



Item #09-02-6  
Action

## Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

January 29, 2009

### Endorsement of Climate Communities/ICLEI USA Blueprint

**Issue:** Should SACOG Endorse the Climate Communities Blueprint?

**Recommendation:** The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board endorse the Climate Communities / ICLEI USA Climate Action Blueprint.

**Discussion:** Director Cosgrove and Director Dickinson attended a retreat last September where the Climate Action Blueprint for President Obama and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress was developed. The Climate Action Blueprint focuses on promoting green building, increasing public transit, encouraging cleaner vehicles and fuels, fostering community-scale renewable energy, building green infrastructure, creating green jobs and businesses and adapting to the impacts of climate change. In October, staff brought the Climate Action Blueprint to the Climate & Air Quality Committee for information.

The Climate Action Blueprint supports the federal advocacy principles for 2009 adopted by the SACOG Board for Transportation Authorization, Blueprint Implementation Discretionary Transit Funding and Climate Change/Air Quality. The Climate Action Blueprint, through the advocacy work of Climate Communities and ICLEI USA, will help influence federal action to address climate change, with a particular focus on funding for work at the local level.

In the initial version of the Warner-Lieberman climate change legislation introduced in the last Congress, direct funding to local governments was not considered. Climate Communities has been working with congressional leaders to add specific funding and ensure that policies can help cities and counties meet national targets. The Climate Action Blueprint calls for a national climate policy mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions with market-based trading, investing proceeds from trading into local governments, and allowing regulated emitters to use carbon offsets to invest in local green infrastructure.

It recommends targets for reducing building energy use and increasing the nation's share of renewable energy 2025, and calls for \$2.8 billion annually to help cities and counties in implementing programs and improving infrastructure that meet their local goals. The Climate Action Blueprint also prioritizes reducing vehicle miles traveled, investing in smart growth, investing in cleaner transit vehicles, creating green jobs and businesses, and building self-reliant communities that are prepared for climate impacts.

The Climate Action Blueprint also recommends \$28 billion for local cities and counties in the current Economic Recovery Act to fund energy efficiency and conservation, and transit infrastructure.

With transportation authorization starting this year, this group will be advocating for a significant portion of the bill to invest in local land use and transportation planning, public transit, green vehicles and other local actions that reduce VMT and curb carbon emissions. Participation in the Climate Communities coalition positions the SACOG region to influence reasonable targets and timelines aligned with California's strong work in this area.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

MM:RS:EJ:pm  
Attachment

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services, (916) 340-6224  
Erik Johnson, Public Information Coordinator, (916) 340-6247

# Empowering Local Government Climate Action

## Blueprint for President Obama and 111th Congress

Now is the time for local government officials to sign onto this Climate Action Blueprint. This Blueprint will be officially released with major events in December 2008 and beyond.

Visit our web sites for more information or to sign onto the Blueprint.

[www.climatecommunities.us](http://www.climatecommunities.us)

[www.icleiusa.org](http://www.icleiusa.org)



Local government leadership and action is critical to addressing the climate change challenge. Localities are in the best position to foster the innovation and new practices that will achieve building efficiency, cleaner transportation choices, new green jobs and businesses, green infrastructure and more sustainable communities. America's local governments have been at the forefront of the movement to address climate change. Our citizens are demanding action, and continued leadership from localities is essential to solving the issue. Here's why:

More than 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions comes from commercial and residential buildings. Local governments are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and houses.

One third of GHG emissions comes from the transportation sector. We must improve public transit and engage in more effective land use and transportation planning to reduce gasoline use and emissions. Localities must lead in the transit and smart growth initiatives needed to reduce vehicle use.

Localities are the first responders who must deal with the impacts of climate change including drought, heat waves, water shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, public health threats, and economic shifts.

Local governments can promote the deployment of green infrastructure that reduces carbon emissions including community forestry, green roofs, and parks and open space.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to drive new economic development strategies that create homegrown green businesses and green jobs to help America transform our economy and compete in the world.

## Addressing climate change from the ground-up with local solutions will help our nation:

- Achieve energy independence and improve national security;
- Create new jobs, technology innovation and business opportunities for a vibrant American economy;
- Build livable, sustainable local communities;
- Prepare for and avoid the costly potential impacts of climate change;
- and

Preserve our planet for future generations.

But the local government role in combating climate change and building a green economy cannot be fulfilled without strong national leadership from the President and Congress. The nation must recognize that the climate solution cannot be achieved without local governments. We need a strong federal-local-state partnership on climate change. Federal policies must provide resources to empower local communities across America to play our part in solving the climate challenge.



The world's leading scientists say to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050 to turn the tide on climate change. We must take the following steps if we are to



Empowering Local Government Climate Action — Blueprint For President Obama & 111th Congress



# Blueprint

Invest in local climate capacity through annual federal appropriations that:

Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants at \$2 billion annually;

Provide \$250 million annually for EPA Local Climate Demonstration Grants; Provide \$400 million annually for the DOE Clean Cities program to support low emission vehicles and cleaner fuels including alternative fuels infrastructure and plug-in hybrid vehicles; and Provide \$100 million annually for the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program.

