



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area

www.lwvbayarea.org



VOTER
December, 2011

COME TO BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY!

Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4, 9 am to 2 pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland

685 14th Street at Clay

Oakland, CA 94612



DAVID ROSEN, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing, finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning will be the keynote speaker.

Three panels will look at the problems facing housing today including

- * implementation of SB 375,
- * sources and uses of public money,
- * difficulties of community support.

In addition there will be panels of experts on

- * meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities' strategy,
- * difficulties of financing affordable housing,
- * how to serve the hardest to house.

There will be time for questions from the audience during each panel.

Cost: In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch); at the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch).

To register please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to editor@bayareamonitor.org.



Nominations Sought for Transportation Awards

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is seeking nominations for the 30th Transportation Awards to recognize the people, organizations and agencies that are improving the way we move around the nine-county region.

Is your company promoting alternatives to driving alone? Know an organization working on smart growth or climate-friendly behaviors? Do you look forward to riding the bus because of an exceptionally friendly and helpful bus driver? Nominations for the transportation awards will be accepted until March 31, 2012. To submit a nomination online and/or to learn more about the program, visit http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/awards/index.htm or call (510) 817.5757.

Winners will be acknowledged at a ceremony to be held in October 2012.



International Energy Agency: World Headed for Irreversible Climate Change in Five Years

Bold and urgent action is needed to replace fossil fuel infrastructure with non-carbon alternatives to avoid dangerous and irreversible global temperature rise above 2 degrees Celsius according to the International Energy Agency. "I am very worried," IEA Chief Economist Faith Boril told The Guardian newspaper upon the release of IEA's World Energy Outlook 2011 in London. "If we don't change direction now on how we use energy we will end up beyond what scientists tell us is [safe]. The door will be closed forever." IEA deputy executive director Richard Jones said time is running out because of slow progress on carbon capture and sequestration.

To stay below 2C of warming, the upper limit of safety according to scientists, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be limited to 450 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Environmental journalist Bill McKibbin's organization 350.org says the limit is 350 ppm. The current level is about 390 ppm. China and the U.S. are the world's two biggest emitters.

Some 80 percent of GHGs are emitted into the atmosphere via the world's existing infrastructure in transportation, electricity and heat, industry, agriculture, and land-use changes such as deforestation.

According to IEA reports:

- Transport accounts for about one-quarter of global energy use and energy-related CO2 emissions. In absence of new policies, transport energy use and related CO2 emissions are projected to increase by nearly 50 percent by 2030 and by more than 80 percent by 2050.

- Nearly 70% of electricity is generated from fossil fuels: coal (42% of generated power globally in 2007); gas (21%); hydro (16%); nuclear (14%); oil (6%); and non-hydro-renewables (2%). As a result, electricity accounts for 40% of global energy-related CO2 emissions; these emissions will grow by 58% globally by 2030 unless new policy measures are introduced.

- In 2005, world CO2 emissions from fuel combustion were 27.1 Gigatons and are projected to increase by almost 60 percent to 42 Gt in 2030 if policies don't change.

Faster rates of improvement will be needed to meet the goal of cutting GHGs from new cars by 50 percent by 2030 when compared to 2005 levels, according to

IEA's report released December 2 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa. The report shows a 1.7 percent annual improvement in the fuel economy of cars in the EU and 21 other sampled countries over a three-year period (2005-2008), which is well below the 2.7 percent annual improvement needed from 2005 to 2030 to halve vehicle CO2 emissions. The countries in the study account for about 90 percent of global new car sales.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2011 continues until December 9. The annual conference brings together representatives from the world's governments, international organizations and civil society to discuss and advance implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements, agreed to by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The ultimate decision-making party of the Convention is the COP, which meets each year to review implementation of the Convention.

The IEA was formed in response to the 1970s energy crisis. The 28 member countries of the IEA include the U.S., Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and two-thirds of the EU as well as relations with the non-member, oil-producing countries of Russia, India and China. IEA member countries hold oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of net oil imports and stand ready to take cooperative energy-related measures to meet an oil supply emergency.

Read more about the IEA warnings and reports.

Find the full Guardian article here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/09/fossil-fuel-infrastructure-climate-change>

Gail Schickele
LWVBA Board Member

A **California Water ListServe** link is available to members on the LWVC Website. The link provides an educational place and forum for those interested in California water to post articles and to discuss regional and inter-regional water issues be shared by all. To access the site, go to LWVC.org and define yourself as a member. After the member site opens up, scroll down to Communications, to ListServes, then to California Water ListServe. Subscribe if you wish. www.lwvc.org