

# County Climate Coalition

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## **DECLARATION OF COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION AFFIRMING COUNTIES' COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming. Documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity.

In 2015, all but two countries signed the United Nations Paris Climate Accord ("Paris Accord"), a historic international agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures, and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change. Signatories to the Paris Accord committed to enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to one and a half degrees in the future. The United States ratified the Paris Accord on September 3, 2016 and committed to its own target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord despite the dire consequences of the planet's rising temperatures and opposition from communities across the country and world. The United States' withdrawal could result in an additional three billion tons of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere each year, and an additional increase of as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius in global temperatures by end of the century.

The County Climate Coalition takes sharp exception to President Trump's unilateral intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord and urges the federal government to adhere to its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Accord. Regardless of whether the United States ultimately withdraws from the Paris Accord, the undersigned local governments intend to continue working toward meeting the United States' commitment under the Paris Accord through results-oriented strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By combating climate change through renewable solar energy development, alternative community energy providers, enhanced waste diversion, environmentally friendly vehicles, reduction of water usage, and other local solutions, the undersigned local governments will continue their efforts to slow the dangerous pace of global warming while advancing environmental sustainability, protecting public health, and leading innovation.

## Ways to get involved:

1. **FORMALLY JOIN** the County Climate Coalition.
2. **SIGN ON AS A SUPPORTER** of the County Climate Coalition.
3. **LEARN MORE** by contacting [vanessa.turner@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:vanessa.turner@bos.sccgov.org).

### COUNTIES

Santa Clara County, California  
 Charles County, Maryland  
 San Miguel County, Colorado  
 Gilpin County, Colorado

*Formal announcement coming soon!*

### SUPPORTERS

Santa Barbara County, CA Board of Supervisors Chair Joan Hartmann  
 Knox County, TN Commissioner Evelyn Gill  
 Marin County, CA Board of Supervisors President Judy Arnold  
 Albany County, NY Legislator William Reinhardt  
 Lane County, OR Commissioner Pete Sorenson  
 City of Boulder, CO Councilor Aaron Brockett  
 San Francisco State University Assistant Professor Eric Mar  
 Local Power Inc. President Paul Fenn  
 City of Dallas Council Member Philip Kingston  
 Adams County, CO Board of Commissioners Chair Eva Henry  
 Sonoma County, CA Regional Climate Protection Authority Coordinator Carolyn  
 Glanton