



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **City of Palo Alto Commits to Report Emissions to CA Registry**

PALO ALTO, California – City of Palo Alto has joined the California Climate Action Registry (Registry), a distinguished group of organizations demonstrating leadership, by voluntarily taking action on climate change. As a member, Palo Alto will work with the Registry to annually track, report and certify its greenhouse gas emissions, the main drivers of global warming.

City of Palo Alto has a long history of environmental stewardship in maintaining a safe, healthy and sustainable city. Since the 1960s, approximately 60% of Palo Alto's electricity has come from large, clean hydroelectric projects because Palo Alto has promoted aggressive investment in renewable energy. In the 1970s, City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) began offering an array of energy efficiency programs, rebates, technical assistance and education. Energy efficiency and solar programs since 1999 have reduced city-wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 30,000 tons per year.

The City has implemented the following initiatives: the Regional Water Quality Control Plant now uses landfill gas to reduce its natural gas use; and fleet fuel use has been reduced through use of compressed natural gas and biodiesel that has avoided 58,000 gals of fossil fuel. Palo Alto adopted a goal to purchase an additional 20% of its electricity from new renewable technologies by 2015. By the end of 2006, nearly 13% of new electric supply will be coming from renewable wind and landfill gas projects. An additional 3% of renewable energy is supported by PaloAltoGreen participants through wind and solar generation.

“Although Palo Alto has been actively engaged in environmental stewardship for decades and has achieved measurable results, it is my hope that we can become a catalyst for broader change,” stated Palo Alto Mayor, Judy Kleinberg. “By joining the California Climate Action Registry, we can work on the problem of climate change and recommend tangible steps and local actions to reduce global warming and encourage sustainable practices.”

As a member of the Registry, City of Palo Alto will track and report its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, the City intends to develop a Climate Action Plan, educate residents and businesses regarding greenhouse gas actions they can take and support City-wide (and beyond) efforts to address greenhouse gas issues.

The Registry, created by the California legislature in 2000, helps companies and organizations throughout the United States track, publicly report and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The results are certified by independent third-parties to ensure compliance with Registry protocols and standardization across participants and sectors. The Registry has been widely recognized as a gold standard for public reporting of greenhouse gases.

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“Palo Alto is demonstrating leadership on this critical issue by voluntarily reporting their emissions to the Registry” said Diane Wittenberg, President of the Registry. “It is the crucial first step towards managing and ultimately reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.”

Recently, CPAU was recognized for many of its energy efficiency and renewable energy successes. The American Public Power Association presented CPAU with its 2006 Award of Continued Excellence to recognize its long-term commitment to research, development and implementation of efficiency and renewable resources. Also, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) just ranked PaloAlto**Green**, the renewable energy program offered by the City of Palo Alto Utilities, the top in the nation for achieving the highest participation rate, according to the NREL 2005 Top Ten list.

**The City of Palo Alto** is a community of approximately 61,200 residents located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 14 miles north of San Jose. Unique among California cities, Palo Alto is a full-service municipality that owns and operates its gas, electric, water, sewer, refuse and storm drain services. [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

**The California Climate Action Registry** is a non-profit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions. Over 70 major companies, cities, government agencies and NGOs measure and publicly report their GHG emissions through the Registry. [www.climateregistry.org](http://www.climateregistry.org)

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