



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, October 14, 2009

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New Report Shows how Tri-State Cities and Towns can Reduce Carbon Footprint

Mayor's Convened with Sustainability Experts to Develop Best Eco Practices in Stamford & Bridgeport CT; Kearny & Parsippany/Troy Hills, NJ; Babylon & New Rochelle, NY

**Key findings: cluster development around transit;
utilize green technologies**

(New York, NY) - A new [report](#) released today by Regional Plan Association and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA examines how six communities across the New York Metro-Region can take climate change reduction goals into their own hands.

The [report](#) summarizes recommendations that resulted from a two-day-long intensive planning exercise in which Mayors and Supervisors of six local governments from Babylon and New Rochelle, NY; Bridgeport and Stamford, CT; and Parsippany-Troy Hills, and Kearny, NJ worked with a resource team consisting of experts in planning, design, development, environmentally friendly marketing, and landscape architecture. Each elected official presented his /her case study or specific problem to resolve, which was then followed by an intensive brainstorming session with the experts about the solutions.

The recommendations that arose from the exercise include clustering development in centers and around transit options, including all stakeholders in the decision-making processes, utilizing green technologies/strategies to reduce flooding, promoting walking and biking, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage.

Key recommendations for the six municipalities include:

- more, more, more -

NEW YORK

- Babylon, NY –
 - Seek creative financing mechanisms to scale up the town’s new revolving loan fund which enables homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes
 - Require energy audits at home point of sale or renovation
 - Develop a contractor-training program
 - Provide free Smart Meters to residents
- New Rochelle, NY–
 - Conduct a cost benefit analysis to avoid litigation with the state over upgrading the sewer treatment plant
 - Undertake a city-wide storm water management program
 - Undertake a city-wide water conservation program and public education campaign
 - Finance these programs through redirecting developers’ contributions to improving the city’s sewer system.

CONNECTICUT

- Bridgeport, CT–
 - Identify a broad strategy and build a diverse coalition
 - Plan Bridgeport’s transportation and land use hand-in-hand
 - Redesign the allocation of street space to slow cars and provide a bike lane
 - Measure projects and alternatives in terms of carbon savings
- Stamford, CT–
 - Quantify the city’s initiatives in terms of carbon reduction impacts and present information to the state to help CT achieve carbon reduction objectives
 - Improve access to the train station – extend shuttle services, limit parking, improve bike/pedestrian connections
 - Partner with other cities to develop a universal solution to railroad bridge upgrades to significantly reduce costs of individual single design upgrades

NEW JERSEY

- Kearny, NJ –
 - Maximize ability to use “green” technologies including separate water and sewer lines, combined heat and power systems, porous pavements, green roofs,

- more, more, more -

- gray water recycling, and a street grid that encourages walking/biking/transit
- Pay for new green infrastructure through tax increment financing or a development impact fee
- Convert the Kearny regional landfill to a park or to produce renewable energy through wind or solar farm or methane production
- Incorporate the Meadowlands wetlands into a passive recreation facility and rehabilitate to absorb storm surges
- Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ –
 - Engage already-committed “green” corporate partners to increase attractiveness of recycling
 - Measure carbon emission reductions associated with increasing or streamlining recycling efforts
 - Focus sustainability efforts on reducing high carbon emitting buildings and transportation by encouraging mixed use zoning and building sidewalks.

A complete list of recommendations can be found in the full report here:

<http://www.rpa.org/pdf/Climate-Change-Institute-2008-Report.pdf>.

“While dealing with climate change still requires major large scale changes, this report shows that planning on the local level can have a significant impact. Mayor’s and supervisors have significant control over land use, which dictates how efficiently we live,” said Bob Yaro, president, Regional Plan Association.

“This report illustrates the range of measures that local governments can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and highlights the importance of working together and sharing best practices,” remarked Jeb Brugmann, ICLEI founder and ICLEI USA Interim Executive Director.

The report concludes that while individual communities do face challenges combating climate change in the absence of a federal framework, there are many steps they can take to reduce their own carbon footprint.

RPA and ICLEI wish to extend thanks to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, JPMorgan Chase, and the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, who, through their generous support, made this event and report possible. The full report can be found at <http://www.rpa.org/pdf/Climate-Change-Institute-2008-Report.pdf>.

Regional Plan Association (RPA) is an independent, not-for-profit regional planning organization that improves the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the 31-county New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region through research, planning, and advocacy. For more than 80 years, RPA has been shaping transportation systems, protecting open spaces, and promoting better community design for the region's continued growth. We anticipate the challenges the region will face in the years to come, and we mobilize the region's civic, business, and government sectors to take action.

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is an international membership association of local governments dedicated to climate protection and sustainability. The organization was established in 1990 with more than 200 local governments from 43 countries and has grown to include more than 1,000 members internationally. ICLEI USA was founded in 1995 with a small group of local government members and has grown to a vibrant network of more than 575 active and engaged members. The mission of ICLEI USA is to build, serve, and support a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability.