



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*

## Climate Change News December 2009

Including [Campaign Updates](#), [Taking Action for the Sierra](#), [Adaptation Spotlights](#), [Relevant News Articles](#), [Useful Reports and Resources](#) and [Cool Websites and Blogs](#)

(click on the links to jump to a section)

### Campaign Updates

#### **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Adopts Vital Regional Climate Action Plan**

The Sierra Nevada Alliance would like to congratulate and thank the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board and Staff for providing the leadership, vision and forum for regional action on climate change. Conservancy Board and Staff worked closely with Sierra Nevada Alliance staff and other stakeholders across the range to produce a far reaching and broadly supported regional climate action plan that will help the range reduce its emissions and ensure the resilience of our communities and natural resources.

Some highlights from the Sierra Conservancy Climate Action Plan include:

- Creates a Sierra Nevada Climate Action Team.
- Addresses key regional issues including fire, forestry, watersheds, energy, wildlife and community quality of life as they relate to climate change.
- Identifies short and mid-term goals.
- Provides a process for an annual review and a bi-annual update of the plan.
- Identifies potential regional and local partners and points of collaboration.
- Provides an SNC staff person/Climate Change Coordinator to oversee the implementation of the plan and coordinate with the Climate Action Team and other partners.
- Provides assistance from the SNC Funding and Resource Coordinator to identify and circulate funding opportunities to achieve the goals/objectives/strategies/actions of the SN CAP.

Check out the SNC's Climate Action Plan and other climate change activities online:

[http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/climate\\_change.html](http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/climate_change.html)

[\*\*NEW Climate Change Case Studies Publication from the Sierra Nevada Alliance!\*\*](#)

This issue of the Alliance's quarterly Climate Change Case Studies examines the efforts of a small New

### Events

**January 30 [Planning and Conservation League's 2010 Environmental Legislative Symposium](#)** Greening California's Landscape: Smart Solutions for a New Era. Click on the link for more information and a full agenda.

**February 9-11 [2010 Pre and Post-Wild Fire Forest Management for Ecological Restoration and Fire Resiliency](#)** at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. See the website for more details.

**March 16-17 [2010 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Tahoe Basin Science Conference](#)**. The conference is accepting abstracts until December 1. Contact Jonathan Long [jwlong@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwlong@fs.fed.us).

England town and a Canadian non-profit organization that are each actively working to incorporate the following into their local land use planning: 1) information on possible climate change impacts, 2) strategies to reduce emissions, and 3) adaptation tactics to address the unavoidable changes in climate. This quarterly publication is meant to provide Sierra resource managers, decision-makers and others, possible models and tactics that can be replicated to protect and restore the Sierra's natural environment and local communities.

There are no cookie cutter solutions for reducing greenhouse gases nor planning how to adapt to climate change that will work for every region and community of the Sierra. There are, however, many existing strategies and pilot projects from the Sierra and farther afield that offer advice and wisdom and can be modified to address local conditions and needs. If you would like to share a project or plan that you believe to be an exemplary model for the Sierra, please contact the Sierra Nevada Alliance so that we can share your success with others who hunger for examples. In the meantime, the Sierra Nevada Alliance will maintain its commitment to reducing emissions and planning for climate change adaptation by continuing to search for and to bring useful examples and lessons learned to Sierra organizations, agencies and decision-makers.

Link to the Publication: [http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/db/pics/1261513925\\_16021.f\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/db/pics/1261513925_16021.f_pdf.pdf)  
**To share your success story**, please contact Marion Gee, Program Associate, 530-542-4546 ext. 320, [marion@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:marion@sierranevadaalliance.org)

## **Taking Action for the Sierra!**

### **Sierra License Plate Campaign and Marketing Intern**

The Alliance is launching a new campaign, which seeks to

- Inform Californians about the new Sierra Nevada License Plate. This new plate will benefit the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency dedicated to initiating, encouraging, and supporting efforts to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada.

- Mobilize our network of over 100 partnering groups to help collect license plate pledges and support their efforts.

- Sign up Alliance friends and supporters to get their own plate.

The Alliance is part of a team of partners leading this effort. We need to have 7500 license plates committed to in one year to establish this as a permanent program. Once we reach this goal, all Californians can purchase the plate from DMV showing their love of the Sierra while proceeds help fund tangible projects protecting and improving the Sierra.

#### Position Description

- Help write campaign newsletters and alerts to keep partners updated on the effort.

- Contact Sierra conservation groups around the region to gain new partners.

- Write news releases, opinion editorials and other materials for media outreach.

- Assist in news conferences and organizing media events to gain attention to the campaign.

- Track how many plates are collected, what campaign tactics work the best, and what marketing outreach is effective.

- Write articles and create materials for groups to use in the campaign.

- Do some data entry to ensure campaign partners receive updates and materials.

Intern(s) may work on one or more of the aforementioned activities depending on experience and interest. The Sierra Nevada Alliance has a fun, yet professional office environment and is committed to high quality work. Internship positions are designed to give candidates quality experience and work can be tailored to the interests and goals of the intern. Minimum 10 hours a week in our South Lake Tahoe office, although part-time telecommuting options are available. Start/end dates and hours are flexible. This position is unpaid.

## Application Instructions:

To apply, please submit your resume, contact info and cover letter expressing your interest in this position, what you hope to learn and what you will bring the Sierra Nevada Alliance to Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director at [joan@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:joan@sierranevadaalliance.org). Please feel free to call at 530.542.4546 ext. 307 or email for more information.

## **ADAPTATION SPOTLIGHT: HOMER, ALASKA**

Located 200 miles to the southwest of Anchorage, the City of Homer, Alaska is taking important steps to prepare for the impacts of climate change. As early as January 2007, the city passed a resolution establishing a Global Warming Task Force. Over the next year, the city drafted a Climate Action Plan to identify climate vulnerabilities and action priorities. After the city council ratified the Action Plan, the city contracted with a consulting company to assist in implementing the recommendations in the Plan. Earlier this month, Homer released a [Final Report on the Climate Action Plan Implementation Project](#). The objective of this project is to assist with implementation of the City of Homer Climate Action Plan, with particular emphasis on tasks related to monitoring and reporting of energy/fuel use in City facilities and vehicles, identification and implementation of specific energy/fuel use reduction strategies, development of strategies for public outreach, identification of grant funding opportunities, and identification of strategies to grow the City of Homer Sustainability Fund.

The 2008 Climate Action Plan noted that “adaptation is now...an essential risk-management strategy aimed at reducing the level of damage that might otherwise occur.” Thus, the town is examining a vast array of impact areas to determine where their adaptation dollars would be best spent. The town is assessing its storm runoff systems to make sure that they are capable of handling increased extreme weather events. Homer is also changing its development standards, taking into account new erosion patterns, sea-level rise, and drinking water.

Some large scale concerns this coastal city is actively watching are ocean acidification and warming, which could devastate the local fishing and tourism economies. In addition, the city is monitoring sea-level rise and developing plans for combating higher waters and more intense storm surges. The city pledged to take climate change into consideration in all of its long term plans.

For more information about Homer’s adaptation strategies, head to <http://www.ci.homer.ak.us/>. You can also access the town’s Climate Action Plan directly by clicking here <http://www.ci.homer.ak.us/>.

## **Climate Change News Articles**

### **Sierra**

[Regional lake study points to faster warming](#) by Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee, Dec. 27. Lake Tahoe, Clear Lake and four other large lakes in Northern California and Nevada are warming faster than the surrounding atmosphere, suggesting climate change may affect aquatic environments faster and sooner.

[Low-cost temperature sensors, tennis balls to monitor mountain snowpack](#) Yuba Net, Dec. 26. Professor Jessica Lundquist is using a cost effective and simple method of measuring temperature and snowpack in Yosemite and other regions of the Sierra.

[Fast-melting sooty snow could have impact on State’s water supply](#) by Alex Breitler, Recordnet.com, Dec. 26. New studies are investigating whether wind-blown pollution particles that settle on Sierra snowpack, reduce the snow’s albedo, and cause more rapid melting could be exacerbating the effects of climate change.

### **State**

[DWP pitches solar farm, state park at Owens Lake](#) by Phil Willon, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 18. Los Angeles city officials are drafting a master plan for a proposed solar farm and possibly a state park on Owens Lake, drained nearly a century ago when its water was diverted to the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

[Desert vistas versus solar power](#) by Todd Woody, New York Times. Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced legislation in Congress to create two national monuments in the Mojave Desert by scuttling some 13 big solar plants and wind farms planned for the region.

[Rise in sea levels threatens California ports](#) by Ronald White, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 10. Because of global warming, ocean levels are expected to increase by 16 in. over the next 40 years, causing flooding and endangering state facilities.

[California and Google team up to show effects of climate change](#) by Matthew Emmer, San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 7. The new CalAdapt website includes a Google Earth tool that uses satellite imagery to forecast climate data, sea level rise, wildfire frequency, and snow pack projections for California.

