



The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

(As presented to the 82nd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors Meeting, Dallas, 2014)

- I. **National Action:** As leaders of the nation's cities, we continue to urge the federal and state governments to enact bipartisan legislation, policies and programs to assist mayors in their efforts to lead the nation toward energy independence, create American jobs that can't be shipped overseas, and protect our environment, eliminate waste, and fight climate change. Such efforts will help achieve the national target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the range of 17 percent by 2020 and urge the United States to adopt an ambitious post 2020 target. We urge congress to enact policies and programs that:
- a. Promote greater energy independence and reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels;
 - b. Accelerate energy efficiency and the development of clean, economical and renewable energy technologies such as cogeneration, LED/other energy-efficient lighting, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; and
 - c. Adapt city buildings, homes, facilities and infrastructures to address changing climatic conditions.

We urge the federal government to reduce carbon pollution through existing authorities such as the Clean Air Act, Appliance Efficiency Standards, Federal Transportation Investments, and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency loan and grant programs, including refunding of energy block grant program, and by proposing new legislative initiatives.

II. **Local Action:**

- a. **Mitigation:** We will strive to establish and meet or exceed locally-established targets for reducing energy use, especially fossil fuels, by taking actions in our own operations and throughout our communities, placing particular emphasis on engaging the community – citizens, businesses, schools and organizations – in a concerted campaign to set and achieve such targets through actions such as:
 - i. Develop an energy plan that addresses and includes water, wastewater and stormwater runoff, heat island effects, preservation of open space and an inventory of emissions from fossil fuels for city operations and for the community using established metrics, set reduction targets and adopt elements that address how to harden and adapt city systems and infrastructures to climatic events;
 - ii. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - iii. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;

- iv. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by supporting the development of renewable energy resources, building the renewable energy technology manufacturing capacity of cities, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
- v. Make energy efficiency and resilience a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting, urging employees to conserve energy and save money and other actions to maximize the performance of the city buildings;
- vi. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles, reduce the number of vehicles, launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages, and convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
- vii. Evaluate opportunities to increase energy efficiency in water and wastewater systems, recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production, and harden these systems to respond to sea level rise and other climatic events threatening the delivery of these services;
- viii. Increase recycling rates in city operations and in the community;
- ix. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
- x. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy development in reducing carbon and actions necessary to adapt buildings, systems, and infrastructures to respond to changing climate conditions.

b. Resilience: We support investment in climate preparedness strategies that implement the use of green infrastructure to increase resilience of city water systems, encourage preparedness policies that take into account a city's most vulnerable populations and disproportionately affected citizens, and work with state and federal officials to have disaster response systems in place to deal with acute stresses to a city or region. We pledge further to increase community preparedness by assessing and addressing projected impacts such as sea level rise, increased storm surge, extreme heat, drought, floods, and wildfires.

III. Advocacy: We pledge to support a grassroots movement, engaging young people especially, in support of conservation initiatives, such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, community events, locally-established conservation corps and other activities, and to recognize "conservationists" in our city as part of a systematic campaign over time to renew and reaffirm public commitments to long-established conservation values in our city, state and nation. We further pledge to work as global ambassadors to share best practices with mayors everywhere.