

Onondaga Citizens League
What does it mean to be Green? Study January 2010

Review of Sustainability and Green Organizations:

Government / City Related Organizations

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1. ICLEI <http://www.icleiusa.org/>
2. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (US Conference of Mayors) <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/revised/>
3. Global Green USA / Green Cross International <http://www.globalgreen.org/>
4. SustainLane Government <http://www.sustainlane.us/home.jsp>
5. NRDC Smart Cities <http://smartercities.nrdc.org/>

1) ICLEI

Organization Name and main address: **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** <http://www.icleiusa.org/> Formerly the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, the organization is now officially ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

Organization Type: ICLEI is a **membership association of local governments** committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. Since its inception in 1990, ICLEI has grown to include more than 1,000 cities, towns and counties in the world, more than 550 of which are in the United States.

Organization's specific Program of interest to Sustainable Communities: There are two:

Cities for Climate Protection ® campaign (CCP) is ICLEI's work on climate mitigation, including software and calculators for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The STAR Community Index is a new tool designed to help local governments plan, track and measure their sustainability programs. The STAR program will create a process, as LEED has done, to establish shared measures for greening communities.

Who the program is intended for: CCP is ICLEI's flagship program designed to educate and empower **local governments** worldwide to take action on climate change.

Basic summary of the program: It is a performance-based campaign that offers a framework for local governments to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability** within their municipalities.

Elements of sustainability that the program addresses or measures: **CCP Five Milestones** to assist US local governments in developing and implementing harmonized local approaches for reducing global warming and air pollution emissions, with the additional benefit of improving community livability. **STAR includes 8 elements:** Environment: Natural Systems, Planning and

Design, Energy and Climate; Economy: Economic Development, Employment and Workforce Training; Society: Equity in Access, College Readiness, Lifestyle, Children, Health & Safety, Affordability & Social Equity.

What are participants obligated to if they adopt or use this program? The Five **CCP** Milestones are: 1) Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast, 2) Adopt an emissions reduction target, 3) Develop a Local Climate Action Plan, 4) Implement policies and measure, and 5) Monitor and verify results. **STAR** is a point system for communities to rate their sustainability.

What are the intended outcomes of the program?

CCP – **Reduced Greenhouse gas emissions**

STAR – Communities to pursue **economic vitality, environmental stewardship and social responsibility**.

2) US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Organization Name and main address: **US Conference of Mayors (USCM)**

<http://www.usmayors.org/>

Organization Type: The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) is the official nonpartisan **organization of cities with populations of 30,000** or more. There are 1,203 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

Organization's specific Program of interest to Sustainable Communities: **Climate Protection Agreement** through the USCM Climate Protection Center.

<http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/revised/>

Who the program is intended for: "We're proud to have the support of 600 mayors from all 50 states sign this agreement but we won't stop until **every U.S. mayor** has joined the fight to protect our climate," said Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer.

Basic summary of the program: Based on the Kyoto Protocol, mayors who sign the agreement **pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012**.

Elements of sustainability that the program addresses or measures: Primarily global warming and **greenhouse gas emissions** with a dozen suggested strategies (see copy of agreement on next page)

What are participants obligated to if they adopt or use this program? Under the Agreement, participating cities commit to take following three actions:

- **Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets** in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- **Urge their state governments, and the federal government**, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- **Urge the U.S. Congress** to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

What are the intended outcomes of the program? **Reduced Greenhouse gas emissions** by 2012 consistent with the Kyoto Protocol

What is the difference between the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and ICLEI?

While there are a number of points of connection between the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) and ICLEI, both are distinct organizations and entities. ICLEI is a membership association of local governments advancing greenhouse gas reductions and sustainability. ICLEI provides the framework and technical assistance for local governments to create comprehensive climate protection policies. The MCPA is a program of the US Conference of Mayors. By signing the MCPA, a mayor sets a target for his/her city's climate protection efforts. ICLEI works closely with the Conference of Mayors to help cities who have signed the agreement work towards meeting the goals of the Agreement.

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels.
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that 1) includes clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;

8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

3) Global Green USA

Organization Name and main address: **Global Green USA / Green Cross International**
<http://www.globalgreen.org/>

Organization Type: Global Green USA is the only **national environmental non-profit** headquartered in Southern California with offices in New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and New York, and is **one of 31 national Green Cross International affiliates** throughout the world. Founded in 1994 by activist and philanthropist Diane Meyer Simon, Global Green is the American Arm of [Green Cross International \(GCI\)](#), which was created by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to foster a global value shift toward a sustainable and secure future by reconnecting humanity with the environment.

