

## About the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

*Launched:* February 2005 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels; adopted unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Chicago on June 12, 2005

*Signatories:* 206 cities in the United States (as of February 26, 2006)

*Substance:* The U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement acknowledges the importance of addressing climate change and contains three main provisions. Signatories of the agreement

- urge state governments and the federal government to meet the emissions targets for greenhouse gas emissions of the Kyoto Protocol (7 percent below 1990 levels);
- urge the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation to set emissions targets and create a flexible, market-based system of trading allowances for emissions; and
- adopt policies to meet the Kyoto emissions targets in their cities.

## Talking points on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

- According to scientists, gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Even an increase of a few degrees Fahrenheit could cause major disruptions for people everywhere. The path we choose now has real consequences for real people.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed the Agreement unanimously, a bold statement from a bipartisan and ideologically diverse group of officeholders from around the country.
- Signing the Agreement demonstrates strong leadership and a deep commitment to long-term prosperity and well-being.
- Many governments – local, state, and national – are already taking steps to protect against the risks of climate change. Portland, OR, the first U.S. city to put an emissions reduction strategy into practice, continues to experience solid economic growth.
- Taking action now to curb emissions is an investment in the health and well-being of our children and grandchildren. It's the smart thing to do.
- There are many ways to reach the emissions target: investing in better, cleaner energy, enlisting the help of businesses, and improving pollution standards are just a few, and all of them have numerous additional benefits.

See the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency web site for projected local impacts of climate change, state by state:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/coun-unitedstates.html>

See the Union of Concerned Scientists' web site for a new report on the threats that a changing climate pose to Minnesota:

<http://www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes/glregionmin.html>