

From: [Liliana Karesh](#)
To: [Mize, Andrew](#)
Subject: Napa Schools for Climate Action, Legislative Platform Suggestions 2025
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:40:08 AM
Attachments: [2025 Platform Napa S4CA recommendations.docx.pdf](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Good morning,

Please carefully look at our suggestions, which are attached below. We appreciate your efforts!

Sincerely,



Liliana Karesh (she/her/hers)

Napa High School, Senior, Class of 2025

[Napa Schools for Climate Action](#) President

5th Cohort, U.S. Youth Action Council for the UN Ocean

Decade

Institute for Youth In Policy, Policy Analyst Intern

Founder of the Youth Civic Leadership Program

Sierra Club & Congressman Thompson Intern

Civics Unplugged Fall Fellowship Candidate

Yale Young Global Scholar 2024



November 3, 2024

To: Legislative Subcommittee Members

Re: Comments on Draft Platform – agenda item 8, second draft, 11/4/24 meeting
[2025 State and Federal Legislative and Regulatory Platform](#)

Napa Schools for Climate Action appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Legislative Platform:

Guiding Principles

- Napa County has declared that a climate emergency exists, and that it threatens our county, region, state, nation, and the natural world. The county also has set a target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
 - Recommendation: In recognition of the climate emergency, and existential threats resulting from its underestimation, and delays in implementing countermeasures at the required speed and scale, add a Guiding Principle:

Napa County encourages and supports legislation to enact emergency-scale climate action to rapidly reduce heat-trapping pollution and opposes legislation that results in additional climate pollution.

Areas of Interest

- Agricultural & Natural Resources: The draft recommends that the Legislative Platform:
 - Recommendation: While protections for agricultural and natural lands need to be considered as negative climate effects continue to mount, agricultural and natural lands also must be part of the solution. Please consider a revision, such as the following, for page 6 and 7:

Protect and enhance agricultural and natural lands as near-term net carbon sinks.

Address stability and continuity in the state's agricultural industry when considering climate action bills aimed at rapidly cutting climate pollution.

Climate Action & Resiliency

- The draft has removed the 2024 platform statement:
 - *The county further supports measures that will safeguard its most vulnerable residents, including children, ...*
 - Please restore this pledge of support. It gives us hope that we are important, and that needed change is imminent. Moreover, the draft lists only several climate measures. One attempts to justify retaining fossil fuel infrastructure. This approach would delay a speedy conversion to a fossil free future, given state and federal help, and sends the wrong message. It could be considered greenwashing, if the county announced a 2030 net zero target, but appears to be reluctant to pursue bold climate policy action to achieve the goal. Please consider the following revision, for page 8:

Ban new fossil fuel infrastructure, and aggressively pursue all means to convert existing fossil fuel infrastructure, including county vehicles, to renewable energy.

Public Protection

- The draft states:
 - *The safety and well-being of Napa County residents are of paramount importance and the County remains committed to expanding its emergency preparation, driven by the increasing frequency and severity of disaster events. The County's emergency preparation efforts, including hazard mitigation and fire suppression, are designed specifically in response to wildfire events that pose grave threats to both life and property.*
 - We agree that increasing fire risks are a major challenge, especially in our area. The way fires are prevented, and the way vegetation is managed, has to be done in a way that does not create further climate pollution, which exacerbates heating and its impacts. Fighting the aftermath of climate-fueled disasters is sure to lose. Public protection should be more than preparedness and resilience, but also take actions that stop and draw down climate pollution that causes the disasters.
 - May we please recommend that this be made clear? The wording on page 14 can be changed to reflect this, for example:

- o The safety and well-being of Napa County residents are of paramount importance and the County remains committed to expanding its emergency preparation, driven by the increasing frequency and severity of disaster events. The County's emergency preparation prioritizes actions that actually reduce heat trapping climate pollutants. They also include hazard mitigation and fire suppression, are designed specifically in response to wildfire events that pose grave threats to both life and property.*

In conclusion, we are asking for bold climate leadership. The 2025 State and Federal Legislative and Regulatory Platform should make it clear that Napa County has declared a climate emergency and intends to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. We want to see ambition, action, and results at the level that science demands. To achieve the 2030 goal, we need the state and federal governments to acknowledge our 2030 goal and their obligation to help us with legislation and funds that will achieve these ambitious emissions reductions. Reducing climate pollution right away will reduce suffering for all, especially for our younger people. Our future is in your hands, and we depend on you to make the right decisions to protect us now and in the future.