

From Economic Storm: Regional Environmental/Green Tech Alliance Emerges

The Bay Area Council is helping lead a regional response to global warming while seizing the opportunity to become the global economic hub for the green economy and Cleantech. The timing couldn't be better, with both the urgency of climate change, the federal stimulus funds targeting green tech and much anecdotal evidence that our members are placing bets on this industry to pull our region out of the recession. Today, with our allies, Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group we are signing the Bay Area Climate Change Compact with the Mayors of San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland [committing to move forward together](#) with specific goals and actions. The Bay Area Council, lead by the Economic Institute, have brought in the regional agencies that govern land, sea and air in the Bay Area and hope to have one official regional climate change partnership by as early as April. It will take business leadership in partnership with regional, local, state and federal government leaders to make a difference on this critical issue.



Council joins CA Delegation's Cross-Country Mission on Early Childhood Education

This week, Bay Area Council Director of Government Relations, Matt Regan, traveled to New Jersey with a delegation of California lawmakers, business leaders and child advocates on a fact finding mission to observe what is arguably the premier early childhood education system in the nation. The purpose of the trip was to collect examples of best practices, learn how the State of New Jersey has funded and rolled out this impressive program in such a short period of time, and see what could be brought back to California.

As with everything else in life, quality costs money, and New Jersey spends more than \$3 on early childhood education programs for every \$1 that we do here in California. If the current research data that points to as much as a 17:1 return on investment on early childhood programs is correct, the question we should be asking here in California is not whether we can afford to make a similar investment in our children, rather can we afford not to?

[Click here to view Matt's blog on the trip.](#)

Article/Video of the Week

LA Times columnist [Patt Morrison](#) candidly explains why she supports a Constitutional Convention. Check out the Bay Area Council's [short movie](#) on the need for a Constitution Convention.

