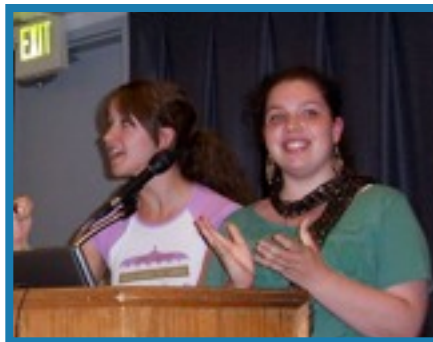




# Cool Schools



Cool Schools recognizes young peoples' desire and ability to create positive change in their community. Cool Schools develops and facilitates classroom-based service learning projects, engaging students to take action at school and in the community to reduce emissions causing climate change.



## About Cool Schools

**Education.** Cool Schools brings educational resources and solution-based activities to high school aged students and classrooms.

**Community.** Sonoma County is a national leader in climate protection and sustainability. Cool Schools partners with experts, civic leaders, and elected officials to bring technical and informational resources from the community into the schools.

**Action.** Through Cool Schools, we encourage high school students to engage meaningfully in the community. Projects move beyond personal action and support students as they participate in collective change. Cool Schools offers activities to directly reduce emissions and to support the youth voice in community-wide decisions.

## What we do

**Presentations** to classrooms in the science of climate change and local initiatives.

**Service-learning projects** at school and in the community - aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting Sonoma County's commitments to climate protection.

**Support the youth voice** in our community - students address local elected officials and community groups, expressing their opinions about climate protection.

## Benefits

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions causing global warming. Students' efforts support Sonoma County to achieve its community-wide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 25% below 1990 levels by 2015, the boldest in the nation.
- Engages students, schools, and community members in an integrated approach to problem solving.
- Enhances student learning and civic engagement.
- Builds confidence, poise, and maturity in students as they start planning for college and careers.
- Offers hope for the future.

*Cool Schools is a program of the Climate Protection Campaign. The mission of the Climate Protection Campaign is to create a positive future for our children and all life by inspiring action in response to the climate crisis. We work with government, business and schools for significant greenhouse gas reductions.*

# Cool Schools Projects in 2006



## Greening the Student Commute



Analy High School in Sebastopol conducted a greenhouse gas inventory of the student commute in fall 2005. Analy is leading Sonoma County and Bay Area schools in implementing activities to promote walking, biking, carpooling, and busing to school. Thanks to student and administrative leadership, the school reduced single passenger commutes by 21% during the spring 2006 semester.

The project received the 2006 Outstanding Environmental Education Project of the Year for Sonoma County from the Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sierra Club. Windsor High School started the student commute project in fall 2006, looking to match Analy's progress. *Photo: Analy students organized a raffle for students who walked, biked and carpoled to school, including a new bike donated by The Hub Cyclery,*

## Urban Sustainability



Windsor High School Environmental Studies class participated in a year-long project to replant native oak and redwood trees within the Town of Windsor. With the support of the Town of Windsor Parks and Facilities department, the class planted over 80 trees, 40 shrubs, and improved sites with mulch and compost. Throughout the project, students learned from local experts and Windsor town

council members about the town's strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a more sustainable community. *Photo: A Windsor High School student and town Park and Facilities crew-member straighten a young redwood tree before filling the hole with compost.*

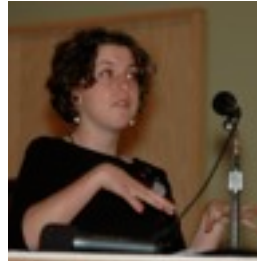
## Cool Art for Cool Schools



More than 400 students from five high schools participated in the first annual Cool Art for Cool Schools student art show and auction in November 2006. Students from nine art classes created artwork based on the theme of climate change. Students researched an issue of their choice and presented their artwork with a thesis statement. 50 pieces of artwork were juried and sold through a

silent auction, which raised more than \$9,000 for Cool Schools. Students educated their peers and families about the critical issue of climate change and learned that they can support local organizations using their skills as artists. *Photo: Student artwork.*

## Voice of the Future



In 2006, students addressed the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Windsor, Santa Rosa, and Sebastopol city councils, and the West Sonoma County Union High School District and Windsor Unified School District Board of Trustees, expressing their opinions about climate protection. Students also spoke at several community forums on climate change and Climate Protection Campaign

events, sharing their projects to reduce emissions. For their work, the student's stories were published in the Press Democrat, the Sonoma West Times and News, the Windsor Times, and told on TV50, KSRO, KRCB, and even on Japan's national public radio! *Photo: A Santa Rosa High School student explains the process of climate change and her concerns for the future.*

## Community Leadership



Student representatives from each city in Sonoma County participated alongside elected officials and community leaders to set Sonoma County's bold climate protection target in 2005. Cool Schools continues to advocate for and include young people in our county's climate protection plans. In 2006, we began to connect interested students from high schools throughout the county to work

together and set goals for their cities and the county. This network will continue to grow in 2007 as we reach out to students and youth groups throughout the Bay Area. *Photo: Twelve student representatives from Sonoma County attended the Bay Area Climate Protection Summit in November 2006, hosted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. They participated in strategy meetings and got to see keynote speaker Al Gore.*

## Community Service



In 2005 and 2006, Cool Schools received funding from California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission to promote Flex Your Power at community events throughout Sonoma County. Selected students participated in a professional media and outreach training, then promoted Flex Your Power energy-saving tips at county fairs and outreach events. *Photo: Over*

*700 students in the Roseland Elementary School District received energy-saving light bulbs and participated in climate change and energy games during the 2006 Lights On After School event.*

Cool Schools is supported in part by real estate agents throughout Sonoma County. Support these business leaders at:

[www.coolagents.org!](http://www.coolagents.org!)