



Survey on Mayoral Leadership on Climate Protection





**The United States
Conference of Mayors**

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Foreword

Earlier this year, The U.S. Conference of Mayors launched its Mayors Climate Protection Center to support mayors in their climate protection efforts. Throughout the nation there is clear evidence that mayoral leadership is producing business and community support for policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While progress is already being made in many cities, our goal must be to increase the number of mayors involved in the effort, and to equip all of them with the knowledge and tools that ultimately will have the greatest impact on climate protection.

For decades the Conference of Mayors has formally adopted and actively promoted policy positions on a range of issues affecting energy production and use and its impact on the environment. In recent years the Conference's policy positions have increasingly called attention to the need for global climate protection, mostly focusing on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation, building standards and practices, and transportation options. The establishment of the Climate Protection Center further strengthens the leadership of the Conference of Mayors on these issues. It acknowledges that while mayors recognize the need for a federal partner in this effort, they cannot and will not wait to act until Washington is ready to move on this problem.

The survey documented in this report represents one of the first activities undertaken by the Climate Protection Center. It is both an effort to build a 2007 baseline of information on mayoral efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and an illustration of the great variety of strategies being employed to accomplish this. Increasingly, in cities throughout this nation, municipal fleets include vehicles that use alternative fuels or hybrid-electric technology; lighting is provided by energy-efficient technologies; buildings are more environmentally sustainable; and individual city climate protection efforts are part of broader regional environmental and public health strategies.

Two years ago the Conference unanimously endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, an initiative launched by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels in which mayors commit to reduce emissions in their cities to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Since then the Conference has actively encouraged mayors to sign on to the agreement, with the result that more than 530 mayors are now committed to this goal, and the number continues to rise. The mayors responding to our survey are parties to this important agreement, and we are grateful to them for sharing information on their strategies and activities so that we may share it with other mayors, the Congress, the administration and, yes, those who would be President.

The 10-Point Plan unveiled in the Conference's Winter Meeting in Washington by Conference President and Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer made enactment of a new Energy and Environment Block Grant our top legislative initiative for the 110th Congress. The survey results contained in this report make it clear that cities of all sizes in all regions of the country are pursuing energy efficiency on all fronts, and that their potential to do more is limited only by the resources available to them. Mayors will use these results to convince Congress that, given sufficient resources, cities can and will mount ever more aggressive campaigns to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

All involved in efforts to control climate change agree that changing human behavior is the key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Washington must understand that city governments can serve as powerful catalysts for the behavior changes that must occur. A block grant program modeled after the established and successful Community Development Block Grant will fuel hundreds of catalysts for change.



Tom Cochran
Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Key Findings

In April and May 2007, mayors of 134 cities, all of whom are signatories to The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, responded to a survey on climate protection efforts in cities conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center. Among the survey's key findings:

- In 72 percent of the cities responding, vehicles in city fleets run on alternative fuels and/or use hybrid-electric technology.
- More than four in five of the survey cities now use renewable energy, or are considering beginning to do so in the next year.
- All but four of the survey cities (97 percent) are using more energy-efficient lighting technologies in public buildings, streetlights, parks, traffic signals, and other applications, or plan to do so in the next year.
- Nearly nine in ten of the cities require, or anticipate requiring in the next year, that new city government buildings be energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable.
- More than three in four of the cities are undertaking efforts to encourage the private sector to construct buildings that are energy efficient, healthy, and use sustainable building techniques.
- Two-thirds of the cities have an individual in city government who is responsible on a full- or part-time basis for the city's climate protection activities.
- More than nine in 10 of the cities consider efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to be part of their broader efforts to address public health concerns such as improving air quality or encouraging active living.
- In nearly three in four of the cities the mayor has reached out to other mayors, elected county officials, or other leaders in the region to encourage them to sign on to the Agreement and/or take action on climate protection.
- If the Energy and Environmental Block Grant now pending in Congress is enacted, half of the cities will use the funds provided through it to improve community energy efficiency. Instituting and/or encouraging green building practices leads the list of specific activities for which resources are currently not available that cities would undertake if block grant funds became available.

