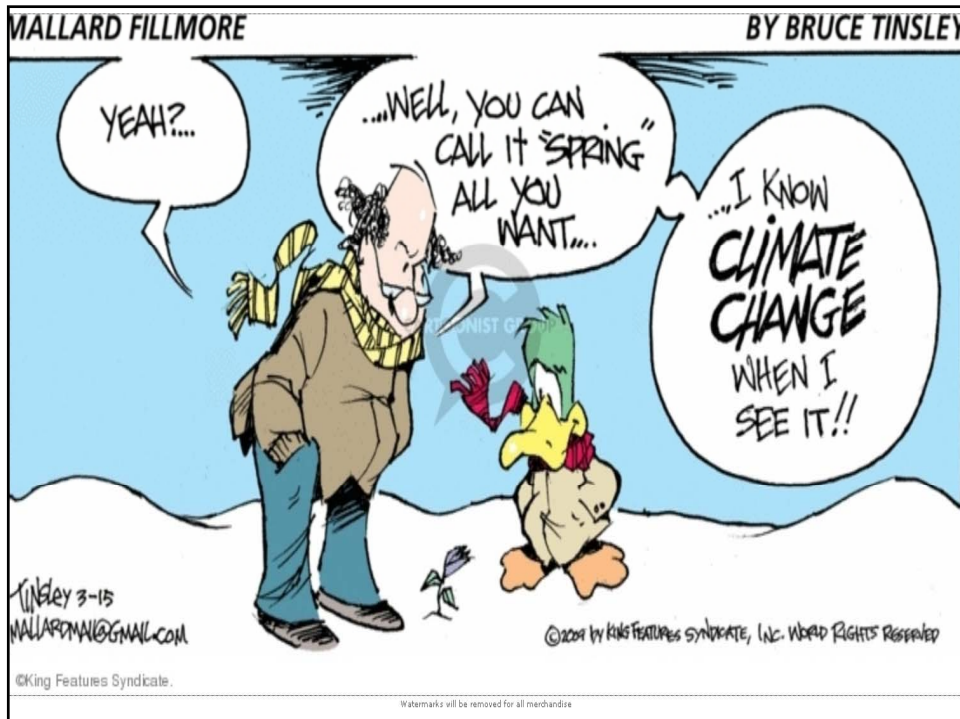




Climate Action Plans and Green Ordinances

Presented at Gateway Cities COG
September 23, 2009

Scott Cohen, Sespe Consulting, Inc.
scohen@sespeconsulting.com
619.300.1880



SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Overview

- Climate Action Plans:
 - Estimate emissions.
 - Propose measures to reduce emissions.
 - Demonstrate how reductions will be achieved in the target year(s).
- Green Ordinances:
 - Implement concepts of sustainability.
 - Often have climate change benefits.
 - Can implement policies in the Climate Action Plan.

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Overview

- Proposed CEQA guidelines (14CCR) allow for consistency determinations with a Climate Action Plan or a Sustainable Community Strategy as required for MPOs under SB 375 in lieu of project-level GHG impact analysis.
- General plan updates are subject to CEQA and will require climate change impact analysis.
- The attorney-general's FAQ says that a Climate Action Plan is reasonable mitigation.



SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

CoolCalifornia.org

- Recommended on CARB website.
- The founding partners:
 - The California Air Resources Board
 - The Berkeley Institute of the Environment
 - Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
 - The California Energy Commission
 - Next 10 (non-profit sponsor)
 - The California Public Utilities Commission

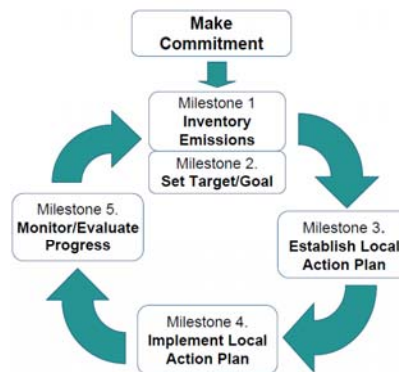


Local Government Toolkit

- Phase I
 - Explains how to calculate and inventory GHG emissions.
 - Recommends a target to reduce GHG emissions.
 - Lists cost-saving strategies to take action now.
 - Lists financial resources to get started.
 - Presents case studies to learn what other cities have been able to accomplish.
- Phase II – Not yet available.
- <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/local-government>
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is also good resource.



