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High school club wants city to consider Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

By Sora O'Doherty

Kaitlyn Roach, president of the Miramonte Climate Action Club, spoke to the Orinda City Council March 1 during the public forum and asked the city to consider participating the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, a program run by local organization Sustainable Contra Costa. The challenge is a grassroots program that encourages local residents to take daily actions that can reduce the carbon footprint in their communities. "My club and Sustainable Contra Costa would like to partner to make presentations to groups in Orinda," Roach said.

She pointed out that the challenge is 100% voluntary and requires no staff commitment from the city. Roach said that 40% of carbon emissions in the United States comes from basic household activities. "Our club," she added, "was inspired to bring this challenge to the city of Orinda after seeing the success by city of Moraga, which has had this program since October 2020." Roach reported that over the last 16 months Moraga has had 500 households sign up and as a result has eliminated 400 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, saved 100,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and saved 700,000 gallons of water.

"I really think that we can have similar success in Orinda," she said. Eight other Contra Costa County communities are involved in the challenge.

Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay responded that he would like to hear more about this, and, making it a matter initiated, asked staff to do a very quick overview of this on a future agenda. Council Member Amy Worth seconded the matter.

For more information: <https://cleanercontracosta.or>

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