Enact a national climate policy that:

Sets mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions with market-based trading;

Invests the proceeds from carbon trading into local government actions that reduce emissions through green buildings; transit, smart growth and other VMT reduction strategies; green local fleets and fuels; renewable energy; green infrastructure; and green jobs and businesses; and

Allows regulated emitters to invest through carbon offsets in local green infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gases, including community forestry, green roofs, and open space and farmland preservation.

Enact an economic recovery policy that creates green jobs by:

Providing \$10 billion in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for local governments; and

Providing \$18 billion for local transit infrastructure projects.

Implement clean energy policies that:

Reduce building energy use by 30 percent by 2025 by establishing national building efficiency targets and providing annual funding to help local governments meet or exceed the national targets; and

Produce 25 percent of the nation's power from renewable energy by 2025 through renewable portfolio standards, and measures to overcome interconnection and rate barriers to community-scale renewables.



Empowering Local Government Climate Action — Blueprint For President Obama & 111th Congress



### Transform the nation's transportation

- Substantially increasing federal
- Supporting local initiatives to

Transform the nation's transportation strategy by:

Substantially increasing federal resources for public transit;  
Supporting local initiatives to reduce vehicle-dependence and use including resources for smart growth and transit-oriented development, VMT reduction planning and implementation, walkability programs, bikeways and greenways, infi II and brownfields revitalization, and reuse of historic and existing buildings; and

Funding low-emission busses, clean local fleets, and local alternative fuels infrastructure.

Create American green jobs and green businesses by:

Creating a \$500 million “Climate Prosperity” demonstration grant program that directs Economic Development Administration, HUD, Small Business Administration, and USDA Rural Development funding to support local economic development strategies that produce green businesses and green jobs;

Fully funding the Green Jobs Act of 2007 at \$125 million annually to support worker training in emerging manufacturing and hi-tech sectors; and

Creating an “Energy Conservation Corps” service program to empower young Americans to be part of new clean energy solutions.

Build self-reliant communities that are prepared for climate impacts by:

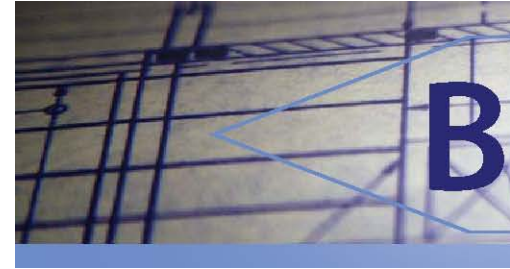
Creating a federal interagency task force on Climate Resiliency and Community Preparedness to produce a federal action plan for (a) national research and development; (b) local technical assistance; and (c) new protocols for intergovernmental collaboration at local, state, regional and federal levels;

Expanding the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program to \$500 million annually to support local government initiatives to address climate impacts;

Expanding NOAA’s Coastal Zone Management Act and climate programs to directly support local climate adaptation planning and implementation; and

Fostering and funding local efforts to support families and populations

most vulnerable to climate impacts.





Empowering Local Government Climate Action — Blueprint For  
President Obama & 111th Congress

Climate Communities and ICLEI USA are seeking the endorsement of local elected leaders from across America for the “Empowering Local Government Climate Action” Blueprint for President Obama and Congress. The Blueprint will be released the second week of December 2008 at a series of local media events across the country. Climate Communities members will convene in Washington, DC in mid-February 2009 to meet with leaders of President Obama’s climate change team and the incoming Congress to discuss the Blueprint recommendations.

Elected officials and staff from these Founding Communities helped to develop the Blueprint:

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, CA Wyandotte, MI

Sacramento County, CA Blue Earth County, MN

Santa Ana, CA High Point, NC

Sonoma County, CA Winston-Salem, NC

Stamford, CT Keene, NH

Charlotte County, FL

Greenville, SC

Washington, DC Nassau County, NY

Boynton Beach, FL Westchester County, NY

Broward County, FL Hamilton County, OH

Gainesville, FL Austin, TX

St. Petersburg, FL

Loudoun County, VA

Miami-Dade County, FL James City County, VA

Savannah, GA New

Kent County, VA  
Dubuque, IA King County, WA  
Story County, IA Snohomish County, WA

Montgomery County, MD Tacoma, WA

Washtenaw County, MI Whatcom County, WA

Annapolis, MD Soos  
Creek Water and  
Sewer District, WA



To endorse the Blueprint and see the complete list of  
endorsers, visit  
[www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html](http://www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html) or  
[www.icleiusa.org/blueprint](http://www.icleiusa.org/blueprint)



Climate Communities is a national coalition of local ICLEI USA provides expertise, technical support, and governments seeking national support for local climate innovative tools to help local governments advance action. their emissions reductions and sustainability goals.

Empowering Local Government Climate Action — Blueprint  
For President Obama & 111th Congress