



For Immediate Release
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Richmond, El Cerrito and Walnut Creek Top Three Climate Leader Cities in Contra Costa County!

A recently released report tracks a city's progress on policy to address the climate crisis. The report challenges local governments to engage in discussion and identify creative ways to increase their standing on the list.

The City of Richmond ranked the highest on a compilation of existing data based on 20 different policy and planning elements. Some of the important elements that put them in the lead include declaring a Climate Emergency, updating their General Plan and divesting from fossil fuels. *"The 4CL Report Cards are a reminder for Contra Costa leaders and residents of the hard work we're collectively doing to reverse the disastrous effects of climate change".* Mayor Tom Butt challenges: *"Contra Costa cities to pass a resolution declaring a climate emergency. The time to act on this was yesterday!"*

This ranking is a friendly competition that pits city against city, and encourages them to use their local authority to pass policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and it encourages local leaders to drive residents and businesses to do the same.

The largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions come from energy, transportation and the built environment.

The City of El Cerrito captured the second spot with the highest share of participation in 100% renewable energy in the MCE Deep Green program, and all-around leadership on environmental issues ranging from waste reduction to tree protection. El Cerrito Mayor Paul Fadelli states that "the City of El Cerrito is excited to have been ranked 2nd on the list, but there's more work to be done". Mayor Fadelli notes the El Cerrito has already declared a climate Emergency, and encourages other cities to do the same. Further, Fadelli invites all Cities to join El Cerrito in opting up to 100% renewable energy and in pursuing an Expanded Food Ware Ordinance in 2021.

Walnut Creek, which climbed to third place has proud points for the number of EV charging stations and more acres of Open Space per capita compared to the other cities. Mayor Kevin Wilk States: "Walnut Creek has proudly been a leader in Climate Action for years, becoming one of the first cities to have all city-owned buildings be powered by 100% MCE Deep Green clean energy. One of our city priorities is updating our Climate Action Plan for 2030, which we will be receiving a status report during our February 16th meeting. We encourage all County cities to put their own climate action plans into place, as we work to combat this existential crisis"

The City of Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder states: "We are proud to be ranked in the top half of all cities in the County and at the same time realize we have a great chance to improve our scores and put some pressure on those cities at the top! We gladly accept the challenge issued by Richmond's Mayor Tom Butt. Martinez agrees to discuss and consider the passage of a Declaration of Climate Emergency on a public meeting agenda in 2021".

"We are so appreciative of the effort invested by all 19 cities and the County!" states Lynda Deschambault, Executive Director at Contra Costa County Climate Leaders. "Great progress has been made over the years, and we have a great distance still to go, but it is our cities who will lead the way: Local Actions Move the World"

We challenge all cities to follow the leadership of the top three winners.
See Attached.

Mayors Challenge

Rankings and friendly competitions can prove particularly effective when combined with a sharing of best practices on policies that cities around the world are adopting to draw down our carbon emissions.

The Mayors from the Top 3 ranked Contra Costa County cities challenge all Contra Costa County local government leaders in 2021 to the following:

Pass a Declaration of a Climate Emergency

"The 4CL Report Cards are a reminder for Contra Costa leaders and residents of the hard work we're collectively doing to reverse the disastrous effects of climate change. I urge Contra Costa cities to pass a resolution declaring a climate emergency. The time to act on this was yesterday!"

- Mayor Tom Butt, City of Richmond

Promote Renewable Energy for the Built Environment

"The City of El Cerrito is excited to have been ranked 2nd on the list, but there's more work to be done. El Cerrito has already declared a Climate Emergency, and encourages other cities to do the same. Further, El Cerrito invites all cities in opting up to 100% renewable energy and is pursuing an Expanded Food Ware Ordinance in 2021."

- Mayor Paul Fadelli, City of Richmond

Install and Update Climate Action Plans

"Walnut Creek has proudly been a leader in Climate Action for years, becoming one of the first cities to have all city-owned buildings be powered by 100% MCE Deep Green clean energy. One of our city priorities is updating our Climate Action Plan for 2030. We encourage all (Local Governments) to put their own climate action plans into place, as we work to combat this existential crisis."

- Mayor Kevin Wilk, City of Walnut Creek