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**Arkansas Welcomes Local Government Leaders for National Climate  
Change Workshop  
Workshop July 10-13 Focuses on Economic Benefits, Practical Solutions**

*Fayetteville, Ark.* – Local government staff and elected officials from around the region and across the country will gather in Fayetteville, Arkansas, July 10-13 to showcase and exchange ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make their cities more sustainable. The workshop, “Saving Energy and Saving Money: The Economic Benefits of Local Climate Action,” builds on the leadership that cities, towns and counties of all shapes and sizes have shown for more than a decade. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Fayetteville are co-hosting the event. Key-note speakers include Andy Ruben, Vice President of Corporate Sustainability at Wal-Mart, and Ed Mazria of Architecture 2030.

For more information, including the agenda, please visit: [www.iclei.usa/workshop.org](http://www.iclei.usa/workshop.org).

**EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO MEDIA!**

Please visit <http://www.iclei.usa/workshop.org> to register for the event (be sure to indicate your “press” status), or contact ICLEI directly at (510) 844-0699.

“Local government leadership has been the cornerstone of this country’s response to global climate change, a tradition that the Fayetteville workshop is continuing,” said Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, a membership association of more than 250 local governments across the country advancing climate protection and sustainable development. “We’re honoring innovative solutions and local climate protection achievements, and arming new leaders with tools and expertise.”

The workshop arrives at a moment when interest in saving energy, saving money, and taking action to combat the growing threat of climate change is increasing nationwide amongst local governments, businesses, and the public. Participants will discuss ideas and access technical tools that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while achieving cost savings, promoting energy efficiency, and advancing economic vitality.

“We are excited to host the ICLEI conference here in Fayetteville, Arkansas,” said Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody. “Fayetteville is a leader in the sustainability movement and we hope to inspire other smaller, mid American cities to do what they can to reduce

our carbon output while saving money through energy conservation. If Fayetteville, Arkansas, can do it, other cities should be able to as well.”

Last week Mayor Coody and the City of Fayetteville were awarded First Place in the Small City Category of the Mayors Climate Protection Awards, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Wal-Mart, for the City’s Alternative Transportation and Trail Master Plan.

[http://usmayors.org/75thAnnualMeeting/climateprotectionawards\\_062307.pdf](http://usmayors.org/75thAnnualMeeting/climateprotectionawards_062307.pdf)

The workshop includes sessions on transportation planning, the building sector, designing effective climate action plans, and fostering community support. Participants will also enjoy ample time to network and share best practices.

Additional workshop highlights:

- *Climate Innovation Invitational*: The most innovative local climate protection ideas and practices will be awarded at the workshop – top prize is \$1,000 and a trip to the 2007 Sundance Summit. (<http://www.icleiusaworkshop.org/cii.html>)
- *America Speaks*: Interactive, outcomes-oriented discussions will engage workshop participants to examine the forces supporting and constraining the city-level movement toward a clean energy economy. (<http://www.americaspeaks.org/>)
- *Green event*: ICLEI will limit paper, signage and materials distributed at the workshop by providing memory sticks to each participant. Also, food provided will be locally grown and/or organic, floral displays will use native plants, and ICLEI will purchase carbon offsets for air travel.

*The workshop is sponsored by Wal-Mart. Additional sponsors include CH2M Hill, P&G, Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM), and the Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission.*