



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

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Contact: Rhonda Spears Bell (rspears@usmayors.org)
301-651-2126 cell
Elena Temple (etemple@usmayors.org)
202-309-4906 cell

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Partners With ICLEI to Combat Global Warming

Las Vegas, NV – The U.S. Conference of Mayors has formed a new partnership with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities through outreach, education and technical assistance. The mayors also formed a *Mayors' Council on Climate Protection* with the goal of providing mayors the tools they need to carry out their mission. Formerly the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI is the nation's foremost organization working to provide cities with resources to lead on climate protection in the U.S. and internationally.

“Mayors have done a tremendous amount of work on the issue of Climate Change and Global Warming,” said Conference President Long Beach Mayor Beverly O’Neill in announcing the partnership, “Mayors have been leading the way on this issue through local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which is a major cause of climate change.”

Last year, the Conference unanimously adopted the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which was spearheaded by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. This resolution encourages cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 7% from 1990 levels by 2012. Since then, over 238 cities have pledged their commitment to the agreement. The mayors also endorsed the Chicago Climate Exchange, sponsored by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, which encourages cities, states, and businesses to participate in a self-regulating exchange that administers the world’s first multi-national and multi-sector marketplace for reducing and trading greenhouse gas emissions.

“This partnership will build on the work already started by mayors,” said Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors. “It will provide the additional assistance that is needed to keep cities moving forward as we strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop global warming.”

“The engagement and leadership by mayors in the U.S. on advancing climate protection has resulted in substantial reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions directly linked to climate change as well as effectively raised the country’s focus on responsibly addressing the challenge,” Michelle Wyman, ICLEI Executive Director said. “Mayors are the most effective governance group leading positive impacts on this issue today.”

During the Conference’s Annual Meeting, mayors held numerous sessions related to the issue of global warming: the Urban Water Council focused on the impact of global warming on water issues; and the Energy and Environment Plenary Session highlighted the impact of climate change on weather patterns, as well as identified potential solutions including fuel options for vehicles and encouraging more green buildings which will drastically reduce energy usage. The mayors also adopted a resolution calling for all buildings to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

Just recently at the Conference’s Energy Summit in Chicago, the group released an Energy/Environment Best Practices booklet, which outlines over 40 cities’ innovative strategies on reducing a city’s impact on climate change, including alternative energy sources, transportation options, and green buildings.

More than 177 American cities are currently participating in ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign that annually reduces more than 23 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions, 43,000 tons of local air pollutants, and realizes cost savings of more than \$535 million in energy and fuel costs.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.