



## Partners Toolkit for November/December 2005 Environmental Treaties/Lobby Visits

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**Citizens for Global Solutions  
Partners Nationwide Teleconference**

***Local Leadership, Global Environment***

**Saturday, 12 November 2005  
1:00 PM Eastern time**

**Dial: 800-391-2548  
Verbal password: V A 3 1 7 8 5 5**

**Speakers:**

- Scott Paul, Program Coordinator, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Invited: Jared Blumenthal, Environment Department Director, City of San Francisco

**Agenda:**

- The Mayors' Climate Change Protection Act: A vehicle for cities to address climate change and, at the same time, address a global concern through local solutions
- The Urban Environmental Accords: A long-term way for cities to address sustainability issues that affect us all

**Here are some useful tips regarding how to access the call:**

- Participants should dial in 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, the Host and participants should hold the line for an operator.
- Participants will verbally give their password to the operator.
- All Hosts should identify themselves accordingly to the operator when they dial in.
- Operators will take the City, state and number of people in the room and place them into the Main Conference.

## Partners Project: *Lobby Visits on City “Environment Treaties”*

In June, mayors revolutionized the way we look at environmental issues. On World Environment Day (June 5), a group of over fifty cities launched the Urban Environmental Accords, a set of common rules for cities committed to equality and sustainability within and across their borders. Just a week later, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, voicing its support for the Kyoto Protocol and committing mayors around the country to achieve its targets. In creating these two landmark agreements, mayors affirmed the need to work together on problems whose sources and consequences respect no municipal, state, or national borders.

For the November/December Partners Project, we are asking you to conduct lobby visits with your mayor’s office on these initiatives. This is a great opportunity to help your mayor see the opportunity s/he has to take leadership on important global issues.

The U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement was first drafted by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels in February. Mayor Nickels noticed that climate change was already affecting his constituents’ way of life and was outraged at the Bush Administration’s unwillingness to take urgent actions, such as participating in the Kyoto Protocol. In response, he drafted the Agreement, which commits mayors that sign it to meeting the targets of the Kyoto Protocol, endorses the Protocol, action by the federal government to curb climate change. As of October 20, 186 U.S. mayors have signed the Agreement.

Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco recognized that air pollution in his city often originates elsewhere, that the stability of local climate depends on the stability of global climate (and curbing of global pollution), and that the safety of the water supply depends upon the willingness of many others to do their part to keep waterways clean. With this in mind, he urged mayors to sign the Urban Environmental Accords on World Environment Day.

The Accords include seven major themes for actions that lead to sustainable urban centers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- **Energy:** Conserving energy and reducing pollution that causes climate change;
- **Waste Reduction:** Cutting down and improving the management of garbage;
- **Urban Design:** Using technology and smart planning to make the most of natural conditions, improve the quality of life, and create jobs;
- **Urban Nature:** Keeping plants, animals, and open spaces available for responsible use and the enjoyment of future generations;
- **Transportation:** Creating systems that facilitate free movement and preserve public health;
- **Environmental Health:** Protecting residents from harmful materials and helping them eat nutritiously and stay healthy; and
- **Water:** Ensuring that all residents have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

The message of the Urban Environmental Accords is clear: cities can set the standard for sustainable living in an interconnected world. Thus far, over 70 cities worldwide have signed the Accords.

Both agreements are relevant for burgeoning metropolises and small towns alike. Your project will vary depending on your mayor's participation in the agreements.

The **first** thing to do is to determine whether your mayor has signed onto the U.S. Climate Protection Agreement, the Urban Environmental Accords, or both. If s/he has not signed onto the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, your project will be to lobby him/her to sign it. If s/he has signed onto the U.S. Climate Protection Agreement but not the Urban Environmental Accords, your project will be to promote the Accords. Check <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/quotes.htm#mayors> to see if your mayor has signed onto the U.S. Mayors' Agreement, and check the Citizens for Global Solutions web page to see if s/he has signed the Urban Environmental Accords.

**Second**, set up a meeting with your mayor or a member of his/her staff. See the section below that describes the process and the additional section that includes a sample letter you can use to set up the meeting.

**Third**, review the talking points below on each of the initiatives. Take these with you when you go to visit your mayor. Be sure you know what you want to say ahead of time, but be flexible based on the amount of time you have for your meeting. Also, in this packet, we have enclosed an FAQ sheet for your mayor. Leave this with him. It will serve as a good reminder that s/he needs to follow up with you. It will also help him/her remember that a member of Citizens for Global Solutions came to lobby.

