

The County Green Initiative

A Plan for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions within
Camden County Government and Beyond

September 25th, 2007

Executive Summary

On April 19, 2007, the Camden County Board of Freeholders passed Resolution #25 endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The objectives listed in this resolution are the basis for the County's Green Initiative, a plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the "carbon footprint" resulting from County operations. With this plan, Camden County is assuming a leadership position in the fight against global warming and encourages municipal governments, businesses and institutions throughout the County to follow its lead.

With the endorsement of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the County Green Ribbon Committee was formed with the full support of the Freeholder Board. This Committee will oversee the implementation of the twelve objectives of the Climate Protection Agreement by the County. The objectives are as follows:

1. Inventory global warming emissions in County 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 County 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 County 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.

County Green Initiative

1. Overview

Currently, climate change is one of the most talked about, hot topic issues facing state, county and local governments and big business. Virtually all media outlets have run front-page articles and new stories about the human effect on the environment and have addressed the debate between human induced climate change and the natural cycle of the earth. Camden County has chosen not to argue either side. Instead the County has committed itself to being a better steward to the environment and has recognized that excessive natural resource depletion and unchecked emissions of Green House Gases threatens the environment and the quality of life of County residents. On April 19, 2007, the Camden County Board of Freeholders acted on these concerns by unanimously passing Resolution #25 entitled “Resolution Offering County Support for the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement” With the adoption of this resolution, the County Green Committee, as identified below, began to formulate the County Green Initiative with the full support of the Freeholder Board.

2. Green Ribbon Committee

The Green Ribbon Committee is a group of dedicated Camden County employees that possess expertise in the areas of the environment, sustainability, planning, facility operations, government policy, utilities, and economic development. It is this Committee that will be responsible for overseeing the successful implementation of the 12 objectives identified in the resolution and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement on behalf of the Freeholder Board. This group has been meeting on a regular basis since the Spring of 2007, to identify those County programs and projects either in place, in progress, or to be developed, that will reduce the effects of County operations with respect to carbon emissions, and ultimately, climate change.

One of the first activities of the Committee was to establish a list of qualified professionals that have expertise in such fields as: green technologies, United States Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), alternative energy and fuel sources, environmental impacts and innovative land use designs. These professionals will be called upon for their expertise as issues arise.

3. Objectives

The County Green Initiative has 12 objectives. In some instances, the County has already made significant progress toward achieving these objectives through pre-existing County programs and projects. These achievements are identified under the appropriate objective followed by proposed actions and goals to be considered by the County and the County Green Committee.

The objectives of the County Green Initiative are as follows:

Objective #1

Inventory global warming emissions created as a result of County operations, set reduction targets and create an action plan

- A Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory will be performed using the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) software. This inventory will:
 1. establish a baseline of GHG's emitted as a direct result of County operations;
 2. outline the amount and type of energy used; and
 3. catalogue the amount of energy generated and recovered at the County's solid waste and waste water treatment facilities. GHG reduction targets for County operations will then be identified based on the results of this inventory.
- A Local Action Plan for Climate Change for Camden County will be created based on the results of the GHG Inventory to reinforce Camden County's commitment to addressing the issues of global warming and climate change.
- An Environmental Management System will be implemented for County operations to improve environmental performance and reduce costs by eliminating inefficiencies.
- Encourage the Freeholder Board to pass a version of the following resolutions and the 2030 Challenge. Resolutions:
 - Carbon Neutral Buildings
 - Carbon Neutral Bonding
 - Energy Policy
 - Hybrid Vehicles
 - Transportation Fuel

Full text of the 2030 Challenge and resolution can be found in Appendix A.

