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Climate Action Campaign Releases Regional Climate Action Plan Report Card
No City Gets the Gold Standard; Transportation Driving Emissions Up

SAN DIEGO, March 10, 2020 - Today, Climate Action Campaign (CAC) unveiled the fourth edition of their Climate Action Plan (CAP) Report Card. The Report Card details how well 18 cities and the County of San Diego are implementing their identified climate solutions to achieve a safe and liveable future.

This year, no city earned the coveted “Gold Standard.” The cities of San Diego, Encinitas, and La Mesa received Silver Awards. Solana Beach, Del Mar, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and Carlsbad received Bronze Awards.

While cities made great strides toward achieving 100% clean energy through Community Choice Energy programs and some cities have elevated equity in climate solutions, these gains are overshadowed by failure to reduce the largest source of emissions in our region: transportation. Most cities also continue to struggle to make substantial progress on zero waste, shade trees, and equity.

To meet state climate goals and local Climate Action Plans, cities must slash their carbon footprints in half by 2030. To align with the landmark UN IPCC Special Report on climate, the San Diego region must achieve Zero Carbon by 2045. Unfortunately, we are not on track to hit our 2030 targets, let alone zero out emissions. The biggest culprit: emissions from cars and trucks due to urban sprawl and lack of investment in biking, walking, and transit.

This year’s CAP Report Card recommends the following strategies to achieve a fossil free future:

Commit to Zero Carbon Climate Action Plans: Cities must update their CAPs as soon as possible to move from 50% GHG reductions to commit to Zero Carbon by 2045 or sooner.

Make Zero Carbon the State Law: California has set an aspirational goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 (EO-B-55-18), but this goal has not been codified into law. To require cities to develop a real roadmap for Zero Carbon, California must pass a law to achieve Zero Carbon.



Create a Regional Climate Authority: A regional climate authority would dissolve silos and ensure cities strategize for how to reach regional and state climate goals together, hold each other accountable, share ideas, collaborate on projects, secure funding, and ensure equitable implementation of climate strategies across the region.

Chart the Path to Zero Carbon: Through collaboration with research institutions, non-profit organizations, and community members, we must identify the strategies and path forward necessary to zero out emissions and achieve an equitable and prosperous Zero Carbon region.

Electrify Everything: As the third largest source of GHG emissions in the region, it is critical that cities adopt strategies to transition off natural gas and electrify buildings and transportation as soon as possible.

Build World-Class Transit: SANDAG and MTS board members, along with elected officials throughout our region, must adopt a regional transportation vision and help pass revenue measures that align with a Zero Carbon future.

Reject Sprawl. Build Housing Near Jobs and Transit: In order to meet housing and climate goals, local governments must embrace affordable infill development near jobs and transit.

Get Serious: In order to achieve a Zero Carbon future, local governments must adopt strategies that comply with the law and lead to rapid decarbonization. This includes El Cajon, Poway, Santee, and the County, all of whom refuse to adopt climate strategies that match the scope and scale of our crisis.

Maleeka Marsden, lead author of the Report Card, said, “While we are winning some battles, we are losing the war against the climate crisis. The path to a Zero Carbon future will not be easy, but we will emerge on the other side with cleaner air, cleaner water, better health, and livable neighborhoods.”

Read the full report at:

https://www.climateactioncampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CAC_reportcard_masterfile_2019.pdf

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Climate Action Campaign is the leading climate watchdog in San Diego and Orange County.

Our mission is simple: stop the climate crisis. For more information, please visit

www.climateactioncampaign.org

