



public health
law & policy

Opportunities For Action: *Improving Health Through Climate Change Policy*

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Outline of today's presentation

- **Climate policy in California**
- **Opportunities for involvement**
- **Discussion of public health role**



Public Health Threats



Adaptation (Preparedness Planning)

2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy

A Report to the Governor of the State of
California in Response to Executive Order S-13-08



Make adjustments to human and natural systems to respond to actual or expected climate impacts to minimize harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities

www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/index.html

Preparation is not enough

Because our actions are causing the problem, we must change our actions to solve the problem.

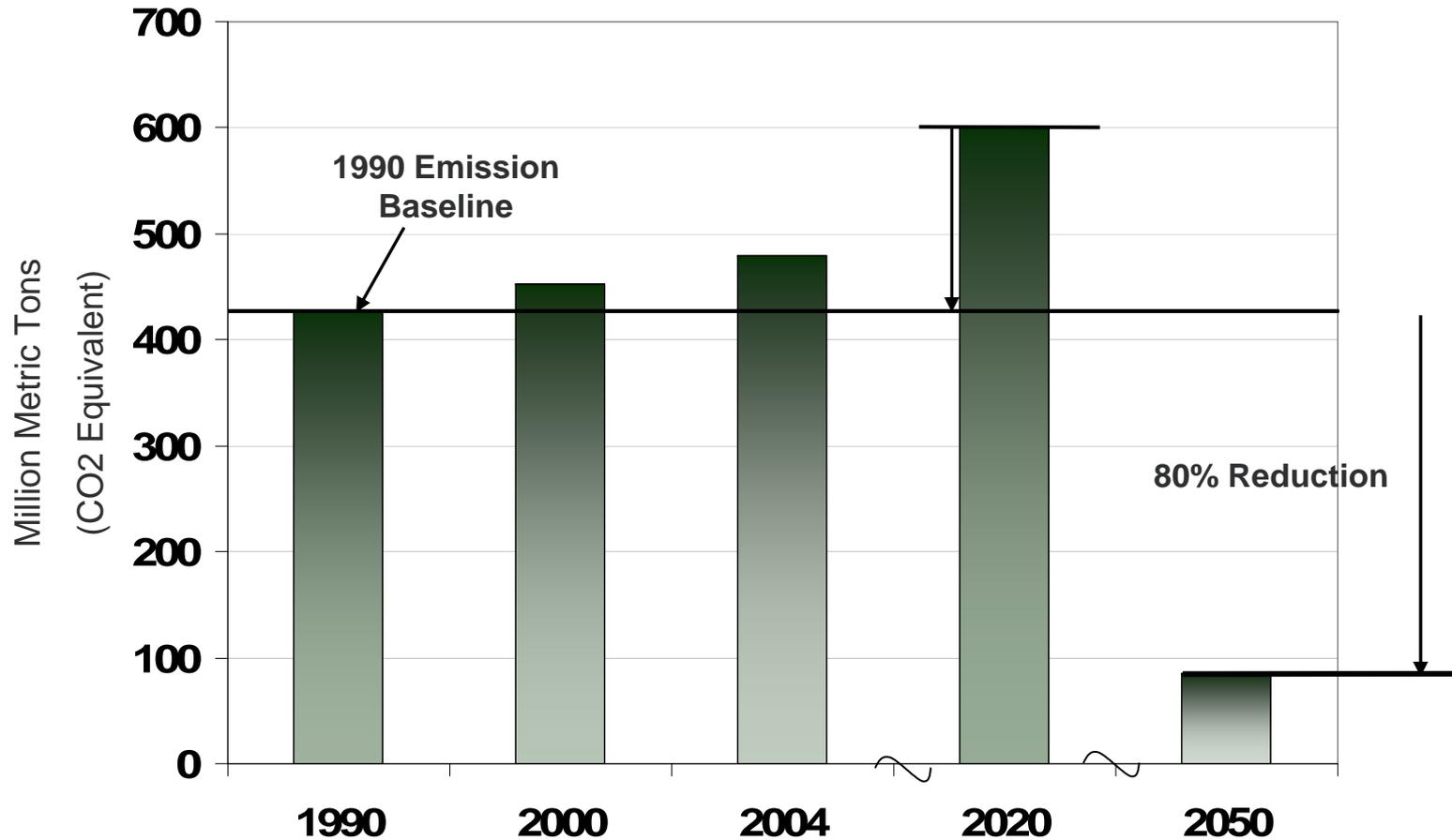
Mitigation (Prevention)



www.flickr.com/people/15199494@N04 David J

Action to permanently eliminate or reduce the source of greenhouse gas emissions to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life, property, and natural ecosystems

Magnitude of the challenge



How do we get there?



- **Governor's Executive Orders**

- Greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Climate Action Team



- **State Laws**

- AB 32 – *Global Warming Solutions Act*
- SB 375 – *Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act*
- SB 732 – *Strategic Growth Council*

California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 375)

- **Sustainable Community Strategies integrate:**
 - Transportation funding,
 - Land use planning,
 - Housing allocations, and
 - Greenhouse gas reduction goals



A Public Health Opportunity

- **What if we could...?**
 - Improve health outcomes
 - and**
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Take Action

- 1. Begin work on climate change now**
- 2. Communicate the public health message**
- 3. Advocate to protect vulnerable populations**
- 4. Build capacity to become involved**



1. Work on climate policy

- **Increase physical activity**
 - Change transportation and land use planning
 - Participate in Sustainable Communities Strategy process (SB 375)



1. Work on climate policy (cont.)

- **Improve access to healthy foods**
 - Create sustainable, local food systems
 - Make fresh and nutritious food affordable



