

The Climate Action Compact

WHEREAS, the Earth's global climate is steadily changing; and,

WHEREAS, there is powerful scientific evidence that global climate change arises from the emission of "Greenhouse Gases" (GHG), produced by burning fossil fuels for transportation and the generation of electricity; and,

WHEREAS, GHG emissions in present and projected amounts will lead to sufficient global climate change to produce rising sea levels, increased floods and droughts, severe changes in the viability of agriculture in many parts of the world, and significant social and economic disruption; and,

WHEREAS, global climate change will adversely impact virtually every economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, the world's scientific community has determined that it is essential to reduce the amount of GHG entering the atmosphere in order to avoid the worst impacts of global climate change; and,

WHEREAS, many countries are addressing this issue through governmental action, private sector initiatives, scientific research, and cooperation among and between the public, private, non-profit and research sectors; and,

WHEREAS, the State of California has taken steps to address GHG emissions through the enactment of Assembly Bill 32 (2006 Session of the California Legislature); and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California signed AB 32 into law, and has taken other actions, including agreements with other countries, relative to GHG emission reductions; and,

WHEREAS, cities and counties throughout the United States of America have begun taking local actions to reduce GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, many colleges and universities, in the United States of America and elsewhere, are undertaking research and instituting best practices to reduce GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the private, venture capital community is heavily investing in enterprises which produce products and process solutions for the global climate change challenge; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential that the climate change solutions we implement strive to be fair and strive not to disproportionately advantage or disadvantage one social or economic group over another; and,

WHEREAS, to be truly effective and fair climate change solutions must be informed by community input; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, and the County of Santa Cruz have all taken initial actions to reduce their own GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, and the County of Santa Cruz have recently worked in a cooperative manner to accomplish two major goals: Substantial and measurable reduction of GHG emissions originating from those institutions; and, establishing cooperative agreements among local governments, educational institutions, and private sector participants that will both reduce GHG emissions in the local community and recruit, retain and expand private sector enterprises that will be part of the global climate change solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned agree to the following actions to reduce GHG emissions at their respective institutions, and to encourage significant private, public and non-profit sector investment in this community to make it a part of the solution to global climate change:

- 1) By January 1, 2008 the signatories from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors agree to set and present a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal for their organization; and,
- 2) By March 1, 2008 the signatories from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors will have identified specific inter-institutional cooperative projects that reduce GHG emissions, stimulate investment in the community and foster economic development; and,
- 3) By January 1, 2009 or earlier, signatories from the public, private, and non-profit sectors will present a comprehensive GHG Reduction Action Plan, which will provide sufficient detail so that the institutions themselves and the general public can readily see how each institution will meet its emissions reduction goals; and,
- 4) Signatories immediately invite others from the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the Region to join this effort.