Tackling the Climate Crisis Together – A Call for the Ideas of Chico’s Youth – PV listening sessions

*“Sometimes we just simply have to find a way. The moment we decide to fulfill something, we can do anything. And I’m sure the moment we start behaving as if we were in an emergency,****we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe****. Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long.****We must start today****. We have no more excuses.”*

*Greta Thunberg, 15-year-old environmental activist.*

**Background**

The Chico City council has done the following in the last year:

1. Declared a climate emergency based on the evidence from 97% of scientists in the world who are warning of dire consequences to the climate if we don’t act
2. Established a Climate Action Commission (CAC)
3. The CAC will hire a director and revise Chico’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases to pre 1990 levels by 2030.

**Definitions**

*Green House Gas (GHG) Emission:* A **greenhouse gas** is any gaseous compound in the atmosphere that is capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere. By increasing the heat in the atmosphere, **greenhouse gases** are responsible for the **greenhouse** effect, which ultimately leads to global warming. Primary causes are burning of fossil fuels and methane.

*Sequestration:* The removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (such as oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes, such as photosynthesis.

Humans have tried to increase carbon sequestration by growing new forests.

*Mitigation:*   Attempts to slow the process of global climate change, usually by lowering the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Reducing and stabilizing the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Listening Session Questions to Consider**

The purpose of these sessions is to brainstorm and record your ideas about how to sequester, mitigate and reduce green house gases in and around Chico. Please be thinking about the following questions:

1. What actions can people take in their homes?
2. What actions can you take on your campus?
3. What actions do you recommend for Chico and Butte County?
4. What actions should we take nationally and internationally?
5. How do we get more people involved in these efforts?
6. What do you believe stands in the way of actions we can take?
7. What further actions can you or do you want to take?

**Ideas to start the thinking and that could apply to Chico**

Vote

Wind turbines

Indigenous Knowledge

Rooftop solar

Reduce food waste

Composting

Bike infrastructure

Retrofitting buildings

Mass transit

Contact government officials

Electric bikes and cars

Recycling

Regenerative Farming

Water conservation

Forestation

Consumption

Increase community gardens

Reduction of plastics

Plant rich diet

Landfill methane

Support of local markets

Managed grazing

Farmland restoration

Cover crops

Water saving