

Announcing the

Resilient Communities for America Agreement



Mayors and county officials: America needs your leadership to create more resilient communities that can overcome our climate and energy challenges

Emerging Threats to Our Safety and Economic Prosperity

America's communities and businesses have been battered. By a stagnant economy. By unstable energy prices. By a record number of extreme weather events fueled by a changing climate—heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, flooding—that cost us an estimated \$188 billion in 2011–2012. Our economic prosperity is in jeopardy if we do not prepare for these challenges.

America's communities must become more “resilient”: strong, self-reliant, prepared, and prosperous. The Resilient Communities for America Agreement is a national campaign that will mobilize thousands of local elected officials who pledge to create more resilient cities, towns, and counties.

How the Agreement Works

Local elected officials who sign the Agreement will:

- Make a self-defined commitment to create a more resilient city, town, or county (based on existing local plans or goals, or new, self-defined goals).
- Commit to sharing their solutions, progress, and success stories with other local governments.

Local governments that join the campaign will in turn receive:

- Free resources—such as software and technical guidance—to achieve their self-defined resilience goals.
- Leadership and recognition opportunities that will inspire more local leaders and communities to take action.

Next Steps

The Resilient Communities campaign will launch in May/June 2013. A group of leading local elected officials will announce the campaign as “Inaugural Signatories” of the Agreement letter (to be finalized soon). On the national stage, they will speak out and showcase their leadership on climate action, clean energy, and economic prosperity.

What America needs:

Resilient communities, built to endure and overcome our energy, economic, and climate crises. America can bounce back and remain strong, but the work starts at the local level!

Who can make it happen:

City and county leaders, supported by ICLEI and its partners, who take proven actions that save money, increase energy independence, strengthen local economies, reduce pollution, and protect communities from destructive climate impacts.



A New Vision of Prosperity

It is time to re-energize and empower local governments to address these challenges. For more than 20 years, cities, counties, and towns have led the way on climate action, even as other levels of government lagged.

But the era of thinking about climate change as a standalone issue is over. A changing climate, energy independence, and economic competitiveness are inextricably linked. With the right tools and support, local governments can lead on the solutions to address all three simultaneously—solutions that build stronger, more resilient communities that can sustainably prosper for generations to come.



Photo credit: Jack_Amick on Flickr

ICLEI and Its Coalition of Partners

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability USA has built a coalition of partner organizations that will support cities and counties working to become more resilient. Core partners include: the National League of Cities, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the World Wildlife Fund. This coalition will draw on the strengths of each organization to provide technical resources (new or existing) or to help promote the campaign and generate greater awareness of the need for resilient communities, as well as promote the opportunities and success stories.

ICLEI will lead the campaign and coordinate the efforts of core partners and supporter organizations. ICLEI is prepared to play this role, having been at the forefront of the local climate and sustainability movement for more than 20 years, providing the cutting-edge resources and technical guidance that more than 800 U.S. local governments have relied on to reach their goals.

Connecting the Dots

Climate

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Adapting and preparing their communities for unavoidable extreme weather impacts, from droughts and floods to tornadoes, heat waves, and air pollution.
- Reducing their communities' carbon footprints to lessen the destructive impacts of a changing climate.

Energy

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Expanding dependable, local renewable energy sources to strengthen America's energy independence.
- Saving energy and money through energy efficiency measures for their government, local businesses, and citizens.

Economy

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Attracting new businesses and investments by making their communities healthy, livable places with reliable access to energy, water, and other key resources.
- Protecting existing local businesses, infrastructure, and economic assets from the impacts of a changing climate, such as severe storms and water scarcity.