



NEWS RELEASE

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New Report Compares Carbon Reduction Plans of Thirty Tri-State Cities, Towns and Counties

(NEW YORK, NY) A new study released today by Regional Plan Association and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA compares how towns, cities and counties in the New York Metropolitan Region are planning for climate change and carbon reduction.

Thirty municipalities participated in the survey, which asked whether a series of fifteen climate action programs, including monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste, supporting alternative energy use, managing water and implementing transit-oriented development, were either in place or in planning stages. The survey looked at the climate programs along with population, median household income and size of the local government's budget.

Findings include:

- The City of New York, Westchester County, Stamford, CT and Babylon, NY have the most comprehensive climate programs in place;
- While nearly all local governments have policies to promote waste reduction (Paterson, NJ and Oxford, CT were the only exceptions), only a handful - monitored greenhouse gas emissions (New York City, Westchester County, Stamford, CT and Babylon, NY);
- Green buildings top the list of climate action programs that are in the "planning stage" (twelve of the thirty municipalities are planning for green buildings while five have them in place);
- Municipalities are planning for climate change in many different of ways, including tree planting, land conservation, zoning for the preservation of natural and agricultural spaces,

- more, more, more -

- encouraging efficiency in private homes and businesses, enhancing low-carbon transportation options, making pedestrian and bicycle path improvements, expanding bus service and attempting to concentrate development near transit hubs.

A complete chart of survey responses and the full report can be found here:

<http://www.rpa.org/pdf/Climate-Change-Survey.pdf> (pages 10 and 11).

Municipalities that participated in the survey in 2008 were: Bloomsbury, NJ; Marbletown, NY; Amenia, NY; East Amwell, NJ; Saugerties, NY; Ossining, NY; Roxbury, CT; Byram Twp, NJ; Lewisboro, NY; Cranbury, NJ; Somers, NY; Peekskill, NY; Washington Twp, NJ; Berkeley Heights, NJ; Point Pleasant, NJ; Cranford, NJ; Oxford, CT; Patterson, NY; Harrison, NY; Ridgefield, CT; New Rochelle, NY; Babylon, NY; Paterson, NJ; Fairfield, CT; Brookhaven, NY; New Haven, CT; Stamford, CT; Westchester County, NY; Nassau County, NY; and New York, NY.

The report concludes that although federal legislation is necessary to comprehensively address climate change, local governments have the ability to make significant emissions reductions through their ability to control land use, transportation, building codes and waste management; the cumulative impact of many towns' actions has great potential.

RPA wishes 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 survey and report possible. The full report can be found at <http://www.rpa.org/pdf/Climate-Change-Survey.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.