



# The Power of 86 Million Americans: 1000 Mayors Committed to Climate Action

Selected Profiles of Mayoral Leadership

October 2009





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CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

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# **The Power of 86 Million Americans: 1000 Mayors Committed to Climate Action**

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# From Earth to Neighborhood Turf

## How U.S. Mayors Changed the Political Climate on Global Warming

Seattle is blessed with natural beauty, from the sparkling waters of Puget Sound to the glaciers of Mount Rainier. We care about the environment. We're a pioneer in recycling, and we're powered by clean hydroelectricity. But until the winter of 2004, it was not obvious to me that Seattle is imminently threatened by global warming, just like every other city on Earth.

That year, we experienced an uncommonly dry and warm winter. The local ski season was cancelled, but the bigger long-term issue, at least from my perspective, was the greatly reduced snow pack and snow melt, which Seattle relies on for clean water and green power. It was clear that we were vulnerable to climate change, and it would only get worse if we continued the status quo.

Faced with this real possibility and potential peril, the big question was how to take action. I realized that if Seattle took on climate protection alone, it would probably be seen as politically symbolic, but we wouldn't be able to make a real difference.

As we were experiencing this threat, 141 countries were getting ready to make good on the commitment they had agreed to years earlier in Kyoto, Japan, to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. So, I summoned the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol, which represented a first step in coming to terms with global warming. Since 141 countries (but not the United States) signed the Kyoto accord, I set my sights on getting 141 U.S. cities to support a declaration of urban climate protection. The benchmark for the cities was the same as for the Kyoto signatories: reduce carbon emissions by 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

To be honest, I thought my goals were high but doable. Mayors are busy attending to neighborhood issues like schools, sanitation, public safety and economic development, confronting what seemed like an abstract global crisis in the making seemed far less pressing.

But the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement has been more successful than I could have possibly dreamed.

Mayors from the Northeast and West Coast were the first to sign on. Then, after a series of severe hurricanes hit Florida because of warmer oceans, mayors in the Sunshine State came aboard. We are nearing the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agreement and the next major international negotiations on climate change this year in Copenhagen – and we now have 1,000 signatories – mayors in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico – elected officials who represented approximately 85 million people.

The overwhelming public support for our urban climate protection commitment goes to show that there is tremendous energy in our local communities for solving vast global problems. This grassroots movement is fiercely determined, as I am, to protect and preserve the places where we live, work and play each and every day.

Government must lead, but each one of us has a role to play. As citizens, we must demand action and change our behavior and habits. Are we willing to make our homes more energy efficient? Are we willing to take public transportation to work instead of driving?

By joining together, our voices become a powerful chorus. In Seattle, for instance, we have hosts of neighborhood groups that work to reduce the impact of climate change one household at a time.

I believe that individual action stimulates collective action, and that individual responsibility spawns collective responsibility. You start small, by dropping a pebble in the middle of a lake and, before you know it, the ripples are spreading all the way to the shores.

Locally elected officials can create ripples – and maybe even waves – in the fight against global warming. What we do in our cities – whether it’s constructing green buildings, establishing electric car charging stations, planting urban forests or creating legions of good-paying green jobs – can serve as a model for state governments and Washington DC. We are environmental pragmatists and visionaries; we know what works and we know what will help save our planet.

A good example of the instructive and constructive relationship mayors can have with the Federal government can be seen in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, recently “conceived” by The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Under the leadership of the Conference, cities, counties and states can now receive grants specifically to fund energy efficiency and climate protection projects. This is a first in U.S. history, and earlier this year the Obama Administration distributed \$3.2 billion for EECBG as part of the stimulus package. Hundreds of U.S. cities will benefit as a result – and the nation as a whole will see dramatic results in the form of reduced emissions, new jobs, and the growth of entire new industries.

The fight against global warming doesn’t have to be about partisan politics; the color green is quite distinct in all its shades from Republican Red and Democrat Blue. And this clean campaign doesn’t have to cost huge sums of money, run up big deficits, or bankrupt us financially either.

In Seattle, for example, our community’s 2005 carbon footprint was about 8 percent smaller than it was in 1990, based in large part on energy conservation efforts by the city’s households and businesses, as well as our work to “zero out” the climate pollution associated with the development and delivery of electricity to approximately 370,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers. These numbers are a

testament to Seattle's citizens, companies, civic and community leaders – all of whom are participating in our campaign to reduce greenhouse gases in the most productive and commonsensical ways possible. But the numbers also tell us that there's a long way to go.

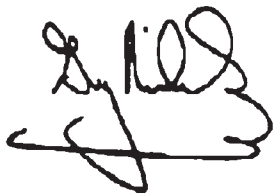
I'm a realist, and I see Seattle's population growing, so I know we're going to have to increase our environmental vigilance in the coming years in order to stay on track and reach our climate protection goals.

I also know that this generation, which is showing such a bold willingness to shed old behaviors and habits in the name of climate protection, won't come up with all the answers and won't make the atmosphere a pure place any time soon. Our children and grandchildren may not attain this objective either. But with each passing decade, we'll make more and more progress greening our cities. And bit by bit the urban carbon will disappear. Ultimately, when enough cities have done their duty and reduced emissions down to zero, we'll have clean counties, clean states, and a clean country; and, then, finally, we'll have a clean planet.

We as mayors need to continue to do the good work we've been doing. The progress we've made should not be taken as a sign to relax, but instead to redouble our efforts. All the science we're seeing these days indicates that we have years – not decades – to get this planet on the right track – to begin to reverse the devastating impacts of climate change. So I want to challenge my fellow mayors – to continue to be bold; to pilot innovative new solutions; and to push our Federal counterparts to finally join us in this battle by passing meaningful climate protection legislation and bringing a strong and committed U.S. voice to the table in Copenhagen as delegates from around the world set the course for our environmental history.

In the end, it will be crystal clear.

And nobody will forget that all this started because 1,000 courageous and broad-minded mayors thought of the Earth as well as their neighborhood turf at the same time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Nickels', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Greg Nickels**

Mayor of Seattle  
President, The United States Conference of Mayors



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# Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez

## Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?

"I have been a longtime leader in the drive to create a vibrant economy and a self-renewing, healthy environment. Transforming Albuquerque into a sustainable city is at the forefront of my administrative priorities.

Cities are large consumers of energy. And, while Albuquerque is no exception, it provides us with a unique opportunity to look critically at our day-to-day operations and policies and see where we can make changes that have a significant impact on resource conservation, the environment and economic development.

When we consider the problems caused by dependence on foreign oil, the increasing costs of fossil fuels, and the deterioration of our atmosphere from emissions that adversely affect our health and climate, there is simply no higher priority for our community's well-being, both present and future, than to promote healthy, sustainable alternatives.

In 2003, I was part of a group of mayors from across the country that issued a bipartisan Mayors' Statement on Global Warming; it was a logical next step for me, in 2005, to sign The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

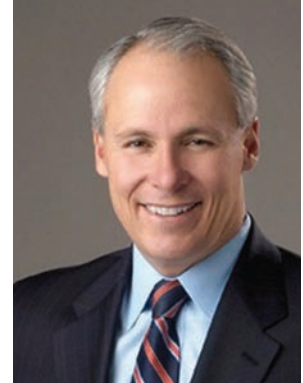
I was the first mayor in New Mexico to sign and, by doing so, I hoped to encourage policy makers and citizens to help lead our community in becoming a national model in energy conservation; development and adoption of leading-edge technologies for conservation, transportation, and clean energy production; use of clean energy resources; and sustainable economic development.

In 2006, I introduced a resolution at the New Mexico Municipal League that was unanimously adopted; it supported the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, and I have encouraged nine mayors from my state to also adopt the agreement."

## How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

"I am committed to maintaining Albuquerque's high quality of life and ensuring a healthy urban environment for citizens today and a sustainable future for generations to come. Our city is also committed to leading by example.

We identified the primary areas of high-energy consumption within city municipal operations, and then we implemented programs to address the identified areas. The primary areas of high-energy consumption are transportation, energy consumption in municipal buildings and fuel consumption by the city's rolling fleet.