**Finally**, follow up with your project by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. If your mayor has agreed to sign on, praise him or her for that. If s/he has not and will not, simply talk about why it is important for your city to participate. This is also a good project if you are unable to go and lobby in person. There are sample letters to the editor below.

## Scheduling a Lobby Visit

### How to Plan an Effective Lobby Visit

Lobbying is one of the most effective tools you have as a grassroots activist. Your mayor will listen to what you have to say because if you are lobbying, s/he knows that you are an active member of your community and as such, you will be voting in the next election.

### Setting Up Your Lobby Meeting

To make an appointment, look up the number for your mayor's office in the phone book or online. When you call, tell the scheduler that you would like to meet with your mayor to discuss local environmental initiatives. Be flexible with your time if this increases your chances of having a meeting with the mayor. If that is impossible, meet with the director of city's environment department. The mayor's Press Secretary, Constituent Correspondent, or, in large cities, another high-ranking person in the environment department would also be acceptable. The scheduler may ask you to request the meeting in writing by fax. A sample letter is included in this packet.

### Before the Meeting

Fax a copy of the Urban Environmental Accords or the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to the person you are scheduled to meet. You can find the Accords at [http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/hot\\_topics/UrbanEnviroAccords.pdf](http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/hot_topics/UrbanEnviroAccords.pdf) and the U.S. Mayors' Agreement at [http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/PDF/Resolution\\_FinalLanguage\\_06-13-05.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/PDF/Resolution_FinalLanguage_06-13-05.pdf). This way the person you meet with will already know what you intend to talk about and can be prepared with questions for you. This will ensure your meeting is focused and productive. It will also give a professional impression of your group.

Draft an agenda for your meeting that gives everyone a chance to speak. If you have a large group – more than five people – let everyone introduce him/herself but choose a few representatives to speak.

Be clear and specific about what you are asking for. Make sure your meeting includes a request for a concrete action that you want your mayor to take: namely, that s/he sign onto the Urban Environmental Accords or the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

### **During the Meeting**

Be accurate. Tell the truth. If you aren't sure about a specific fact or can't answer a particular question make a note of it and contact the Citizens for Global Solutions office. We will provide clarification so that you can call your mayor back and answer the question. This builds your credibility as a reliable source of information.

Be brief. Keep your meeting focused. Present your case, answer questions, make your request for action, set a date with the member/staffer for when you can follow up to find out their position on your issue and politely depart. Mayors and their staff members have very long workdays already.

Be courteous. Treat the staffers in the office well and work to build a positive relationship with them.

Additional information, suggestions, and talking points that may be helpful are included in this packet.

Set up a time/date to follow up with your mayor about your visit.

### **After the Meeting**

Did everything go according to plan? After your meetings are over, talk with your group to discuss the outcomes of your visit. What worked? What didn't? What new information do you have on your mayor's positions?

Send a thank you letter. Be appreciative of the mayor's time and attention to your issue. Remind him/her of the date and time you set to follow-up on your visit. This will ensure that they have no excuse for missing your call.

Follow up until you have a firm response to the request you made during your lobby visit.

# Talking Points for Lobby Visits

## Talking points on the Urban Environmental Accords:

- Cities around the world are participating in the Urban Environmental Accords because the challenge of managing our world in a fair and farsighted way is one we all share.
- Signing the Accords makes a bold statement about the city's commitment to preserving our way of life for future generations.
- Signing the Accords puts the city on a common path with cities from around the globe that recognize the increasing interdependence of our world.
- The Accords do not hamstring governments; they merely provide a blueprint for sustainable cities. The Accords recognize that each city has its own unique needs and challenges.

## Talking points on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

- According to scientists, gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Even an increase of a few degrees Fahrenheit could cause major disruptions for the people everywhere – including in the city. The path we choose now has real consequences for real people – including the people of the city.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed the agreement unanimously, a bold statement from a bipartisan and ideologically diverse group of officeholders from around the country.
- Taking action now to curb emissions is an investment in the health and well-being of our children and grandchildren. It's the smart thing to do.

See also the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency web site for projected local impacts of climate change, state by state (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/coun-unitedstates.html>)

## General talking points for both treaties:

Discuss why you care about the city's course toward sustainability – it's a powerful rationale for action. Natural resources and man-made hazards are not parceled out across the world as neatly as the political map – they respect no borders. To keep our world safe and prosperous for future generations, we need to cooperate. .

These new challenges require leadership and action at all levels. Keeping the United States at the forefront of international leadership is, of course the concern of every citizen. International cooperation will be paramount, but local cooperation can be every bit as valuable.

