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The Silicon Valley Environmental Partnership (SVEP), an Initiative launched by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network (JVSV), has released its first Silicon Valley Environmental Index, "Taking the Pulse of Silicon Valley's Environment".

"The report can be a tool for better understanding the quality of our environment and tracking changes over time," stated in the Forward and signed by business, government, and environmental leaders including Lew Platt, Chairman of the Board of Hewlett-Packard Company, Pete McHugh, Chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Ted Smith, Executive Director of Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

The report was published to increase the understanding of environmental issues among community leaders, workers and residents of Silicon Valley. It presents objective, fact-based information about environmental trends in Silicon Valley, which will help foster informed decision-making regarding environmental issues.

The report summarizes high-level trend information about resource use, population, air and water quality, species and habitats, and hazardous materials in Silicon Valley. It documents the progress that Silicon Valley has made toward restoring a healthy environment, and charts areas where declines in the Valley's environment must be reversed in order to achieve a sustainable community.

Of the 23 environmental indicators tracked (included air, water, congestion), 47 percent show a negative trend, 22 percent are positive, and 22 percent that once were positive – are now negative. Overall environmental impacts are generally stable or improving, but some are increasing as Silicon Valley's population grows and economy expands. After years of improvement, progress in some areas, such as water use, toxic releases, and solid waste disposal have begun to reverse. While Silicon Valley has made great strides in certain areas, such as reductions in emissions of ozone-depleting compounds, decreased use of toxic pesticides (non-residential), and improved air quality – it faces challenges in transportation pollution, species protection, and watershed health.

The report complements JVSV's annual Index of Silicon Valley, which measures progress toward goals for the economy, environment, society, and regional stewardship

An overview of the Environmental Index will be presented on Wednesday, November 17 from 8:45-10:45 a.m. at the Benson Memorial Center at Santa Clara University. Report authors and technical experts will be available to answer questions. A press conference will be held prior to the presentation, from 8-8:30 a.m. For more information please contact 2sustain@webcom.com or call 408/535-0112. The report can also be viewed on the web at www.svep.org.

Edited by [Mark Osborne](#)

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