



The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. Conference of Mayors Holds Climate Protection Summit: 100 MAYORS CONVENE TO TACKLE GLOBAL WARMING IN CITIES

Green Collar Jobs and Federal, Non-profit, and Private Sector Partnerships Top Priority

Seattle, WA – One hundred of the nation's mayors convened today in Seattle to participate in the 2007 Mayors Climate Protection Summit. This summit is the largest-ever gathering of American mayors on climate issues, an event sponsored by the United States Conference of Mayors and hosted by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels.

"We're very pleased to be joined by leading mayors, President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore – two of America's top pioneers on climate protection – to work on a united front during this historic gathering," said Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. "Mayors are already leading on this issue, but must figure out a way to accelerate what they are doing in cities across the country to increase climate protection; and there's no better way to do so than to partner with national leaders on this mutual challenge."

"This summit will highlight how cities can lead the way in the fight against global warming," said Seattle Mayor Nickels. "It's not just the unprecedented number of mayors at this summit who are showing real leadership, but the hundreds of other cities across America that are working to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in their own communities. Together we are making a real difference for the future of our cities and the planet."

On the opening day of the two-day summit, the Conference announced that 710 mayors have now signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, with Orlando, FL recently becoming the 700th signatory. Collectively, these mayors represent 25% of the total population in the United States. Mayors who sign the agreement commit to reduce carbon emissions locally by 7% below their 1990 levels, in line with the Kyoto Protocol.

At the Summit, mayors also discussed the role of green jobs in helping accelerate the greening of American cities, which underpins the future of the country's economic growth. In January of 2008, The Conference plans to unveil an economic proposal for the next President and new Congress, pointing to the opportunity that green jobs will create for our working class and the unemployed.

Conference leaders know that strengthening and beginning new partnerships with the private sector, non-profits and the federal government will define the success of a carbon footprint reduction in cities. A new Climate Protection Council was unveiled to underscore the relationship needed between local elected officials and business leaders to accelerate green projects. The 7 Charter Members include: The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; American Chemistry Council; DuPont; Johnson Controls, Inc.; TCP, Inc.; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; and Waste Management Inc.

Former Vice President Al Gore joined summit participants via satellite and held an interactive Q & A session with mayors on the issue of global warming.

At an opening press conference, mayors continued to push for an Energy Block Grant that has been approved by both the House and the Senate, but is pending White House approval. The grant would allow cities currently challenged with budget restraints to receive federal grants specifically to support and expand local energy efficiency projects.

The Conference released an updated "Best Practices Report" to showcase a broad range of environmentally driven and energy efficiency projects in 50 U.S. cities. Because no two projects are alike, the purpose of the report is to serve as a resource and example for other cities planning to launch or expand their local climate plans.

Later in the Summit, Former President Bill Clinton is expected to deliver a keynote address to the nation's mayors and announce a new partnership with the United States Conference of Mayors that will help cities meet the goals of the climate protection agreement.

TCP, Inc., innovator and manufacturer of today's most energy-efficient lighting products, is the title sponsor for the Mayors Climate Protection Summit in Seattle.

For updates about the Summit on November 1-2, or information about the mayors' efforts on climate protection, please visit: www.usmayors.org

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

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