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**Contact:** [press@daniellurie.com](mailto:press@daniellurie.com)

## **LURIE ANNOUNCES CLIMATE INNOVATION HUB ON NATIONAL TELEVISION**

*Proposed Climate Innovation Hub would grow local jobs and attract talent and investment from around the world, boosting our sluggish economic recovery and city tax base*



**SAN FRANCISCO**— Today, Daniel Lurie [announced](#) that he will launch a climate innovation hub in San Francisco as mayor. The plan will incentivize cleantech jobs, companies, researchers, and students to co-locate in downtown San Francisco. Experts believe the plan would help accelerate the development of AI technologies that help fight climate change as the demand for energy transition and decarbonization solutions in the tech sector grows rapidly.

***“The cleantech revolution is happening. As Mayor, I will make sure it happens here,” said Daniel Lurie, a longtime non-profit executive, father of two, and lifelong Democrat. “This strategy is key to revitalizing downtown, increasing our tax base, and reclaiming the mantle as a leader in fighting climate change. As a father of two, I’m deeply committed to ensuring San Francisco’s comeback helps to protect the climate for future generations.”***

San Francisco's downtown continues to face a sluggish economic recovery with a record-high 37 percent office vacancy rate. While economic forecasts predict that there may be a positive shift in the market soon, San Francisco is still decades away from a full recovery due to mismanagement by City Hall insiders. In fact, estimates suggest that it will take 40 years for downtown to fully recover, with vacancies creating a domino effect of lowering tax revenues, fewer jobs, vacant streets, sidewalks, and urban decay that impacts public safety and small businesses.

San Francisco must not allow further investment to leak out of our city, as New York is currently attempting to position itself as the "[Silicon Valley of Climate Technology](#)" through the expansion of climate hubs in Brooklyn. Since 2021, Brooklyn has captured \$3.5 billion in cleantech venture capital investment and added 100 new startups.

As generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology becomes widely accessible and increasingly integrated with our daily lives, it can also leave an indelible carbon footprint. AI has a major role to play in the climate crisis, and can be utilized to develop new technologies that help us transition away from energy infrastructure that is dependent on fossil fuels to one that is environmentally sustainable. Startups and tech companies of all sizes are therefore seeking to integrate AI into their products and are analyzing how AI impacts their stated climate change goals and milestones. This is particularly true for companies, or "hyperscalers," like Google and Facebook that focus heavily on scaling cloud computing capacity and expanding data centers.

*"We are in the decisive decade for climate action, with a moral responsibility to accelerate emissions reductions and the clean energy transition," said **Dr. Eliza Nemser, Executive Director of Climate Changemakers**. "Daniel's climate innovation hub is a visionary plan to revitalize Downtown San Francisco and catalyze transformative progress. The hub will bring together climate tech startups and AI researchers to collaborate on innovative solutions to safeguard a livable planet."*

Existing and future AI infrastructure, proximity to universities and research institutions, Silicon Valley, and record vacant office space make San Francisco the best-positioned city in the world to create Lurie's Climate Innovation Hub. By bringing together AI researchers, universities, and climate tech startups, the plan would accelerate the development of new AI technologies that can help us reduce our carbon footprint and build a more sustainable future.

*"There is an urgent need to resurrect downtown San Francisco and grow climate tech in San Francisco, both for the future of our city and the future of the planet," said **Josh Felser, Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Climactic VC**. "We chose to locate our headquarters at 9Zero, a climate innovation hub at 350 California that*

*combines coworking and a digital community. I've seen firsthand the power of co-locating for innovation, and Daniel's plan for safe and clean streets and scaling a climate innovation hub is sorely needed to rapidly revitalize Downtown."*

While making San Francisco clean and safe is a threshold issue to bringing businesses back to San Francisco, the city must also streamline permitting. Experts say Lurie's [City Hall Accountability Plan](#) lessens the time it takes to get a building permit by four to five months, and this plan will make that timeline even faster for new and expanding cleantech companies by prioritizing and simplifying their applications. San Francisco also has an opportunity in the November 2024 election to pass an overhaul to our business taxes that include a critical reduction for Cleantech businesses. Estimates show it would reduce Cleantech taxes by 59 percent. In 2022 Cleantech companies paid about \$400,000 in business taxes to the city. The proposal likely to be before voters this November would therefore cut that figure roughly in half. As cleantech grows as a result of the Climate Innovation Hub, however, so too will the dollars coming to the city.

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*Daniel Lurie was born and raised in San Francisco. He founded Tipping Point Community in 2005. Under his direction as CEO, Tipping Point has raised over half a billion dollars to help house, employ, educate, and support hundreds of thousands of Bay Area families. Last year alone, Tipping Point provided over six thousand people with services that either helped them transition out of homelessness or prevented them from experiencing it.*

*Last year, he co-founded the Civic Joy Fund, an organization that aims to increase civic engagement and assist in the economic recovery of San Francisco. Daniel also led efforts to construct a 100% affordable housing development with union labor on Bryant Street that came in on time and under budget.*

*Former Mayor Ed Lee selected Daniel in 2013 to lead the San Francisco Bay Area Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, an effort that brought over \$240 million in economic impact to the region. Following the devastating fires in the North Bay in 2017, Daniel and Tipping Point partnered with 90 Bay Area business and community leaders to organize Band Together – a benefit concert that raised \$17 million for those hardest hit by the deadly fires. In total, Tipping Point's Emergency Fire Relief Fund raised over \$34 million.*

*Lurie is a lifelong Democrat. He lives in San Francisco with his wife Becca and two school-aged children.*