Survey Results

During April and May 2007 the Conference surveyed the mayors of the 430 cities which at that time had signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to identify the kinds of climate protection activities that were underway or under consideration in their cities. Responses, representing over 25 million people, were received from 134 cities in 36 states; populations of these cities ranged in size from Los Angeles, the largest at 3,694,820, to Milan, MN, the smallest at 326.

In the survey findings which follow, calculations of percentages for each item are based on the number of cities providing a response to that item in the survey, not the total number of cities in the survey.

CITY FUELS/VEHICLES/TRANSPORTATION

Emissions from the nation's transportation sector are often among the most substantial contributors to global warming pollution in individual cities, regions and states throughout the U.S. According to the federal Energy Information Agency, transportation CO₂ emissions grew 25.4 percent between 1990 and 2006. It is estimated that tailpipe emissions account for one-third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

- In 72 percent of the responding cities vehicles in city fleets run on alternative fuels and/or use hybrid-electric technology (Figure 1).
- Four in five of the cities have, or are considering instituting in the next year, procurement policies which favor the purchase of vehicles which run on alternative fuels and/or use hybrid-electric technology. Specifically, 46 percent of the cities currently have such policies; another 33 percent are considering instituting them (Figure 1).
- More than half of the cities (52 percent) provide financial or other incentives that encourage employees to use public transportation; use carpools, vanpools, or car-sharing; or ride a bicycle or walk to work (Figure 1).

figure 1: City Fuels, Vehicles & Transportation Practices

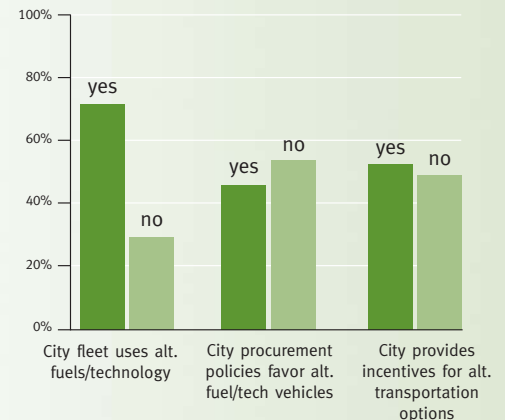


figure 2: Cities Use Renewable Energy

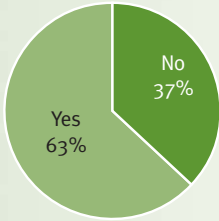
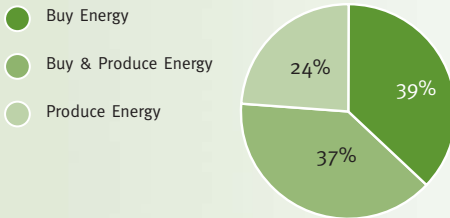


figure 3: Of Cities that Use Renewable Energy



In sum, nearly every city has changed, or will within the next year change their lighting practices to reduce their electricity needs and improve environmental performance.

ALTERNATIVE CITY ENERGY SOURCES

The use of alternative energy sources can promote economic development and create jobs in the local economy, provide a hedge against rising fuel prices, and benefit the environment through greater energy efficiency and reduced emissions.

- More than four in five of the survey cities now use renewable energy, or are considering beginning to do so in the next year.
- Specifically 64 percent of the cities are currently using renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, biofuels, waste-to-energy, landfill gas, or hydro power) for some or all of their energy needs (Figure 2). Among these, 39 percent buy the energy, 24 percent produce the energy, and 37 percent do both (Figure 3).
- These cities estimate that an average of 18 percent of their total city energy needs is fulfilled by renewable energy.
- Another 20 percent of the cities are considering beginning to buy or produce renewable energy in the next year.

