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Shrinking Sacramento's Carbon Footprint: Keys to Success *Brookings Institution Report Ranks 100 Metro Areas on Carbon Emissions*

The Sacramento region ranks 12th in lowest per person carbon emissions among the top 100 metropolitan areas of the country, meaning much work has been done locally to shrink our carbon footprint. Even more work remains, according to Sacramento County Supervisor Roger Dickinson. "The Brookings Report reinforces Sacramento County's current efforts to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions from highway transportation and residential energy use," Dickinson notes. "Equally important is that it underscores the need for federal authorities to recognize and support the work at the local level. It is in the cities and counties where critical steps must be taken to combat climate change, and the key to success will be in a local-federal partnership to achieve our goals."

Sacramento County is currently conducting its own comprehensive emissions inventory, which will use even more detailed and localized data sources than used in the Brookings report. The report found that Sacramentans on average emitted 1.768 tons of carbon from highway transportation and residential use in 2005. This compares with 2.6 tons of carbon on average for Americans overall.

Sacramento has played a leadership role in combating climate change, and took another step forward this week when the Board of Supervisors voted to become a part of the "Cool Counties" initiative. Member counties pledge to take internal steps to conserve energy and reduce their own carbon footprint, and continue the push for federal support of local efforts. Dickinson, a founding member of the Climate Communities coalition, is urging support for U.S. Senate approval of the Lieberman-Warner Climate Change Security Act, which would set landmark national carbon emission targets. More importantly, it would include federal funding to support local actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"America cannot meet the global warming challenge without new national legislation and significant federal support for initiatives that only cities and counties can provide," Dickinson states. "There are major greenhouse gas reductions to be achieved at the local level, through green buildings, renewable energy, clean transportation and sustainable community development." The report found that nearly 40% of U.S. carbon emissions are generated by energy use in residential and commercial buildings, placing cities and counties in exactly the right position to impact emissions with energy efficient policies.

The Brookings Institution Report, *Shrinking the Carbon Footprint of Metropolitan America*, can be found at <http://www.brookings.edu/>.

