

Location: City of Redwood City

Issue: Climate Protection Dialogues

Methodology: Facilitated Meetings

Davenport Institute: 2009 Public Engagement Grant Recipient

In preparing its 2020 Climate Action Plan – with a goal of reducing carbon emission levels by 15% - Redwood City established a 12-member citizen Climate Advisory Team.

While the Climate Advisory team set standards and a course of action, the City knew that goals could not be reached without active community participation. To that end, the city offered the plan up for review through a series of facilitated dialogues. Residents met to discuss the plan in small groups and consider what the community could commit to in reaching the goals. The Climate Action Plan was connected at several points to the General Plan.

Deputy City Manger Magda Gonzalez explained, “A culminating World Café will bring participants from each of the climate dialogues together with organizations working on climate protection. The Café will extend the conversation, connecting the wealth of perspectives heard during the dialogues. It will also be an opportunity for community members to come together with organizations and community groups to identify resources and commit to taking action to implement the Climate Action Plan.”

Phases

Working with Shauna Wilson-Mora from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, the City hosted a number of workshops focused on four main streams that feed into the overall climate action strategy:

1. Building Community
2. Transportation and Land Use
3. Built Environment
4. Urban Ecology
5. Waste Reduction and Recycling

On each subject the public was engaged first at the informational level, and then presented with a variety of strategies that could be implemented in order to reach certain goals in GHG reduction.

Outcomes

On March, 2010, the [Redwood City Climate Action](#) plan approved by Council.