

November 21, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members of  
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of  
November 28, 2006

**“COOL CITIES PROGRAM”  
U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation:**

That the City Council adopt the attached resolution endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign the participation letter.

**Background:**

This matter was brought to the City's attention by a resident and a letter requesting participation was included on your agenda of November 14, 2006. The attached resolution and participation letter are ready for adoption by the City Council.

Staff will work with the local resident group and through the South Bay Energy Savings Center and Southern California Energy Coalition to implement the goals set forth in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stephen R. Burrell  
City Manager

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**RESOLUTION NO. 06-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT.**

**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 percent 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**, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, 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 target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent 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, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;

B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and

1 C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming  
2 pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:

- 3 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set  
4 reduction targets and create an action plan.
- 5 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and  
6 create compact, walkable urban communities;
- 7 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction  
8 programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
- 9 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green  
10 tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering  
11 landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy  
12 technology;
- 13 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting  
14 city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve  
15 energy and save money;
- 16 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
- 17 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building  
18 Council's LEED program or a similar system;
- 19 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number  
20 of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages;  
21 convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
- 22 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater  
23 systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
- 24 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
- 25 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to  
26 absorb CO<sub>2</sub>; and
- 27 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations,  
28 business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that City of Hermosa Beach endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2006.

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**PRESIDENT** of the City Council and **MAYOR** of the City of Hermosa Beach, California

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Clerk

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City Attorney



City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, Mayor

# US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

## How many mayors have signed the Agreement?

As of January 29, 2006, 201 mayors representing over 41million Americans in 38 states and Washington, D.C.

## What does the Agreement do?

Mayors who sign on to the Agreement are making a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their own cities and communities to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 through actions like increasing energy efficiency, reducing vehicle miles traveled, maintaining healthy urban forests, reducing sprawl and promoting use of clean, renewable energy resources. The Agreement also calls for Congress to pass legislation that sets meaningful timelines and limits on emissions through a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries.

## What does the USCM Resolution do?

The Resolution endorsed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and urges all mayors to participate. It calls for a strong partnership between the USCM and the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability to help the growing number of participating cities implement the Agreement, and to track progress. The Resolution also encourages the federal government to assist cities in sharing best practices on local climate protection programs.

## What's happened since the USCM meeting?

Cities throughout the country are working on climate action measures – from starting greenhouse gas inventories to implementing measures to reduce global warming pollution. In addition to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, there's been a lot of other activity:

- Late in 2005, countries that are part of the Kyoto Accord met in Montreal at the major international conference on climate change and made a renewed commitment to meeting their targets. There was a lot of interest by the international community in the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- Governor Schwarzenegger (R-CA) announced an ambitious target and plan to reduce global warming pollution in California 11% by 2010, 25% by 2020, and 80% by 2050. If California were a country, it would rank 10<sup>th</sup> worldwide in greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Northeastern States Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) agreed to a seven state cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gas emissions.
- Major business leaders, including several Fortune 500 Companies like GE and DuPont, have made strong commitments to clean energy and emissions reductions.

## Why is this agreement important to mayors?

- They recognize that action on climate change is urgent, as cities throughout the US are already feeling the impacts of climate change. For instance, more intense and frequent storms and sea level rises are causing dangerous coastal flooding, and hydroelectric capacity and water supplies are less stable.
- Nine of the ten hottest years on record occurred in the last decade. People turn to their local governments first for help during droughts, dangerous heat waves, floods, and wildfires.
- Many actions that reduce global warming pollution provide additional benefits that are important to the quality of life in American cities, including cleaner air, decreased dependence on imported oil and gas, healthy urban forests and reduced energy bills.
- Mayors know that taking action now reduces the impacts – and costs – of climate change.
- Now is the time for reducing emissions to avoid even more significant global climate disruption. The US is nearly alone among industrialized countries in lacking a national policy and program on climate protection.

Visit [www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate) for more information, including participation forms, media coverage, and climate resource links.