



Taking Local Action

Mayors and Climate Protection Best Practices

June 2012





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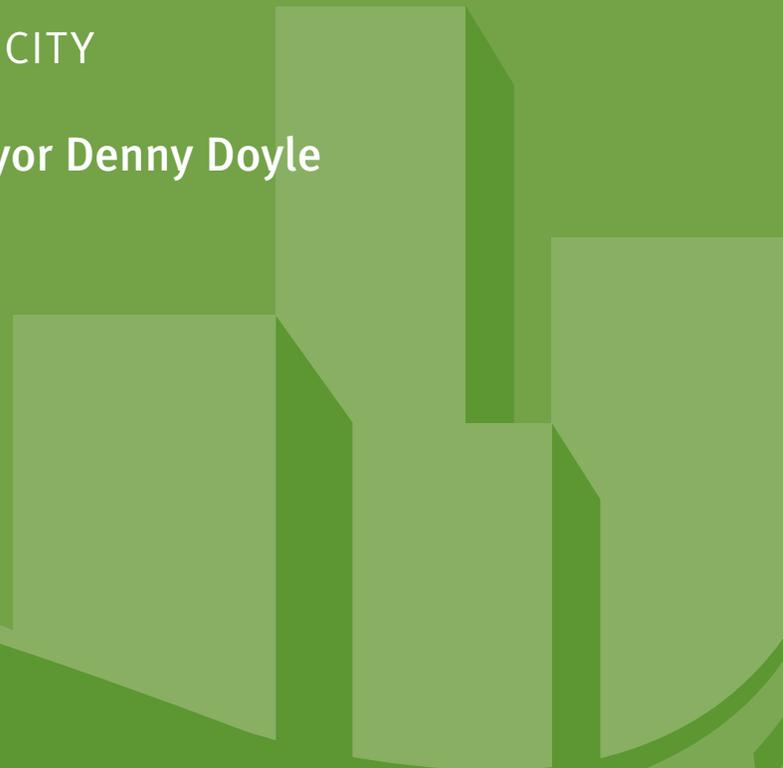
First Place Award Winners

LARGE CITY

Grand Rapids, MI Mayor George K. Heartwell

SMALL CITY

Beaverton, OR Mayor Denny Doyle



Grand Rapids, MI Mayor George K. Heartwell

Green Building Initiatives

The City of Grand Rapids has set forth a very unique multi-year Sustainability Plan with more than 200 very specific economic, environmental, and social targets. As one of the early signatories of The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Grand Rapids' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been

demonstrated through multiple projects such as: energy efficiency improvements in city buildings with a 15 percent reduction in electricity consumption; an innovative energy audit program in the neighborhoods; solar panel placement on the city's existing LEED certified building; a commitment of 22 percent of renewable energy in its electricity portfolio (with a planned expansion of this commitment); geothermal projects at fire stations; installation of electric vehicle charging stations at city's downtown parking ramps; an increased recycling rate through community engagement; innovative sustainability planning; and a community wide active sustainability network involving more than 200 private and public organizations. All of the efforts are measured, tracked, and reported providing for transparency and accounting of all greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the targets for reduced emissions.

The uniqueness of this program stems from the fact that it joins different projects and takes all of the city's structural and operational aspects into consideration, treating the city holistically and striving to find improvements wherever they can be found. The program is also innovative as it tries to leverage resources in an unconventional ways (e.g., renewable energy solutions, single stream recycling, electricity savings) and enhances collaboration efforts among departments and other partners. From an operational aspect, the city strives for higher level of accountability and transparency by gaining residents support and trust, which undoubtedly contributes to the city's success.

Beaverton, OR Mayor Denny Doyle

Solar Beaverton

Solar Beaverton is a community, bulk-purchase solar program led by Beaverton's Sustainability Division. The program did the work for residents, whether it was negotiating solar prices or setting up an easy installation program. The Solar Beaverton program: increased use of renewable energy in the city; reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs); simplified the process of installing solar; created jobs that support local contractors and manufacturers; and helped residents take advantage of financial incentives. Solar Beaverton is part of the city's efforts to support low-carbon lifestyles, energy efficiency and security, health and well-being, and eco-system stewardship. Solar energy is extremely efficient and met the city's agenda to increase the use of renewables and positively impact climate change. Mayor Doyle and the city believed the program would help residents go solar by maneuvering the challenge of finding, interviewing and working with competitive solar contractors - making solar attractive and affordable. A 'pilot' Solar Beaverton Program exceeded expectations and re-enforced the desire for this program, which increased solar permits by over 1500 percent in four short months. With Mayor Doyle's support to actively go to the community and encourage solar, this effort was the first solar program in the region led directly by a city focusing on homes, businesses and pool owners. The program led to a total of 258 home installed solar systems in 2011, resulting in reduction of approximately 175,000 pounds of CO₂. Over the 25-year lifespan of a solar panel, it is estimated that these systems will result in 4.3 million pounds of CO₂ offset.

Solar Beaverton is part of a larger city commitment to reduce emissions under its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program. With no existing strategy, the program was created to strategically guide the city forward. Led by Mayor Doyle and the city's Sustainability Division, the program aims to positively impact climate change by creating a GHG emissions inventory, set forth goals, actions, and indicators, develop a Strategic Climate Action Plan and report to the public and engage them in programs.

Large City Honorable Mentions

POPULATION OVER 100,000

Charlotte, NC Mayor Anthony Foxx

Denton, TX Mayor Mark Burroughs

Indianapolis, IN Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

Los Angeles, CA Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa

Oakland, CA Mayor Jean Quan



Charlotte, NC Mayor Anthony Foxx

Power2Charlotte

Power2Charlotte (www.power2charlotte.com) consists of 17 energy and energy efficiency projects that focus on both internal city operations and community-wide projects. The program's goals are to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gases, create jobs, create programs with longevity, and leverage external resources. These projects fall into five categories: 1) Energy Investments in Revitalization Areas; 2) Catalyst Projects; 3) Air Quality; 4) Public Building Energy Efficiency; and 5) Energy Strategy Implementation. The City of Charlotte also maintains a proactive policy of neighborhood-focused assessment, renewal and planning that works to build upon neighborhoods assets, while addressing shortcomings. In 1993, the City of Charlotte began formally assessing quality of life conditions at a neighborhood scale, with its recent EECBG-funded Green Neighborhood Assessment Tool for environmental values, whereby variables will be communicated through a dynamic online dashboard displaying available community resources and identifying opportunities for residents to improve their scores and enhance the quality of life in their specific communities.

Denton, TX Mark Burroughs

Energy Production and Consumption Initiative

The City of Denton developed a comprehensive emission reduction strategy that targets energy production and consumption. For production, the city through its Denton Municipal Electric (DME) utility purchases power from a local wind farm to provide renewable energy to the entire municipality; wind energy currently supplies 40 percent of Denton's energy needs, one of the highest percentages of renewable energy for an entire city in the United States. The City of Denton also uses gas from its landfill to generate 1.6 megawatts of energy, enough to power 1,600 homes. In addressing energy consumption, DME developed an extensive energy audit and rebate program. In addition, the city requires that all new buildings exceed the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requirements by at least 10 percent, and its implemented energy efficiency improvements for 20 of its municipal facilities.

Indianapolis, IN Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

The Sustainable Facilities Initiative

The City of Indianapolis' Sustainable Facilities Initiative focuses on efforts to make city-owned facilities more energy efficient. With an \$18 million in investment across five departments, more than 61 facilities, including office buildings, parks, fire and police stations, jails and garages, will be improved. This major investment, funded by a combination of EECBG funds and private financing, will result in a total guaranteed energy and water savings of \$1.7 annually for the next 15 years and a 25 percent reduction in energy use across the target building portfolio. The City-County Building is the crown gem of the program, with its \$8 million in energy efficiency investments that will reduce electricity use by 39 percent and steam use by 93 percent, through use of a geothermal heat recovery chiller system, conversion from constant air to variable air volume systems, and other state-of-the-art improvements to this 50-year old building.

Los Angeles, CA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Street Light Retrofit Program

In early 2009, former President Bill Clinton and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced a major public works project to retrofit 140,000 of the city's more than 209,000 street light fixtures with energy-efficient LED fixtures. The program – a collaboration of the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting, the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and the Clinton Climate Initiative – is the largest LED lighting retrofit ever undertaken. The \$57 million retrofit, being executed through city work forces, began in 2009. Once the program is fully implemented, it will enhance the quality of municipal lighting and reduce light pollution and generate savings in energy and maintenance costs that will pay for the estimated loan in seven years, with no adverse impact to the city's general fund. By replacing 140,000 existing street lighting fixtures with LED units, the city will save energy by a minimum of 40 percent and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 40,500 tons per year.

