



Yolo County Housing

Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director

147 W. Main Street
WOODLAND, CA 95695

Woodland: (530) 662-5428
Sacramento: (916) 444-8982
TTY: (800) 545-1833, ext. 626

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Contact: Lisa Baker, Executive Director
(530) 669-2219 [w]

Yolo County Housing Joins Climate Change Compact

(Woodland, CA) – Last week, the Yolo County Housing (YCH) Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to join the Yolo County Climate Change Compact and pledged, among other things, to create an inventory and establish goals and a plan for reducing the agency's energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. With this action, YCH joins other Yolo County jurisdictions in identifying and implementing climate action policies and programs to reduce the impact of global warming/climate change through energy and water conservation, purchasing sustainable products, using mass transportation modes and other beneficial practices.

"We believe that working together with local governments, including the county, school districts, U.C. Davis and other special districts, will help provide a framework and context for additional reductions in energy usage, while at the same time continuing to improve overall YCH operations," said Lisa Baker, YCH Executive Director

Since November 2006, YCH staff has looked at improving the sustainability of its operations and at alternative energy possibilities. To date, YCH has done the following:

- Diverted over 13,000 pounds of scrap lumber from local landfills to biomass electrical generation and created procedures to ensure that scrap lumber continues to be diverted from landfills;
- Helped to create two new housing developments in the City of Davis through the use of its non-profit, outside partnerships and tax credits. These developments use drought tolerant landscaping, are passive solar-designed and have active solar in the community spaces;
- Partnered with the Davis Energy Group, Aztec Solar, the Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to field test 40 new solar hot water heaters at its Davis Migrant site; and
- Redeployed its lighting, heating and air conditioning through the use of computer-controlled timers and thermostats at its main administration building, thereby reducing energy usage and realizing a significant savings in operations costs.

The State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050, and is looking to local governments to help meet this goal. County and City governments, Authorities and special districts have a unique role to play in preparing for the impacts of climate change through their jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, housing, transportation, zoning, urban forest preservation, water conservation, public education programs, and wastewater and solid waste management. The Yolo County Climate Change Compact was created with the objective of coordinating these policies and programs.

YCH is charged with providing for the housing needs of lower income families including working families, seniors and the disabled citizens of Yolo County. Currently, YCH owns and manages 431 conventional housing apartments, owns and manages another 54 non-federal apartments and duplexes; manages 154 migrant units in Yolo County and another 85 units on behalf of the Dixon Housing Authority in Solano County, provides a maximum of 1,489 Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers throughout Yolo County and is a partner in 112 affordable tax credit units.

Working together to provide quality affordable housing and community development services for all