### **National**

[Weather device also tracks greenhouse gas](#) by Kenneth Chang, New York Times, Dec. 15. A satellite instrument designed to improve weather forecasts has provided a wealth of data on the flow of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

[New York energy plan promotes clean alternatives](#) by Mireya Navarro, New York Times, Dec. 15. A New York State board has recommended a plan intended to make energy more affordable, efficient and environmentally friendly while helping to create jobs over the next 10 years.

['Storms of My Grandchildren' book review](#) by Susan Reynolds, LA Times, Dec. 27. A new book from James Hansen is a call for citizens, politicians, and scientists to come together to implement policies that phase out coal emissions by 2030.

[Disproportionate effects of climate change and pollution on disadvantaged communities](#) by Mary Ann Leibert, YubaNet, Dec. 22. Global warming, pollution, and the environmental consequences of energy production impose a greater burden on low-income, disadvantaged communities, and strategies to prevent these inequities are urgently needed.

### **International**

[Climate summit hopes less is more](#) by Jim Tankersley, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 20. The Copenhagen-based summit officially ended with a gentlemen's agreement among the world's largest economies to take steps to curb greenhouse gas emissions, but no formal consensus on the part of the 193 nations present.

[Climate deal cannot ignore rainforests](#) by Daniel Murdiyarto, BBC News, Dec. 17. In light of the fact that deforestation accounts for roughly 20% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, delegates at the Copenhagen summit cannot afford to leave the world's rainforests outside of a global climate agreement.

[Global temperatures could rise more than expected](#) by Yale University, Yuba Net, Dec. 21. Increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide taking place today could have a significantly larger effect on global temperatures than previously thought.

[African leaf-eating primates are 'likely to be wiped out' by climate change](#) by Bournemouth University, Yuba Net, Dec. 18. Monkey species will become 'increasingly at risk of extinction' because of global warming, according to new research.

### **Useful Reports and Resources**

[Eastern Sierra Climate Change Adaptation Workshop](#) materials are now available online. This workshop was a collaborative effort between the Inyo National Forest and the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) as part of the Toolkit Project of the Westwide Climate Initiative. The workshop was held September 22-23, 2009 in Bishop, CA. Go to the website to download the agenda, a list of attendees, and .pdfs of all of the presentations.

[Many Shades of Green](#) by Next 10 provides the most comprehensive green jobs accounting to date, systematically tracking the most recent available data on green companies, job type, location and growth across every sector and region of California. The report serves as a companion to Next 10's *California Green Innovation Index*, and the analysis presented herein builds on the green business analysis published in the *Index* since 2008. The *Index* tracks California's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, implementing innovative public policy, generating technological and business innovation, and growing businesses and jobs that enable the transformation to a more resource-efficient economy.

[Carbon Trading: How it Works and Why it Fails](#) contributes to ongoing debates about the politics of climate change. It attempts to provide a better understanding of the emerging climate justice movement and create relations between different perspectives and spheres of engagement. The dossier also helps shape a future climate and energy politics that humanity is facing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Cool Websites and Blogs**

[The Story of Cap and Trade](#) is a fast-paced look at the leading climate solution being discussed at Copenhagen and on Capitol Hill. Host Annie Leonard introduces the energy traders and Wall Street financiers at the heart of this scheme and reveals the "devils in the details" in current cap and trade proposals: free

permits to big polluters, fake offsets and distraction from what's really required to tackle the climate crisis. If you've heard about cap and trade, but aren't sure how it works (or who benefits), this is the film is for you. [Climate Progress](#) is dedicated to providing the progressive perspective on climate science, climate solutions, and climate politics. It is a project of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Check out the blog for in depth information about climate science, the economics of climate change, feasible climate solutions, and more!

The purpose of the Sierra Nevada Alliance Climate Change Electronic Newsletter is to provide you with relevant information, news, media, events and resources combed from local, state, national and international sources regarding Climate Change. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please feel free to email them to [robert@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:robert@sierranevadaalliance.org).

### **Climate Change Campaign Background**

Climate change is occurring now. The Sierra's precious resources including flora, fauna and rural communities are feeling the impacts now and will continue to be negatively affected unless we make greenhouse gas emissions reduction and adapting resource management practices to climate change high priorities. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is committed to educating the general public, resource planners and community leaders of the Sierra about climate change impacts while empowering them to take the necessary actions to reduce emissions and adapt to this new future. For more info, check out our [Climate Change Campaign Website](#).

To Subscribe to this list, email in [info@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:info@sierranevadaalliance.org) with Subject: Subscribe Climate Change News

To Unsubscribe to this list, email [info@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:info@sierranevadaalliance.org) with Subject: Unsubscribe Climate Change News