

## Youth Climate Report Card Advisors:

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## Background:

The Youth Climate Report Card is a simple, science-based tool that measures how well a city or community is currently doing at reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the levels needed to end the climate crisis.

The Report Card assessment is based on the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, focusing on the areas that a local governing body can reasonably impact. Youth leaders consult data that is generally publicly available and meet with city officials for data that is not easily accessible.

## The Grades:

An A-F grading system evaluates a city's action (or inaction) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels needed to end the climate crisis. Report Card grades are based on real data, the presence of programs with appropriate goals, and concrete actions. Science from a team of some of the world's leading climate scientists, led by Dr. Jim Hansen, formerly of NASA, was used to determine appropriate goals.

There are five sections of the report card which are combined into an overall grade:

**Zero Emissions Climate Action Plan:** Measures when the city's Climate Action Plan gets to net zero human emissions (by 2040 is an A, 2050 a C).

**Renewable Energy:** Measures when the percent of renewables used to generate a city's electricity is more than the national average, and the percentage is rising.

**Waste:** Measures when the amount of waste per person is decreasing and the percent of that waste that is recycled or composted is increasing.

**Carbon Removal:** Measures when there is some kind of a program that will result in more carbon being removed from the atmosphere.

**Youth Involvement:** A bonus area that rewards a half grade for having youth involved in advising on or setting climate change related policies and plans.

The Report Card was created by the national youth climate organization, iMatter, in consultation with some of the most knowledgeable people and organizations on community climate change initiatives. For more information, contact Larry Kraft, Executive Director, [larry@iMatterYouth.org](mailto:larry@iMatterYouth.org).