



The United States Conference of Mayors

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MAYORS CITE BUILDINGS AS MAJOR PRODUCERS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

SEEK SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Hosts 2nd National Summit on Energy and the Environment October 26-27 – Atlanta, GA

Atlanta, GA – With concern growing nationally about global warming and its impact on the environment, The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), led by Conference President Michael A. Guido and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, will hold its **2nd National Summit on Energy and the Environment: Implementing the 2030 Challenge, on October 26-27 in Atlanta at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.** The primary focus of the summit is the building sector -- a major consumer of fossil fuels, which contributes significantly to the climate change problem in the United States.

“The nation’s mayors have become increasingly aware of the need to take action to mitigate the impact of global warming in our cities. Because buildings account for nearly half of the energy used in this nation, mayors are taking the lead on this issue to help create a sustainable green America through building efficiency,” said Mayor Michael A. Guido, USCM President.

The summit brings together mayors, business leaders, developers, retailers, and architects from across the country to share best-practices and identify specific strategies to encourage energy efficient building design to reduce green house gas emissions from the construction and operation of all new and renovated buildings. Highlights of the summit include remarks from Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin on “The Greening of Atlanta”, an address from Edward Mazria with The American Institute of Architects, as well as a tour of the Arthur M. Blank Family Office Building, one of Atlanta’s Nationally-Recognized “Green Buildings.”

Host for the Summit, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin said, “I am pleased that the Conference chose Atlanta for this very important summit. We know that building green reduces operating costs, makes people healthier and more productive and conserves natural resources. We are proud to share some of the accomplishments Atlanta has achieved to become one of the most recognized green cities in the United States.”

During the summit, the mayors will also release a new study showing the impact of rising energy costs on American households, as well as forecasting the nation’s projected energy expenditures for new commercial and residential buildings. Major findings of the study, prepared by Global Insight, an economic forecasting firm, shows that with the population growth expected in the United States over the next 25 years, the nation will construct 40 million new homes and build 20 billion square feet of new commercial space. More importantly, the additional energy from this new construction will cost \$40 billion annually by the year 2030. Thus, in the coming decades, energy conservation and the use of green technologies will become increasingly important.

At the Conference of Mayors' Annual Meeting in June 2006, the nation's mayors unanimously adopted a resolution calling for all new buildings in the U.S. to be carbon-neutral by the year 2030 (meaning they will not use fossil fuel energy). It is estimated that if mayors can achieve this goal, greenhouse gas emission levels will be potentially reduced to the point where the negative impact of global warming can be reversed.

To help mayors achieve the goals of the 2030 Challenge, The Conference of Mayors has partnered with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) which created a SUSTAINABILITY 2030 TOOL KIT to give mayors facts, statistics and links to resources about green buildings.

Mayor Guido lauded the AIA saying, "Mayors have committed themselves to try to make all buildings carbon neutral by 2030 and are continuously looking for innovative ways to do so. Our partnership with AIA is invaluable because it lends practical expertise to this effort."

"The AIA is active at all levels of government to promote legislation, codes, appropriations, research and initiatives that support sustainable buildings and communities," said Paul Mendelsohn, AIA Senior Director of State and Local Affairs. "Our work with the nation's mayors has been extremely encouraging so far to raise awareness of these issues and we are now working in tandem to implement real-world design solutions at the community level."

The Home Depot Foundation, a leading organization that promotes energy efficient, sustainable affordable housing and healthy community design, is the title sponsor for The U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2nd National Summit on Energy and the Environment.

"The Home Depot Foundation is proud to support The U.S. Conference of Mayors summit in our hometown. We are especially pleased the mayors chose to focus on the important topic of the many short and long term benefits that green building offers individuals and communities, as well as the environment," said Kelly Caffarelli, Executive Director of The Home Depot Foundation.

About The United States Conference of Mayors

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.