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Nobel Prize-Winning Author on Climate Change to Speak at Building Carbon Zero Conference

Dr. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Vice Chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Working Group III) and Coordinating Lead Author of the 2007 Nobel Prize-Winning IPCC Report is keynote speaker at Building Carbon Zero California.

Palo Alto, CA, October 22, 2015—The City of Palo Alto and Passive House California are honored to announce that international expert on global climate change, Dr. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, will be the keynote speaker at Building Carbon Zero California, November 13, in Palo Alto, CA. Dr. Ürge-Vorsatz is Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Working Group III), Policy Director of the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy and a professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. She was Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC report that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Her focus on residential and commercial greenhouse gas mitigation in buildings continues to influence policymakers, leaders and builders around the world.

The keynote presentation will be live-streamed to Vienna, where a simultaneous event is taking place as part of former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. On November 13-14, the 24 Hours of Reality and Live Earth will unite artists and influencers across the world for a global day of action and music to celebrate progress and send a clear message to world leaders to take climate action now.

"The building sector offers the largest low-cost potential in all world regions to lower emissions," said Dr. Ürge-Vorsatz, while addressing the North American Passive House Network in Vancouver, British Columbia, recently. "If we target very high efficiency systems, we can have our cake and be paid to eat it too!"

Dr. Ürge-Vorsatz earned her PhD in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles and Berkeley and her Master of Science in Physics from Eötvös University in Budapest. She has served on the United Nation's Scientific Expert Group on Climate Change, and led the buildings-related work for the Global Energy Assessment.

More than 15 other presenters at the conference will cover topics ranging from use of natural materials in buildings, new technologies, industry's influence in lowering carbon, to reports from local occupants of high performance buildings. The afternoon sessions will dig deeper into economics, mechanics and data collected on a number of built Passive House projects located in California.

Palo Alto Mayor Karen Holman will kick off the Building Carbon Zero California conference on Friday, November 13. A PedalHaus Bicycle Tour of five completed buildings in Palo Alto will follow on Saturday, November 14. Palo Alto's former Mayor, Peter Drekmeier, will join cyclists on this leisurely cruise.

Two of several interviews with Dr. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz are available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAOU06ldLMw and www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTISZYR4uAc. For more information on Building Carbon Zero California and to purchase tickets, visit www.co2zeroca.org.

For more about the City of Palo Alto Utilities, contact Catherine.Elvert@cityofpaloalto.org or at (650) 329-2417. Visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/utilities for more news and information.