but providing direct heat relief is also important as the climate crisis continues to get worse.

Garden Grove

- Planting trees as a way to cool the city and sequester carbon.
- Council member Phat Bui criticizes that the city really has no other mitigation plans besides planting more trees.

Santa Anna

- Comprehensive legislation that will address the climate crisis and update the city's 2015 Climate plan.
- Some legislators criticize the sponsor, Council member Jessie Lopez, for introducing the measure, calling it political theatre.

Irvine

- Continually working on a climate plan.
- Discussing educating the community on water conservation and energy usage (questions whether the onus should be on individuals or the community).

Huntington Beach, Irvine, Buena Park and Fullerton

- Public utility service that emphasizes affordable renewable energy options that services in these areas.

Los Angeles

- Mayor Garcetti launched Los Angeles' Green New Deal (2019) — an ambitious update to the city's first-ever Sustainable City pLAn (2015), and Los Angeles is delivering on its bold targets: surpassing goals for cutting water use and installing publicly-accessible electric vehicle chargers ahead of schedule; passing the most comprehensive building energy efficiency ordinance in America; leading the nation in renewable energy and moving to zero emissions transportation — boldly and equitably — with innovative initiatives like electric car-sharing in disadvantaged communities.

San Francisco

- Mayor Breed announced the City is exceeding its key environmental goals. This includes:
  - CleanPowerSF will provide all customers 100% renewable electricity by 2025, five years ahead of the City's goal of 2030 and twenty years ahead of the State's goal of 2045.
  - As of 2019, San Francisco's emissions have dropped to 41% below 1990 levels, which is six years ahead of the City's goal of reaching a 40% reduction by 2025.
- San Francisco aims to become carbon neutral by 2045 and speeds up transition to 100% renewable electricity for all residential customers.

San Diego

- Working on a new climate action plan and a new sustainability plan to be carbon neutral by 2035.
- San Diego Supervisor Jim Desmond says that he is concerned that with more regulation, the community will move out of San Diego and live elsewhere because of rising cost of housing and living.
- Decarbonization plan authorized eliminating carbon emissions, reducing super pollutants like smog and soot, and capturing carbon from the atmosphere.

California Legislature Template

Email javan@theclimateinitiative.org for a Word Document template for writing your own bills!

Policy Toolkit Survey

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The Climate Initiative

Write it. Speak it. Show it.

Share your climate policy projects *for* the world.

Your story of change will inspire other youth to take meaningful climate action.

In connection with TCI programs, tools, and events, Stories of Change are shaping the way youth and communities across the nation and beyond are taking action on climate change.

We want to hear how utilizing our Toolkits has impacted your climate journey. Your story can encourage other youth to take action.

Click HERE for more information and to submit your Story of Change!