

# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 16 Ordinance/Resolution# 11-074 Council District:     

For Meeting of September 20, 2010  
(Adoption Date)

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF LAS CRUCES MEMBERSHIP TO CLIMATE COMMUNITIES AND PAYMENT OF DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,125.00.

**PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:** Authorize membership and dues payment to Climate Communities.

<b>Drafter and Staff Contact:</b> David Weir		<b>Department:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Department</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Department Director	<i>DW</i>		Budget	<i>Richard M. ...</i>	541-2107
Other			Assistant City Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>	541-2271
Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	541-2128	City Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>	541-2076

**BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:** The City Council has memberships in various professional, governmental and educational organizations, associations and boards to assist their efforts as City Councilors to develop appropriate policy for Las Cruces. Climate Communities is one such organization that can support their policy efforts related to the City's Sustainability Program.

Climate Communities is a coalition of U.S. cities and counties established with the purpose of providing information related to local government's role in regards to climate change. Membership in Climate Communities provides a venue for interaction with federal policymakers, for networking opportunities with other communities, and for information resources related to climate change.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

- Resolution.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

<b>Is this action already budgeted?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:
	Budget Adjustment Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from:
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

		source (i.e. grant; see details below)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from fund balance in the _____ Fund.
<b>Does this action create any revenue?</b>		
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Funds will be deposited into this fund: _____
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There is no new revenue generated by this action.

**FUND SUMMARY:**

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
General Fund – Council Dues	1000-10100030-724400	\$1,125	\$11,525	\$10,400	To be used for membership and dues to Climate Communities.

**OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Vote “Yes”; this will approve the Resolution and authorize membership to Climate Communities.
2. Vote “No”; this will deny the Resolution and the City will not become a member of Climate Communities.

**REFERENCE INFORMATION**

The resolution(s) and/or ordinance(s) listed below are only for reference and are not included as attachments or exhibits.

1. Climate Communities – Website Homepage
2. Climate Communities - Brochure

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-074**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF LAS CRUCES MEMBERSHIP TO CLIMATE COMMUNITIES AND PAYMENT OF DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,125.00.**

The City Council is informed that:

**WHEREAS**, Climate Communities is a coalition of U.S. cities and counties formed to address climate change at a local level; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Cruces has received nearly \$1.4 million in federal funding for clean energy projects, and Climate Communities engages in lobbying efforts aimed at preserving and expanding such federal resources to support local programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Climate Communities provides the City a means for interacting with federal policymakers, for networking with other communities, and for utilizing information resources related to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, Climate Communities membership will provide an additional resource to the Las Cruces City Council and the City's Sustainability Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

**(I)**

**THAT** membership to Climate Communities by the City of Las Cruces is hereby approved.

**(II)**

**THAT** payment of dues in the amount of \$1,125.00 for fiscal year 2010/2011 is hereby approved.

(III)

THAT City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

DONE AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2010.

(SEAL)

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

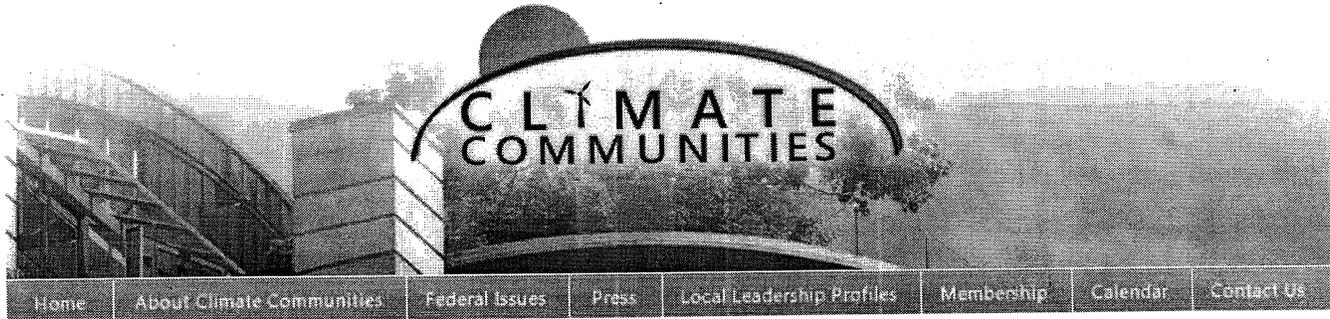
Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima:	_____
Councillor Silva:	_____
Councillor Connor:	_____
Councillor Pedroza:	_____
Councillor Small:	_____
Councillor Sorg:	_____
Councillor Thomas:	_____