- All new County buildings will be designed to use 50% of the fossil fuel energy that similar building types would typically consume. This standard will be increased to 60% in 2010; 70% in 2015; 80% in 2020; 90% in 2025 and be carbon neutral (using no fossil fuel green house gas emitting energy to operate) by 2030, and
- Not less than an equal amount of existing County building area will be renovated annually to use 50% of the amount of fossil fuel energy currently being consumed. This may be accomplished through design, the purchase of renewable energy, and/or the application of renewable energy technology.
- The County will advocate for actions that will require buildings throughout Camden County and the State of New Jersey to meet the above targets. Such action may include amending existing building codes, government regulation and legislation

Note: Most buildings can be designed to use only a small amount of energy at little or no additional cost through proper siting, building form, glass properties and location, material selection, and the incorporation of natural heating, cooling

ventilation and day-lighting strategies. The additional energy a building would then need to maintain comfort and operate equipment could be supplied by renewable sources such as solar, wind, biomass, etc.

Objective #2

Encourage the adoption of municipal land use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact walkable urban/suburban communities

- The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, through its wastewater planning activities, helps to preserve open space by refusing to approve sewer services to any lot that contains wetlands, unless the USEPA grants prior approval.
- In 2004 the County Board of Freeholders adopted the *Camden County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan* as a component of the County's Master Plan. To date, 856 acres of open space and 334 acres of farmland have been preserved. While the County's goal is to preserve not less than 2,000 acres by the year 2010, the plan identifies a network of greenways that includes both targeted acquisitions and current publicly owned land and conservation areas that encompass over 20,000 acres.
- The County, through the efforts of the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee, will continue to make presentations to municipal governing bodies and planning officials, encouraging them to work with the County in their efforts to build the greenway system and establish an interconnecting network of multi-purpose trails throughout the County. These trails will serve to provide recreational opportunities as well as alternative means of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) between communities.

Objective #3

Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commuter trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transportation

- Camden County has been awarded a New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions 2007 Smart Growth Grant to develop a Bikeway and Multi-Use Trail Master Plan for ten central Camden County municipalities including: Berlin Borough, Berlin Township, Clementon, Gibbsboro, Hi-Nella, Laurel Springs, Lindenwold Somerdale, Stratford and Voorhees. It is the goal of the County to use this master plan as a model for similar bikeway and multi-use trail plans involving the remaining twenty-seven Camden County municipalities. In developing these plans, off road trail routes within the County's proposed greenway system will be identified to the greatest extent possible.
- The County has partnered with: New Jersey Transit, the Delaware River Port Authority, Cross County Connection Transportation Management Association and

South Jersey Transportation Authority to promote the use of shared rides, car and van pools, bicycles and greater use of public transportation.

- The County will explore the possibility of offering increased incentives to County employees that use public transportation or alternative driving solutions like car and van pools to go to and from work.

Objective #4

Increase the use of clean alternative energy by, for example, investing in “green tags”, advocating for the development of renewable energy sources, recovering landfill methane gas for energy production and supporting the use of waste to energy technology

- As fully explained under Objective #1, Camden County will assume a leadership role as both a user of, and an advocate for, renewable energy resources.
- The County, through the Pollution Control Financing Authority (PCFA), is currently recovering methane gas for energy production as well as producing solar energy through a solar array at the Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill.
- The County will investigate the feasibility of developing additional alternative energy generating projects at closed municipal landfills and other opportune sites.
- Since 1991, The Camden County Energy Recovery Associates (CCERA) Resource Recovery facility in Camden City has been producing renewable energy from municipal solid waste. Between 2001 and 2006, this facility produced almost 1 million megawatts of electricity, enough to meet the power needs of between 25,000 and 30,000 homes annually.

Objective #5

Make energy efficiency a priority by retrofitting County facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money.

- In 2004, Camden County hired Pepco Energy Services of Arlington, Virginia to perform an energy audit of County facilities, including, but not limited, to: the Courthouse, Administration Building, Hall of Justice, Correctional Facility, Prosecutor’s Office, Parks Administration Building, Public Works/Public Safety Complex, Lakeland Complex, Library System, as well as facilities associated with Camden County College, the technical schools in Gloucester Township and Pennsauken and the CCMUA.
The recommendations contained in this audit have been prioritized to identify projects that will result in the greatest savings in energy and tax dollars. In further

prioritizing (or eliminating) projects, the future use and/or remaining useful life of the facility will be considered.

