

## Contacts

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## Community advocates call on cities and state to protect climate, health and jobs from fast-approaching oil crisis

California communities and workers face an escalating climate jobs crisis that we can forestall by scaling down oil refining for export over the next few years starting now, says a community-sponsored research report, released today.

“Starting sooner allows state climate targets to be met by cutting oil use more gradually, which makes transitions that protect workers and communities possible and climate goals feasible,” said Greg Karras, who authored the report for Communities for a Better Environment (CBE).

“The Climate Crisis is here and now” said Andrés Soto, Richmond Environmental Justice Advocate. “This report makes clear what we have been saying for years, communities like Richmond must start now on planning our Just Transition away from refinery-based economics and plan for the changes we need to redesign our communities and save the planet,” Soto said.

The report shows that the scientific consensus which holds that oil use must be cut rapidly to stabilize global heating at 1.5–2°C applies to the situation in California. Among its findings:

- Petroleum energy emits more carbon than all other activities in California combined.
- Clean energy alternatives to petroleum can provide more jobs than petroleum energy.
- Oil refining rates must be cut at least 80% by mid-century to meet state climate targets, even if all non-petroleum emissions are cut to their share of those targets.
- California refineries import crude to export fuels; from 2013–2017 they imported 66% of the oil they refined and exported 20–33% of the refined fuels they produced.
- Action in 2020 could meet state climate targets by gradually cutting refining rates 4–7% per year, supporting just transitions that protect workers and frontline communities.
- Waiting until after 2025 could force drastic refining rate cuts of 20–80% per year to meet state climate targets, putting workers and the local tax base at risk.

The more feasible *gradual* scale-down can start now to cut global carbon and localized toxic emissions without risk to state fuel supplies because California refineries make more fuel than

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**Community advocates call on cities and state to protect climate, health, and jobs from fast-approaching oil refining crisis—*continued***

Californians use and, at the same time, California refineries are locked into a high-emitting crude slate to make the fuels they sell.

“It is not too late, although we're decades behind, to reduce fossil fuel production and need. Finally, this is a timed and reasonable plan, to lead us out of the darkness. Greg Karras says let's start with an eye on California refined oil exports,” said Maureen Brennan, a community advocate who lives in Rodeo. “Take a read. Karras's *Decommissioning* is the read we need,” Brennan said.

“The move away from fossil fuels to cheaper renewable energy is an economic reality now. As this reality builds though, we do not know if it will be just or equitable for workers, front line communities, or others most impacted. This report asks all of us, particularly refining communities, to consider how we best ensure justice for all in an uncertain future” said Steve Garey, retired local union president and refinery worker.

“California, the biggest refining state west of the Rocky Mountains, must take the lead in phasing out refining. That is our only hope to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals and prevent thousands of deaths from the associated air pollution” said Steve Nadel of Sunflower Alliance.

More than forty groups voiced support for immediate action on conclusions drawn from the report in a letter to be sent to California Governor Gavin Newsom today.

The report and supporting material released today can be downloaded at:

Community Energy reSource: [www.energy-re-source.com](http://www.energy-re-source.com)

Communities for a Better Environment: [Link](#)

Sunflower Alliance: [Link](#)

Stand.Earth: [Link](#)