Planning and Climate Change:
Mitigation and Clean Energy Strategies

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Can climate change mitigation and adaptation happen without planning for it?
What do we know?

- Carbon dioxide increases are due to human activity.
- Increased carbon dioxide emissions expected to significantly impact temperatures, water supply, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and human health and safety.
- Climate change impacts need to be considered in planning for development, including adaptation measures in land use planning and infrastructure design.
- Urban planning is a key strategy for climate change mitigation across all sectors.
Planners are at the forefront of actions that *must* be taken *now* to reduce and react to the climate change problem.
Why planners?

• Strategically well placed: often the go to person
• Trained to have a unique perspective and skill set
  – Comprehensive skills and knowledge
  – Long range outlook
  – Unintended consequences
  – Cumulative effects over time
• Good conveners; know how to engage stakeholders
The Planner’s Mantra:

Everything is related to everything else.

- Environment
- Land Use/Siting
- Urban Design
- Transport
- Housing Choice
- Jobs and Prosperity
- Urban Design
- Agriculture and Food
- Physical Activity/Health
- Human Services
- Hazard Mitigation
Today’s Talk

- National Coalitions
- Connection of Issue to Planning Goals
- APA/EESI Project
- What You Can Do
National Coalitions

• Cities for Climate Protection
  – ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

• U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
  – U.S. Conference of Mayors
  – Energy Efficient Block Grants

• Clinton Climate Initiative
  – Clinton Foundation
Targets

- U.S. Mayors: 7% reduction below 1990 levels by 2012.
- Long-term target: 50 to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
  - King County, Washington
  - Berkeley, California
How are we getting there?

U.S. Conference of Mayors 2007 Survey

- 72%: Alternative fuels for city fleets
- 63%: Renewable energy use for city
- 89%: High efficiency lighting technology
- 60%: Policy for green municipal buildings

• Where is planning?

Source:
http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/climatesurvey07.pdf
Key Survey Result

- Only 28% of responding cities have assessed greenhouse gas emissions
- Remaining 72% either plan to (37%) or have not yet (35%)
- Real opportunity for planners to be in on the ground floor.
Process Steps

- Inventory carbon emission baselines
- Make emission forecasts
- Select targets for emission reductions
- Develop a strategy to meet targets
- Create a plan and implementing it
- Measure and monitor results
Numerous Examples...

- Chicago
- New York City
- Salt Lake City
- Ann Arbor
- Albuquerque
- Trenton
- Boulder
- Keene, NH
- King County, Washington
Not There Yet…

- Climate plans and guidebooks don’t fully include role of planning
- Comprehensive plans not yet including energy and climate change
- “Blankest page in the playbook”
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- The APA/EESI partnership
- Three-year initiative: 2006 to 2009
- Needs assessment, partner dialogue, best practices research
- Deliverables: Best practices database and manual, state and federal policy, training and technical assistance
Integrate Climate Change and Energy into the Planning Process

~ The five strategic points of intervention ~

• Visioning and long-range goal setting
• Plan making
• Regulations and incentives
• Development project review
• Public investment
Change Practice as Usual

- **Remove obstacles** to implementing your goals
- **Create incentives** for developers and citizens to adopt practices
- **Regulate impacts** to ensure that areas are protected and resources are conserved.
Get Up to Speed

• Check out APA Policy Guides
• Dig up and read the August issue of Planning
• Keep abreast of state climate/energy legislation
• Tune into your state energy office
• Follow regional and national coalitions
• Follow what leading communities are doing
• Subscribe to the Planning Advisory Service
APA Website
www.planning.org

/energy
Planning and Climate Change research project

/policyguide/energy.htm
Energy policy guide

/greencommunities
APA Green Communities Research Center
Send us what you are proud of . . .

Contribute best practice ideas on climate change and energy to:

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Some Useful Links . . .

- Environment and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
  http://www.eesi.org
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
  http://www.ipcc.ch/
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
  http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/
- ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
  http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=1118
- Clinton Climate Initiative:
  http://www.clintonfoundation.org/cf-pgm-cci-home.htm
- Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency Database (DSIRE):
  http://www.dsireusa.org
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