

Rick Row
8-10-2

Statement by Rick Row, Executive Director, Sustainable Silicon Valley to Air Resources Board

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Good morning. I am Rick Row, the executive director, of Sustainable Silicon Valley, a non-profit company. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to give testimony this morning.

Sustainable Silicon Valley's **mission** is leading the Silicon Valley community to create a more sustainable future. We do this by engaging and collaborating with local government agencies, businesses, and community organizations to identify and help address the highest priority environmental issues in the Valley. Yahoo! became our 100th partner this week.

In support of SSV's first major environmental initiative, the CO2 Emissions Reduction Initiative, each partner voluntarily pledges to work towards self imposed goals of reducing carbon dioxide, and to report their progress to SSV each year. An analysis of this information is reported in an SSV annual report. This year's report was released this week and is available on our website at www.sustainablesiliconvalley.org.

A subset of our partners, who have reported on their CO2 emissions by electricity and natural gas usage in their facilities for each year from 2000 to 2007, have successfully reduced these emissions by an average 27 percent over these years, over twice the regional reduction during this time. The year 2000 was a peak year for CO2 emissions for the Silicon Valley region during the 18 years since 1990, and we need to see a 12 percent reduction from this peak to return the region back to its 1990 CO2 emissions level. Given the mix of CO2 emissions from electricity, natural gas and gasoline in our region, if the whole region had have been able to achieve the 27% reduction of our partners for emissions from electricity and natural gas, and held emissions from vehicles held constant, then the region would have met its "fair share" of the State's 2020 goal by 2007, more than a decade ahead of time.

Moreover, if this rate of emission reductions from natural gas and electricity were matched by all entities in the State, and the emissions from vehicles just held level—and the Scoping Plan is to do better than that, then California would have already realized AB 32's 2020 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. These reductions also create significant cost savings, reduced risk in anticipation of a greenhouse gas cap and trade system, and improved brand value, all of which provide companies with a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

In summary, if the average organization in California emulated the leading organizations, Sustainable Silicon Valley's partners, then California would have already reached the 2020 goal and have improved their and California's economic competitiveness at the same time.