

# Local Solutions to Global Warming



*In order to achieve the State's goal to significantly reduce global warming pollution, responsible decisions need to be made to reduce driving and promote more efficient, livable communities. The choices made in local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions.*

## Benefits

**Helps address root causes of transportation pollution.** Poorly planned irresponsible development is driving global warming pollution – half of the global warming pollution in the entire state.



**Protects farm and forest land.** Poorly planned development is the leading cause of farm and forest conversion – another contributor to global warming.



**Increases buildings and energy efficiency.** About 25 to 30 percent of total U.S. energy consumption is used for building operations- such as heating and cooling. Integrating green building design into more compact communities can reduce building energy consumption by up to 50% at little additional cost.

## Legislative Proposal

*Local Solutions to Global Warming* would add a goal of reducing climate impact to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and identify reducing global warming as an important aspect of comprehensive planning.

**Local leadership:** Local jurisdictions representing nearly 70% of the state's population have committed to major reductions in their global warming pollution. A coordinated statewide effort will provide local governments with the necessary support to use existing tools to significantly reduce their climate impact.

**Hitting the mark:** Planning cities with more than 30,000 people and counties with more than 50,000 people would be required to: 1) Evaluate decisions that increase emissions and determine how best to reduce those impacts; 2) Evaluate current emissions and impacts of future decisions; 3) Include plans to achieve the state's global warming pollution reduction goals in their comprehensive planning process.

**Flexibility:** This new required element will be phased-in during the next update cycle starting in 2011 (happens every seven years for these counties and cities). For smaller cities and counties this climate action will be voluntary. Each local government will have the flexibility to determine how to reach the goal of reduced climate impact.

**Real solutions:** Encouraging more compact and transit oriented development in urban growth areas; Focusing growth in areas with transit options; Establishing transfer of development right programs to protect forests and farmland; Encouraging use of new technologies that reduce global warming pollution and increase efficiency; Providing more urban forest investments.