The 5 Milestone Process



SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Climate Action Planning Process

- Resolve to Take Action
- Conduct a Baseline Inventory
- Adopt an Emission Reduction Target
- Participate in a Structured Program (e.g. CCAR)
- Adopt a Climate Action Plan
- Implement Policies / Measures (e.g. green ord.)
- Monitor and Verify Results
- Encourage Residents to Calculate their Carbon Footprint
- Challenge Residents to Go on A Low Carbon Diet

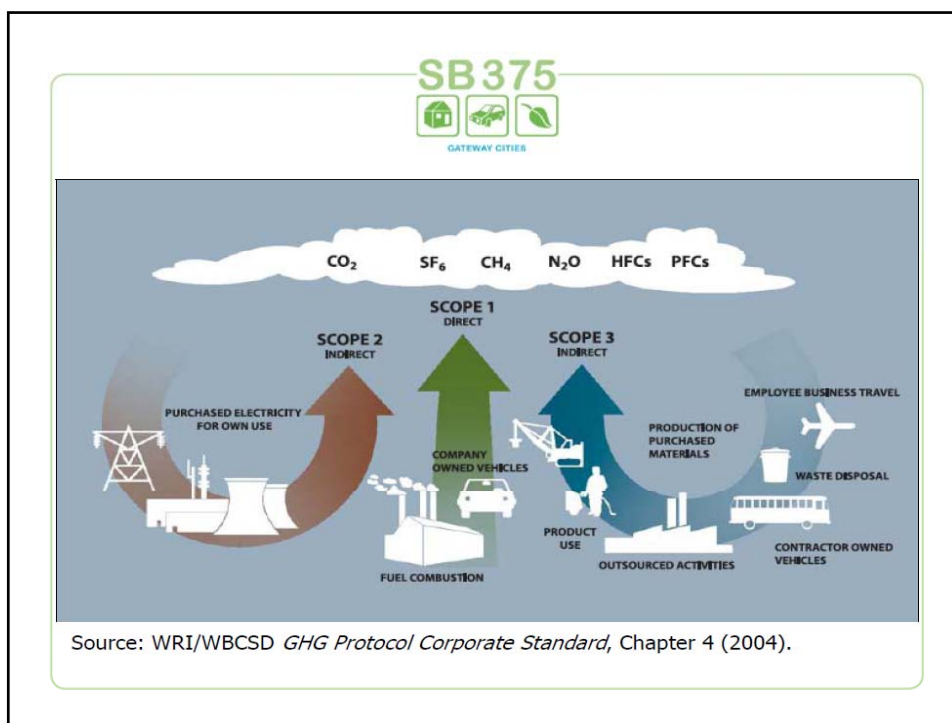
SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Inventory Emissions

- Baseline Year – 1990 is not practical due to lack of historical data. Use first year with good data.
- Protocols – CARB Local Government Operations Protocol (Ver. 1.0, Sept. 25, 2008) and Landfill Emissions Tool (Ver. 1.1).
- Organizational and operational boundaries (i.e. scope of inventory).



SB 375
GATEWAY CITIES

Inventory Emissions

- Facilities
 - Stationary combustion (e.g. backup generators, boilers)
 - Electricity use
 - Steam and district heating purchases
 - Heat and power purchases from combined heat and power (CHP) plants
 - District cooling
 - Fugitive emissions (refrigerants and fire suppression)

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Inventory Emissions

- Vehicle fleet
- Power generation facilities
- Solid waste facilities
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Other process and fugitive emissions