Oakland, CA Mayor Jean Quan

Oakland Shines

Oakland Shines is an energy efficiency program for businesses that offers audits, incentives and concierge-style, start-to-finish technical assistance to help building owners install advanced lighting and HVAC technologies. The program, the most ambitious energy efficiency program targeting a downtown business district in the country, focuses on emerging technologies, such as wireless HVAC controls, that represent the next leap forward in saving energy, especially in older buildings. Existing energy programs have struggled to achieve significant energy savings or operational improvements in many of these buildings, especially Class B office buildings, due to the costs of retrofitting older complex buildings. The program recognizes the potential for advanced technologies, especially wireless controls, to improve operations, efficiency, and comfort in these buildings, making the city's downtown buildings more attractive to tenants and contributing to a resurgence in downtown Oakland.

Small City Honorable Mentions

POPULATION UNDER 100,000

Rochester Hills, MI Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

Racine, WI Mayor John Dickert

Pleasanton, CA Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

Manhattan Beach, CA Mayor Wayne Powell

Newton, MA Mayor Setti D. Warren



Honorable Mentions – Small City

Rochester Hills, MI Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

“25 in 2” and “Recycle Bank” Initiatives

Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan K. Barnett challenged his city staff to look for ways to save energy in city buildings through his “25 in 2” initiative. The challenge was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save on the energy used in city buildings by 25 percent in 2 years, with the primary source of funding being the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The program also included an Energy Enhancement and Awareness component to encourage residents to do the same in their homes, with the city setting an example for its residents with its city buildings. Another initiative, the “Recycle Bank,” was developed in March 2009 to raise residential recycling rates above 30 percent. Now with an 80 percent of all households recycling, solid waste costs for city residents are lower and the Recycle Bank provides discounts and coupons to residents, including allowing residents cash out their savings to generate resources for green projects throughout the city.

Racine, WI Mayor John Dickert

Racine Energy Efficiency Program (REEP)

The Racine Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) is a Property Assessed Clean Energy financing program that allows homeowners to invest in significant energy efficiency improvements to their homes, with no upfront costs, and to pay off the investment from the savings. The program, a partnership with the Delta Institute and the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), provides value to the homeowner, creates jobs, and has the potential to scale up to retrofit much more of Racine’s residential housing stock. REEP is open to all residents of the City of Racine who meet the following program criteria: 1. Have a house built between 1946 and 1975 and; and 2. Having a total energy and water usage costs of over \$1700 per year. The initial source of financing came from the city’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding, with the city contributing development funds and providing staff to operate the program.

Pleasanton, CA Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

Pleasanton's Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The City of Pleasanton adopted a very comprehensive community-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP), becoming the “poster child” of how to do it right, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, in complying with the State’s AB32 climate emission reduction mandates. The city set out to ensure that its municipal operations were sustainable and that the community would be engaged and also be prepared to deal with future uncertainties (e.g., water shortages, extreme weather), deploying EECBG funds to develop and implement key CAP elements. Initially, the community was opposed to a CAP; residents thought it was costly and unnecessary, and the business community believed that it would be negatively impacted by increased regulations and costs and other “inconveniences” that would harm local business. Today, support for these efforts have been registered by the Chamber of Commerce, PG&E, the East Bay Realtors Association, Hacienda Business Owners Association, and Pleasanton Garbage Service. Community members speak in favor of the plan, the process used to develop it, and how new partnerships evolved as a result.

Manhattan Beach, CA Mayor Wayne Powell

Watt Watcher Energy Contest/Other Public Outreach Measures

The City of Manhattan Beach used low-cost initiatives to motivate and engage its public to help advance community-wide emissions reduction goals. Its Watt Watcher Energy Contest is a residential program designed to help households reduce their energy consumption. More than 150 families registered for this energy contest, with the household saving the most electricity over a 3-month period rewarded with \$1,000 and other great prizes. The school with the greatest participation of students and their families in the contest will also be awarded a \$1,000 prize. In addition, the Environmental Task Force designed a Solar Display at Metlox Plaza, with the goal of creating an educational solar-powered display in a public area to help increase awareness on the use and benefits of renewable energy.

Newton, MA Mayor Setti D. Warren

Energy Smart Newton Program

The Energy Smart Newton Program is a comprehensive approach to address all three sectors of the local energy consumption economy: Municipal, Commercial and Industrial, and Residential. Launched by Mayor Setti D. Warren, this innovative strategy seeks to reduce citywide energy consumption by 20 percent by 2020, relying on community partnerships with the local utility, non-profit groups, the Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. Energy Smart Newton's goal is to reach every energy consumer in the city. The program implements energy conservation measures by reaching out to local residents and businesses with information and support. Since 94 percent of city's energy consumption is outside of the municipal sector, engaging the community more fully was seen as integral to the success of the program. Like other awardees, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds were used, along with local capital improvement funds, to move this initiative forward.



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