CITY LIGHTING PRACTICES

Making the most of natural light indoors and using more efficient lighting technology inside and out can lead to dramatic savings in costs associated with power and maintenance, and to vast improvements in local environmental. Cities have aggressively attacked this sector, as the survey data clearly indicate.

- All but four of the survey cities (97 percent) are using more energy-efficient lighting technologies in public buildings, streetlights, parks, traffic signals, and other applications, or plan to do so in the next year.
- Specifically, 89 percent of the cities have already installed more energy-efficient technologies such as compact fluorescents, LEDs, or photovoltaic street lights; another eight percent are considering doing so in the next year (Figure 4).
- In sum, nearly every city has changed, or will within the next year change their lighting practices to reduce their electricity needs and improve environmental performance.

GREEN CITY BUILDINGS

By far, buildings account for the highest proportion of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; consequently, they represent the greatest opportunity for obtainable energy efficiency improvements.

- Nearly nine in 10 of the cities responding require, or anticipate requiring in the next year, that new city government buildings be energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, 60 percent of the cities currently have such a policy in place; another 28 percent anticipate they will adopt such a policy in the next year (Figure 5).
- Eighty-seven percent of the cities require, or anticipate requiring in the next year, that city government buildings undergoing major rehabilitation be energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, 56 percent of the cities currently have such a policy in place; another 31 percent anticipate they will adopt such a policy in the next year (Figure 5).
- Nearly three in four of the cities have changed, or are in the process of changing, their residential and commercial building codes and/or ordinances to encourage construction of new buildings that are energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, 41 percent of the cities have already made these changes in their building codes and/or ordinances; another one-third of the cities are in the process of doing so (Figure 6).
- Two in three of the cities have changed, or are in the process of changing, their residential and commercial building codes and/or ordinances to encourage that buildings undergoing major rehabilitation be energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, 36 percent of the cities have already made these changes in their building codes and/or ordinances; another 31 percent of the cities are in the process of doing so (Figure 6).