*Albuquerque's goals are to plant 75,000 trees within two years and eventually deliver 60 percent canopy cover*

Reducing city emissions called for implementing facility energy audits, specialty bus routes, upgrading equipment, changing fuels, providing alternate fuels at city fuel stations, and forming community partnerships and collaboration to promote broader environmental responsibility and community services.

The following initiatives are representative of the actions taken to reduce our city's GHG emission:

- Executive Instruction 19 – newly purchased city fleet vehicles will be alternative fuel vehicles.
- Signed legislation to set aside 3% of city bond revenues for energy conservation and renewables; this program continues through 2011.
- Upgraded public transportation buses to diesel/electric buses.
- Implement a free transit route that connects the heavy rail state system to downtown.
- Develop transit routes that connect the major employment centers in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.
- All buses have bicycle racks mounted on front bumpers.
- Purchase 20% of the city's energy from alternate energy programs.
- Retrofit five city year-round swimming pools with solar thermal heating systems.
- Convert city traffic signals to LED technology.
- Executive Order No. 20 established green building standards for city projects, including requirements to meet or exceed LEED Silver rating.
- Develop and pass new building codes that require buildings to use less energy.
- With mayors from Chicago, Seattle and Miami, submitted Resolution No. 50, which urged The U.S. Conference of Mayors to adopt the 2030 Challenge.”

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“To date, the conversion of the city fleet to alternative fuel and high fuel efficiency vehicles and the implementation of energy conservation initiatives is yielding the largest GHG reductions, although the newly adopted Green Building Codes have the largest potential to reduce GHG emissions and conserve energy.

In 2007, I signed legislation adopting the Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code – Volumes I and II, the first comprehensive Energy Conservation Code in the State of New Mexico. The Energy Conservation Code reflects a concerted, combined effort between local government and those in the building, and building-related, industries to develop a code acceptable to all.

Green building standards reduce greenhouse gas emissions by advancing energy efficiency and renewable green energy. Green buildings are cost-effective, provide healthy places for people to live, learn, and work while supporting municipal conservation and environmental goals.

The Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code is one element of our effort to achieve the goals of the 2030 Challenge by ensuring new buildings are carbon neutral by the year 2030. The revised building codes support green building targets and are essential to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases generated by buildings. It is estimated that the building industry generates 39% of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and 48% of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the United States.”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“In 1990, as a State Senator, I co-sponsored the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act. The right tree in the right places can have positive environmental, economic, and sociological impact.

As Mayor, I have launched a major Urban Forestry Improvement Initiative to take advantage of all the ways trees help Albuquerque. Our goal is to have 75,000 trees planted within two years between the city and community group efforts.

- The city plants trees in parks, medians, and streetscapes. Planting a variety of trees species provides both visual interest and functional benefits. Trees provide shade, help to keep Albuquerque’s air clean and provide visual diversity in the desert landscape.
- The Parks Department has worked with the U.S. Forest Service to create a Master Plan to guide and direct the city on how to reach the desired goal of 60% canopy cover.
- Albuquerque strives to reduce water use and convert to a natural landscape; in addition, many park sites have improved while conserving valuable resources and reducing maintenance needs. Since the mid 1980’s, the city has reduced total water use while adding many new parks.
- The city asked the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research to develop a Municipal Forest Resources Analysis to provide us with an accurate cost/benefit report.
- High resolution data was taken of the city assessing tree canopy and impervious surface influencing heat island and storm water impacts.
- In 2005, we spearheaded efforts to save 250 acres of land along the Rio Grande Bosque from private development.
- We developed a master plan for city trees as well as manuals on “Tree Protection and Care.” The Parks Department completed a comprehensive inventory of trees in parks and street mediums.

- In 2006, the Tree Centennial program gave away 3,000 trees for planting in Albuquerque to honor our 300<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- City Forester was hired in 2007 to help design and manage the living trees that make our city a healthy place to live.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“I can think of three ways that the Federal government can encourage local leadership.

The first one requires that the Federal government adopt a far-sighted and comprehensive energy program.

The second one is a strong commitment from the Federal government to fund, by including in the Federal budget, monies for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants.

Finally, we need an amendment that indicates that Congress does not intend to restrict states or cities from implementing energy efficient building codes. If Congress wants to continue to preempt states from setting minimum HVAC product standards, then we are fine with the proposed amendment, including language that restricts states or cities from setting codes that, as a practical matter, force builders to use products in excess of Federal minimum standards. But states otherwise should not be tied to the latest versions of ASHRAE and IECC standards. Climate change and energy independence are too urgent for localities to wait for Federal consensus on building codes.”

# Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“As a lifelong resident and Mayor of Alexandria, I was very concerned about the potential impacts climate change would have on a coastal city such as Alexandria and its residents. With the potential for increased temperatures and a rising sea level as a result of global warming, the frequency and severity of damage from hurricanes and flooding would increase. At the time of my signing the agreement, small localized flooding of the Potomac River in Old Town had been a regular occurrence and a manageable problem. However, with the impact of global climate change, flooding was expected to become a significant issue impacting public safety, property damage and our city's economy.”



## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“The City of Alexandria has embarked on several initiatives that result in significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, such as the following:

### ***Promote sustainable building practices***

The city's goal is to achieve LEED-Silver rating for all new city-owned facilities over 5,000 square feet. The new T.C. Williams High School is certified as LEED-Gold. The city installed green roofs at Alexandria Health Department, T.C. Williams High School and Duncan Library, with another planned for Cora Kelly Elementary School. The city adopted a new and progressive green building policy for commercial and residential buildings.

### ***Promote tree planting***

The city plants approximately 350 trees annually. And we adopted an Urban Forestry Master Plan with the goal of achieving 40% tree canopy.

### ***Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles***

The city's sedans and SUVs are being replaced with low-emission/ more energy-efficient vehicles; and the fleet has 55 low-emission vehicles, including 14 hybrids.

### ***Land-use policies that reduce urban sprawl, create walkable communities and encourage mixed-use development, combined with sustainable transit-oriented transportation options***

The Open Space Master Plan, adopted in 2003, led to the acquisition of eight parcels, consisting of 64 acres of key Waterfront and Four Mile Run properties. The city also hired a Pedestrian / Bicycle Coordinator and adopted a Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation; this has reduced dependence on the private automobile.

*Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan has some aggressive long-term goals, such as GHG reduction by 80% compared to 2005 levels by 2050 and carbon-neutral new buildings by 2030*

### ***Increase recycling rates in city operations and community***

In 2006, a new Multi-Family Residential and Business Recycling Program was initiated.

The city expanded its leaf collection program for turning leaves into mulch.”

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“In 2006, the City Council initiated a strategic and comprehensive environmental planning process called the Eco-City Alexandria initiative. Its objective was to develop an environmental vision for the city named the Eco-City Charter, which was adopted in 2008, and an Environmental Action Plan, which was adopted in 2009. This action plan contains 48 goals, 50 preliminary targets, and 353 actions that would span the course of 21 years. Several short-term actions have been completed such as the following:

- Adopted a progressive green building policy for commercial and residential buildings
- Adopted the Urban Forestry Master Plan
- Hired an energy manager and developed an energy strategy
- Completed GHG inventory.

This action plan has some aggressive long-term goals, such as GHG reduction by 80% compared to 2005 levels by 2050, and carbon-neutral new buildings by 2030.”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“Besides the signing of the Mayors’ Climate Change Agreement, which demonstrated the determination of local governments and the urgency of the global warming issue, I believe that my favorite initiative is the Eco-City Alexandria.

I had the pleasure of attending our Eco-City Summit in 2008, where over 200 residents, business owners and city leaders gathered to discuss the draft Eco-City Charter. Mayor Bob Harvey of the City of Waitakere, New Zealand, who is a pioneer of the Eco-City movement, served as the Summit’s keynote speaker.

The City Council adopted the Eco-City Charter, the first of its kind in the region, in 2008. This document serves to guide city leaders and residents towards a more sustainable, holistic and healthy environment. The Eco-City Charter outlines essential environmental sustainability principles and core values, which reflect our city’s 2015 Strategic Plan.

