



John Mott-Smith show here with the solar panels on his home, will be honored on Earth Day, a Cool Davis Eco-hero for his public service efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote energy efficiency in Davis and throughout Yolo County.

John Mott-Smith

“There is hope, if not optimism.”

Fear not: John Mott-Smith will leave you both informed and inspired. He does this in his Davis Enterprise column, “Per Capita Davis,” by focusing on what individuals and municipalities can do to address climate change. He’s also a Cool Davis co-founder, Yolo County’s Climate Change Advisor, and a concerned parent, among other things. Cool Davis proudly recognizes Mott-Smith by awarding him a special 2015 Eco-Hero award for his work in both energy efficiency and out-standing public service.

While finishing his career in state government, Mott-Smith pondered how to spend his retirement. He knew he wanted to do something on the local level that would affect his children’s future. His experience on the City of Davis Planning Commission and in the development of an energy plan for Yolo County in the 1980s had confirmed for him the need for a “paradigm shift.”

Working on climate change has allowed Mott-Smith to address those concerns. As Climate Change Advisor for Yolo County, he helped form Yolo Energy Watch, a local government partnership with PG&E that connects county residents, businesses, and governments with programs to improve energy efficiency. Yolo Energy Watch has assisted local governments with developing climate action plans, which allow cities to quantify their current energy usage, identify ways to reduce it, and to measure their progress.

Don’t underestimate the significance of local action: our county government now produces *more* energy than it uses, thanks to photovoltaic installations at various sites around the county. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves taxpayer dollars, and has made Yolo County a recognized national leader in green energy.

With regard to “Per Capita Davis,” Mott-Smith says that he enjoys the research and learning that go into each column and is humble about its impact: he’s always surprised when people tell him they enjoy it, although he does wish they wouldn’t feel obligated to be on their best “green” behavior around him. He readily confesses his own imperfections!

Mott-Smith’s uses his connections, experience, and knowledge to help us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote energy efficiency. Cool Davis thanks him for his outstanding service to our community.