

Sonoma County is a Green Solutions Incubator
Celebration Remarks, Ann Hancock, Center for Climate Protection
June 25, 2015

We've got just the right people to celebrate – YOU!
We've got just the right place – thank you Sonoma Land Trust.
We've got just the right party partners – Ygrene!
We've got just the right speakers, as you'll hear!
We've got just the right crew!

I salute the Board, staff, volunteers, interns, advisors, and supporters of the Center for Climate Protection. One of the reasons we're celebrating is that our crew just got bigger with our marriage with Solar Sonoma County. We're thrilled by this union.

Sonoma County is a Green Solutions Incubator. We create model programs for communities everywhere.

Why Sonoma County? We've got the people who are caring, innovative, big picture thinkers.

Since 2001, we've forged a powerful collaboration among government, business, youth, and the community at large.

I'm going to focus on business for the moment...

- First Community Bank – They financed Sonoma Clean Power and sponsored this event.
- Redwood Credit Union – They put on huge solar array on their headquarters, and were voted best US credit union.
- North Bay Corporation – Lou Ratto is electrifying his garbage trucks using a cutting-edge technology.
- Sonoma Compost – Has provided Sonoma County with green recycling and organic compost services for years.
- Brad Baker has made Sonoma Mountain Village a One Planet Community including one of the largest rooftop solar arrays in the county.
- Speaking of solar – Sonoma Wine Company, BoDean, Keysight, Jackson Family Wines, Soiland Corporation, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery, Marimar Estates, Sonoma County Water Agency, the county, the cities are just some of the solar leaders in our community.
- Beyers Costin Simon –Big supporters of our work for the last two years.
- I'm excited by two companies that are forging new green solution business models, notably Ygrene and California Clean Power. These companies are taking solutions incubated in Sonoma County and applying business savvy and funding to scale them far and wide.

The handout we prepared for today has the key graph from our 2014 GHG report for Sonoma County. You're the first to see it.

The graph shows that in 2013 emissions started to rise after going down for several years. But then in 2014, when Sonoma Clean Power started serving customers, emissions edged back down. I predict that in 2015 when Sonoma Clean Power has a larger share of Sonoma County customers, we'll see emissions reduced even further.

The graph also shows how far we are from our 2015 goal. For all our achievements and leadership, it's not enough.

So what can we do?

- Become Evergreen customers
- Switch to electric vehicles
- Support the Center for Climate Protection – your support makes our work happen
- Spread the word
- Be inspired by the Pope!
- See our handout for more suggestions.