- As part of this emphasis on energy efficiency, County employees will be educated and encouraged to take an active role in conserving energy by turning off lights and equipment when not in use both during regular business hours and at night.

Objective #6

Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for County use.

- The Board of Freeholders shall adopt a resolution requiring that only Energy Star equipment and appliances be purchased for County use beginning in 2008. Purchasing specifications will be modified to reflect this policy.

Objective #7

Practice and promote sustainable building practices using U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program or similar program

- All future specifications for building construction will include a requirement that the project conform to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Certification Program and have a minimum rating of LEED Silver.

Objective #8

Increase the average fuel efficiency of the County's fleet vehicles, reduce the number of fleet vehicles, launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages and convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel

- In 2006 the CCMUA received a grant from the US EPA to convert its fleet of diesel vehicles to use Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD). This technology equips vehicles with sensitive emission controls that help to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxide gas by over 90%.
- Whenever possible new County diesel-powered vehicles will come equipped to use Ultra Low Sulfur Fuel Technology. Likewise, existing diesel-powered vehicles will be converted to use this same technology.
- All new gas-powered vehicle purchase specifications will give preference to hybrid / flexible fuel vehicles whenever such alternative vehicles are available.
- In 2005 the County performed a vehicle fleet audit. As a result of this audit, the County vehicle fleet was reduced by more than 200 vehicles. Additionally the audit recommended implementing a state of the art fleet management system. This system has been in place since 2006. Statistics will soon be available to determine the life expectancy of fleet vehicles and goals for the reduction of vehicle miles traveled.

- All employees shall be trained to adhere to existing State law with respect to engine idling. This policy shall apply to all fleet vehicles without exception.
- Beginning in 2008, the County shall amend its bid specifications with respect to diesel fuel to require the purchase of a fuel blend containing not less than 20% bio-diesel fuel. This fuel is currently available through State Contract #T-1844. Concurrently, the County shall apply to the Board of Public Utilities for participation in the Bio-Diesel Fuel Rebate Program to offset the incremental increase in the cost of using bio-diesel in lieu of 100% petroleum diesel.

Objective #9

Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems and recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production

- The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority's current wastewater treatment methods result in zero methane production. Camden County will work with CCMUA representatives to evaluate other opportunities.
- The unique design of wastewater treatment facility used in the county, treats wastewater in such away that methane is not produced. Therefore recovery of methane is not an option for this facility.
- The CCMUA has completed the design of a new plant heating loop to conserve energy and in an effort to reduce pumping needs and save energy, is making upgrades to the gravity powered treatment process.
- The CCMUA encourages local municipalities to make needed repairs in local collection systems to reduce the rate of infiltration/inflow from groundwater intrusion into the wastewater management system. These repairs will reduce pumping requirements and, correspondingly, electricity costs.

Objective #10

Increase recycling rates in County operations and in the Community

- Camden County has been recycling in its facilities since 1995 and has recently implemented a new program to take steps to increase the level of recycling by County employees. The program has a phased approach.

Phase 1 provides for additional recycling containers with uniform labeling and promotional posters and educational materials designed to increase mixed office paper and bottle and can recycling totals in County buildings.

Phase 2 will evaluate current waste disposal practices and create new approaches to increase the number of materials recycled within County facilities. Specific materials that will be targeted are:

- scrap metal
- construction/demolition wastes
- vegetative wastes (grass, leaves, brush, tree parts)
- institutional food waste and
- various hazardous materials

With respect to hazardous materials, particular attention will be focused on the proper handling of spent fluorescent bulbs, as these bulbs contain mercury that is released into the environment if broken. While switching to compact fluorescent bulbs will significantly reduce energy consumption, their proper disposal is essential to maintain a positive environmental benefit.