figure 4: City Lighting Practices

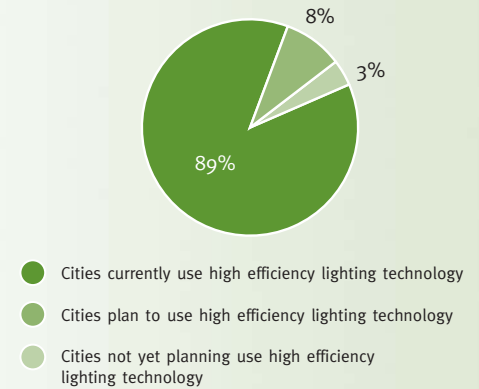


figure 5: Current Green City Building Practices

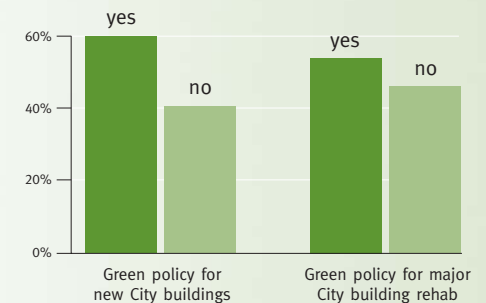


figure 6: City Green Building Codes & Ordinances

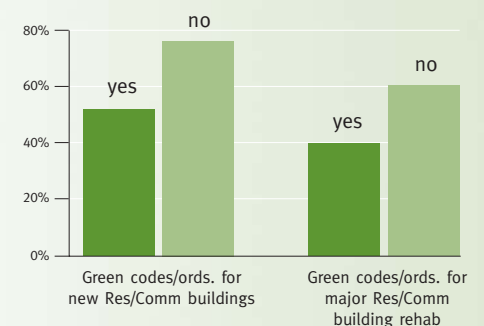


figure 7: City Government Staff Includes Climate Protection Personnel

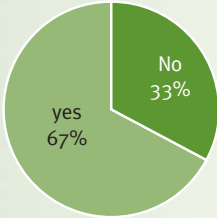


figure 8: City Climate Protection Activities

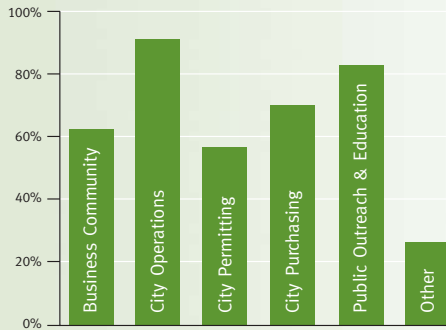
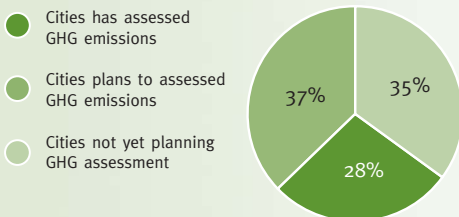


figure 9: City Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessments



- More than three in four of the cities (78 percent) are undertaking efforts to encourage the private sector to construct buildings that are energy efficient, healthy, and use sustainable building techniques.
- Eighty-eight percent of the cities are undertaking efforts to educate the public about the importance of making buildings energy efficient, healthy, and environmentally sustainable.

CITY-WIDE EFFORTS

Climate protection efforts require a comprehensive, citywide approach. Strategies to improve overall energy efficiency and reduce emissions often are produced by a coordinated, dedicated staff. Many mayors view such efforts as part of a broad, regional environmental and public health strategy that supports sustainable development.

- Two-thirds of the survey cities have an individual in city government who is responsible on a full- or part-time basis for the city’s climate protection activities (Figure 7).
- Nine in 10 of the cities include city operations in their climate protection activities; 82 percent include outreach and education in these activities; 67 percent include city purchasing; 62 percent include the business community; and 58 percent include city permitting (Figure 8).
- Forty-five percent of the cities emphasize one of these areas. Among these cities, 56 percent emphasize city operations and 26 percent emphasize public outreach and education.

Ninety-two percent of the cities consider efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions part of their broader efforts to address public health concerns, such as improving air quality or encouraging active living.

- Nearly two in three of the survey cities have assessed their total greenhouse gas emissions or plan to do so in the next year. Specifically, 28 percent have already conducted such an assessment; another 37 percent plan to do so in the next year (Figure 9).
- More than nine in 10 of the cities (92 percent) consider efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to be part of their broader efforts to address public health concerns such as improving air quality or encouraging active living (Figure 10).
- Eighty-three percent of the cities say that the public has responded very favorably or favorably to their participation in the Climate Protection Agreement, with 43 percent reporting a very favorable response and 40 percent a favorable response. Just two percent say the public has responded unfavorably; 15 percent report no response (Figure 11).
- In nearly three in four of the cities (73 percent) the mayor has reached out to other mayors, elected county officials, or other leaders in the region to encourage them to sign on to the Climate Protection Agreement and/or take action on climate protection.
- Officials in 85 percent of the cities are aware of private organizations which are promoting climate protection practices in their city.

STATE/FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

While U.S. cities are moving forward on their own with strategies to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, mayors recognize that reaching climate protection goals will require a strong intergovernmental partnership to which federal, state, and local governments are fully committed.