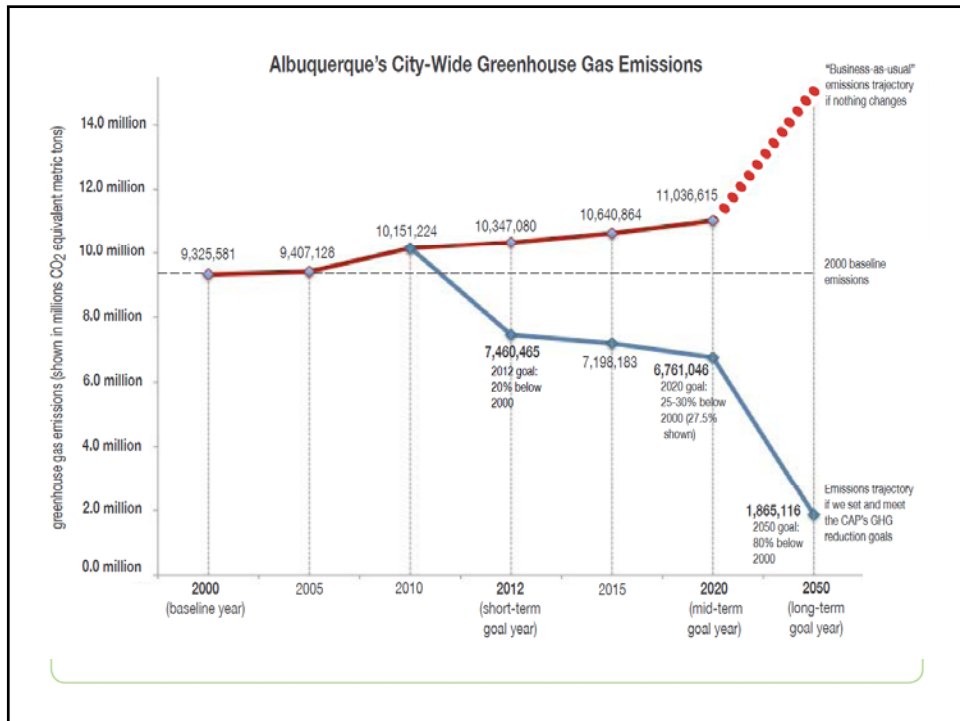
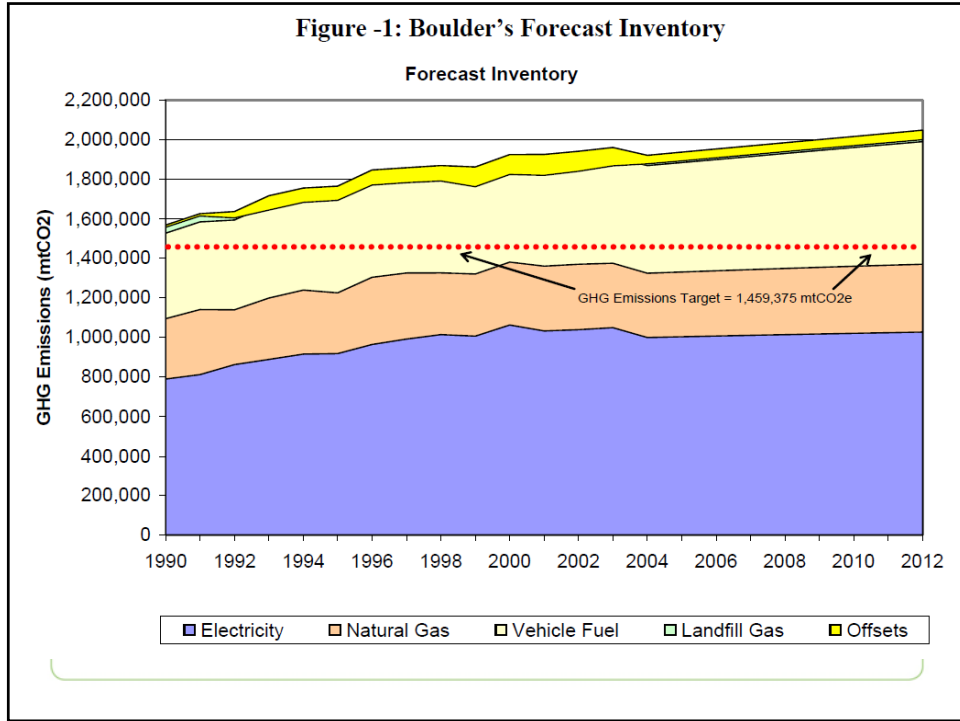
SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Establish a Target

- AB 32 target (1990 levels by 2020; or 30% reduction from business as usual by 2020).
- Nearly 30% of California cities have signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (CPA) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- Executive Order S-20-06 directs 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.





