

# Mayor and Local Official Statement on Global Warming

June 15, 1999

Dear Mayor or Local Elected Official,

We are local elected officials who feel that the time is right for city, county, town and parish leaders to speak out about the impact of global warming and to ask the federal government to take leadership on this problem.

Local governments have directly experienced the increase in floods, heat waves, and other extreme weather events that scientists have predicted as impacts of global warming. The damage to local communities has caused economic and human losses that FEMA and other disaster funds cannot begin to cover.

We invite you to join us in taking action:

◆ **First, sign the attached statement.**

By adding your signature, you will be joining us and nearly 400 other local elected officials who have signed, including over 100 Mayors. At the end of July, the statement will be forwarded to the White House and Congressional leaders.

◆ **Second, act to reduce local global warming emissions.**

To get ideas on how your community can reduce global warming pollution while saving money and cutting traffic, call ICLEI at (510) 540-8843. They will send you a guide on ways to reduce emissions with multiple benefits.

◆ **Third, as our local governments have, join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.**

Information is included at the end of the guide.

Thank you for considering this request and joining with us to speak out on one of the most serious threats to the well-being of our communities. Questions regarding this effort can be directed to Brandon MacGillis of Ozone Action at (202) 265-6738.

Please add your signature to ours on the Mayor and Local Official Statement. A fax-back form is printed on the reverse of the statement for your convenience.

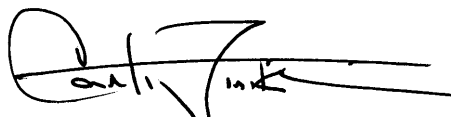
Sincerely,



Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton  
Minneapolis, MN



Mayor Vera Katz  
Portland, OR



Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner  
Toledo, OH



Mayor Marc Morial  
New Orleans, LA



Mayor Jeremy Harris  
Honolulu, HI



County Clerk Harvey Ruvin  
Miami-Dade County, FL

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## Mayor and Local Official Statement on Global Warming

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We are mayors and local elected officials from across the U.S. concerned about the impacts of global warming on our communities. We urge the federal government to make this issue a priority and to reduce the domestic sources of greenhouse gases, the pollution that causes global warming.

Recent events have focused attention on the serious threat global warming poses to local communities. Between 1988 and 1997, heat waves, storms, floods, and other extreme weather events in the United States caused an estimated \$140 billion in property damage.

FEMA and other federal disaster funds cannot begin to cover the economic and human losses that have been caused by these weather disasters. Local communities bear the brunt of the human and economic damage, and are witnessing a decline in the quality of life we have worked so hard to achieve.

Meanwhile, scientific evidence of atmospheric warming continues to grow. In the first three months of 1999 alone, researchers analyzing tree rings and ice cores concluded that the 1990s were the warmest decade of the millennium; NASA found that Greenland's massive ice sheet is melting rapidly; and the American Geophysical Union released a warning that atmospheric warming "provides a compelling basis for legitimate public concern over future global and regional-scale changes resulting from increased concentration of greenhouse gases."

The good news is, by using currently available technologies and practices, the pollution causing global warming can be reduced in a cost effective manner that enhances economic development.

Local governments have used energy efficiency, transportation efficiency, and renewable energy programs to help save money, to create jobs and strengthen the local economy, and to increase the livability of communities. Promoting energy efficiency and alternatives to automobile transportation, implementing waste reduction and recycling measures, and increasing the use of renewable energy are strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen communities.

As local elected officials responsible for the well-being of our communities, we urge the federal government to develop and implement domestic policies and programs that work with local communities to reduce global warming pollution. Doing so will demonstrate that domestic actions to fight global warming can reap economic and other rewards for our communities and will help our country meet its goals under the Kyoto Protocol, the international effort to reduce the threat of global warming.

### INITIAL SIGNATORIES

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, Minneapolis, MN  
Mayor Jeremy Harris, Honolulu, HI  
Mayor Marc Morial, New Orleans, LA

Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner, Toledo, OH  
Mayor Vera Katz, Portland, OR  
County Clerk Harvey Ruvin, Miami-Dade, FL

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→ Add your signature to this statement: Fax-back form attached

**Mayor and Local Official  
Statement on Global Warming**

I would like to be a signatory to the  
**Mayor and Local Official Statement on Global Warming**  
which appears on the reverse of this sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**FAX TO:** Brandon MacGillis  
Ozone Action  
202.986.6041

Please print or type

**FROM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elected Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/County

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**Please Fax to 202.986.6041 by July 14, 1999**  
No cover sheet necessary.