



cool cities delaware

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Cool Cities encourages local governments to endorse the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and adopt energy sustainability, environmental stewardship and climate protection policies and programs.

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

This agreement was initiated by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels in 2005 to encourage local governments to make commitments to adopt policies that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while promoting environmental stewardship. Over 1000 U.S. cities have already signed on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Action Items

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement includes 12 action items. It is up to local governments to decide which action items are appropriate for their own policies and programs.

1. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory, reduction targets and climate action plan
2. Land use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact walk-able communities
3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commuter reduction, carpooling and transit
4. Renewable energy programs
5. Energy efficiency in municipal buildings
6. Energy Star procurement policy
7. Land use planning and building codes that promote energy efficiency
8. Increase the efficiency of government-owned vehicles
9. Water and wastewater pump efficiency
10. Recycling programs
11. Urban forests and habitat protection
12. Public education and outreach

Visit our website to download our handbook, view our resource library and access other valuable information:
<http://coolcitiesde.us>

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For questions, please contact:
Ron Zink, Chairman
28 Winged Foot Road
Dover, DE 19904
coolcitiesde@gmail.com
(302) 735-8996



What is the U.S. Conference of Mayors?

Chartered in 1932, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is a nonpartisan organization that promotes the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthens federal-city relationships; ensures that federal policy meets urban needs; provides mayors with leadership and management tools; and creates a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

What are the Costs?

Unlike other organizations that promote local government climate protection, such as ICLEI, there is no cost to endorse the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and no annual membership dues. Through the Cool Cities program, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), informational resources are available to local governments free of charge, including greenhouse gas emissions inventory software and policy guidance materials.

What are the Benefits?

There are many benefits to endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, including the following:

Reduce operating costs and save taxpayer money. Energy costs have increased dramatically over the past decade. When local governments reduce the amount of energy that they need to provide services, they are able to save money and reduce their vulnerability to rising energy costs. Often, investments in energy efficiency can pay for themselves in the amount of energy that they save in a short period of time.

Shovel-Ready Grant Proposals: A carbon emissions inventory and climate action plan enables local governments to have the background research at the ready to prioritize energy sustainability, environmental stewardship and climate protection efforts. Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a local government's climate action plan provide important benchmarks necessary for federal grant proposals, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Conservation and Energy Efficiency Block grants

Improve Building Stock: Buildings are a legacy for future generations. Improvement in building standards for energy efficiency and their enforcement can promote long-term energy sustainability and climate protection. Often, the payback period for energy efficiency and green building improvements is short. Improvements also increase the value of property and lower energy consumption for many decades.

How to Join

Local governments can endorse the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement by completing the agreement "signature page" and returning it to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center by mail or fax. The signature page can be downloaded from our website at <http://coolcitiesde.us>.