

NEW STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION RECOGNIZES SACOG

Sacramento region's Blueprint Study a model for changing growth patterns

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SACRAMENTO – Meeting the growing demand for conveniently located homes in walkable neighborhoods could significantly reduce the growth in the number of miles Americans drive, shrinking the nation's carbon footprint while giving people more housing choices, according to a team of urban planning researchers.

Researchers conclude in *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change* that development patterns are both a key contributor to climate change and an essential factor in combating it. The Sacramento region is highlighted as a model for land use planning and civic engagement. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments led the Blueprint Transportation and Land Use Study, and is currently working to implement the plan, which looks at the six-county region's growth through 2050.

According to the report, the Sacramento region's growth visioning exercise is one of the best examples in the country. SACOG used extensive public outreach process, cutting-edge Internet-accessible planning software, and a detailed business-as-usual baseline growth forecast to help participants to explore alternative growth scenarios through 2050. The adopted preferred scenario features sophisticated infill development and transportation investments that will produce 12.3 fewer daily vehicle-miles of travel per household by 2050, a 27 percent reduction below the baseline.

SACOG is doing its part to address climate change by encouraging new land uses and offering the Blueprint as a tool for local governments in reducing carbon emissions. Additionally, SACOG is quantifying the emissions associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035. This is a 28-year plan that combines new strategies and investments to implement the Blueprint that will look to implement all feasible means of minimizing carbon emissions.

The executive summary, full white paper, and regional data on VMT growth are available at:
www.support.smartgrowthamerica.org/growing_cooler

Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change was coordinated by Smart Growth America and involved leading urban planning researchers at the University of Maryland, the University of Utah, Fehr and Peers Associates, the Center for Clean Air Policy and the Urban Land Institute.

SACOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Sacramento region responsible for coordinated transportation planning and project delivery for the six-county region. The SACOG Board of Directors includes elected officials from Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. For more information, please contact SACOG Communications Manager Rebecca Thornton Sloan at (916) 321-9000.

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