

Join Climate Communities and help secure sustainability resources for cities and counties

Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in developing new approaches to create livable communities, reduce energy use and curb greenhouse gas emissions. *Climate Communities* is working with local governments to ensure that federal policies provide strong incentives and resources for local clean energy and sustainability actions.

As a Climate Communities member you will:

- Receive timely information on emerging clean energy and sustainability issues, including policy updates and grant announcements
- Participate in weekly webinars, national conferences, and other events
- Access archived recordings and presentation materials
- Share best practices with local governments across America
- Build relationships with key federal decision-makers
- Get strategic guidance on grant opportunities

For more information, visit
www.climatecommunities.us

Climate Communities

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About Climate Communities

Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in developing new approaches to create livable communities, reduce energy use and curb greenhouse gas emissions. *Climate Communities* is working with local governments to ensure that federal policies provide strong incentives and resources for local clean energy and sustainability actions.

Launched in 2008, *Climate Communities* is already realizing significant clean energy and sustainability successes:

- *Climate Communities* worked with the Obama Administration and Congress to secure significant federal resources for local government clean energy and climate action in the economic recovery legislation, including \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block (EECBG) Grants, \$300 million for DOE Clean Cities grants to promote more efficient vehicles, \$400 million for DOE grants for electric vehicles and other transportation electrification projects, and \$300 million for EPA grants to reduce diesel emissions.
- *Climate Communities* worked with Congressman Norman Dicks (D-WA) to create the EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grants, a new program that provides funding for innovative local government initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program provided \$10 million in grants to 25 localities in FY 2009 and has selected 25 additional communities to receive another \$10 million in FY 2010 funding.
- *Climate Communities* worked with Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) to include significant funding for local governments in the American Clean Energy and Security Act passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2009. *Climate Communities* also worked with Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) to secure funding for EECBG in the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act that passed through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.
- *Climate Communities* built local government support for the new HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities initiative, which awarded more than \$140 million in grants to regions and local governments to link transportation, housing and land use planning.
- *Climate Communities'* Energy Block Grants Work! campaign is demonstrating the effectiveness of federal investments in local clean energy/sustainability initiatives.
- *Climate Communities'* updates, insight and analysis on key programs and grant opportunities helped members win EPA Climate Showcase grants and other competitive funding.
- *Climate Communities'* weekly webinars and multiple leadership events in Washington, DC have helped local government leaders build relationships with key federal decision makers and educate them about the integral role of localities in promoting clean energy solutions and addressing climate change.

See What Local Leaders Are Saying

"Climate Communities is bringing together the best minds at the city and county levels to develop federal policy proposals that will enhance our ability to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions."

Mayor Roy Buol
City of Dubuque, IA

"Climate Communities is working with key congressional leaders to ensure that national clean energy policies provide incentives and resources to help more cities and counties become early adopters of global warming solutions."

Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County, WA

"Local government action is critical to addressing America's climate change challenge. Climate Communities is helping cities and counties secure the federal tools, incentives and resources needed to make that happen."

Supervisor Roger Dickinson
Sacramento County, CA

"Climate Communities events put you face-to-face with federal officials who manage federal funding for local sustainability initiatives. The information I learned and the people I met at these events helped my community win new grant funding to support our local clean energy priorities."

Supervisor John McGlennon
James City County, VA



Membership Form

Complete and return this form

_____ is joining Climate Communities.
(Name of Organization)

Main Contact _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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At the national level, Climate Communities is working with local government leaders to:

- Educate federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in reducing energy use, curbing greenhouse gases and creating livable communities
- Champion direct federal resources for local sustainability initiatives (e.g., energy efficiency, renewable energy, green infrastructure, brownfields, cleaner vehicles & fuels, mass transit, transit-oriented development, livability/walkability improvements)
- Support financing tools (e.g., revolving loan funds, loan guarantees) for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements

Annual Dues <i>based upon population</i>		Form of Payment <i>check one</i>
Up to 50,000	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice me
50,001-100,000	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed
100,001-250,000	\$750	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit card (Amex MC Visa)
250,001-500,000	\$1,000	Name _____
Over 500,000	\$1,500	CC# _____
		Exp. _____
		Security Code _____
Amount _____		

Submit Form to: Climate Communities
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20001
Fax: (202) 261-9884

For more info, contact Andrew Seth at (202) 261-9881 or andy@climatecommunities.us



2014 Climate Communities Webinar Series

(January through June)

Climate Communities hosts a weekly webinar series with its members on sustainability issues of interest to local governments. Join now and participate in this informative series.

