

My husband is the grandson of Dr. Arie Haagen-Smit, who did fantastic early air pollution research at Cal Tech and was named the first chairperson of the California Air Resources Board in the 1970s. Thus, we have felt compelled to live a low carbon footprint lifestyle, use bicycles for a main mode of transportation, shop locally and eat a mainly plant-based diet, among other measures. We have installed a Purple Air Monitor as well as a solar array. We have taken advantage of rebates provided by Federal Acts and the State of California. It is a little easier for us in California with relatively mild weather and some strong leadership. However, we are suffering from wildfire smoke during longer fire seasons. Climate change has been shown to contribute to these more severe fires. As well, land use planning decisions in California, especially the ones that are car-centric, still need attention. Getting Californians to re-think their car culture is imperative. Appreciated are rebates for electric vehicles and even better, electric bicycles. Land use planning that provides for safe bicycle routes in compact neighborhoods that connect residents with offices and services is needed in conjunction with these rebates. We pay attention to initiatives like the Climate Protection & Restoration Initiative and appreciate jurisdictions like Boulder that step up to fight for climate action. Actions to reduce emissions can be a shared effort that folks across the country can acknowledge, learn from, enact, work on. Thank you for inspiring your residents and colleagues. This inspiration gets felt around the country and is urgent at this time. We can each act locally. But we rely on a larger collective of scientists, policy makers and industry. There is so much expertise to demonstrate clearly the climate crisis. Many constituents have been listening, but more work needs to be done. Leadership is crucial. This initiative is critical. EPA, are you listening?