## About Climate Communities

*Climate Communities* is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change and promoting a strong local-federal partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Climate Communities* will ensure that the federal government:

- Recognizes and enhances the critical role of local governments on climate change;
- Provides the funding and incentives needed to achieve local climate change progress;
- Ensures that national carbon control laws and regulations provide opportunities and incentives for local solutions to climate change challenges; and
- Helps localities address and pay for any new mandates imposed on communities.

In December 2007, more than 25 local government climate leaders met in Washington, DC to begin developing the federal advocacy priorities for *Climate Communities*. These city and county officials also met privately with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's chairwoman, to 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 already realizing significant climate change successes:

- *Climate Communities* worked with Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT) and John Warner (R-VA), the sponsors of the Climate Security Act of 2008 (S. 3036), to include more than \$300 billion for climate actions at the local government level. This legislation originally included no funding, no allowance allocations, no auction proceeds, no offset credits, no technical assistance, and no direct help for local climate activities.
- *Climate Communities* rallied local government support for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, championed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The EECBG Program would enable cities and counties to enact strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions, cut total energy use and improve energy efficiency. The House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee appropriated \$295 million for the program in FY 2009.
- The House Interior and Environment Appropriations Committee provided \$15 million for a *Climate Communities* proposal to create a climate change demonstration pilot program. The demonstration pilot funding would enable the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants to units of local government for efforts that reduce GHG emissions.

As this session of Congress winds down, *Climate Communities* is working with its members to plan an ambitious agenda for 2009 when the new President and Congress take office. Specifically, in the coming months we will:

- Continue to support full funding for the EECBG Program, championed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, as the Congress considers economic stimulus legislation.
- Ensure that Congress enacts *Climate Communities'* proposal for a \$15 million climate change demonstration pilot program, and work with EPA to develop implementation guidelines.
- Host a Local Government Climate Leaders Retreat in September at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, NY, sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. This event will convene city and county officials to discuss opportunities for strengthening the local-federal climate partnership, and identify strategies for working with the next Presidential Administration and Congress.
- Prepare a Local Government Climate Action Blueprint for the next Presidential Administration and 111th Congress.
- Arrange for members of *Climate Communities* to meet with the Presidential transition team in December following the election to provide a briefing on the blueprint and demonstrate the critical climate change role of local governments.
- Organize a Local Government Climate Protection Summit in Washington, DC in Spring 2009, where *Climate Communities* members can meet with key Administration and Agency decision makers.

Additional materials:

- [Climate Communities brochure](#)
- [Climate Communities' successes and upcoming activities](#)
- ["Empowering Local Government Climate Action: Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress"](#)

## Executive Committee

*Climate Communities* is led by an Executive Committee of 15 local government elected leaders.

**Supervisor Valerie Brown**  
Sonoma County, CA

**Supervisor James Burrell**  
New Kent County, VA

**Councilmember Dow Constantine**  
King County, WA

**Supervisor Roger Dickinson**  
Sacramento County, CA

**Supervisor Jane Halliburton**  
Story County, IA

**Mayor Dan Malloy**  
Stamford, CT

**Supervisor Andrea McGimsey**  
Loudoun County, VA

**Supervisor John McGlennon**  
James City County, VA

**Mayor Ellen Moyer**  
Annapolis, MD

**Councilmember Larry Phillips**  
King County, WA

**Mayor Miguel Pulido**  
Santa Ana, CA

**Commissioner Natacha Seijas**  
Miami-Dade County, FL

**Councilmember Dave Somers**  
Snohomish County, WA

**Alderman Larry Stuber**  
Savannah, GA

**County Executive Tom Suozzi**  
Nassau County, NY

## Staff

*Climate Communities* is managed by [The Ferguson Group](#), a Washington, DC, government affairs firm with more than 25 years of experience in federal advocacy, coalition-building, community revitalization, and environmental and energy innovation.

