

“Why Hermosa Beach is Going Carbon Neutral”



Hermosa Beach Mayor, Michael DiVirgilio, speaking on behalf of 350 at the International Day of Climate Action October 2009. (Courtesy 'creativegreenius')

Hermosa Beach Mayor DiVirgilio tells why –
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“We are at the threshold of an exciting new era for America. A new era of sustainability and dynamic possibility ... Hermosa Beach has a leadership role to play.

What does that mean? Broadly, to become carbon neutral, a city must offset all its activities that produce carbon dioxide with activities that either produce no pollution or remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.”

Despite tough economic times ... “now is not the time to narrow the vision for our own future, to diminish our expectations for the better days ahead or to downsize the ambitions for our children’s quality of life.

Now is the time to step up and seize the opportunities available to those who act on new realities before they become mainstream trends. Now is the time to use the stimulus, grant and foundation money available to those who lead before the map is even drawn.

Now is also the time to act because we are standing at another threshold, the threshold of climate-change tipping points that may diminish the future prospects and possibilities for young and old alike.

So we choose to go carbon neutral, not because it is easy, but because it is our best possible future, and the best path to preserving the small-town beach community and culture we all cherish and want to pass on to the generations who follow.”