

Join *Climate Communities*

Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change. *Climate Communities* is advocating for significant new federal resources to support local actions to reduce GHG emissions.

The benefits of membership include:

A voice in the development of the coalition's climate change blueprint for the next Presidential Administration

Build relationships with the key federal policymakers – House and Senate leaders, congressional staff, and federal agency program directors

Opportunities to network and share best practices with your professional peers

Showcase your community's leadership through public speaking opportunities that bring attention to your community's needs, including conferences, workshops, and testimony before Congress

Strategically position your locality to get federal climate change resources through pilot initiatives and demonstration projects

Periodic written, verbal and electronic reports

Professional lobbying expertise to achieve the coalition's objectives

For membership details, contact Andrew Seth at (202) 261-6011 or andy@climatecommunities.us.



See What Local Leaders Are Saying

"Climate Communities is working with key congressional leaders to ensure that national climate change legislation provides incentives and resources to help more cities and counties become early adopters of global warming solutions."

Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County, WA

"Local government action is critical to addressing America's climate change challenge. Climate Communities is helping cities and counties secure the federal tools, incentives and resources needed to make that happen."

County Executive Thomas Suozzi
Nassau County, NY

"Climate Communities is bringing together the best minds at the city and county levels to develop federal policy proposals that will enhance our ability to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions."

Mayor Dannel Malloy
City of Stamford, CT

Climate Communities is managed by The Ferguson Group, a government affairs firm based in Washington, DC, that serves local communities across the nation. See www.fergusongroup.us for more information.



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Local government leadership is critical to addressing America's climate change challenge



Join Climate Communities and help secure federal climate change resources for cities and counties



Seeking New Federal Resources for Local Climate Change Actions



Nassau County, NY Executive Thomas Suozzi demonstrates the importance of local leadership in reducing GHG emissions.

Cities and counties will be critical in the national effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In rural and urban America, local governments are already implementing innovative initiatives, including the conversion of municipal fleets to hybrid vehicles, the design and construction of energy-efficient

buildings, and the development of communities that reduce vehicle miles traveled. However, as Congress considers landmark climate change legislation, the important function of local governments has been largely overlooked.

Climate Communities has convened cities, counties, councils of government, utility districts, and other units of local government to:

- (1) educate national policymakers on the critical role of local governments in reducing GHG pollution and adapting to the impacts of climate change; and
- (2) ensure that Congress and federal agencies enact policies and programs that provide the resources, tools, and incentives localities need to meet the climate change challenge.

Initial Successes

Already, *Climate Communities* is achieving results. *Climate Communities* successfully rallied support for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, which would enable cities and counties to enact strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions, cut total energy use and improve energy efficiency; the House of Representatives provided \$295 million for the program in FY 2009.

Climate Communities has developed proposals that have led to the House Appropriations Committee to create a \$15 million climate change demonstration pilot program that would enable the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants to units of local government for GHG reduction efforts.

In addition, as the Senate considered cap-and-trade legislation this year, *Climate Communities* worked closely with key leaders to demonstrate the important climate change role of local governments. Proposed legislation initially included no direct resources for local climate activities. Due to *Climate Communities*' education efforts, the Senate amended its proposed legislation and included more than \$300 billion for local climate actions.

With the support of local climate change leaders nationwide, *Climate Communities* has the opportunity to transform national climate change policies and direct federal resources to projects that strengthen our communities and the nation.



Washtenaw County, MI Commissioner Conan Smith and Sonoma County, CA Supervisor Paul Kelley meet with House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell as his committee prepares climate change legislation.



Senators Barbara Boxer, Joseph Lieberman, and John Warner, the champions of climate change legislation, pledged to work with Climate Communities to secure federal resources for local climate actions. Also pictured: James City County, VA Supervisor John McGlennon; Stamford, CT Mayor Dannel Malloy; Sacramento County, CA Supervisor Roger Dickinson; and Nassau County, NY Executive Thomas Suozzi.

Next Steps

In September 2008, *Climate Communities* hosted an historic climate action meeting that brought together 50 of the nation's top local government leaders to develop a "Blueprint for Local Climate Action" for the next President and Congress. *Climate Communities* will release its blueprint in November 2008, and will encourage local government leaders from across America to endorse its recommendations. The blueprint will focus on federal policies needed to empower local communities to reduce vehicle miles traveled, implement green buildings, develop green energy, create green jobs, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In December 2008, *Climate Communities* will convene local government leaders in Washington, DC, to present the blueprint's recommendations to the next President's transition team and Congressional leaders. *Climate Communities* will also host a major local government climate change summit next May 2009 to communicate the blueprint's proposals to Congress and the federal agencies.