January 9, 2014

Energy Efficiency Carrots: Green Building Tax Abatement in Cincinnati, OH

January 16, 2014

2014 Sustainability Funding Outlook

January 23, 2014

Add It Up: Leveraging Multiple Sources of Funding for Your Sustainability Initiatives

January 30, 2014

Around the Corner: Federal Sustainability Policy in 2014

February 6, 2014

Get Real: Tracking Energy Use and Saving Money with Real-Time Energy Management

February 13, 2014

Walk this Way: Making Communities More Livable with Safer Routes to School

February 20, 2014

Green Project Reserve: Funding for Green Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Conservation

February 27, 2014

EPA's Source Reduction Assistance Grant for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts

March 6, 2014

10 Tips to Make Your Sustainable Transportation TIGER Grant Application More Competitive

March 13, 2014

The Obama Administration's Climate Preparedness Plan and Proposed \$1 Billion Climate Fund

March 27, 2014

"And the Winner Is ...": The Top 10 Complete Streets Policies of 2013

April 3, 2014

Get Ready: Building Community Resiliency with Energy Microgrids

April 10, 2014

Grow Smart: Managing Urban Sprawl with Form-Based Codes

April 24, 2014

Three in One: A New Tool to Help Assess the Economic, Environmental and Social Performance of Community Investment

May 1, 2014

Heating Up!: \$15 Million Available to Help Communities Boost Solar Deployment

May 8, 2014

Green Growth: The Economic Benefits of Low-Impact Development

May 15, 2014

Share and Share Alike: The Benefits of Community-Shared Solar

May 22, 2014

Partners for Places: Funding Available for Local Sustainability Projects

May 29, 2014

Measure Up: Evaluating Your Community's Energy Efficiency Progress

June 5, 2014

Integrated Stormwater/Wastewater Planning: Lansing's Triple Bottom Line Approach to Wet Weather Control

June 12, 2014

Overview of EPA's Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Rule for Utilities

June 19, 2014

Growing Green Jobs in Your Community

June 26, 2014

From Blight to Beans! Converting Vacant Properties to Urban Agriculture Centers



2013 Climate Communities Webinar Series

Climate Communities hosts a weekly webinar series with its members on sustainability issues of interest to local governments. Join now and participate in this informative series.

January 10, 2013

Show Me the Money!: 2013 Sustainability Funding Outlook

January 17, 2013

It's a Shore Thing: The Five Star/Urban Waters Restoration Grants

January 24, 2013

Capitol Offense: 2013 Sustainability and Community Revitalization Outlook

January 31, 2013

America's Greenest, Most Livable City?: The District of Columbia's Sustainability Vision

February 14, 2013

With a Little Help from My Friends: EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

February 21, 2013

America's Greenest, Most Livable City?: Beaverton, OR's Sustainability Progress

February 28, 2013

MAP-21's Transportation Alternatives Program

March 7, 2013

Best Practices for Establishing a Local Sustainability Office

March 14, 2013

NOAA's Sea Grant Community Climate Adaptation Initiative

March 21, 2013

EcoVillage at Ithaca: Principles, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

March 28, 2013

It's Easy Being Green: Using Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality, Reduce Energy Use and Curb Greenhouse Gases

April 4, 2013

Preparing for Disaster: FEMA's Disaster Mitigation Assistance

April 11, 2013

Green Roofs: Growing Livable Communities with Living Materials

April 18, 2013

Green Dollars: The Local Sustainability Matching Fund

April 25, 2013

10 Tips to Make Your Sustainable Transportation TIGER Grant Application More Competitive

May 2, 2013

Get Plugged In: Help Support Bipartisan Energy Efficiency Legislation

May 9, 2013

BUILDing on Brownfields Success: Help Support Community Revitalization Legislation

May 16, 2013

Be an Energy Efficiency Winner: Using Competition to Reduce Energy Use

May 23, 2013

Turnaround: Tools and Tips to Convert Vacant, Abandoned Properties into Vibrant New Spaces

May 30, 2013

The Local Government Role in Solar Financing for Commercial and Residential Deployment

