From:	Emily Bit
To:	Dillon, Diane; Gregory, Ryan
Cc:	Cortez, Nelson
Subject:	Proposal for Napa County's 2021 Policy Platform
Date:	Friday, October 30, 2020 10:06:43 AM

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October 30, 2020

To: Napa County Legislative Committee
From: Alisa Karesh and Emily Bit, Representatives of Napa Schools for Climate Action
Re: Proposal for Napa County's 2021 Policy Platform

Dear Legislative Committee members,

In wake of recent events, Napa Schools for Climate Action (S4CA) would like to submit the following list of bold regulatory and legislative actions needed to mitigate the rapidly worsening climate emergency.

Nearly one year ago, Isabel Martin, the former President of Napa Schools for Climate Action, sent this same list of actions to be considered for the 2020 Policy Platform of Napa County. We respectfully inquire, *what changes have been implemented since this request? What improvements can be recorded?*

The only amendment we have made to these vital actions can be seen in number 1. Last year we needed a 10% annual reduction in radiative forcing levels, and we now need **11%**. This serves as a prime example that as time passes us by, climate change will *not* halt and our situation will only grow worse. It is understandable that other issues (with solutions seeming closer in reach) are prioritized, but what will be the point of new laws, ballot measures, etc when life as we know it will no longer be sustainable on Earth? *What will be left to govern?* Thank you for your time and consideration, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing your impact.

Sincerely,

Emily Bit & Alisa Karesh
Co-Presidents of Schools For Climate Action
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The Issue:

We are in a climatic and ecological emergency of existential proportions. This ongoing climate crisis has made its way into all of our lives, harming every single thing that contributes to the enrichment of Napa County--the agriculture, wildlife, communities, *and* citizens. As years pass, the impact of global warming only increases.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, “We are on the brink of missing the opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5°C. (Emissions Gap Report 2019)”. Ten years ago, we only needed to reduce our emissions by 3% annually, today that number is nearly 8%. Every single day that we delay, the likelihood of reaching our goal decreases.

In May of 2019, NVUSD adopted its aggressive "Call to Climate Change Action" resolution. The following month, Napa County adopted the "County-wide Commitment to Address Climate Change." A year ago, Napa County joined each of the five municipal governments in the county to form the Climate Action Committee.

Although our cities have taken baby steps in the right direction, we no longer have the time to stand by idly, watching our beloved planet burn (quite literally, and figuratively). We *must* wake up, hold ourselves accountable, and act *NOW*, or forever regret not doing so.

Action Items:

Pursue state and federal legislation/funding for immediate emergency action to achieve the goals of:

1. 11% reduction, per annum, in radiative forcing levels associated with excess trapped heat, the worst negative impacts of which will be borne by today’s children.
    a. Prioritize short-lived climate pollutant elimination.

2. Net zero climate pollution by or before 2030.

a. Enhanced carbon sequestration by preventing deforestation and restoring healthy ecosystems.
b. 100% engagement in carbon farming methods.
c. 100% renewable energy, net zero energy buildings, electrification of transportation and industry.
d. Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and tax breaks, and divestment from publicly traded fossil fuel companies.
e. Lead climate emergency mobilization efforts on a scale even larger than that of WWII to reverse global warming and prevent further catastrophe.