

Can We Get There from Here? – Water, Energy, Climate, and Resilience, What the SF Bay Could Teach the World

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Although climate change is global, the impacts are local. Each city, state and region has to adapt to a changing environment, whether it's drought affecting water supplies, more frequent flooding damaging infrastructure, or extreme temperatures endangering health.

It will be up to local communities to deal with the impacts of climate change.

In many cases, we're already seeing action at the state and local level on two fronts: building resilience to climate impacts and also reducing the emissions causing the problem.

Last year, the White House named 16 local and tribal communities as Climate Action Champions for steps such as creating climate-smart building codes, installing green infrastructure, and setting targets to reduce energy use. San Francisco is one of those communities. If most major cities around the world pursued these kinds of policies, they could cut emissions by 8 gigatons by 2050.

While there is still much to be done, even in California and the Bay Area, forward-leaning efforts here can help the rest of the country make progress.

C2ES takes a pragmatic, nonpartisan approach to being a bridge between diverse interests and a catalyst of constructive business engagement.

Oftentimes, the risks cities, states and companies face are the same – loss of power and water services, flooding, damaged facilities, people unable to get to work, loss of revenue, and rising costs for insurance. The unique partnerships that continue to evolve here in San Francisco can grow and demonstrate success.

Cities, states and businesses can learn a lot from one another. And they will play a key role in this pivotal year for advancing the climate effort both at home and internationally.

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Speaker Biography: Bob Perciasepe is President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a leading, independent voice for practical policy and action to address the twin challenges of energy and climate change. Mr. Perciasepe has been an environmental policy leader in and outside government for more than 30 years, most recently as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Previously, he served as chief operating officer of the National Audubon Society, Secretary of the Environment for the state of Maryland and as a senior planning official for the city of Baltimore.