

10/4/2006

59-R-06

A RESOLUTION

**Authorizing the Mayor to Sign
the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement**

WHEREAS, The United States (US) 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

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

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a forty percent (40%) decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average five and two-tenths percent (5.2%) below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent (5%) of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the US would have been seven percent (7%) below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual US Conference of Mayors meeting, reads:

The US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- 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 US Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) 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, commuter 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 US 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 systems;

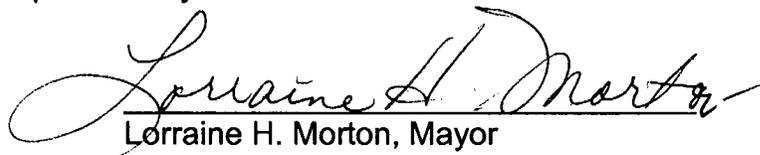
10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO2; and
12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON,

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign, and the City Clerk hereby authorized and directed to attest on behalf of the City of Evanston.

SECTION 2: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.


Lorraine H. Morton, Mayor

Attest:


Mary P. Morris, City Clerk

Adopted: October 23, 2006