The California Green Plan: Connecting Vision to Action

Our quality of life, economic well-being, and security depend on a healthy environment

As the world's eighth largest economy, California is in a pivotal position to lead the way in developing, adopting, and implementing innovative planning models that advance a prosperous economy where future generations can live safe and healthy lives. Other countries have embraced a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and thrived as a result. With the current fiscal crisis and legislative gridlock, there is no better time for systemic reform and an integrated approach that aligns economy and ecology.

We need a path forward that promotes economic security for business and families, provides opportunities for growth, and addresses environmental health concerns. But this demands more than incremental fixes. As the UN's Brundtland Commission concluded, in light of the interconnected nature of the ecosystem, we cannot solve only *some* environmental problems; we must work together to solve *all* of them.

ENVISION A THRIVING ECONOMY IN CALIFORNIA WHERE:

- *We rely on safe, clean, renewable energy for all our electricity needs*
- *We achieve our potential, creating 550 clean energy jobs every day*
- *We are healthy, productive, and live in an environment free of pollution*
- *We conserve enough water to avoid costly shortages*

VISION: The *California Green Plan* is a comprehensive, integrated approach that can overcome the complexity, fragmentation, and siloed thinking that stand in the way of a sustainable California. Based on highly successful international precedents, such as the EU's Environmental Action Program, the Netherlands' National Environmental Policy Plan, and New Zealand's Resource Management Act, Green Plans are a proven alternative to California's current piecemeal approach.

California's policy efforts to address sustainability have been limited to specific issues, interest groups, or regions. Our legislative process bundles single-issue laws *after* they are written, rather than integrating policies beforehand based on an overarching vision of the desired outcome. Resulting regulations are often imposed on industry, leading to pushback and the belief that such directives come at a cost versus a benefit to business and growth.

ACTION: It is time for a new approach in California and the nation. WELL Network is a nonprofit organization led by powerful women committed to a healthy future for generations to come. We aim to establish the *California Green Plan* as a priority of the incoming governor's agenda by the end of 2010. WELL Network is raising awareness and resources to support the Green Plan's development and implementation over the next five years. We are mobilizing leaders from the business, government, nonprofit, and academic communities to form the *California Sustainability Council* to endorse, guide, and promote this landmark effort. This coalition will help integrate existing regional and issue-specific sustainability plans and best practices from California, the country, and around the world, and give business a seat at the table as we work with government officials and legislators to hammer out a blueprint for a sustainable future.

Join a partnership of California's leading thinkers in government, business, and civil society to develop a Green Plan that ensures a healthy environment and prosperous future. Working together, we will recommend policies that recognize the inter-relationship of people, plants, and animals to air, land, and water that is the basis of California's long term health. Our efforts will lead to clear goals, a concrete plan of action, and benchmarks by which to measure progress.

Five of the top ten most polluted cities in the US are in California

One out of every five Californians' will get cancer and one out of every six children will get asthma

California's 37 million people use more than 20 billion gallons of oil and gasoline each year, more than China and India

In 2009, the state lost $3B due to water drought

In 2008 California lost $255M and 2,263 jobs due to the closure of salmon season

WELL Network

For more information, please contact bonnie@wellnetwork.org or 415-306-1880, or darian@wellnetwork.org or 415-637-5062. www.wellnetwork.org