Identify Emissions Reduction Measures

- Measures that will save money now :
 - Save energy
 - Drive less / drive more efficient vehicles
 - Use renewable energy
 - Save water
 - Recycle and cut waste
 - Buy green-smart
 - Build green-smart
- Measures that cost money now are likely to become feasible once an emissions market is established (i.e. cap-and-trade).



Green Smart Development Ordinances

- Land-Use and Development Planning
 - Solar Access Protection
 - Agricultural Land Protection
 - Brownfield Development
 - Open Space
 - Transfer of Development Credits
 - Green Buildings
 - Materials and Water Conservation
 - Energy Efficiency Design Standards
- <http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/greendev/codes.shtml>

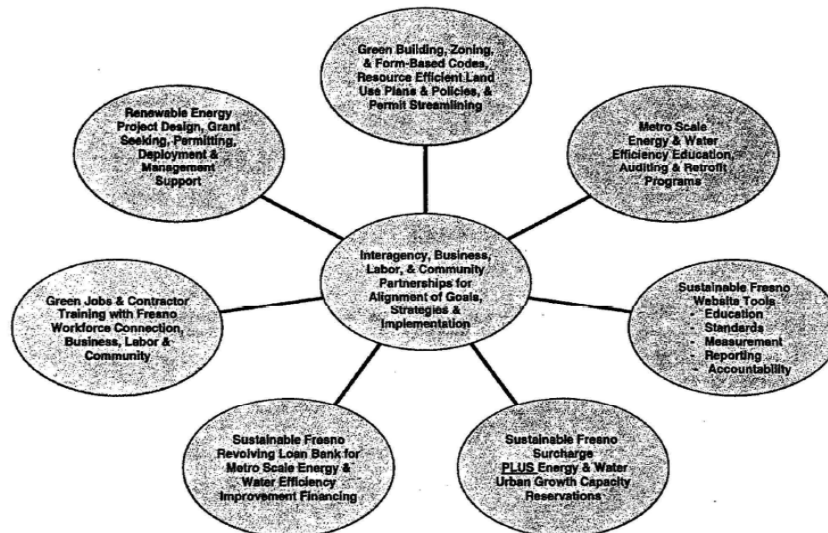


Green Building Ordinances

- Points rating systems in use:
 - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED, <http://www.usgbc.org/>)
 - GreenPoints (<http://stopwaste.org/>)
 - Custom based on the GreenPoint Rated system.
 - Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.
 - City of West Hollywood.
- The attorney general published a list of cities that have green ordinances (12/18/08).

http://www.ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/pdf/green_building.pdf

Initial Sustainable Fresno Center Programs



http://ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/pdf/sustainable_fresno.pdf#xml=http://search.doj.ca.gov:8004/AGSearch/isisquery/7e412f00-c85f-4f74-aab9-5d060631349c/1/hilite/



Funding and Investing

- California Energy Commission has \$30 million for climate action planning by small local governments through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Other opportunities for specific actions exist. The EECBG website has a list of cities and counties that qualify.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/recovery/blockgrant.html>

- The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Guidelines for Carbon Offset Investments can aid in understanding the role of carbon offsets and renewable energy credits.

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>



ICLEI Example Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Emissions Inventory
- Forecast for GHG Emissions
- GHG Reduction Target
- Existing Measures and Policies
- Measures Implemented External to Jurisdiction
- Conclusion
- Guide for Future Steps

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Conclusion – Emissions Inventory

- Inventory GHG emissions in order to:
 - Establish a baseline
 - Take credit for early actions.
 - Adopt procedures to collect activity data for sources that are identified.
 - Understand the magnitude of risks and liabilities.

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Conclusion – Climate Action Plans

- Prepare a Climate Action Plan in order to:
 - Ease CEQA requirements beyond what will be available through the Sustainable Communities Strategies developed by MPOs under SB 375.
 - Develop a strategy to navigate the financial implications of California's carbon cap.

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Conclusion – Green Ordinances

- Ordinances are one tool to implement policies that reduce GHG emissions.
- Cities may develop smart growth and land use concepts of SB 375 into a ordinances.
- Not all ordinances that are considered “green” have a beneficial impact on climate change.

SB 375



GATEWAY CITIES

Questions?

Scott Cohen
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
scohen@sespeconsulting.com
619.300.1880