3. Communicate the Message

Threats



Opportunities



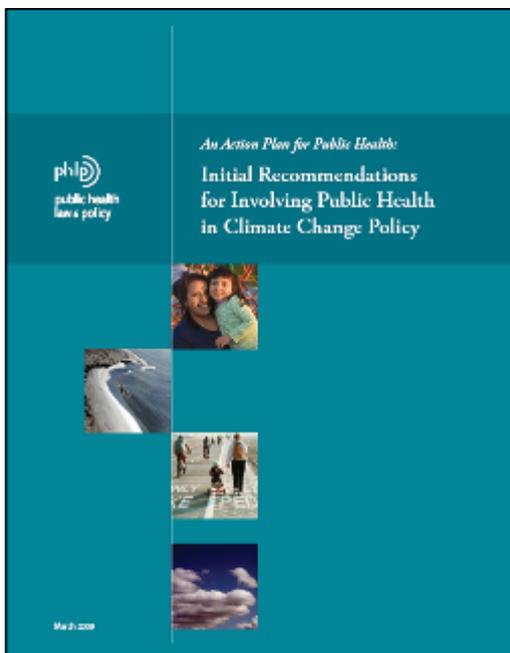
4. Advocate for Vulnerable Communities

- **Ensure safeguards to protect health**
 - Conduct Health Impact Assessments of policies
 - Support Community Benefits Fund (AB 1405)



5. Build capacity to become involved

- Learn more
 - Review recommendations in *Action Plan*
 - Attend trainings and informational meetings



PHLP's Climate Change Work

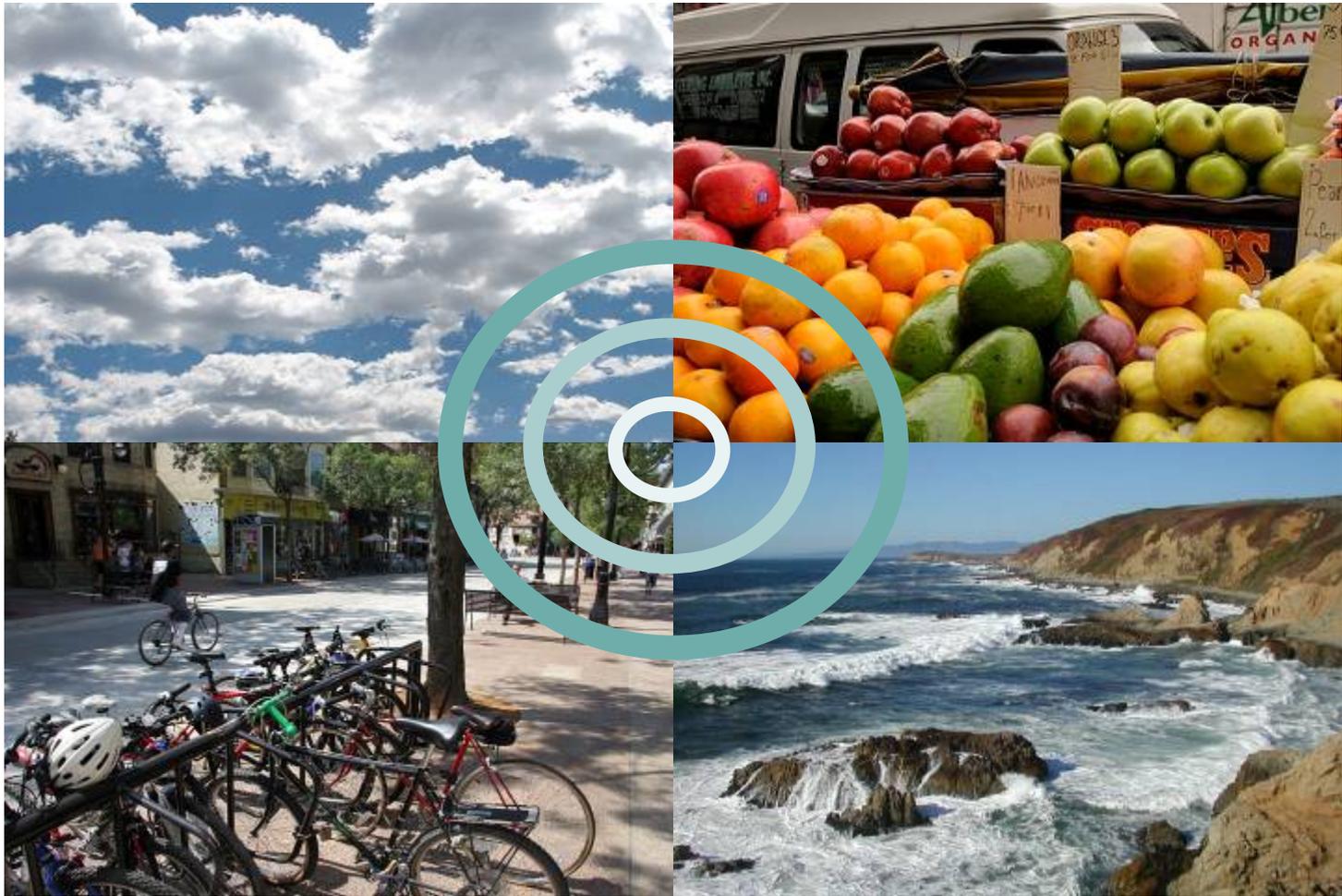
- Engage public health community
- Offer trainings and presentations
- Provide informational resources

www.phlpnet.org/climate-change

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Public Health's Role



The connections are clear. Action is urgent!

Ignorance is no excuse for us. There is overwhelming scientific evidence of global warming, its causes, and many of its implications. Today's generations will be accountable, and how tall we stand remains to be determined. There is still time, but just barely.

James Hansen