June 6, 2013

Sustainability Showcases: Lessons Learned from EPA's Greening America's Capitals Program

June 13, 2013

Get Your Motor Running: Best Practices in Greening Public Fleets

June 20, 2013

Growing Green: How to Develop Urban Agriculture in Your Community

June 26, 2013

Connecting the Dots: Regional Bike-Pedestrian Network Planning

July 11, 2013

Overview of the Obama Administration's Climate Action Plan and Its Impact on Communities

July 18, 2013

Green Learning: Best Practices in Reducing the Environmental Impact of Schools

July 25, 2013

Walk on the Wild Side: Assessing the Safety and Efficiency of Pedestrian Options in Your Community

August 1, 2013

Repowering America: Converting Contaminated Properties into Renewable Energy Sites

August 8, 2013

A Better Tomorrow: HUD's Integrated Planning and Investment Grants

August 15, 2013

Get Ready: Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge

August 22, 2013

Windy Cities: Harnessing Downtown Wind Power with Vertical Axis Turbines

August 29, 2013

From Gray to Green: Adopting Portfolio Standards for Stormwater Management

September 12, 2013

Green Dollars: Wells Fargo & NFWF's Environmental Solutions for Communities Grants

September 19, 2013

The Whole Enchilada: Deep Energy Retrofits

September 26, 2013

Driving Change: A Guide to Adopting Alternative Fuel Vehicles Within Your Government and Across Your Community

October 3, 2013

EPA's Brownfield Grant Opportunities: Funding for Assessment, Cleanup and Planning

October 10, 2013

Smart Infrastructure Investment: Assessing Transportation Costs at the Neighborhood Level

October 17, 2013

Save Energy and Win: The \$5 Million Georgetown University Energy Prize for Communities

October 24, 2013

Overcoming Local Sustainability Obstacles: IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge

October 31, 2013

America's Greenest Cities: Greening El Paso, TX's Urban Core

November 7, 2013

Cleaning Up Around the House: Dubuque, IA's Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

November 14, 2013

Green Dollars: The Local Sustainability Matching Fund

November 21, 2013

Help!: Technical Assistance Available to Tackle Smart Growth Challenges

December 5, 2013

On the Road Again: Supporting Local Infrastructure Investment in Transportation Reauthorization

December 12, 2013

Sustaining Your Local Sustainability Program: Creative Strategies to Advance Environmental Protection and Save Money

December 19, 2013

It's Electric: Developing Effective Community Energy Strategic Plans



Empowering Local Clean Energy Action

FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA





Local government leadership is essential for America to achieve energy independence, renew economic prosperity and protect the environment. Federal policies must empower local governments with the tools and resources to effectively partner with the private sector to implement clean energy solutions.

Promoting clean energy solutions from the ground up will help our nation:

- Achieve **energy independence** and enhance national security;
- Create **new jobs, technology innovation and business opportunities** for a vibrant American economy;
- **Reduce the long-term operating costs** of government;
- Build **livable, sustainable local communities**;
- Prepare for and **mitigate the costly future impacts** of climate change, energy supply disruption and energy cost escalation; and
- **Protect the environment, improve air quality and enhance public health.**

Local government leadership is critical to creating a prosperous clean energy future. Localities are uniquely positioned to foster the innovation and new practices that will lead to increased building efficiency, cleaner transportation choices, new clean energy jobs and businesses, adoption of green infrastructure, and more sustainable communities. Furthermore, with many local governments facing severe budget crises, it is more important than ever that localities are able to invest in cost-effective improvements that structurally reduce the operating costs of government. Continued leadership from America's local governments is essential to the implementation of a national clean energy strategy. Here's why:

- Local governments are **laboratories for innovation** that can lead the market by example through demonstration projects, innovative deployments and public-private partnerships. Localities have led the way on clean energy innovation for a generation, and are prepared to take these efforts to the next level.
- More than 40 percent of the nation's energy is consumed by **commercial and residential buildings**. Local governments have the most direct access to business owners and homeowners, and are best suited to improve building codes, foster energy efficiency and community-scale renewable energy and create programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and homes.