- Approach environmental challenges as opportunities to showcase leadership and innovation.
- Stress that there are many ways to reach the emissions target – investing in better, cleaner energy, enlisting the help of businesses, and improving pollution standards are a few strategies that can lead to all kinds of other benefits.
- Avoid debating the scientific details of climate change – leave that to the scientists. Instead, stress the robust scientific consensus that human pollution is causing the fastest climate change ever recorded, and the smart thing to do is protect us against risks.
- Finally, discuss how cities can help determine America's course in the world. In an interconnected world, all of us have to be on the same page to move forward. This is your city's opportunity to set an example and help America lead the world.

## Sample Fax for Scheduling a Lobby Visit

Mayor John Q. Sustainability  
114 Peace Place  
Fillmore, WI 44920

Dear Mayor Sustainability:

I am writing on behalf of ten Fillmorian members of Citizens for Global Solutions to request a meeting with you to discuss local sustainability initiatives. In our increasingly interconnected world, pollution and consumption in a city invariably affects individuals outside of its borders. To maintain our way of life for our children, mayors across the country and the world must share an understanding of what needs to be done.

We will request that you sign the Urban Environmental Accords/U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, voluntary pacts that mayors around the world/country are undertaking. [The Urban Environmental Accords are comprised of 21 long-term commitments to build more sustainable and healthy cities.] [The U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, a resolution to meet the standards of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, was adopted unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors last year.] The provisions in the agreement are vitally important to the long-term prosperity of our city and of our interconnected world. I have included a copy in this transmission.

We are looking forward to meeting with you or a member of your staff at your earliest convenience. I will call your office in one week to follow-up on this request.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Activist

# Sample Letters to the Editor

## U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

Dear Editor:

Everyone in (city) should be proud of Mayor (name)'s recent decision to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. His signature puts our city on a course to take leadership and responsibility for one of the most important issues facing our city, our country, and our world.

In our increasingly interconnected world, we have to work together to solve problems that affect everyone. When the bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously endorsed the Climate Protection Agreement, they made a powerful statement that the U.S. should be taking the lead, not lagging behind, on global climate change. The costs of inaction on this issue could be very, very high for our community: more intense extreme weather events like hurricanes and storms, more droughts, more floods, different health challenges, and less agricultural productivity. On the other hand, it is clear that many mayors sense in an opportunity to harness American innovation and an obligation to do the right thing by our friends in the world. I am extremely proud that we can count on Mayor (name) to safeguard our future.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

In our increasingly interconnected world, we have to work together to solve problems that affect everyone. When the bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously endorsed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, they made a powerful statement that the U.S. should be taking the lead, not lagging behind, on global climate change. The costs of inaction on this issue could be very, very high for our community: more intense extreme weather events like hurricanes and storms, more droughts, more floods, different health challenges, and less agricultural productivity. On the other hand, it is clear that many mayors sense in an opportunity to harness American innovation and an obligation to do the right thing by our friends in the world.

I hope Mayor (name) will add his name to the rolls of signatories to the Climate Protection Agreement. Our city should be leading the charge to take responsibility for this important issue – not lagging behind.

Sincerely,

**Note: These are just samples. Please write your own letter in your own words. These are just meant to give you ideas for your own letters. Also notice that both are on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.**



## About the Urban Environmental Accords

### Quick Facts:

*Launched:* June 5, 2005 (World Environment Day) in San Francisco, CA

*Signatories:* Over 70 mayors, worldwide

*Substance:* The Urban Environmental Accords consist of 21 non-binding commitments organized around seven themes:

- **Energy:** Conserving energy and reducing pollution that causes climate change;
- **Waste Reduction:** Cutting down and improving the management of garbage;
- **Urban Design:** Using technology and smart planning to make the most of natural conditions, improve the quality of life, and create jobs;
- **Urban Nature:** Keeping plants, animals, and open spaces available for responsible use and the enjoyment of future generations;
- **Transportation:** Creating systems that facilitate free movement and preserve public health;
- **Environmental Health:** Protecting residents from harmful materials and helping them eat nutritiously and stay healthy; and
- **Water:** Ensuring that all residents have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

### Follow-up:

Each participating city aims to take three of the actions laid out in the Accords each year. ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, which is acting as the “secretariat” for the Accords, will track progress and advise cities on implementation. ICLEI will also develop a “green star” program to highlight exceptional progress by participating cities.

