



TFG Convenes Local Government Leaders to Shape Federal Climate Change Policy

As the U.S. Senate prepared to begin debate on major climate change legislation, The Ferguson Group, LLC (TFG) convened local government leaders from across the United States in Washington, DC, to identify how the federal government can help support community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On December 3-4, 2007, localities came together to help chart the course of *Climate Communities*, a new national advocacy coalition managed by TFG composed of cities, counties, and other units of local government seeking new federal policies and resources to support community action on climate change.

Local governments are on the front lines of climate change action and have taken the lead in implementing innovative projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including hybrid municipal fleets, energy efficient buildings, environmentally-preferred purchasing, and local land use and transportation initiatives to reduce the use of automobiles. Local governments are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change, and have begun to consider the impacts of rising sea levels, increased flooding, droughts and other natural disasters that threaten local infrastructure and the health and safety of communities across the country.

On the eve of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's consideration of landmark cap-and-trade legislation, *Climate Communities'* participants met privately with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the Committee's chairwoman, to express appreciation for her climate change leadership and seek opportunities to ensure that federal tools and resources continue to spur the implementation of innovative climate change initiatives at the local level.

Climate Communities is developing an aggressive federal action agenda that will empower local communities to achieve transformational climate change progress. Representatives from the following communities participated in charting the course of *Climate Communities*: Alameda County, CA; Sacramento County, CA; City of Santa Ana, CA; Sonoma County Water Agency, CA; City of Stamford, CT; Charlotte County, FL; Miami-Dade County, FL; Erie County, PA; Story County, IA; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Nassau County, NY; Clean Fuels Ohio, OH; City of Philadelphia, PA; Arlington County, VA; James City County, VA; King County, WA; and Snohomish County, WA. The coalition will publicly launch its federal action agenda in early 2008.

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