



League of Women Voters of San Jose-Santa Clara (LWV-SJSC)

## CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

### ENERGY

The wellbeing, and perhaps the very existence, of the peoples of the world and of life generally on our planet, lies under grave threat from climate change, which stems from the proliferation of greenhouse gases produced primarily by the activities of human kind. LWV-SJSC

This worldwide problem is of concern to the League at the national, state, and regional level. At the local level, we must reduce our carbon footprint acting as individuals and through voluntary organizations, and through public private entities. LWV-SJSC

Our goals must encompass the following:

- Reduction in energy consumption and increase in energy efficiency; Promotion of energy sources that do not produce greenhouse gases; Promotion of sustainability in the use of resources, such as water and materials with an emphasis on use of local resources; and promotion of growth patterns (i.e., Smart Growth) that encourage walking, bicycling, mass transit, and carpooling in order to lessen greenhouse emissions. LWV-SJSC

Our actions include support of the following:

- Development and utilization of measures to monitor progress, including establishing and tracking an inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions; Education of the public, including students and leaders of private and public entities on the necessity and means of reducing our carbon footprint.
- Establishment of land use regulation and building codes to achieve a reduction in our carbon footprint including financial and other incentives for reduction in greenhouse gases; and support of full life cycle cost accounting including greenhouse gas emissions. LWV-SJSC
- Energy agencies and utilities should develop programs that will help the water sector reduce its very large consumption of electric power and fossil fuels. LWV-C

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Adopted by LWV-SJSC June, 2016. The policy incorporates positions held by various organizational levels of the League of Women Voters as follows: LWV-SJSC (League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara); LWVBA (League of Women Voters Bay Area); LWVSCC (Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County); LWVCA (League of Women Voters of California); LWVUS (League of Women Voters of the United States).

## ENVIRONMENT

- League supports setting caps on greenhouse gases and carbon pollution, reducing carbon emissions from power plants and the adoption of Clean Power Plan. LWVC
- We support and advocate for passage of SB 32 which supports and boosts California's economy while extending target goals of AB 32. LWVC

## GREEN ECONOMY

- League advocates putting a price on carbon emissions, allowing market conditions to help alleviate increase in greenhouse gas production through putting a price on carbon emissions and reducing entities' total emissions. Cap and trade works worldwide and carbon taxing can work as well. LWBA
- League advocates for keeping the economy strong while transitioning from fossil fuels to alternative energies. The shift to a green economy has the potential to create large numbers of quality green-collar jobs for American workers, grow emerging industries, and improve the health of low and moderate income Americans and people of color, who suffer disproportionately from cancer, asthma and other respiratory ailments in the current pollution based economy. LWVUS

## LAND USE

- League advocates updated land use policies that take into account the reciprocal effect of climate change on population density, design, and services in determining quality of life. LWV-SJSC
- We support sequestration of carbon on private lands. A robust set of financial incentives and policies are needed to encourage American land owners to enhance the sequestration of carbon on private lands with healthy forests and sustainable agriculture, and the nation's public lands should be managed to preserve sequestered carbon as well. LWVUS - Call to Action 7.22.2015

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- League supports clean air policies through regulation of motor vehicle emissions. LWVBA
- League supports conservation of the Bay's ecology, including tributaries and riparian and other native plant communities and habitats, and supports establishing measures to ensure that public access does not degrade habitats and native plant communities, and that economic growth does not adversely impact the environment. LWVBA

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## TRANSPORTATION

- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission should develop criteria and a system of allocating state and federal transportation funds to encourage compact, transit-oriented growth patterns, with criteria for evaluating alternative transportation investments that include environmental effects on health (including air and water quality) on the production of greenhouse gas emissions, and on agriculture and natural resources; the analyses are to be presented as public information prior to selection of projects and the distribution of funds is to be tied to cooperative local land use planning. LWVBA

## WATER

- League supports provisions to assure adequate water supply in Santa Clara County; increased use of conservation and protection of the environment; establish measures to protect water supply in disaster situations, including drought; provide water quality protection for healthy creek and river ecosystems within the Santa Clara Valley Water District. LWVSCC