For more information, call (202) 261-6011.

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**Ken Brown**  
Executive Director

**Andrew Seth**  
Deputy Director / Campaign  
Manager

**Matt Ward**  
Policy Director

**Keith Kirshner**  
Membership Director

**CLIMATE COMMUNITIES**

1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW | Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 261-6011 | Fax: (202) 331-1598 | E-mail: [info@climatecommunities.us](mailto:info@climatecommunities.us)

## See What Local Leaders Are Saying

"Climate Communities is working with key congressional leaders to ensure that national climate change legislation provides incentives and resources to help more cities and counties become early adopters of global warming solutions."  
Councilmember Larry Phillips  
King County, WA

"Local government action is critical to addressing America's climate change challenge. Climate Communities is helping cities and counties secure the federal tools, incentives and resources needed to make that happen."  
County Executive Thomas Suozzi  
Nassau County, NY

"Climate Communities is bringing together the best minds at the city and county levels to develop federal policy proposals that will enhance our ability to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions."  
Mayor Dannel Malloy  
City of Stamford, CT

Climate Communities is managed by The Ferguson Group, a government affairs firm based in Washington, DC, that serves local communities across the nation. See [www.fergusongroup.us](http://www.fergusongroup.us) for more information.



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Web: [www.climatecommunities.us](http://www.climatecommunities.us)

## Join Climate Communities

Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change. Climate Communities is advocating for significant new federal resources to support local actions to reduce GHG emissions.

The benefits of membership include:

A voice in the development of the coalition's climate change blueprint for the next Presidential Administration

Build relationships with the key federal policymakers - House and Senate leaders, congressional staff, and federal agency program directors

Opportunities to network and share best practices with your professional peers

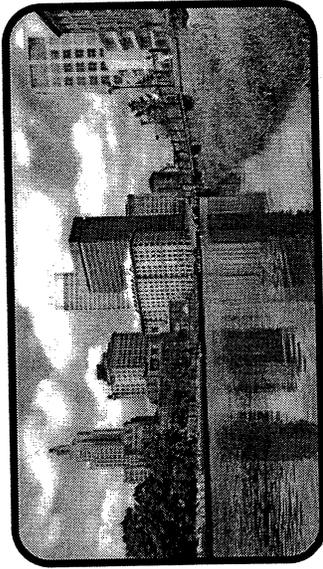
Showcase your community's leadership through public speaking opportunities that bring attention to your community's needs. Including conferences, workshops, and testimony before Congress

Strategically position your locality to get federal climate change resources through pilot initiatives and demonstration projects

Periodic written, verbal and electronic reports

Professional lobbying expertise to achieve the coalition's objectives

For membership details, contact Andrew Seth at (202) 261-6011 or [andy@climatecommunities.us](mailto:andy@climatecommunities.us).

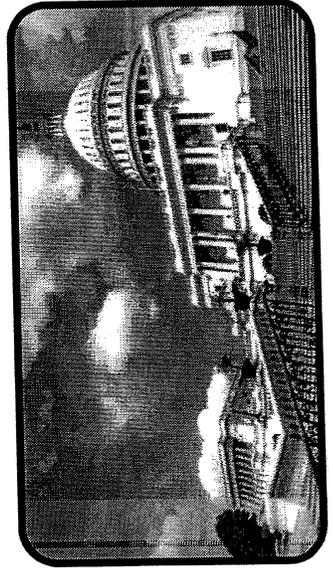


Local government leadership is critical to addressing America's climate change challenge

