



The United States Conference of Mayors

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STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRESIDENT DOUGLAS H. PALMER ON NBC'S "GREEN WEEK"

Washington, DC – The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), led by President and Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, praises NBC for dedicating an entire week to the green movement, from November 4 to November 10, 2007.

“We are delighted that NBC Television, an influential TV Network, is helping raise public awareness about the threat of global warming and calling attention to the need to change human behavior as people throughout the United States and their elected officials, most notably mayors, are working to protect the climate. When efforts are made in every direction, from influencing news to soap operas, to late night shows, the impact on viewers to change their behavior to adopt increased green practices is immeasurable.

“This campaign by NBC started on the heels of a highly successful, two-day United States Conference of Mayors, Climate Protection Summit in Seattle, which included participation by the private sector and key climate protection champions, such as former President Bill Clinton and former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Al Gore. We are proud that more than 725 mayors have already signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, whose cities collectively represent 25 percent of the U.S. population. These mayors have committed to reduce carbon emissions locally by 7% below their 1990 levels, in line with the Kyoto Protocol.

“During the Summit, the Conference launched a partnership with the Clinton Foundation's Climate Initiative (CCI) which will allow more than 1,100 U.S. cities to gain access to volume discounts on energy-efficient and clean-energy products and technologies as well as give them access to a program to support the retrofitting of existing government buildings. Also, the newly-formed Mayors Climate Protection Council of the Conference's Mayors Climate Protection Center will strengthen the relationship between local elected officials and business leaders to accelerate green projects.

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“Although mayors are on the front lines of protecting the environment in cities, we cannot act alone and there’s still so much more to be done. We applaud NBC and other networks who have taken strong leadership on this critical issue before us, demonstrating that it takes effort, commitment and creativity to contribute to the universal fight to curb global warming. While mayors are the ‘first responders’ when it comes to helping our citizens address the challenges of global warming, this initiative by NBC Television is an essential part of a much broader attack on this problem, reminding all of us that each person and each institution can and must make a difference.”

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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.