Organization's specific Program of interest to Sustainable Communities: **Global Green USA Local Government Green Building Initiative**

Who the program is intended for: **works in partnership with local governments and other public entities** to demonstrate the benefits of green building, outline options for establishing green building programs that protect local quality of life and the environment, provide training for staff and constituents, and encourage the development of incentives for green building projects.

Basic summary of the program: Global Green's Local Government Green Building Initiative offers: **Needs Analysis and Strategic Planning, Case Studies and Design Tools, and Workshops and Training**

Elements of sustainability that the program addresses or measures: In the United States our work is primarily focused on **stemming global climate change by creating green buildings and cities.**

What are participants obligated to if they adopt or use this program? Appears to be all **voluntary**

What are the intended outcomes of the program? **Reduced climate change and more Green buildings**

4) SustainLane Government

Organization Name and main address: **SustainLane Government**
<http://www.sustainlane.us/home.jsp>

Organization Type: With over 300 participating cities, states and counties, **SustainLane Government** is the premier online sustainability best practices **knowledge base for state and local government**. SustainLane Government evolved from the **SustainLane US City Rankings**, a benchmark study on urban sustainability published in June 2005. Free to government professionals and their consultants, SustainLane Government also provides a searchable network of sustainability managers, experts and practitioners, enabling government entities, large and small, to work more efficiently toward sustainable policies and practices.

Organization's specific Program of interest to Sustainable Communities: **SustainLane US City Rankings**. Extensive coverage on the greening of the 50 most populous cities in the nation and the most complete report card on urban sustainability in America. This report benchmarks each city's performance in 16 areas of urban sustainability. Also maintains an **open-source knowledge base** with more than 120 best practice documents and a secure directory of participating government officials from over 500 cities, counties and states.

Who the program is intended for: **Government officials** from state, local, county, and federal government

Basic summary of the program: Advancing Cross-Sector Sustainable Development for State and Local Government, their open-source knowledge base speeds discovery, research and networking.

Elements of sustainability that the program addresses or measures: **13 elements of study** with additional sub-elements: 1) Climate Change Policy, 2) Parks/Open Space/Habitat, 3) Economic Development, 4) Purchasing/Investing, 5) Energy/Energy Efficiency, 6) Sustainability Management, 7) Food/Agriculture, 8) Transportation/Fleets, 9) Forestry/Street Greening, 10) Waste Management, 11) Green Building/Development, 12) Water/Wastewater, 13) Land Use Planning.

What are participants obligated to if they adopt or use this program? Appears to be all **voluntary**

What are the intended outcomes of the program? SustainLane makes it easier to go green by **helping consumers, businesses and government share what they know about going green**.

5) NRDC Smarter Cities

Organization Name and main address: National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – Smarter Cities <http://smartercities.nrdc.org/>

Organization Type: NRDC is the nation's most effective **non-profit 501(c)(3) environmental action group**, combining the grassroots power of 1.3 million members and online activists with the courtroom clout and expertise of more than 350 lawyers, scientists and other professionals.

Organization's specific Program of interest to Sustainable Communities: **Smarter Cities** is a multimedia web initiative whose mission is to foster a little friendly competition (see [Annual Cities Research and Rankings below](#)) as well as provide a forum for exploring the progress American cities are making in environmental stewardship and sustainable growth.

Who the program is intended for: As a new media resource, Smarter Cities is a destination site for all who have a stake in their city's future—from students to policy makers and city planners, from business leaders to community groups and urban dwellers—to learn about best practices and initiatives, share ideas and innovative solutions, and post news, events and opportunities.

Basic summary of the program: The original Smarter Cities study was undertaken in 2005, using an interview format and online data collection. In 2006, a graduate student from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies helped create a **comprehensive online survey** to assess [factors of environmental sustainability and livability](#) in all cities with more than 100,000 people in the United States. In 2008 they greatly expanded the scope to include all cities in the United States with populations larger than 50,000 to allow a more comprehensive and detailed analysis. They grouped cities into three size categories to enable comparison between those with similar environmental challenges and constraints on social and financial resources. By expanding the scope and refining the analysis, they have compiled one of the nation's most comprehensive and robust database of U.S. urban progress toward sustainability.

Elements of sustainability that the program addresses or measures: **9 scoring criteria**

1) Air Quality 2) Energy Production and Conservation 3) Environmental Standards and Participation 4) Green Building, 5) Green Space, 6) Recycling, 7) Transportation, 8) Standard of Living 9) Water Quality and Conservation.

What are participants obligated to if they adopt or use this program? Appears to be all **voluntary**

What are the intended outcomes of the program? Pursuit of their goal—locally, regionally and nationally—of supporting **smart, efficient, and livable cities**