

Cities Working Together to Protect Our Air Quality, Health and Environment: *A Call to Action*

March 30, 2005

Dear Mayor:

We invite you to join the **US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement** by signing onto the enclosed resolution and supporting it at the US Conference of Mayors meeting in June. We also welcome the endorsement of other Mayors, whether or not you are currently a member of the US Conference of Mayors.

With less than 5% of the world's population, the US produces more than 25% of the global greenhouse gas emissions, and those emissions are continuing to grow. We believe that US cities can – and should – act to reduce global warming pollution, both in our own municipal operations and in our communities. Many of us are already doing so through programs such as energy conservation, urban forest restoration, controlling sprawl and using alternative fuels in our fleets. Not only are we reducing our contributions to global warming pollution, we are investing in more livable cities through cleaner air, creation and preservation of open space and urban forests, and reduced energy costs.

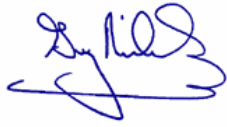
On February 16, the Kyoto Treaty, the international agreement to address climate disruption, became law for the 141 countries that have ratified it to date. As you know, the United States is not among them. For 38 of the countries with the most advanced economies, the Treaty sets binding legal commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels. If the United States had ratified the Kyoto Treaty our nation would be required to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

Please join us and the other Mayors who are already committed to providing leadership on this nationwide, urgent effort. When we meet together at the June US Conference of Mayors we intend to have at least 141 mayors signed up to participate in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The June meeting is an opportunity to promote and expand this effort by passing a resolution that endorses the Agreement. Although there have been climate protection resolutions adopted by the USCM in prior years, you will see that we are urging specific actions – the only way we will make real progress in reversing the trend toward global warming.

Since Seattle's Mayor Greg Nickels first announced this initiative on February 16, the interest and positive feedback has remained intense, including national news stories. This is an opportunity to build on what is becoming an increasingly bi-partisan issue. And it is an opportunity to provide real leadership to the more than 80% of Americans who think the US should be acting to reduce global warming pollution.

Enclosed, please find the draft Resolution, which includes the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and a form for your signature. Also included are contacts for more information; the website for the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is www.seattle.gov/mayor. To meet our target of having most signatures collected by May 2, we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,



Greg Nickels
Mayor, Seattle, WA



Peter Clavelle
Mayor, Burlington, VT



Rocky Anderson
Mayor, Salt Lake City, UT



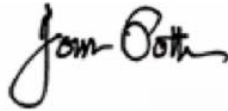
Rosemarie Ives
Mayor, Redmond, WA



Gavin Newsom
Mayor, San Francisco, CA



Pam O'Conner
Mayor, Santa Monica, CA



Tom Potter
Mayor, Portland, OR



Mark Ruzzin
Mayor, Boulder CO



R.T. Rybak
Mayor, Minneapolis, MN

ENDORISING THE US MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, is clear that there is no longer any credible doubt that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40% decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves, more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, entered into force in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25% of the world's global warming pollutants yet is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S., had it ratified the treaty, would have been 7% below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (list attached) which reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act sponsored by Senators McCain and Lieberman and Representatives Gilchrist and Olver, which would create a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will establish a formal relationship with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Program to track progress and implementation of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Signature Page

DATE:

You have my support for the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Mayor _____ (name)

_____ (signature)

City: _____

Address: _____

Staff contact: _____ (name, title)

Staff phone: _____

Email: _____

Please add my comments in support of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. We will add these to the Website (*optional*):

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to: **US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement**

c/o City of Seattle
Office of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 94729
Seattle Municipal Tower
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

OR FAX 206-684-3013

email PDF file to:
dena.gazin@seattle.gov

US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Contact Information

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels is coordinating this initiative. He can be reached at 206-684-4000.

The primary staff contacts for Seattle are:

- Steve Nicholas, Director
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PO Box 94729
Seattle Municipal Tower
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

- Kim Drury, Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Sustainability and Environment
(206) 684-3214
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US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement Website: www.seattle.gov/mayor