- One third of energy consumption comes from the **transportation sector**. We must improve public transit and engage in more effective land use and transportation planning to reduce dependence upon foreign oil and improve local air quality. Localities and their regional partners must lead in the transit and smart development initiatives needed to reduce vehicle use and alleviate traffic congestion.
- Local governments can promote the deployment of **green infrastructure** that reduces energy consumption and creates other benefits such as reduced flooding and decreased stormwater runoff, through approaches including community forestry, green roofs and the creation and preservation of parks and open space.
- Local governments are uniquely positioned to leverage private sector investment by devising new economic development strategies that create homegrown **clean energy businesses and jobs** to help America transform our economy and compete globally.
- Localities are the **first responders** who must deal with the impacts of failed energy policies and climate change, including economic shifts, public health threats, drought, heat waves, water shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, and changes in weather patterns.

However, the local government role in reducing energy consumption and building a clean energy economy cannot be fulfilled without strong national leadership from the President and Congress. The nation must recognize that energy independence cannot be achieved without the involvement of local governments. A strong federal commitment to creating a more vibrant economy, protecting the environment and reducing the costs of government must begin at the local level. Federal policies must provide resources to empower local communities across America to play our role in implementing clean energy solutions.

Local governments are ready to play our part in reducing energy consumption and leading the world toward clean energy solutions, but the **President and Congress must take the following steps** if we are to achieve these important objectives:

Establish a national clean energy policy that includes the following:

- **Clean Energy Standard:** Create an ambitious **national clean energy standard** to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, which includes **local government clean energy sources** such as landfill gas recovery, waste to energy facilities, energy-efficiency in municipal facilities, and distributed renewable energy.
- **Efficient Buildings and Local Facilities:** Empower local governments to lead by example by providing the funding and technical assistance needed to successfully leverage private



sector investment into **energy efficiency retrofits of schools, public buildings and facilities, and into community scale renewable energy projects**, making local facilities more efficient. This should include the funding of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants program and the Better Buildings and Race to Green programs in order to promote greater energy efficiency and achieve higher cost savings at local government facilities.

- **Financing Tools:** Provide financing mechanisms to support cost-effective **local government programs that support clean energy initiatives by citizens and the private sector**, including a federal fix to support Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, extension and expansion of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) and Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs) and extension and expansion of the Section 1603 Grants for Clean Energy in Lieu of Tax Credits.
- **Clean Vehicles:** Promote expanded use of electric and other alternative fuel vehicles by providing **federal funding for charging and fueling infrastructure, the conversion of public sector fleets and consumer/business incentives for clean fuel vehicle purchases.**



Invest in local clean energy and sustainable community capacity through federal appropriations that:

- Fully fund the DOE **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)** at \$2 billion annually;
- Provide \$250 million annually for competitive DOE **energy efficiency/renewable energy grants** to localities;
- Provide \$250 million annually for DOE to support **low emission vehicles, cleaner fuels and alternative fuels infrastructure**;
- Provide \$10 million annually for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **Climate Showcase Communities grants**;
- Provide funding for **transportation infrastructure that promotes sustainable communities**, including the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER grant program at \$2 billion annually; and
- Provide \$150 million annually for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **Sustainable Communities grants** to local governments and regional efforts.

Transform the nation's transportation strategy by:

- **Quickly reauthorizing the nation's surface transportation law** with a focus on transit, livable communities, comprehensive regional planning, revitalization of existing infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and other approaches that decrease petroleum consumption and reduce carbon pollution;

- Authorizing new **transportation funding programs that promote clean and sustainable transportation systems** at the local and regional levels, including DOT TIGER grants, livability grants, a National Infrastructure Bank, “Transportation Leadership Awards” for localities that go beyond minimum sustainability goals, and local planning grants that will build local and regional capacity to make smart, cost-effective and sustainable transportation infrastructure choices;
- Substantially increasing **federal resources for public transit**, ensuring equity in non-federal match requirements between transit and highway projects, and providing funding for local transit operations; and
- Improving local air quality through funding for **clean vehicles** including low-emission buses, clean local fleets and local alternative fuels infrastructure.



Build self-reliant communities that are prepared for climate impacts by:

- Expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) **Pre-Disaster Mitigation program** to \$500 million annually to support local and regional initiatives to address climate impacts, such as rising sea levels, flooding, drought, and wildfires; and
- Enhancing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) **Coastal Zone Management Act and climate programs** to directly support local and regional climate adaptation planning and implementation.

For more information, contact Andrew Seth at (202) 261-9881 or andy@climatecommunities.us.