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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2008

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## **Local Governments Meet in Florida to Discuss Climate Change TFG Partner Matt Ward to Address Status of Federal Policies**

TAMPA, FL – Ferguson Group Partner Matt Ward will join a panel of mayors and other officials at the “*Beyond Lightbulbs & Hybrids: Local Government Solutions to Global Climate Change*” conference as part of the Florida League of Cities meeting on Aug. 14, 2008. Ward, who serves as policy director of Climate Communities, a growing coalition of local governments that seek federal action and funding for local climate change initiatives, will discuss the latest news on federal programs and policies relating to climate change and energy issues and how they effect local governments.

Climate Communities ([www.climatecommunities.us](http://www.climatecommunities.us)) is a national advocacy organization seeking new federal resources, tools and incentives to support local government action to combat climate change. Climate Communities is dedicated to: (1) educating national policy-makers on the critical role of local governments in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution and adapting to the impacts of climate change, and (2) ensuring that Congress and federal agencies enact policies and programs that provide the resources, tools and incentives localities need to meet the climate change challenge.

“Florida is a recognized leader in addressing climate change, and a region with tremendous stakes on the issue” says Ward. “Cities and counties will be first responders to the impacts of global warming. Moreover, localities have tremendous opportunities in the national effort to shift to a greener economy and energy independence. This national goal means that federal climate change policies must recognize and enhance the essential role of local governments in promoting and implementing cleaner transportation, green buildings, alternative energy and sustainable development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change.”

The Trust for Public Land, in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, and ICLEI, is hosting the Aug. 14 workshop in Tampa. It will bring together local leaders, staff, and others interested in climate change and energy issues to share best practices, hear timely information about state and federal legislation, and discuss how Florida communities can take their climate change action plans to the next level.

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*Founded in 1982, The Ferguson Group ([www.fergusongroup.us](http://www.fergusongroup.us)) lobbies Congress and the federal agencies on behalf of public and private interests across the country. The Ferguson Group is the largest federal representative of local governments in Washington, DC. In addition, TFG provides national coalition management to local governments on community revitalization, environmental and sustainable development issues.*