

Fremont AAUW Hosts Climate-Change Webinar

Fremont AAUW members were treated to an exclusive webinar on the State of the State for Climate Change in California. State Senator Josh Becker was the speaker, and Gene Wang, AAUW member and chairman of Care Daily, was the host.

The webinar was also the conclusion of the 13th annual One Book, One Community Read (OBOCR) project, this year focusing on climate change. For next year's OBOCR project, see [One Book, One Community Read to Announce Next Book](#).

Here's Gene Wang's report:

Senator Josh Becker gave a wonderful speech to AAUW on California Climate Policy. Senator Becker was elected to California's State Senate in November 2020 and became Chair of a key California Budget Committee on Energy and Environment. Josh was formerly co-founder of Clean Tech for Obama and received a JD/MBA from Stanford University in 1999.



Josh said California set a goal of reducing emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020 and achieved the goal four years early. At the same time, we grew our population and GDP significantly, demonstrating that you can maintain a strong economy while reducing emissions. In 2022, 21% of new cars sold in 2022 in California were EVs, and we are first in the USA for use of solar energy. Now California is targeting that we will be 40% below 1990 emission levels by 2030. To hit this goal, we need to be reducing emissions by 4-5% a year, instead of 1% a year!

Almost 50% of our carbon emissions come from transportation, including industrial emissions (fuel extraction and refining), while 16% come from electricity, where demand is expected to double as we electrify other sectors. Then 11% comes from methane (livestock, waste, and pipeline leaks) and 10% from natural gas for building heating. The overall strategy is to "green the grid," electrify as much as possible, use low-carbon fuels for hard-to-electrify cases, and use carbon capture and storage to reduce emissions.

Robert Swan, an advocate for the protection of Antarctica and renewable energy, once said that "the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

We all need to do our part to save the planet from climate change. - Gene Wang