I am very hopeful that the Eco-City Alexandria initiative will lead both the city and Alexandrians towards environmental sustainability and achieve the city’s goal of becoming a true Eco-City.”

## **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“Local governments such as Alexandria have rather limited resources to handle major and global issues such as climate change, although we have been trying to do our fair share to contribute to the solution. I believe the Federal government should continue to provide strong leadership and financial support wherever appropriate to accelerate the fight against global warming. Specifically, the Federal government should set up Federal programs such as the cap-and-trade program to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

I personally think the United States should be the leader in the effort against global warming since it has been a major contributor to the problem. In the process of finding solutions to this problem, our country might invent or re-invent the whole new world of “Green Economy,” which potentially can bring about not only survival but also prosperity and wealth to the future generations.”

# Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin



*Between 2007 and 2008, Atlanta reduced its emissions by 5.6%.*

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

"I signed onto the agreement because climate change is a significant issue to Atlanta and for our future. If Atlanta is to be a best-in-class city, we have to have leadership and action on issues that matter, and this is one of them. The following year, after the agreement was first brought forward, the USCM chose Atlanta to host the Sustainability Conference because we have one of the highest numbers of LEED-certified buildings among U.S. cities, and we were proud to showcase our sustainability efforts."

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

"We have established our carbon footprint for municipal operations and are measuring our emissions annually. Between 2007 and 2008, we reduced our emissions 5.6%. We are quite proud of that and continue to work towards the 7% reduction goal set by the agreement. In 2009, our City will undertake a community climate action plan. We will establish the community carbon footprint and develop a strategy with the community to reduce our emissions."

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

"Our city continues to upgrade our facilities and install higher energy efficient technologies. These actions are having the greatest impact on emissions reduction. Additionally, we treated less water and waste water in 2008. This caused significant energy reduction. The decreased water treatment occurred because major water conservation was occurring across the region to deal with drought conditions. Finally, our utility, Georgia Power, shifted to a lower carbon fuel mix for power generation. 1.45% of our reductions are due to this shift."

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

"Atlanta has developed an employee education and outreach program called the Power to Change campaign. The purpose of this program is to engage all city employees in how they can help reduce their carbon footprint at work, home, church, etc. Its great to see the innovation and excitement that comes from our employees. Individual actions like these will get us out of this crisis."

## **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

"We need continued Federal funding to incentivize government and community action on energy efficiency and climate change. One-time funding and laws will not drive the change we need. Congress should continue funding programs like the Department

of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Showcase Communities program.

We also need national Renewable Portfolio Standard and Climate Change legislation that sets aggressive goals. This will drive continued gains in energy efficiency and push coal-dependent utilities to undertake additional strategies to lower their emissions. Atlanta's carbon footprint will remain high as long as we are dependent on coal-based energy.”

# Babylon Mayor Steven Bellone



*In 2008, Babylon launched Long Island Green Homes (LIGH), which has begun retrofitting the town's 65,000 detached houses*

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

"It conformed to our objectives and enhanced realization through the strength in numbers. Moreover, experience has demonstrated that it is municipalities that are most ideally positioned to make meaningful reductions in our collective carbon footprint."

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

"For nearly five years, we have purchased 10% of our energy needs from wind generation and, in addition, made exclusive purchases of hybrid passenger vehicles. We have supported transit-oriented design at our hamlet centers, and are in the process of redeveloping the most economically challenged section of Long Island, checkered as it has been, with brownfields. In 2006, we required Energy Star standards for new home construction and LEED standards for all new commercial and industrial construction of 4,000sf. In 2008, we launched Long Island Green Homes (LIGH), which has begun retrofitting Babylon's 65,000 detached houses."

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

"The 800,000-square foot Tanger Outlet Mall was built to LEED-Silver standards and will, as a result, be realizing between 30-40% energy savings; we don't have exact numbers at this point. Long Island Green Homes has completed 120 deep retrofits, with another 96 audited in the queue. We have realized an 85% closing rate from audit to deep retrofit. On average, air infiltration has been decreased by 29%, diminishing CO<sub>2</sub> by 4.35t per house. The pilot program of 275 homes, financed by \$2 million from the town's solid waste reserve, will be completed by the end of the year. Next year, we will be targeting 1,200 homes and aim to have them retrofitted by the end of 2010, thus reducing Babylon's carbon footprint by 6,416t."

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

"LIGH is my favorite, for many of the reasons noted above."

## **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

"Continued support by DOE is key; they really get it. Municipalities need to more effectively lobby the principle that it is municipalities that most effectively apply Federal dollars to requisite initiatives. The first iteration of Waxman-Markey correctly focused on Local Energy Efficient Design (LEED) but was changed to State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) in the final mark-up. SEED is simply a less efficient means by which to achieve our objectives."

# Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino

## Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?

"I signed the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to make clear the commitment that the City of Boston has made to confronting and reducing the risks of global climate change and to join forces with mayors across the United States in calling for greater attention to this globally important issue."

## How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

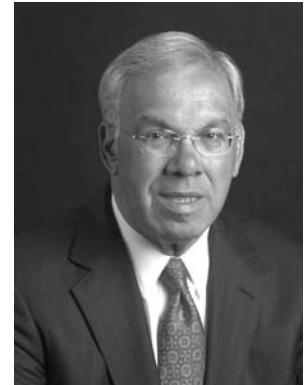
"In 2007, I issued an executive order setting a goal of 80% reduction in municipal emissions by 2050. At the same time, our city issued its first comprehensive Climate Action Plan describing and formalizing our GHG reduction programs. As nearly 75% of our GHG emissions come from the energy demand of the building sector, we developed a comprehensive green building strategy, including:

- A first-in-the-nation adoption of LEED standards for new private development
- A LEED Silver standard for municipal projects
- A \$3 million green affordable housing program
- Purchase of electricity from renewable sources
- Solar and CHP installations in municipal facilities
- Hybrid vehicles for the city fleet
- Expanded recycling programs

This past spring, I appointed a Climate Action Leadership Committee, supported by a Community Advisory Committee on Climate Action, to set goals for the entire Boston community and a strategy for achieving them. Their report is due in spring 2010. In the meantime, the city has established a Solar Boston program to facilitate the installation of renewable energy throughout the city. We are also launching the Renew Boston program, which is using foundation and Federal block grant funding to coordinate all energy efficiency programs, from utilities and government, for residents and businesses. Lastly, I appointed a bike coordinator for Boston, who has overseen a rapid expansion of the city's bike programs, including the installation of more bike lanes and bike racks, the establishment of a bike pool for city employees, and the issuance of a request for information (RFI) that will lead to a city-wide bicycle share program."

## Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?

"The decision to purchase at least 11 percent of our electricity from renewable sources produced an immediate reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions of over 3%. Over the next 10 years, I expect that the range of energy efficiency measures we



*Over the last two years, the Solar Boston program has increased solar capacity in Boston by 300%*

are putting in place for existing buildings will be the most important. And more of our green power will come from solar and wind installations in the city. In the last two years alone, we have seen a 300% increase in solar capacity in the city under our Solar Boston program.”

**What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“I love to see our young people engaged in environmental initiatives. We built the Boston Nature Center in 2004, a deeply green nature center in the heart of our urban core. To interact with school children there is amazing. To me, the Nature Center is the building that teaches, as the families that visit not only learn from the wonderful educational programs but learn from the building itself. They can see the photovoltaics and solar thermal systems; they can touch the sustainable materials harvested locally or recycled; and they gain an appreciation of how we as a society interact with our environment. Our youth are the future stewards of our city and making these connections to our environment stimulates learning and fosters continued civic engagement.

However, as a relatively recent convert to the joys of regular bike riding, our bicycle initiatives are among my favorites. Being able to lead a pack of cyclists around the city during our Hub on Wheels event is, as we used to say, a gas.”

**How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“Federal government leadership is essential to address problems beyond the reach of local governments – for example, fuel standards for our vehicles, financial support for renewable energy, research and development in energy efficiency, and comprehensive regulation of economy-wide emissions. The Federal government is also an important source of funding for local initiatives. For example, we are using funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for programs that will enable Boston residents and businesses to more effectively access funds and services available in state and utility programs. Finally, the Federal government needs to remove restrictions that sometimes hinder local governments from taking effective local action. In the past year, both the City of Boston and the City of New York have been blocked by Federal courts, on the basis of Federal preemption claims, from taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our taxi fleets.”

# Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz

## Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?

"I signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement because it is important to develop programs and policies that reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and promote the use of clean, economical, energy resources. I believe our cities need to find ways to implement energy conservation, fuel efficiency and other sustainability initiatives. Signing the agreement was the right thing to do. There is power in numbers and there are now nearly 1,000 signatures on Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement."

## How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

"The City of Burnsville adopted a Sustainability Guide Plan in February of 2009. The Plan includes 14 Best Practices areas, including Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction, Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Energy. The following activities are moving the City of Burnsville toward a more sustainable future and reducing GHG emissions:

- Inventorying greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting transportation options such as buses and bicycles
- Conducting energy audits on city facilities and retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient technology
- Encouraging employees to conserve energy
- Promoting sustainable building practices by creating a new grant program to encourage local business and agencies to implement energy efficient programs into their buildings
- Increasing the fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles, including hybrid and ethanol technologies
- Promoting recycling in city facilities as well as the community
- Using LED holiday lighting and LED traffic lights
- Collecting methane gas from the landfill and turning it into electricity
- Educating the public on energy conservation by offering 'green tips' and fact sheets on a sustainability Web page

The City of Burnsville is at the leading edge of a growing national commitment to sustainable practices and it is a priority for our elected leaders, staff and the community."



*Burnsville has implemented a methane gas collection system in its landfill that produces enough energy to power 1,200 homes and reduce GHG emissions*

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“The City of Burnsville is in the process of producing an inventory of GHG emissions and developing a tracking system for emissions. The goal is to inventory and set reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions for city facilities. Implementation activities include:

1. Develop GHG Emission reduction strategy based on collected baseline data and establish a reduction goal.
2. Establish GHG emission tracking procedure with annual reporting to gather baseline data.

You can't manage what you don't measure. Unless we measure emissions, we don't know if it is getting better or worse.”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“A byproduct of trash breaking down in a landfill is landfill gas, which contains approximately 50% methane and 50% carbon dioxide with small amounts of nitrogen and oxygen. Methane and carbon dioxide are greenhouse gases. Methane is a particularly harmful GHG emission. At the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, the gas is collected and is turned into a usable energy source. The methane gas collection system produces enough energy to power 1,200 homes and significantly reduces the GHG emissions from the landfill. The methane collection system will continue to turn the landfill gas into power for years to come.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“Financial support for energy efficiency and conservation is the best way the Federal government can encourage leadership of local governments. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is helping cities not only save and create jobs, it is giving cities the opportunity to move ahead with energy conservation programs. The City of Burnsville is funding several energy efficiency programs with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds. Without this funding, much of the progress the city is making in its sustainability initiatives would be put on hold. We encourage the Federal government to continue to award cities an allotment of funds to initiate energy conservation programs.”

# Carmel Mayor James Brainard

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“The answer is pretty simple. I signed the agreement to help establish goals for improved air quality, energy independence and carbon reduction.”

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“The City of Carmel has built over 50 roundabouts, which reduce gasoline usage by roughly 24,000 gallons of gasoline per roundabout per year. We are implementing a ‘smart code,’ which increases pedestrian connectivity throughout the city with better planning; we have added tens of miles of bike and pedestrian paths; we have increased density to cut down on automobile trips; we have a no-idling policy for city vehicles; we have a requirement that all city vehicles must be hybrids or use alternative fuel; we have replaced incandescent street lights with LED’s; we have created a walkable city center through public-private partnerships that help cut down on car trips; and we have developed a street tree program, which spends approximately \$25 per person per year on street trees. Mixed-use development initiatives, especially, cut down on long car trips from commercial to residential zones.”

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“Residents burn an estimated 470,000 fewer gallons of gas when using a roundabout versus waiting at a 4-way stop or traffic light. At \$2.50 per gallon of gas, drivers save approximately \$1,750,000 per year. Recent studies indicate roundabout interchanges significantly reduce toxic automobile emissions, creating a positive impact on the environment. Analysis performed at the 96th and Keystone intersection in Carmel, using traffic analysis and Environmental Protection Agency software, has indicated that replacing the existing signal at the intersection with a new roundabout interchange will reduce annual carbon monoxide emissions by 42 percent, nitrous oxide emissions by 29 percent, and hydrocarbon emissions by 71 percent. Additionally, studies cited by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) show that annual carbon dioxide emissions are typically reduced by 37 percent when a traffic signal is replaced by a roundabout.”

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“Roundabouts are a safe, economical alternative to traditional right-angle traffic intersections. They are safer, more cost efficient, environmental friendly and have a smoother traffic flow.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study findings indicate that roundabouts would make driving in and around the city (where automobiles are the main method of transportation) a much safer and smoother experience. The study reported a



*The City of Carmel has built over 50 roundabouts, which reduce gasoline usage by roughly 24,000 gallons of gasoline per roundabout per year*

39 percent decrease in crashes and a 76 percent decrease in injury-producing crashes at intersections with roundabouts. Collisions involving fatal or incapacitating injuries fell as much as 90 percent.

Our city began installing roundabouts instead of traditional intersections with traffic lights or stop signs in 1996. We now have more than 50 roundabouts on city thoroughfares. The roundabouts have caught on so well they're also being installed in subdivisions and outdoor retail areas.

Roundabouts have only eight potential conflict points where a four-way, right angled intersection has 32 potential conflict points. Since installing roundabouts at one busy parkway intersection, the number of traffic accidents has dropped significantly even with higher volumes of traffic as the city grows.

Residents also experience a smoother flow of traffic and fewer delays since cars are not required to come to a complete stop at a roundabout. The IIHS study also concluded, ... where roundabouts replace intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, delays in traffic can be reduced by as much as 75 percent.'

The combination of rotary design and slower speed at the entrance of roundabouts has additional safety benefits. Aggressive driving is limited at these intersections by drivers not trying to beat the yellow light or be first off the line when the signal turns green. Both are frequent causes of accidents at traditional intersections with stop lights. When roundabouts replace traditional intersections, the total number of accidents is reduced by 40 percent and the number of accidents with injury is reduced to 78 percent.

In our city, roundabout construction costs average \$125,000 less than a traditional signaled intersection. Average estimates for electricity savings could be as much as \$5,000 per intersection. In addition to saving taxpayers money by installing roundabouts, it's estimated that residents burn 470,000 fewer gallons of gas, which equals approximately \$11,750,000 per year in out-of-pocket expenses. This is because roundabouts allow cars to have continuous movement as opposed to four-way intersections that require cars to stop for long periods of time while the engine idles.

In summary, roundabouts have the ability to reinforce a rapidly growing city by saving time and money. Most importantly, roundabouts are environmentally friendly and can help save lives."

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

"I believe we should tie Federal funding to implementation of climate goals, particularly in the area of transportation. This system should include incentive payments for meeting goals and reduced revenue for failure to meet goals. A market to sell credits for carbon reduction should be established via Federal law with municipal participation specifically allowed."

# Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

## Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?

“We know that we must think globally and act locally. That is why I signed, along with other colleagues, the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, a commitment to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. In Charleston, we have taken concrete steps to do this. And I believe cities must take the lead. In our community, where sea level has risen nine inches in the past century, and where our land averages between 3 and 15 feet above sea level, further sea level rise could be cataclysmic. We have to change our policies and practices and become zealous environmental conservationists to work against this happening. The Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement was critical in 2005. Our nation needed to see, and saw, what mayors and cities and citizens all over this nation were willing to do to protect our environment.”



## How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

“Charleston has always cared about the livability and the walkability of our community. We are an old city and a walking city. Hence, there are numerous historic preservation, zoning and multi-modal transportation initiatives that are inherently good for community-wide energy efficiency. As a result, we found in our 2006 greenhouse gas inventory that Charleston emitted approximately 19.75 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per person. This shows that while we have room for improvement, that even though we are a city of about 130,000, our emissions are far less than the U.S. average of 24.5 CO<sub>2</sub>e. The walkable elements of our community are a tremendous asset.

