

## **Yolo becomes a 'Cool County'**

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Acting Tuesday, Yolo County joined the 12 charter member counties from every region of the country, collectively representing over 17 million people, in pledging to participate in the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a new initiative to combat global warming.

"As a county government, we have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as we set policy surrounding air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Mariko Yamada.

As a participant, Yolo County will seek to reduce global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050, an achievable annual average of two percent. Yolo County will also be asking congress to adopt matching emissions reduction goals and enact legislation requiring fuel economy standards to be set at 35 miles per gallon within ten years.

By taking part in the Cool Counties initiative Yolo County will be creating a greenhouse gas inventory and implementing policies and programs to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reductions to operational GHG emissions. There are seven key areas for possible reductions: energy efficiency, renewable energy, greening county vehicle fleets, land use, transportation, water conservation, and educational outreach.

Cool Counties is an outgrowth of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program, a plan to implement the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, initiated in 2005. Nearly 600 cities have signed on to that agreement, which also encourages the reduction of harmful emissions.