

## Visalia joins 'Cool Cities' battling warming

It didn't take long for Dean Mann of Visalia to get his wish granted. It almost counts as a Christmas gift.

At Mann's suggestion, the Visalia City Council this week voted to sign the "Cool Cities" pledge of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a 12-point program



LEWIS  
GRISWOLD

to combat global warming by reducing carbon dioxide emissions city by city.

Mann, a retired political science professor

from UC Santa Barbara, asked the council in August to sign the pledge. Mann had just finished watching Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth."

The council expressed interest.

A city staffer prepared a report and told council members this week that the pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7% from 1990 levels would be voluntary and not legally binding.

The council voted 4-0, with Council Member Bob Link abstaining, to authorize the mayor to sign the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

"I'm delighted to see the City Council is considering joining the 'Cool Cities' effort," Mann told the council before the vote. "You can have an impact on the state of California."

Next, the city will apply for a \$25,000 grant from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to take an inventory of global warming emissions in Visalia.

In a lighter moment before the vote, Council Member Don Landers shared his pet peeve about poor traffic signal coordination in Visalia, noting that idling cars add to the problem of global warming. Fellow council members made it a point to add signal coordination to the list of green measures the city could take to lower carbon dioxide emissions.

To date, about 320 cities have signed the pledge.

Visalia joins Stockton in being the only San Joaquin Valley cities to sign. Most California cities to sign are on the coast.