We have taken significant and quantifiable steps to reduce our emissions. You'll note a theme that the City of Charleston is tackling both small- and large-emissions reductions. Combined, and over time, all reductions are significant. From just a few key initiatives, the city has reduced its emissions on an annual basis by over 10,600 tons. Clearly, the energy and financial savings mount over time.

## Some of our initiatives:

### *Fleet Efficiencies*

- We have a growing fleet of hybrid and bio diesel compatible cars. Our Police Department is surpassing the goal of 10% reduction in the use of gas.

### *Limiting Idling*

- The Police Department is also enforcing the City's no idling policy, which limits idling to 5 minutes.
- Traffic signals have been synchronized to allow more free-flowing traffic and less idling. The annual benefit of the retiming amounts to 569,659 hours of time saved, 341,795 gallons of gas not used, and 203.5 tons of emissions reduction.

*Charleston believes its energy efficiency plan can deliver \$25 million in total energy savings over 21 years*

### ***Using Energy More Efficiently***

- With the 2008 Holiday season, the city began using LED lights for its premier tree. The electricity savings in dollars are about \$1,000 per season.
- Approximately 80% of our traffic signals are lighted via LED lights (Light Emitting Diodes). LED technology uses 83% less energy than traditional lighting and saves about 2,000 tons of CO2 annually.
- We have an energy efficiency contract with an energy services company. Some highlights are below. Much of this initial work has involved installing more energy efficient HVAC systems, lighting efficiency retrofits, efficiency control systems retrofits, and low flow water devices.

**Financially:** Overall, there's projected to be \$25,000,000 in energy savings over 21 years

**Efficiency:** A 16% reduction in the city's current energy and gas usage

**Environmentally:** CO2 reduction is 28,200 tons or 56,400,000 lbs., as of December 2008

Combined *Annual* Environmental Benefits of Phase I and Phase II:

- 8,417 tons of CO2 removed
- 27,318 lbs of NOx removed
- 99,697 lbs of SO2 removed
- 106,178 mg of mercury removed

This is the equivalent of:

- 4,742 cars removed from the road, or
- 6,474 trees planted @ 200 per acre, or
- 106,094 gallons of gas saved”

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“The greatest impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reduced is our work with and through the energy service company. With net energy and cost savings to our citizens and our environment, what could be better?”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“Future initiatives are my favorite ones and Charleston will have many. Picking just one, it is our energy efficiency partnership, which we hope to launch next year. This initiative will bundle energy audits, efficiency upgrades and the financing for all residential buildings, small commercial buildings, and many institutions, into a one-stop center. Energy efficiency touches everybody. Energy efficiency programs – from caulking to better insulation to thermostat controls to solar heat – allow all

economic levels to participate. One thousand units, residential and small business and institutions, will be targeted for service in the pilot phase by the end of 2011, including every city controlled building.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“There are two key ways that the Federal government can continue their support of local governments as it relates to climate protection.

First, continue funding of the energy efficiency block grant program as an annual way to support local governments in implementing local climate protection solutions that can be tailored to each community. This system has worked well for decades through the Community Development Block Grant. Climate protection is our new frontier.

Second, off-shore wind development is an initiative that shows great promise both for renewable energy production and for economic development. It is an initiative that is much greater than one local government or one state. I look to our Federal government to elevate its leadership of off shore wind development from the permitting perspective, and in terms of economic development support, including education and job training coordination. This will foster partnerships with small and large players, as well as those in the public and private sectors, and stimulate reinvestments in our economy, either through energy savings or through supporting a new industry. America already makes many of the off shore wind turbine parts. It can also become a leader in the production of all turbine parts and the development of a renewable energy source.”

# Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson



*Cleveland is committed to reducing energy and fuel consumption by 10% over the next three years, and its public power company has agreed to supply 25% of its energy from advanced and renewable sources by 2025*

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

"I signed the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to make a clear and powerful statement to our community that climate protection is an issue that requires swift and bold action. We recognize that cities play a vital role in combating greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, cities will play a critical role in developing climate change solutions that provide economic opportunities for our businesses and residents."

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

"Since signing the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, we have joined ICLEI to assist in the development of our GHG emissions inventory and to develop a city operations climate action plan. We have made commitments internally to reduce energy and fuel consumption by 10% over the next three years and have committed our public power company to supply 25% of its energy from advanced and renewable sources by 2025. We have also developed programs and policies to deal with our vacant land issue. These programs include: propelling the local food movement with urban farms, reducing storm water runoff, creating green space, and promoting deconstruction. We have found these programs to be very effective in engaging the community. Finally, the City of Cleveland partnered with other large institutions to create the Cleveland Carbon Fund. This fund allows for individuals and businesses to contribute to local carbon reduction projects. This is the first open access community fund in the country contributing to local projects."

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

"I believe you need a diverse portfolio of programs and policies to attack climate issues in cities."

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

"This past summer, I hosted a summit called "Sustainable Cleveland 2019: Building an Economic Engine to Empower a Green City on a Blue Lake." This summit convened over 700 participants to develop a sustainable economic development plan. This plan directs efforts to reshape Cleveland, build businesses and community wealth, and support current initiatives to address our most pressing environmental and social challenges. This portfolio will include initiatives that provide multiple community benefits and create opportunities for economic growth. I believe that now is the time to position Cleveland so it can capitalize on these activities, and so that we will not miss the opportunity for sustainable economic growth over the next 20 years. These efforts have helped reinforce Cleveland as a leader when we're addressing climate change in older industrial cities."

## **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“The Federal government can continue to encourage local government leadership in developing and implementing climate change solutions by taking the following critical steps:

- Make the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program a permanent energy and sustainability funding source for local governments
- Pass the Climate and Energy Security Act that caps carbon emissions and spreads carbon reduction responsibilities across the entire economy
- Focus funding on local government and urban programs that maximize the benefits of reducing carbon emissions through job creation
- Pass a nationwide Renewable Portfolio Standard with requirements on solar and wind installations
- Increase investment of mass transit and commuter railway systems”

# Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper



*The Greener Denver Business Program is educating local companies on the important role they can play in reducing emissions*

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“Denver knows that with cities using 75% of the world’s resources, change needs to happen at the local level. We recognized we could take steps now in our governmental operations and communities to reduce our impact on worldwide global warming pollution because reducing greenhouse gas emissions is sound public policy. Considering the economic and social benefits of actions that will reduce Denver’s vulnerability to climate change, inaction was never an option. Joining with other U.S. mayors to sign the Climate Protection Agreement was an important first step in setting Denver’s proactive course.”

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“The first thing we did after signing the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement was study where greenhouse gas emissions were originating throughout the City of Denver as part of our Greenprint Denver initiative. In 2007, after more than a year of research by the Greenprint Denver Advisory Council and City staff, we adopted Denver’s first Climate Action Plan, which identifies strategies to meet our Climate Protection Agreement goal of a 10% per capita reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and sets a new goal of a 25% absolute reduction by 2020. When we revisited our greenhouse gas inventory last year, our research showed a 3% per capita reduction, so although there is much work yet to do, we’re off to a good start.”

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“We’ve had a lot of success with our Residential Climate Challenge program, in which we’ve worked with non-profit partners to go door-to-door in Denver’s neighborhoods to provide energy efficiency education and services. Because energy conservation is best met by a change in individuals’ behavior, helping people learn how to make change in their home is proving critical to our carbon reduction goals. In addition to reducing emissions from the built environment and reducing utility costs for our residents, we’re making homes more comfortable and building stronger communities.”

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“It’s hard to shine the spotlight on just one part of the program. But we are proud of the work we’re doing through the Greener Denver Business Program to educate local businesses on the important role they can play in reducing emissions. The sector affects so many of our city’s largest GHG sources – commercial buildings, transportation and materials – and the program connects businesses to resources that help reduce their impact on the environment while saving money during the economic downturn.”