### Why Should I Sign?

- Signing the Accords demonstrates strong leadership and commitment to the health and well-being of city residents, as well as to preserving our way of life for future generations.
- The actions enumerated in the Accords constitute good policy: they will facilitate robust growth, better quality of life, and sustainability for all people in participating cities.
- The Accords do not require any particular action; they recognize the diverse needs and circumstances of cities around the world while still articulating a common vision and common principles.
- The Accords bring mayors together to discuss diverse approaches to common problems under the same framework.



## About the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

*Launched:* February 2005 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels; adopted unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Chicago on June 12, 2005

*Signatories:* 183 cities in the United States

*Substance:* The U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement acknowledges the importance of addressing climate change and contains three main provisions: signatories of the agreement

- urge state governments and the federal government to meet the emissions targets for greenhouse gas emissions of the Kyoto Protocol (7 percent below 1990 levels);
- urge the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation to set emissions targets and create a flexible, market-based system of trading allowances for emissions; and
- adopt policies to meet the Kyoto emissions targets in their cities.

### Follow-up:

Participating mayors are encouraged to work with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability's *Cities for Climate Protection* program. There is no long-term implementation or progress-tracking mechanism for the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

### Talking points on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

- According to scientists, gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Even an increase of a few degrees Fahrenheit could cause major disruptions for people everywhere. The path we choose now has real consequences for real people.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed the Agreement unanimously, a bold statement from a bipartisan and ideologically diverse group of officeholders from around the country.
- Signing the Agreement demonstrates strong leadership and a deep commitment to long-term prosperity and well-being.
- Many governments – local, state, and national – are already taking steps to protect against the risks of climate change. Portland, OR, the first U.S. city to put an emissions reduction strategy into practice, continues to experience solid economic growth.
- Taking action now to curb emissions is an investment in the health and well-being of our children and grandchildren. It's the smart thing to do.
- There are many ways to reach the emissions target: investing in better, cleaner energy, enlisting the help of businesses, and improving pollution standards are just a few, and all of them have numerous additional benefits.

See the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency web site for projected local impacts of climate change, state by state (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/coun-unitedstates.html>)

## Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments on the Sept./Oct. Project

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Leader \_\_\_\_\_

There were several projects for Sept./Oct, including holding an event in conjunction with The People Speak around the issue of the US/UN relationship, showing *The Peacekeepers*, collaborate with local youth groups on Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, and holding an event in commemoration of UN Day.

Which of these projects did your chapter or group choose? If you chose to do one or two projects, how did you decide on which one?

What did you find easy and difficult about each of the projects?

If you held an event, what was the theme, how many people were in attendance, and what would you do differently next time?

Did you enjoy the project/s?

Do you feel you made an impact on your community through these projects? Please explain.

Letters to the editor and op-eds (*Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies*)

Total Submitted	Total Printed	Type: LTE, op-ed	Topic	Written By	Paper	Date It Ran

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In

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Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Sara Bodenberg by **January 2nd**, so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.

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Washington, DC 20003-2796  
**Fax:** (202) 546-3749  
**E-mail:** [sbodenberg@globalsolutions.org](mailto:sbodenberg@globalsolutions.org)

## News from the Field

- Eight people from our **Maine Chapter** went to the local offices of Senators Snow and Collins to lobby for a strengthened United Nations.
- On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, our **Arizona Chapter** held a showing of *The Peacekeepers* at AZ Institute of Peace Education and Research.
- Our **Baltimore Chapter** worked with their local UNA group on a UN program at Towson University. They also had two different speaking events on the UN/US relationship in Baltimore and Anne Arundel County, MD.
- Our **Maine Chapter** showed *The Peacekeepers* at the University of Maine on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The even was cosponsored by several other groups including: The Peace Studies Program of UM, Maine Peace Action Committee, and the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Members of our Maine Chapter also met with the Conflict Resolution class prior to the showing.
- Our **Pittsburgh Chapter** helped coordinate a rally for the Darfur Fast on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 people attended the event! In addition, *Ben Long* was interviewed by Lynn Cullen, a local radio personality about the Darfur Fast. The event was covered in a number of local media outlets, including the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, the *Pittsburgh City Paper*, KQV Radio, WDUQ Radio, WTAE TV and a number of local blogs.
- Our **Boulder Chapter** tabled at an event surrounding the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Our **Milwaukee Chapter** tabled at an event on the UN Millennium Development Goals, which over 400 people attended!
- In cooperation with the public elementary schools, our **Whitewater Chapter** is restoring the UNICEF Trick or Treat program in Whitewater, WI.

**Every day, you are changing the world!**