

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Fremont Releases Open Letter to Fremont Community
Letter Reaffirms City's Commitment to Fight against Climate Change

Fremont, Calif. – June 6, 2017 – City of Fremont Mayor Lily Mei today released the following letter reaffirming the City's continued leadership in environmental sustainability:

June 6, 2017

An Open Letter to the Fremont Community:

As Mayor of the City of Fremont, and on behalf of the entire City Council, I'd like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the City's commitment to the fight against climate change. We understand that the threats of global warming are real and thus we remain steadfast in our ambitious goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieving community-wide sustainability. Fremont will continue to demonstrate strong leadership in these efforts.

Fremont's commitment to climate action planning and implementation dates back to 2006 when the City signed onto the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol goals of reducing human-emitted greenhouse gases. In 2011, the City's award-winning General Plan put forth the vision for Fremont to serve as a national model of how an auto-oriented suburb can evolve into a sustainable, strategically urban, modern city. By 2012, Council adopted the City's first Climate Action Plan, setting a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent from a 2005 baseline by the year 2020 and providing a roadmap for these reductions. In December 2015, Fremont was a signatory to the Compact of Mayors, an agreement by cities around the world to reduce GHG emissions and enhance resilience; the Compact of Mayors is now known as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

Some notable examples of Fremont's leadership in this area include:

- **Solar Friendly Initiatives** such as the reduction in solar permitting fees, over-the-counter solar plan review, discounted solar purchasing through the Bay Area SunShares program, and most recently the adoption of a mandatory solar ordinance for new residential construction.
- **Solar projects** at City facilities including the installation of solar carports at the Police Building Complex, Aqua Adventure Waterpark, Irvington Community Center, and Maintenance Center.
- **Zero emissions vehicle** readiness planning, including the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations and requirements for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new single-family, multifamily, and non-residential developments.
- Support and encouragement of **waste reduction** efforts through education, incentives, and technical assistance for recycling and food waste capture in the residential and business sectors.
- Creation of a **Sustainability Commission** to advise the Council on emerging policy issues related to environmental sustainability.
- Implementation of a **comprehensive energy and water savings project** to upgrade all City-owned streetlights, park lights, and facility lights to the most efficient LED technologies, as well as to upgrade the efficiency of City plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems.

Sustainability is not only a strong value in this community but also an important driver of our economy. With over 50 cleantech companies in Fremont, we as a City are supporting innovation across the entire smart grid value chain. Fremont is a recognized pioneer in the cleantech economy, with our semiconductor roots paving the way for today's advances in everything from LEDs and energy storage to solar and electric vehicles. As an example of our long-term commitment, for nearly a decade, we have offered a business tax exemption for cleantech companies, as a gesture of our partnership in their growth. And the City maintains strong ties to industry associations, such as the Cleantech Open, California Clean Energy Fund, and GreenBiz, to champion the causes of cleantech industries in our region and beyond.

To further signal Fremont's dedication to continue efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate the impacts of global warming, I recently signed onto a coalition statement to the domestic and international community that speaks to the urgency of staving off climate change and shows our continued support for the Paris Climate Accord. You can find the full statement online at www.WeAreStillIn.com, which includes a growing list of city leaders, governors, universities, and businesses as its signatories. Additionally, I signed the "Mayor's for 100% Clean Energy," an initiative of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign and viewable at www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/mayors-for-clean-energy, and the "We are Climate Mayors," which is an initiative of the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA) and viewable at <https://medium.com/@ClimateMayors/climate-mayors-commit-to-adopt-honor-and-uphold-paris-climate-agreement-goals-ba566e260097>.

How Can You Help?

Finally, understanding that everyone can make choices that will greatly reduce our global warming impacts, I invite the entire community (residents, businesses, and schools) to join us in taking steps to stop global warming. By reducing excessive consumption, using clean and renewable energy resources, buying locally produced products, and recycling, reusing, and composting our waste, we will continue to pave the way for a more vibrant and healthier future, sustaining the planet for generations to come. Join the Fremont Green Challenge and help create a clean, vibrant, and healthy future for our families. Visit this local climate action engagement platform at www.FremontGreenChallenge.org to learn more.

For more information about the City of Fremont's environmental sustainability efforts go to www.Fremont.gov/Sustainability.

Sincerely,



Lily Mei
Mayor

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