## **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“Local governments have long been on the forefront of innovative policy, so it’s critical that the Federal government understands the leadership role cities can play on the front lines of combating climate change. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program was a great start, but additional resources must be directed to local governments and regional organizations to comprehensively support the work of building sustainable communities. The transportation reauthorization bill and comprehensive climate legislation currently under discussion provide some good opportunities for the Federal government to provide resources more directly to large cities and regional governments to support sustainable land use, public transportation and energy conservation work being done on the community level.”

# Des Moines

## Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie



*The methane gas capture process at the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) has reduced emissions while generating cost savings and revenues*

### **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“The Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement provided an opportunity to show my personal commitment to policies and city ordinances that would help improve the environment. The agreement also allowed me to join with other elected officials who share my concern about improving the climate and who understand the importance of developing appropriate policies that will lead to a better place for all of us to live.”

### **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“The City of Des Moines has moved forward on a number of initiatives to assist in reducing emissions. A few of the actions taken include:

- The construction of the city’s first LEED-certified building – the Parks Maintenance Facility
- Development of a methane capture process at the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF)
- Purchase of both electric and hybrid vehicles for use in city operations
- Use of bio-diesel fuel in the fleet
- Purchase of a hybrid electric bus
- Expansion of the bike trail system
- Replacement of traffic signal lights with LED bulbs, which reduced energy consumption by approximately \$120,000 per year
- Implementation of a downtown shuttle bus, the “D-Line,” which also reduced the amount of vehicle emissions

All of these actions are leading to a reduction in GHG in the atmosphere in the Des Moines area.”

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“The methane gas capture process at the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) has had the most significant impact on emissions reduction. The benefits are reduced emissions released into the atmosphere; cost savings from using the methane gas to generate our own electricity; and revenue generation from selling the excess methane gas. Up to 48% of the required electricity has been provided by the cogeneration process. In addition, a pipeline was constructed that takes the excess gas to a private firm, which uses the biogas to generate steam for its operations. The city generates revenue from this sale in the \$150,000 range per year. Before, WRF was forced to burn 20% to 50% of the gas produced.”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“The Annual Mayor’s Bike Ride is my favorite initiative. Last year, almost 900 people, young and old, took part in the ride. Some are regular bicyclists, others are recreational enthusiasts, but all enjoy the chance to ride together. It raises the awareness that bikes can be used as another mode of transportation as well as the need for complete street designs to accommodate different modes of travel. In addition, funds are raised for the expansion of the trail system throughout the city. Events like this allow citizens to experience firsthand the benefits and enjoyment of biking.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“The Federal government has many tools at its disposal to increase the leadership ability of local governments so they can implement the changes required to make substantial progress on climate protection issues. The following are a few ideas:

- Provide funding at levels that make it economically feasible for local governments to undertake alternative energy projects such as wind, solar, hydro, etc.
- Provide the funding for energy-related projects and programs directly to the cities. Do not send funds to states for reallocation. Reduce the cost of administration by eliminating the state level and instead put the funds into actual projects with minimum administration costs at the city level.
- Change Federal transportation funding policies. The policies need to encourage local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) etc. to implement energy efficient, environmentally friendly alternatives to building roads and interstate highways.
- Also, we need to rethink the way we manage growth and development. Continuing to build more roads and highways across farm fields and green spaces is the type of construction that contributes to unabated urban sprawl, which needs to be stopped immediately. This means the eligibility list for projects must be changed. The list needs to promote alternative modes of transportation, public transportation, land use trends, etc.; this needs to be the core of a new policy.”

# Los Angeles

## Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa



*1.6 million tons of CO2 will be reduced with the plan to build 1,280 megawatts (MW) of solar power capacity in Los Angeles*

### Why did you sign on to the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement?

“There is no greater threat to our way of life than that of climate change. For too long, the Bush Administration failed to acknowledge scientific evidence behind this imminent global threat and refused to engage in mitigation and adaptive strategies to address the issue. It was clear that there was a leadership gap in this country, and that cities had to step up and lead. The Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement is our way of taking action to show the world that we as cities are prepared to take serious action to mitigate, adapt, and lead in finding solutions to address the impacts of global warming.”

### How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

“The City of Los Angeles has the largest carbon emissions output of any city in the State of California, which has the largest carbon footprint of any state in the U.S., which has the largest carbon footprint any country in the world. In 2007, I set a highly aggressive goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. To that end, the City of Los Angeles has embarked on a creative and practical path to reduce carbon emissions, specifically in the areas of energy and transportation. I have directed city departments to prepare climate strategies and implementation actions to achieve the goal of 35% emission reduction by 2030.

Also, I continue to undertake initiatives to green the largest municipally-owned utility in the country – the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). I have set a goal of 40% renewable energy by 2020 and seek to move the LADWP to a ‘Coal-Free’ operation by 2020. By removing the city’s reliance on coal as a main source of power, our carbon emissions could be reduced by approximately 10.5 million metric tons.”

### Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?

“My goal is to reduce the city’s municipal carbon emissions by 35% below 1990 levels by 2030. The City’s entire CO2 emissions in 1990 were 54.1 million metric tons, with city municipal operations accounting for 33% of the city’s CO2 emissions.

SOURCE	1990	2004
Municipal Operations	17,600,000 metric tons	16,900,000 metric tons
Community-Wide	54,100,000 metric tons	51,600,000 metric tons

The following are a few examples of the projects and programs that are yielding the largest carbon emission reductions since I came into office in 2005:

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	CO2 REDUCED PER YEAR (IN METRIC TONS)
<b>Renewables</b>	Renewable Projects that were on line between 04-09, including Pine Tree (120 MW wind farm to reduce 200,000 metric tons of carbon)	More than 1.3 million
<b>ATSAC</b>	Traffic Light Sync 4,417 intersections (currently, more than 3,300 of 4,417 are completed)	1,000,000 (approx)
<b>CFL Distribution</b>	Two CFL light bulbs will be distributed to each of the 1.4 million residential households in LA. Approximately, 2.8 million cfl's were distributed.	70,000
<b>LED Street Lights</b>	Launched the largest LED street light replacement program in the world, which will replace 140,000 street lights to LED. Full implementation of the program will save the city approximately \$10 million a year in energy costs.	40,500

**Projects to be implemented will yield significant carbon reduction:**

- **Solar LA:** 1.6 million tons of CO2 will be reduced with plan to build 1,280 megawatts (MW) of solar power capacity in Los Angeles.
- **Coal Free by 2020:** 3.8 million tons to CO2 will be reduced when DWP no longer uses the Navajo coal plant and approximately 6.7 million tons of CO2 from Intermountain facility in Utah.”

**What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“The City of Los Angeles has achieved significant results in reducing its emissions with innovative strategies and projects. I would say that my favorite initiative is our program to replace the City’s 140,000 street lights with LED. This will not only eliminate more than 40,500 tons of CO2, and produce an energy savings of more than 66.6 million gigawatts hours, but it will also save the city about \$10 million a year in electricity costs.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

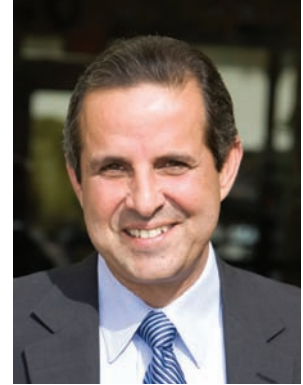
“At this time, the Federal government is in a unique position to effect the change that President Obama promised the American people. In this time of global economic crises, countries and major cities within them are looking to each other for guidance, partnerships, and solutions. One of the most effective methods for the Federal government to encourage cities to take the lead is to lead by example. The Obama Administration has already demonstrated its commitment to climate change through Federal policies supporting climate change action such as: Congressman Waxman’s energy legislation; a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program; and a national budget reflecting aggressive targets for emissions reductions and renewable technologies. These Federal policies alert local governments to the urgent national concern with mitigating climate change, which cities will then heed as green lights to move forward; the result will be the confident launch of new initiatives.

Acting with confidence, however, requires having the necessary resources in hand to carry out community projects. The Federal government’s ability to provide funding and resources can best infuse local governments with resilience to promote, encourage, and lead the effort to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Through Federal Recovery Act grants, I have had the opportunity to push initiatives in renewable energy, cleaner transport, building retrofits, and much more. These initiatives have, in turn, already resulted in reduced carbon emissions, energy savings, and cleaner air. The reality that local actions underlie climate change progress calls for thoughtful, continuous fiscal support to achieve long-term benefits throughout the nation.”

# Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“The undisputed, scientific evidence shows that global climate change brings severe weather, food and water shortages, higher energy costs, and other threats to our way of life. For Miami, a changing climate means more and stronger hurricanes, rising sea levels, an endangered water supply, and a threat to one of the most fragile ecosystems in the world – our everglades. Given the sheer amount of expensive property near the ocean, the Greater Miami urban core is among the world’s most vulnerable areas to rising sea levels. If we do not act to mitigate climate change now, Miami, as we know it, will cease to exist over the course of this century.”



## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“We completed MiPlan, the City of Miami Climate Action Plan, in June 2008. MiPlan inventoried current GHG emissions from city operations and citywide and provided recommended actions to reduce GHG emissions from buildings, energy generation, transportation, and land use. We have begun energy retrofits at City Hall and will commence retrofits at another 30 city buildings in the next few months. City Hall retrofits have, thus far, consisted of the lighting modifications in our city commission chambers and the installation of solar panels, part of our broader effort to explore the use of renewable energy during future building retrofits. In addition, our city commission adopted a green fleet ordinance aimed at reducing fuel consumption across the city’s fleet. We have also avidly promoted bicycle use through the adoption of a citywide Bicycle Plan and eight Bike Miami Days events, consisting of street closures and festivals that allow families to utilize our city’s streets as a recreational amenity. Lastly, our City Commission is currently considering a comprehensive revision of our zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan, referred to as Miami 21, which will ensure that our city’s future growth adheres to Smart Growth principles.”

*Miami’s energy efficiency retrofit program for more than 30 city-owned buildings could save more than \$8 million over the next 10 years in energy costs and reduce energy consumption at these facilities by more than 25%*

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“We are still early in our implementation of MiPlan. However, a lighting retrofit and solar panel installation at Miami City Hall has reduced electricity consumption over 10% and saved the City over \$7,000 per year in electricity costs. Once we receive our allotted EECBG funds, the city will implement an energy efficiency retrofit program for more than 30 city-owned buildings, which could save the city more than \$8 million over the next 10 years in energy costs and reduce energy consumption at these facilities by more than 25%.”

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“Next month, we will launch our Home Energy Challenge / Reduce the Use program in partnership with the local non-profit Dream-in-Green for 50 homes in the City of

Miami. This program will educate homeowners about low-cost and no-cost means to reduce their energy consumption by as much as 20%. Homeowners' energy efficiency improvements will be tracked over a one-year period at the end of which the homeowners with the greatest reductions will receive prizes such as Energy Star appliances. We are currently looking for opportunities to scale this project to more homes in the community. This program is critically important because one of the most challenging and important parts of GHG mitigation is including homeowners, apartment dwellers, and small business owners in this effort.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“The Federal government needs to provide the local governments with the resources and tools to implement energy efficiency programs in their own communities. The simplest way to do this is to continue funding for the EECBG. Any effective solution to the threat of climate change must include local efforts at GHG mitigation. In addition, the Federal government must continue to move toward an international climate accord that can be ratified by Congress. As a leading global power, and one of the largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions, we must lead by example and begin to work toward a low-carbon economy.”

# Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“Minneapolis is a great natural environment, and that’s why I’ve been involved in these issues since 2001. So, when Mayor Nickels reached out with the opportunity to sign the agreement, I immediately responded. I felt I had a real mandate from the residents of my city, and we needed to send a message – especially since our country didn’t sign the Kyoto Accord. The fact that nearly 1,000 mayors signed the agreement was much more than I hoped for. Now, I think we need to go even further and demand more and greater action.”

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“We have taken a series of actions; it’s not just seven things or one, two and three. We are trying to infuse sustainability into the basic DNA of our city government. So far, the results are good. Our city’s carbon emissions declined by 4% between 2000 and 2006, but we can do even better. We want to convert coal plants to natural gas, but we also have our cleaning force using materials that don’t have the wrong chemicals. We’re also focusing on building LEED gold buildings and making sure our fire stations are as green as possible. Micro action at the neighborhood level is essential for this to work, and we understand and nurture that. We believe that land use is key, and we want to build more clean transit and encourage light manufacturing and industry inside the city limits. We want to become a biking city, too. Our city is a city of lakes, so we focus on water. We are preventing discharge into the Mississippi River and the neighborhood lakes. Green roofs matter. And tap water helps us avoid the plastic bottle problems in our landfills. We have recognized and appreciated the fact that water is a tremendous amenity. This is only a beginning for us, though. We’re just at the start.”

## **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“As I said, it’s an entire culture. Sustainability needs to be woven into every area of a city if you really want to change things.”

## **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“Three years ago we created the Climate Change Innovations Micro-grant Program, through which we give out micro-grants to community organizations to inspire people to do actions that reduce their carbon footprint. I like this program a lot. Last year, we gave out 25 grants, each between \$1,500 and \$10,000. Projects have ranged from neighborhood energy fairs to teaching Somali and Latino women how to ride bikes to working with local restaurants to compost more. Every project is required to sign people up for the Minnesota Energy Challenge, which has inspired more than 6,600 businesses and residents to pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. These people are committed to helping us save more than \$4.2 million in energy costs



*The Minnesota Energy Challenge has inspired more than 6,600 Minneapolis businesses and residents to reduce carbon dioxide emissions this year; these people are committed to saving more than \$4.2 million in energy costs each year*

each year. We are also ramping up our work to encourage local food through the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative. The city is becoming a key partner in developing a comprehensive local food strategy. Minneapolis, after all, is where Pillsbury and General Mills started. It's part of our legacy.”

**How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“I am remarkably pleased and surprised at the way that the Obama Administration has handled energy and climate issues. Everyone I talk with in the Administration gets it. They have connected the dots so well. They know that national security, economic security and environmental security are all linked. I think, also, that their support of cap and trade is a huge plus. And they understand that clean urban transit needs to be funded. It's all good stuff, from my perspective.”

# Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter

## Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?

“With such strong scientific research to indicate that carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions contribute significantly to global climate change, cities like Philadelphia must take action today to ensure a vibrant future for our children and their children. To do otherwise would ignore the signs all around us that climate change is real and would put our city in an extremely vulnerable situation. A report completed for the Union of Concerned Scientists predicted that in the decades to come, more frequent and powerful rainstorms will overwhelm Philadelphia’s storm-water system, rising rivers will flood our valuable urban infrastructure, and higher temperatures will threaten the health of Philadelphia’s residents, especially the elderly.

I signed the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement to signal my commitment to reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency. Cities hold great promise for global greenhouse gas reductions. Here in Philadelphia, we enjoy dense neighborhoods with sidewalks, off- and on-street bike lanes and a far-reaching public transportation system. We can easily walk, bike or ride transit throughout the city limits and beyond. This means that our residents spend less money on gasoline and other car expenses, and emit significantly less greenhouse gases each year than residents in the neighboring suburbs. Our housing stock consists of attached brownstones and row homes, one of the most energy-efficient building styles, which means residents use less and pay less to heat and cool their homes. All of this means that each year Philadelphians emit 10.2 tons of carbon equivalents per capita versus a national average of 23.6 tons per capita.”

## How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?

“In April 2009, I released *Greenworks Philadelphia*, a comprehensive strategy to lower greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of life for all Philadelphians. The strategy includes 169 separate initiatives related to Energy, Environment, Equity, Economy and Engagement. It is designed to reduce energy demand in city government buildings, and homes and businesses in every neighborhood; to improve the city’s air quality; to increase access to green and healthy neighborhoods; to create jobs; and to engage each and every citizen in the effort to combat global warming. Some of the proposed initiatives have already been enacted, and many more are underway now. The plan calls for greenhouse gas reductions of 20% from the 1992 level by 2015.”

## Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?

“There are two initiatives in progress that will yield the greatest reduction of GHG emissions.



