



Summary of ICLEI's Inaugural Climate Innovation Invitational

Climate Innovation Invitational Entries Represented at the Fayetteville Workshop:

WINNER: Ann Arbor, MI – LED Streetlights

The City of Ann Arbor is installing LED streetlights in order to reduce lighting costs and greenhouse gas emissions. After successfully piloting an LED replacement for downtown "globe" lights, the City received a \$630,000 grant from the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority to fund retrofits for 1,400 downtown lights. This initial installation will save the City more \$100,000 per year, reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 267 tons of CO₂. In addition, testing will continue on LED replacements for neighborhood streetlights, with the eventual goal of replacing all public lighting with LEDs. Full implementation of LEDs would cut Ann Arbor's public lighting energy use in half and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2,200 tons of CO₂ annually. While many cities across the United States have converted traffic signals to energy-efficient lighting, Ann Arbor has pioneered this at the street lighting level.

Chapel Hill, NC – Fare Free Transit

In 2002 the Town of Chapel Hill initiated a "fare free" transit policy, making it possible for all residents to utilize the public transit system without paying a fare. The policy has resulted in a 108% increase in transit ridership over the period between 2001 and 2006. In 2006 the per capita ridership for the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area was 86 trips per person. This represents one of the highest per capita transit trip rates in the nation. The increase in transit ridership has resulted in fewer vehicle miles traveled by Chapel Hill residents, reduced greenhouse gas production and improved air quality.

Chattanooga, TN - Green Asphalt Project.

The City of Chattanooga contracted with green asphalt company, Astec Industries, Inc, to save energy and money while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. The mixture can contain up to 50% locally Recycled Asphalt Product and requires less heat, saving heating costs and eliminating oil smoke emissions which are typical in standard paving projects. The new greener mix costs approximately 20% less than new asphalt and burns 5-7% less fuel on a smoother surface than normally produced. Road maintenance costs also go down for the city because green asphalt lasts at least 15 years, compared to 11 or 12 years for a regular mix. In addition, applications of cooler green asphalt reduce the

generation of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) when the asphalt is put down. Astec Industries calculated that if the entire country adopted green asphalt as a strategy in their paving programs the amount of imported oil would be cut by 80 million barrels per year.

Florida Keys, FL - Keyswide Sustain-Ability Project (KSAP)

Within one calendar year, all six Florida Keys municipalities will have pledged to take action towards greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Green Living and Energy Education (GLEE) organization will host four networking workshops for KSAP participants to identify priority areas of interest and procure and host professional speakers to promote environmental excellence in areas such as sustainable energy use, energy conservation, water conservation and alternative fuels. GLEE will also host two high profile events for KSAP participants in conjunction with GLEE's Annual Green Living and Energy Expo, and collaborate with the Florida Chamber of Commerce for the GLEE Awards Ceremony.

Other Climate Innovation Invitational Entries:

Albuquerque, AZ – Albuquerque Green

Mayor Martin Chavez and the City of Albuquerque have promoted the initiative “AlbuquerqueGreen”, a comprehensive plan for more sustainable transportation, emissions, water usage and development. Billboards advertising the city’s sustainable commitment are placed around the city to create awareness of the initiative.

So far, AlbuquerqueGreen accomplishments include an overall 67% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from city government operations since 2000. Contributing factors include reduction in methane emitted from landfills by implementing methane gas capture, destruction and gas-to-energy systems, reduced natural gas and refrigerant use, 20% of City government electricity derived from wind power, use of biodiesel in City fleet, and implementation of an Executive Order requiring that all new City fleet be alternative-fueled vehicles. Mayor Chávez has joined on to the ‘2030 Challenge,’ setting an aggressive goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions from new buildings by 2030.

Berkeley, CA – The Helios Project

Berkeley’s Helios Project will increase the amount of wind- and solar-generated electricity while implementing aggressive conservation / energy efficiency programs by working with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). Renewable energy systems will be installed (solar and wind) on every public school. The Helios Project will raise sufficient funding from foundations, businesses, and individuals to bridge the gap between BUSD’s energy budget for one school and the cost of a renewable energy system. BUSD can then leverage other funds, low cost loans, and rebates that are

available for energy conservation and renewable energy production. The aim is to make the project “cost-neutral” to BUSD.

Fort Wayne, Indiana – Renewable Energy Portfolio Requirements

The City of Fort Wayne implemented a renewable energy portfolio requirement for 5% of its energy to come from renewable sources by 2010, and 20% by 2020. Community and commercial energy usage are also on course to use 10% renewables by 2010.

Currently, Fort Wayne has reduced their fuel use by 5% in their city fleet and 2% in the community. Funding for public transportation will be increased 20% by the year 2009, and 25 miles of new bike lanes will be laid by 2009; 50 miles by 2012. Energy usage in city buildings is set for a 10% reduction by 2010 and a 35% reduction by 2015. The tree canopy of the city is also to be increased on an annual basis.

Portola Valley, CA – SolarCity Program

Solar City’s Collective Power Program is an initiative that provides additional savings for communities that come together to contract with SolarCity to install solar power systems on their homes and businesses. With the Collective Power Program, SolarCity customers receive an unprecedented 15-20% savings compared to current market pricing on a solar power system as well as the satisfaction of knowing that, with their neighbors, they are doing their part to create a brighter future. The idea of a bulk purchase came first to Portola Valley resident Armand Neukermans, who then proposed it to SolarCity, resulting in the plan to solicit interested residents. During the six-week community canvassing effort, residents achieved more than 200% of goal and will save over 11 million pounds of carbon emissions by using solar power. As of the April, 2007, 78 households had converted to solar power.