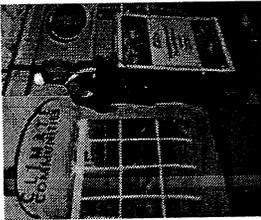
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Join Climate Communities  
and help secure federal  
climate change resources for  
cities and counties



## Seeking New Federal Resources for Local Climate Change Actions



*Nassau County, NY Executive Thomas Suozzi demonstrates the importance of local leadership in reducing GHG emissions.*

Cities and counties will be critical in the national effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In rural and urban America, local governments are already implementing innovative initiatives, including the conversion of municipal fleets to hybrid vehicles, the design and construction of energy-efficient buildings, and the development of communities that reduce vehicle miles traveled. However, as Congress considers landmark climate change legislation, the important function of local governments has been largely overlooked.

Climate Communities has convened cities, counties, councils of government, utility districts, and other units of local government to:

- (1) educate national policymakers on the critical role of local governments in reducing GHG pollution and adapting to the impacts of climate change; and
- (2) ensure that Congress and federal agencies enact policies and programs that provide the resources, tools, and incentives localities need to meet the climate change challenge.

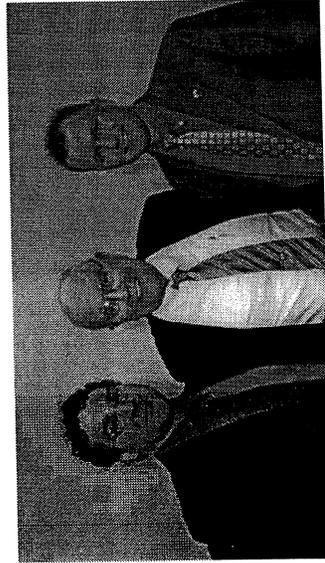
## Initial Successes

Already, Climate Communities is achieving results. Climate Communities successfully rallied support for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, which would enable cities and counties to enact strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions, cut total energy use and improve energy efficiency; the House of Representatives provided \$295 million for the program in FY 2009.

Climate Communities has developed proposals that have led to the House Appropriations Committee to create a \$15 million climate change demonstration pilot program that would enable the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants to units of local government for GHG reduction efforts.

In addition, as the Senate considered cap-and-trade legislation this year, Climate Communities worked closely with key leaders to demonstrate the important climate change role of local governments. Proposed legislation initially included no direct resources for local climate activities. Due to Climate Communities' education efforts, the Senate amended its proposed legislation and included more than \$300 billion for local climate actions.

With the support of local climate change leaders nationwide, Climate Communities has the opportunity to transform national climate change policies and direct federal resources to projects that strengthen our communities and the nation.



*Washienaw County, MI Commissioner Conan Smith and Sonoma County, CA Supervisor Paul Kelley meet with House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell as his committee prepares climate change legislation.*



*Senators Barbara Boxer, Joseph Lieberman, and John Warner, the champions of climate change legislation, pledged to work with Climate Communities to secure federal resources for local climate actions. Also pictured: James City County, VA Supervisor John McGinnon; Stamford, CT Mayor Dannel Malloy; Sacramento County, CA Supervisor Roger Dickinson; and Nassau County, NY Executive Thomas Suozzi.*

## Next Steps

In September 2008, Climate Communities hosted an historic climate action meeting that brought together 50 of the nation's top local government leaders to develop a "Blueprint for Local Climate Action" for the next President and Congress. Climate Communities will release its blueprint in November 2008, and will encourage local government leaders from across America to endorse its recommendations. The blueprint will focus on federal policies needed to empower local communities to reduce vehicle miles traveled, implement green buildings, develop green energy, create green jobs, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In December 2008, Climate Communities will convene local government leaders in Washington, DC, to present the blueprint's recommendations to the next President's transition team and Congressional leaders. Climate Communities will also host a major local government climate change summit next May 2009 to communicate the blueprint's proposals to Congress and the federal agencies.