- In response to the State's 2006 updated Solid Waste Management Plan, the County has set a target for an overall increase of 100,750 tons of solid waste to be recycled County-wide.
- Through County initiatives, 13 Camden County municipalities have begun to collect curbside recyclables using the "single stream" method. This method allows for bottles, cans and paper to be mixed in a single curbside container and be collected by a single vehicle. Early figures show a sizeable increase in the tons recycled by many of these communities, with additional benefits of reduced operating costs and GHG emissions resulting from less collection vehicles on the street.
- Additional County initiatives include working with municipalities to increase recycling at multi-family residential developments and in commercial, industrial, institutional and other employment centers.

Objective #11

Maintain healthy urban forests and promote tree planting to increase shading and absorb CO₂

- The County will continue to promote the development of the Camden Greenway as a key component of its Open Space Plan. This greenway contains significant area of urban forests.
- The Parks Department, through the Environmental Studies Center, will continue to promote tree planting in County parks and throughout municipalities. The County's Environmental Educator will work with service, civic and environmental organizations, to promote the planting of trees, emphasizing tree planting in the urban areas of Camden and Gloucester City.
- Over the past several years the CCMUA has planted over 200 trees around the plant, in conjunction with the DRPA, constructed Millennium Park in Camden City and

donated land for the creation of a tree nursery in Waterfront South section of Camden City.

Objective #12

Help educate the public, schools, local governments, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming

- Camden County will assume a leadership role in local efforts to reduce global warming and pollution. The County will continually publicize efforts to reduce GHG emissions and results of these efforts in order to encourage others in the commercial, industrial, government sectors and the public at large, to follow its lead in this most important endeavor.

Appendix A

The 2030 Challenge

Slowing the growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions and then reversing it over the next ten years will require immediate action and a concerted global effort. As Architecture 2030 has shown, buildings are the major source of demand for energy and materials that produce by-product greenhouse gases. Stabilizing emissions in this sector and then reversing them to acceptable levels is key to keeping global warming to approximately a degree centigrade (°C) above today's level. To accomplish this we are issuing the **2030 Challenge** asking the global architecture and building community to adopt the following targets:

That all new buildings and developments be designed to use 1/2 the fossil fuel energy they would typically consume (1/2 the country average for that building type).

That at a minimum, an equal amount of existing building area be renovated annually to use 1/2 the amount of fossil fuel energy they are currently consuming (through design, purchase of renewable energy and/or the application of renewable technologies).

That the fossil fuel reduction standard for all new buildings be increased to:

60% in 2010

70% in 2015

80% in 2020

90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (using no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate). We know these targets are readily achievable and that most buildings can be designed to use only a small amount of energy at little or no additional cost through proper siting, building form, glass properties and location, material selection and by incorporating natural heating, cooling, ventilation, and day-lighting strategies. The additional energy a building would then need to maintain comfort and operate equipment can be supplied by renewable sources such as solar (photovoltaics, hot water heating, etc.), wind, biomass and other viable carbon-free sources.

To meet the **2030 °Challenge**, we must not only design high-performance and carbon-neutral buildings but advocate actions that will require all buildings and developments to meet these targets as well (through building codes, government regulations and legislation).

Architecture 2030 Founder, Edward Mazria AIA, is a senior principal at MazriaInc. Odems Dzurec, an architecture and planning firm in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is author of The Passive Solar Energy Book, senior analyst for the Southwest Climate Council and adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. He speaks nationally and internationally on the subject of climate change and architecture.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE “2030 CHALLENGE” FOR BUILDINGS

1. **WHEREAS**, _____ endorses efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community’s most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Building Sector has been shown to be the major consumer of fossil fuel and producer of global warming causing greenhouse gases; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles; and
5. **WHEREAS**, a study completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted, concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the large positive impact on employee productivity and health gains suggests that green building has a cost-effective impact beyond just the utility bill savings; and
7. **WHEREAS**, studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in high performance school buildings; and
8. **WHEREAS**, recognizing that a building’s initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building’s entire costs over its 30 to 40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the “life cycle costs” of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs; and
9. **WHEREAS**, the construction industry in the U.S. represents a significant portion of our economy and a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business and an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the nation; and
10. **WHEREAS**, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional organization representing architects has adopted a position statement calling for the immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national average for that building type, with increased

reductions of 10% every five years so that by the year 2030 all buildings designed will be carbon neutral, meaning they will use no fossil fuel energy.

11. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that _____ will adopt the following “2030 Challenge” for building performance targets:

New construction of County and County funded buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Renovation projects of municipal and municipally funded buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of municipally owned buildings and properties shall employ cost-effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible; and

12. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ will work to reduce the use of fossil fuels for all new buildings, with the aim to become carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments: 60% in 2010; 70% in 2015; 80% in 2020; 90% in 2025; and carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate);

13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ will join the national effort to reduce green house gases and global warming by developing plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets as part of our procurement process and by establishing policies to insure compliance, and measure results; and to also develop plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets for all new and renovated buildings within _____; and

14. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ will invite the review and comment of our Environmental Commission, and other appropriate organizations, to assist in the effort to develop plans to fully meet and exceed the goal of becoming a climate-positive and carbon neutral community.

15. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that _____ will continue to find ways that go beyond the goals of carbon neutrality, by preserving open spaces, planting and preserving trees, and taking other proactive measures that will make a positive contribution to the health of our global environmental.

RESOLUTION FOR CLIMATE NEUTRAL BONDING

WHEREAS, _____ wishes to adopt strong policy resolutions calling for a reduction of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, savings to taxpayers, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies;

WHEREAS, appropriate sustainable building processes can make a substantial contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by using energy sources which are not derived from fossil fuels, or through the use of deliberate activities that permanently absorb an equivalent amount of carbon,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ WILL:

Section 1: Require all future individual projects above \$1,000,000 involving the issuance of municipal bonds to add no net increase in global warming pollution to community-wide emissions levels, such demonstration to be the responsibility of the builder.

Section 2: Adopt a selection of acceptable global warming pollution reduction strategies within the community that may include but are not limited to energy efficiency, renewable electricity, passive solar, cogeneration, fuel switching, carbon sequestration, and purchases of carbon offset credits; and

TO THIS END, we request that the _____ Environmental Commission review the strategies for achieving carbon neutrality, and advise the Township on what measures we can adopt, and what public education measures are needed, to move _____ towards becoming a carbon neutral community.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE URGENT NEED FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY:**

WE URGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY THAT EMPHASIZES CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, SUCH POLICIES NECESSARY IN ORDER TO 1) INCREASE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY BY REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND 2) ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED FOR SERIOUS MEASURES TO REDUCE THE PRODUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GASSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL WARMING.

1. **WHEREAS**, all people have a right to clean, reliable sources of energy; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the health of the planet, including its oceans, wild lands, rivers, air, and climate, faces increasing threats from our continued dependence on fossil fuels; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the United States comprises only 5% of the world's population, but consumes 26% of the world's energy; and
4. **WHEREAS**, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and
5. **WHEREAS**, scientific consensus has developed that Carbon CO₂ and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and
6. **WHEREAS**, in 2006 the U.S. National Climatic Data Center confirmed clear evidence of human influences on climate due to changes in greenhouse gases; and
7. **WHEREAS**, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses, and its residents; and
8. **WHEREAS**, the United States' overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels makes its economy increasingly vulnerable to price spikes and shortages; and
9. **WHEREAS**, the United States' electric utility sector ranks first among U.S. industries emitting toxic pollution, as listed in the federal Toxic Release Inventory, releasing 1 billion pounds of toxics in 2004, more than the chemical, paper, plastics and refining industries combined; and
10. **WHEREAS**, increased domestic production of oil is an unsustainable and environmentally damaging alternative to foreign sources of oil; and

11. **WHEREAS**, the full societal costs of reliance upon fossil fuels are not reflected in retail prices for energy, due to a wide array of subsidies and long-term environmental degradation; and

12. **WHEREAS**, the artificially deflated costs of energy in the United States lead to an enormous waste of energy through inefficient vehicles, appliances, and industries; and

13. **WHEREAS**, numerous technologies for producing abundant energy from clean renewable sources currently exist, such as wind, solar, and geothermal electricity, and alternative fuels for vehicles; and