*Philadelphia’s new BigBelly solar-powered trash compactors and recycling receptacles will save the city more than \$800,000 in labor costs this year*

The first is the ongoing effort to weatherize and install more efficient heating systems in homes. This initiative is being implemented by the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation and the Philadelphia Gas Works. *Greenworks Philadelphia* calls for a ramp up of these existing programs and the creation of incentives for middle- and upper-income homeowners to make similar improvements to their own houses so that over the next seven years, 100,000 homes in Philadelphia are weatherized. If we accomplish this goal – and we will – we will save 258 million megawatts of electricity and reduce emissions by nearly 240,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E.

The second effort already underway is to boost Philadelphia’s residential recycling diversion rate to 25% by 2015. When I took office in 2008, weekly curbside recycling was conducted in only a few Philadelphia neighborhoods. For most residents, recycling pick-up was every other week and occurred on a day that was different from regular trash pick-up. With such a confusing schedule, it’s no wonder that our residential diversion rate hovered around 7% a year. My administration invested in new trucks and equipment and by January 2009, every neighborhood in the city was enjoying regular weekly curbside recycling pick-up. As a result, by June 30, the residential diversion rate had increased to more than 12%. This increase helped save the City \$4.8 million in avoided landfill costs. Those savings will only increase as we get closer to the 25% residential diversion goal. And if we reach that objective, the city’s emissions will decrease by 358,788 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E.”

### **What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“My favorite initiative has to be Philadelphia’s new BigBelly solar-powered trash compactors that our Streets Department has installed in Center City (our downtown) this summer. The BigBelly uses the sun’s energy to compact litter and transmits a message to our sanitation department when the can needs to be emptied. Because of the compactor, City workers need to empty the containers 5 times a week, down from 17 with the traditional trash cans. This will save us more than \$800,000 in labor costs this year alone. We have also installed companion recycling receptacles, which allow for on-street public recycling. The BigBellies have been so cost-effective and popular with citizens that we plan to purchase hundreds more and install them in neighborhood commercial corridors located throughout the city.

Another really different thing we’re now doing involves the Philadelphia International Airport and the Philadelphia Water Department. Each winter, the airport uses more than a million gallons of deicing fluid on airplanes. The fluid is toxic to aquatic life and must be disposed of safely. Before, the airport took used fluid to wastewater plants miles away, where it was aerated – an extremely energy intensive process – and disposed of. Recently, as Milwaukee’s and Albany’s airports have also discovered, the fluid can be used to produce biogas, which can be used to power solid waste digesters at wastewater treatment plants. So the Philadelphia Water Department and the airport are now collaborating to ship the deicing fluid to a wastewater facility nearly adjacent to the airport. There, the deicing fluid is producing enough biogas to provide the fuel needed to dry seven tons of biosolids a day, saving the water department up to

\$200,000 per year. The project also saves the airport more than \$100,000 annually in disposal costs. While the public isn't as aware of this effort as it is some of our other more visible initiatives, this effort represents a creative way in which our municipal departments are thinking about waste removal and fuel generation using renewable resources.”

### **How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“Federal legislation and programs must recognize that cities play a crucial role in the nation's response to the challenge of global warming and provide them with the tools to reduce their carbon footprints even further.

First, one of the most important direct investments the Federal government can make at the local level over the next few years is in public transit systems. Cities like Philadelphia enjoy an extensive bus, train and trolley network, but Federal capital investments are needed to ensure its continued safe operations. We just can't afford to sustain the system ourselves.

Second, ongoing Federal funding for energy efficiency programs aimed at both residential and commercial buildings will also help to reduce local energy demand. We are grateful for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds that Philadelphia will receive through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but know that this initial round of money will only enable us to weatherize a fraction of the homes eligible. Continued appropriations for the EECGB will help weatherize thousands more homes, apartment and office buildings, yielding significant energy savings. Overall, with our vast portfolios of existing buildings and infrastructure, the city should become one of the best places to find and harvest carbon-reduction measures.

Third, continued investments in renewable energy technology are needed to help bring new products to market and commercialize the research being conducted at universities across the country, including institutions here in Philadelphia. Proposed Federal cap and trade policies amplify the importance of *Greenworks Philadelphia's* initiatives in securing future prosperity for Philadelphia as we transition into a clean energy economy.”

# Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman



*Pleasanton has helped create the Solar Cities Program, which brings residents, small business and solar installers together to learn about solar from the local utility*

## **Why did you sign on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement?**

“The City of Pleasanton, California is committed to climate protection. To support climate protection initiatives regionally, we joined all of the other Alameda County local governments in the Alameda County Climate Protection Project. The Alameda County Climate Protection Project was launched in partnership with StopWaste.Org and the Alameda County Conference of Mayors. Overwhelming evidence suggests that human activities are increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing a rise in global average surface temperature and consequent climate change. In response to the threat of climate change, communities worldwide are voluntarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Although one jurisdiction cannot independently resolve the issue of climate change, local governments can have a positive impact through cumulative local action. This is the impetus of the Alameda County.

Climate Protection Project. Cities and counties have the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through effective land use and transportation planning, wise waste management, and the efficient use of energy.

The State of California also has enacted Assembly Bill 32, the ground breaking Global Warming Solutions Act that established mandates to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020. Aside from the regulatory requirements in California, we signed the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to ensure the future of our community, country and planet. We all feel at every level of our organization that now is the time to act if we are to deliver change for future generations and the health of our community.”

## **How has your city moved forward to reduce emissions?**

“Pleasanton has already taken many steps toward increasing energy efficiency, reducing air pollution, and reducing solid waste. Examples include:

- Working with the Alameda County Green Business Program to certify city facilities and provide staff assistance to interested businesses in achieving certification.
- Pleasanton has established a collaborative partnership with the local utility to provide energy efficiency audits and a retrofit program; rebates are provided to make this more cost effective. We have developed a program to cover the three main sectors of our community – municipal, commercial and residential – in order to provide a comprehensive approach to energy efficiency.
- Pleasanton, along with two other local cities, has created the Solar Cities Program, an educational and outreach program that brings residents, small

business and solar installers together in workshops to learn about solar from our local utility; we have also streamlined the permit process for easy installation. This program is in its second year and has been very successful.

- We are moving through the steps of creating a special financing district that allows residents and business owners to finance energy efficiency upgrades, including solar, and have it added to their property taxes.
- We are using ARRA stimulus funding to create an energy office in our government structure to assure sustainability within our energy reduction efforts.
- We have established a Green Building Ordinance.
- We have established a Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance.
- We have made a commitment to 75% waste reduction by 2010.
- We have developed the Bay Friendly Program.
- We have established rebates for commercial customers using water efficient equipment.
- We have established battery and thermometer collection points.
- We have initiated a transition to a green fleet by converting initially to hybrid vehicles.
- We have converted traffic signal and street sign lights to more energy efficient LED lights.
- We are using solar power speed radar signs and solar powered in-pavement flashers and beacons..”

### **Which initiative in your city has had the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions?**

“The most successful effort so far has been the solar program, Solar Cities, as it has been the first effort that has led to direct reductions in GHG’s. The city also has just finalized a deal for its fourth solar installation at our Operations Service Center, which is a 364 KW system. In addition, the Pleasanton School District has completed seven projects at local school sites in our community. As we move through the next 18 to 24 months, I believe that the energy retrofit program for the municipal, residential and commercial sites will be the most important area of significant reductions, out pacing solar in the process.”

**What is your favorite initiative (regardless of relative impact)?**

“I would have to say that the establishment of a special financing district that allows more affordable opportunity and greater participation is the most critical element to really create wide reaching energy reduction.”

**How can the Federal government best encourage the continued leadership of U.S. local governments?**

“I think that obviously streamlining regulations on financing opportunities to encourage energy retrofits in residential homes is very important. Help in allowing better access to energy use information from local utilities will give local government better data and ability to deliver change. The final area would be to help local government be able to reduce costs and become eligible for incentives like private businesses and residents are through tax rebates.”





# The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

*(As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)*

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that 1) includes clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
  - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
  - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
  - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
  - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
  - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
  - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
  - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
  - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
  - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
  - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
  - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>; and
  - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.



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