



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Joins Clean Energy Finance Program**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Today, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors took additional steps toward offering Yolo County residents a property-assessed, clean energy program. By joining CaliforniaFIRST, a clean energy finance program, Yolo County, as the collection agency for property assessments, has made it possible for Yolo County cities to participate in the program. All four cities have submitted letters of intent to participate, and will soon be formalizing their participation in the CaliforniaFIRST program, thus facilitating a truly countywide effort and opportunity.

Pursuant to AB 811, the State of California's Clean Energy Municipal Financing Law signed into law last year, property owners may finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that are permanently affixed to their property. Eligible projects under the CaliforniaFIRST program may include, but are not limited to, air sealing, wall and roof insulation, energy efficient windows, tankless water heaters, photovoltaics and low-flow toilets.

The CaliforniaFIRST Program is sponsored by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (California Communities), an association of counties and cities, in partnership with Renewable Funding and the Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets. The program allows property owners, within participating regions, to finance the installation of energy improvements on their home and pay the amount back as a line item on their property tax bill

“What’s unique about this program is that the assessment obligation transfers with the sale of the property,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “Both the benefits and financial burden of energy efficiency and retrofit projects go with the home, thus making it more feasible for our residents to make the commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy and creating green jobs.”

“This is yet another example of the leadership demonstrated by Yolo County, and its cities, within just two years since the inception of our Climate Change Initiative,” said Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad. “We are swiftly moving beyond evaluating and planning into implementation and on-the-ground efforts which will measurably reduce climate change.”

Another benefit of participating in the CaliforniaFIRST program is, by virtue of regional aggregation provided by the program, small projects can have access to the tax-exempt municipal bond market, which may produce a lower borrowing cost. California Communities will handle all assessment administration, bond issuance and bond administration functions.

For more information on this program, contact Cindy Tuttle in the Yolo County Administrator’s Office (530) 666-8061.

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