14. **WHEREAS**, widespread adoption and encouragement of these technologies by United States energy policy could greatly reduce the need for producing energy from fossil fuels; and

15. **WHEREAS**, numerous communities throughout the nation have initiated their own policies to support development of renewable energy technologies and use of alternative fuels, and, in so doing, have reduced their dependence on fossil fuels, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy consumption, and saved taxpayer dollars; and

16. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that _____ urgently implores our Congressional representatives to advance the development, adoption, and implementation of a comprehensive energy policy, for all of the reasons set forth above, with such policy focused on (1) reducing the United States' dependence on fossil fuels, (2) dramatically increasing the production of energy and fuel from clean, sustainable, and renewable sources, and (3) insuring appropriate pricing of fossil fuels to reflect actual societal and environmental costs, and to encourage conservation.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE USE OF HYBRID VEHICLES

1. **WHEREAS**, American over-reliance on foreign oil is a growing and serious threat to the national security and economic vitality of the United States;
2. **WHEREAS**, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and
3. **WHEREAS**, petroleum combustion accounts for about 40% of all U.S. CO2 emissions; and
4. **WHEREAS**, oil is only used to generate 2% of American electricity; and
5. **WHEREAS**, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the meeting and urged mayors from around the nation to join this effort; and
8. **WHEREAS**, hybrid vehicles can dramatically reduce reliance on imported oil and decrease greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants generated by vehicles; and
9. **WHEREAS**, hybrid technology can accomplish reductions in greenhouse gas reductions and reliance on oil more quickly than other emerging technologies; and
10. **WHEREAS**, hybrids can be manufactured with flexible fuel engines thus increasing business for American agriculture; and
11. **WHEREAS**, hybrid vehicles will also help American citizens and businesses save on fuel costs; and
12. **WHEREAS**, Communities all across America are helping in the effort to fight global climate change by encouraging automakers to manufacture flexible fuel hybrids; and

13. **WHEREAS**, Americans working together can effectively address challenges facing our cities and our nation;

14. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that _____ endorses the Plug-In Partners initiative and other efforts to encourage the use of plug-in hybrid vehicles; and

15. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ will send this Resolution to major automakers, to urge the manufacture of flexible fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles; and

16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ will seriously consider the purchase of such vehicles; and

17. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ supports federal and state legislation that funds incentives, demonstration projects, and fleet orders for hybrid vehicles.

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE MUNICIPAL USE OF RENEWABLE FUELS

1. **WHEREAS**, Transportation consumes a considerable amount of fossil fuel; and
2. **WHEREAS**, The burning of conventional fuel such as gasoline and diesel, by motor vehicles, contributes to air pollution, and increased carbon emissions that have been linked to global climate change; and
3. **WHEREAS**, Transportation fuel costs represent a substantial operating expense for municipalities and their citizens; and
4. **WHEREAS**, Gasoline and diesel fuel prices are at record highs and are likely to remain high or increase, aggravating the adverse impact that high fuel prices have already had on municipal budgets; and
5. **WHEREAS**, There are cleaner burning fuel alternatives to conventional transportation fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel that are produced domestically; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Increased use of renewable transportation fuels and fuel efficient vehicles in municipal government will provide many economic, financial, environmental, health, and other benefits, such as decreased operating costs for the municipal transportation fleets and reduction of green house gas emissions and other air pollutants emitted from vehicles; and
7. **WHEREAS**, Municipal governments should “lead by example” in using renewable fuel, to the maximum extent possible, so as to encourage its citizens, businesses, and neighbors to do the same;
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that _____ endorses the increased use of renewable fuels, and to that end, shall review the alternative options, and shall invite the recommendations of the _____ Committee on Energy Efficiency and Sustainability, and others, in identifying ways that we can more proactively implement the greater use of renewable resources, and reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels in all of our county operations; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That _____ supports federal and state legislation that funds incentives and demonstration projects for renewable fuels; and
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that _____ urges fuel suppliers to manufacture renewable fuels, and shall so communicate this Resolution to those entities.