- Sixteen percent of the survey cities assess the support provided by state government leaders and/or agencies to their climate protection efforts as very helpful, while 24 percent say it is not at all helpful. The balance of the cities (60 percent) report that it is somewhat helpful (Figure 12).

figure 10: City Climate Protection Efforts are Part of Broad Environmental/Public Health Strategy

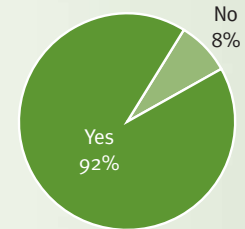


figure 11: Public Reaction to City Climate Protection Efforts

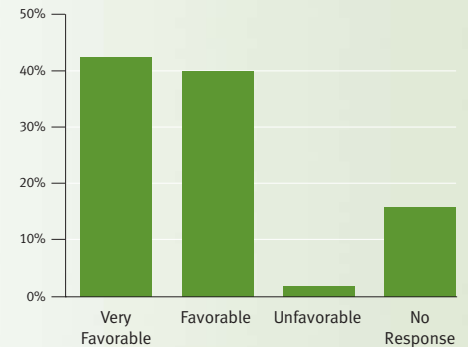


figure 12: City Assessment of State Climate Protection Support

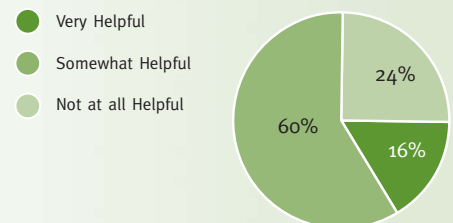
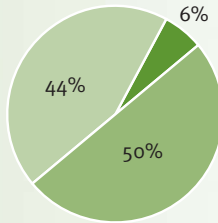


figure 13: City Assessment of Federal Climate Protection Support

- Very Helpful
- Somewhat Helpful
- Not at all Helpful



- Only six percent of the cities assess the support provided by federal government leaders and/or agencies to their climate protection efforts as very helpful; 44 percent say it is not at all helpful. The balance (50 percent) report that it is somewhat helpful (Figure 13).
- If the Energy and Environmental Block Grant now pending in Congress is enacted, half of the cities will use the funds provided through it to improve community energy efficiency. The areas of activity for which the cities would use funds provided through the block grant include:

Matrix of what cities would do with and E&E Block Grant (based on 113 responses)

- 50%** Improve community energy efficiency
- 46%** Develop and implement community strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 48%** Develop and implement community & transportation energy conservation programs
- 43%** Promote and develop alternative/renewable energy sources
- 19%** Encourage the development of new technologies and systems to decrease dependence on foreign oil

- Instituting and/or encouraging green building practices leads the list of specific activities for which resources are currently not available that cities would undertake if block grant funds became available. Responding to an open-ended question, the cities identified the following currently unfunded city activities that they would undertake with block grant funds:

- 26%** Institute and/or encourage green building practices
- 23%** Purchase energy-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles
- 21%** Institute and/or encourage renewable energy practices
- 20%** Expand public transportation
- 20%** Improve energy efficiency
- 10%** Increase public outreach
- 7%** Plant trees
- 7%** Assess greenhouse gas emissions

Survey Cities

CITY	STATE	POPULATION
FAYETTEVILLE	AR	58,047
LITTLE ROCK	AR	183,133
BERKELEY	CA	102,743
CHICO	CA	59,954
DUBLIN	CA	29,973
FREMONT	CA	203,413
IRVINE	CA	143,072
LAGUNA BEACH	CA	23,727
LAKEWOOD	CA	79,345
LOS ANGELES	CA	3,694,820
MOORPARK	CA	31,415
MORGAN HILL	CA	33,556
MORRO BAY	CA	10,350
PALO ALTO	CA	58,598
PASADENA	CA	133,936
RIVERSIDE	CA	255,166
SACRAMENTO	CA	407,018
SAN FRANCISCO	CA	776,733
SAN JOSE	CA	894,943
SAN LUIS OBISPO	CA	44,174
SAN MATEO	CA	92,482
SAN RAFAEL	CA	56,063
SANTA ANA	CA	337,977
SANTA BARBARA	CA	92,325
SANTA CRUZ	CA	54,593
SANTA ROSA	CA	147,595
WEST SACRAMENTO	CA	31,615
BASALT	CO	2,681
DENVER	CO	554,636
DURANGO	CO	13,922
FRISCO	CO	2,443
GUNNISON	CO	5,409
EASTON	CT	7,272
FAIRFIELD	CT	57,340
HAMDEN	CT	56,913
LEDYARD	CT	14,687
COCONUT CREEK	FL	43,566
GAINESVILLE	FL	95,447
HALLANDALE BEACH	FL	34,282
HOLLYWOOD	FL	139,357
LAUDERHILL	FL	57,585
MIAMI	FL	362,470
PORT ST. LUCIE	FL	88,769

