

## Mayors share warming strategies

Leadership meeting at CSUMB focuses on reducing county's carbon footprint

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Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud speaks during Thursday's teach-in. From left.(ORVILLE MYERS/The Herald)

If Monterey County is going to do its part to curb global warming, local leaders will play a crucial role in reducing its carbon footprint.

Local mayors say they are already doing that.

Some of the county's mayors gathered Thursday at CSU-Monterey Bay to share their "think globally, act locally" approaches to curb global warming, as they took part in a nationwide teach-in focused on the world's greatest environmental challenge. "We want to leave this place better than we found it," said Monterey Mayor Chuck Della Sala. "We are not doing this only for our generation, but for future generations."

The teach-in was put on by the Portland-based organization Education for Global Warming Solutions, or EdSolv. It coordinated the day in which universities, primary schools and faith-based organizations focused on global warming instead of their regular agendas.

Discussion panels and solo speakers addressed students and professors in the University Center, speaking about efforts to reduce carbon footprints and to counter global warming.

Della Sala was joined by mayors Bruce Delgado of Marina, Sue McCloud of Carmel and Ralph Rubio of Seaside. The afternoon panel included Ryan Coonerty, a Santa Cruz city councilman and former mayor, and Watsonville Mayor Antonio Rivas. Pacific Grove Mayor Dan Cort and Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue took part in a panel discussion earlier in the day.

They were there in support of the argument that cooperation among communities can enhance efforts for policy change.

Rubio said Seaside is working with other cities to create "something that will be consistent not only in the cities, but in the county and in the region." Delgado said a coordinated approach to policy changes is essential. "If we look at Pebble Beach to Marina as one city, or Santa Cruz to Monterey as one cohesive unit," he said, "we would be so much more powerful."

Each mayor spoke about their city's efforts to reduce waste and energy consumption.

McCloud said Carmel has reduced demand for electricity and water, and recycling programs have drastically reduced the amount of garbage taken to the landfill. The city intends to remodel the Forest Theater to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver specifications, and gives incentives to encourage contractors to build green.

LEED is a national green rating system that grades construction methods and materials.

The dog-friendly town stocks its walkways with biodegradable mutt mitts, disposable gloves used to clean up canine messes, she said. Della Sala said it is the duty of local governments to initiate better practices. "Doing things greener means doing things smarter," Della Sala said.

Trader Joe's shopping center in Monterey, he said, was the state's first shopping center built to LEED's silver standard. The old Safeway that occupied the same location was not demolished, Della Sala said, but rather was "deconstructed" so most of the material from the building, including existing walls, could be reused.

Global warming is an environmental issue, but confronting it will take more than just protests by environmentalists, Coonerty said. "For many years, to be a good environmentalist was to stop something," such as oil drilling or development that contributed to urban sprawl," Coonerty said. "Does that work when we're talking about climate change?"

Considering that thousands of people drive to work from Santa Cruz to Santa Clara County or from Watsonville to Santa Cruz, Coonerty said, his county is challenged with finding ways to organize communities so people can work, shop and play without needing to drive everywhere.

That is the goal of Seaside's redevelopment plans for the West Broadway Urban Village, which is designed to be the center of a walkable community, Rubio said.

Seaside has several other development projects in the works for the next 20 years that put an emphasis on building with environmentally clean standards. "It makes sense for the city to focus on these aspects of the green movement," Rubio said.

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