News Release
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Energy Policy Initiatives Center Releases Climate Planning Model  
Tool is designed to assist cities evaluate emissions and develop climate plans

SAN DIEGO, March 13, 2013—The Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC), a research center at the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law, today released a model to assist local governments in the San Diego region develop climate actions plans. More and more local governments are developing plans to reduce their greenhouse emissions to levels consistent with those included in California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), which includes statewide targets.

According to EPIC Director Scott Anders, every local government in the San Diego region has conducted an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, several have adopted climate action plans, and many others are in the process of developing or considering plans.

“Climate planning can be a daunting task for a local government,” said Anders. “This model is designed to help cities crunch the numbers needed to project emissions into the future, set reduction targets, and estimate the effect of a range of measures to reduce emissions.”

The model, which was made possible by contributions from several funds at the San Diego Foundation, including the Hervey Family Fund, the Engel Fund, and the Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund, is pre-populated with data for all 19 local jurisdictions in the San Diego region and estimates emissions reductions of a range of reduction measures, including energy efficiency, rooftop solar photovoltaics, public transit, electric vehicles, and telecommuting.

“This is the latest in a series of EPIC projects that provides valuable analysis on energy and climate policy issues related to our state and region,” said USD School of Law Dean Stephen Ferruolo. “We are pleased to continue to be a leader on these important issues.”

Potential uses of the model include: developing, evaluating, and monitoring climate plans; comparing greenhouse gas emissions across all local jurisdictions; estimating and evaluating regional emissions; estimating and evaluating the amount of emissions that would result from a range of actions; and testing the feasibility of emissions targets.

To download the model, including technical documentation and user guide, please see the EPIC website at http://www.sandiego.edu/epic/projects/?year=2012#7.

About Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC)  
EPIC is an academic and research center of the University of San Diego School of Law that studies how energy policy issues affect California and the San Diego region. EPIC integrates research and analysis, law school study and public education, and provides legal and policy expertise and information about solutions to future energy needs.
About the University of San Diego School of Law
The University of San Diego School of Law is a center of academic excellence focused on preparing its students for legal practice in the new century. One of the most selective law schools in the country, the School of Law’s nationally recognized faculty create a demanding, yet welcoming environment that emphasizes individualized education. USD law school graduates go on to practice law throughout the country and abroad, forming an influential network of alumni. USD School of Law is one of only 81 law schools in the country to have a chapter of the Order of the Coif, the most distinguished rank of American law schools. The school is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Founded in 1954, the law school is part of the University of San Diego, a private, nonprofit, independent, Roman Catholic university chartered in 1949.

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