CITY	STATE	POPULATION
TAMPA	FL	303,447
ATHENS	GA	101,489
DECATUR	GA	18,147
MACON	GA	97,255
MAUI	HI	97,100
DES MOINES	IA	198,682
DUBUQUE	IA	57,686
HAILEY	ID	6,200
POCATELLO	ID	51,466
SUN VALLEY	ID	1,427
CAROL STREAM	IL	40,438
CHICAGO	IL	2,896,016
NORTHBROOK	IL	33,435
ROCK ISLAND	IL	39,684
CARMEL	IN	50,948
EVANSVILLE	IN	121,582
INDIANAPOLIS	IN	791,926
LOUISVILLE	KY	256,231
CAMBRIDGE	MA	101,355
MEDFORD	MA	55,765
SOMERVILLE	MA	77,478
TRURO	MA	2,087
BALTIMORE	MD	651,154
CHEVY CHASE	MD	2,726
GAITHERSBURG	MD	52,613
BELFAST	ME	6,381
ANN ARBOR	MI	114,024
GRAND RAPIDS	MI	197,800
BURNSVILLE	MN	60,220
LAKE CITY	MN	4,950
MILAN	MN	326
MINNEAPOLIS	MN	382,618
ST. PAUL	MN	287,151
CLAYTON	MO	12,825
KANSAS CITY	MO	441,545
BILLINGS	MT	89,847
MISSOULA	MT	57,053
ASHEVILLE	NC	68,889
BOONE	NC	13,472
HIGHLANDS	NC	909
DOVER	NH	26,884
CLOSTER	NJ	8,383
ELIZABETH	NJ	120,568
HAMILTON	NJ	87,109

CITY	STATE	POPULATION
HAWORTH	NJ	3,390
OCEAN CITY	NJ	15,378
PISCATAWAY	NJ	50,482
TRENTON	NJ	85,403
ALBUQUERQUE	NM	448,607
LAS VEGAS	NV	478,434
RENO	NV	180,480
ITHACA	NY	29,287
ROCHESTER	NY	219,773
SYRACUSE	NY	147,306
AKRON	OH	217,074
DAYTON	OH	166,179
GARFIELD HEIGHTS	OH	30,734
TOLEDO	OH	313,619
EUGENE	OR	137,893
LAKE OSWEGO	OR	35,278
LINCOLN CITY	OR	7,437
EASTON	PA	26,263
PHILADELPHIA	PA	1,517,550
PROVIDENCE	RI	173,618
WARWICK	RI	85,808
CHARLESTON	SC	96,650
CHATTANOOGA	TN	155,554
ARLINGTON	TX	332,969
AUSTIN	TX	656,562
EULESS	TX	46,005
FRISCO	TX	33,714
RICHARDSON	TX	91,802
SUGAR LAND	TX	63,328
BURLINGTON	VT	38,889
BATTLE GROUND	WA	9,296
BELLINGHAM	WA	67,171
EVERETT	WA	91,488
KIRKLAND	WA	45,054
REDMOND	WA	45,256
RENTON	WA	50,052
SEATTLE	WA	563,374
SHORELINE	WA	53,025
MILWAUKEE	WI	596,974
NEW BERLIN	WI	38,220
RIVER FALLS	WI	12,560
STEVENS POINT	WI	24,551
SHEPHERDSTOWN	WV	803



Celebrating **75** Years

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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