EXHIBIT A

Empowering Local Government Climate Action

Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress

Now is the time for local government officials to sign onto this Climate Action Blueprint – we aim to have 500 local officials from across America endorse this action agenda by December 2008. This Blueprint will be officially released with major events in December 2008 and beyond.

Visit our web sites for more information or to sign onto the Blueprint.

www.climatecommunities.us

www.icleiusa.org

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA

Local government action on climate change is essential for America to achieve energy independence, renew economic prosperity and preserve our planet. Federal policies must empower local governments with the tools and resources to solve the climate challenge.

Local government leadership and action is critical to addressing the climate change challenge. Localities are in the best position to foster the innovation and new practices that will achieve building efficiency, cleaner transportation choices, new green jobs and businesses, green infrastructure and more sustainable communities. America's local governments have been at the forefront of the movement to address climate change. Our citizens are demanding action, and continued leadership from localities is essential to solving the issue. Here's why:

- More than 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions comes from commercial and residential **buildings**. Local governments are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and houses.
- One third of GHG emissions comes from the **transportation** sector. We must improve public transit and engage in more effective land use and transportation planning to reduce gasoline use and emissions. Localities must lead in the transit and smart growth initiatives needed to reduce vehicle use.
- Localities are the **first responders** who must deal with the impacts of climate change including drought, heat waves, water shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, public health threats, and economic shifts.
- Local governments can promote the deployment of **green infrastructure** that reduces carbon emissions including community forestry, green roofs, and parks and open space.
- Local governments are uniquely positioned to drive new economic development strategies that create homegrown **green businesses and green jobs** to help America transform our economy and compete in the world.

Addressing climate change from the ground-up with local solutions will help our nation:

- Achieve **energy independence** and **improve national security**;
- Create **new jobs, technology innovation and business opportunities** for a vibrant American economy;
- Build **livable, sustainable local communities**;
- Prepare for and **avoid the costly potential impacts** of climate change; and
- **Preserve our planet** for future generations.

But the local government role in combating climate change and building a green economy cannot be fulfilled without strong national leadership from the President and Congress. The nation must recognize that the climate solution cannot be achieved without local governments. We need a strong federal-local-state partnership on climate change. Federal policies must provide resources to empower local communities across America to play our part in solving the climate challenge.

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The world's leading scientists say that we must begin now to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 to turn the tide on climate change. Local governments are ready to play our part in reducing emissions and leading the world toward climate solutions, but the President and Congress must take the following steps if we are to achieve these important targets:

Enact a national climate policy that:

- Sets mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions with market-based trading;
- Invests the proceeds from carbon trading into local government actions that reduce emissions through green buildings; transit, smart growth and other VMT reduction strategies; green local fleets and fuels; renewable energy; green infrastructure; and green jobs and businesses; and
- Allows regulated emitters to invest through carbon offsets in local green infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gases, including community forestry, green roofs, and open space and farmland preservation.

Implement clean energy policies that:

- Reduce building energy use by 30 percent by 2025 by establishing national building efficiency targets and providing annual funding to help local governments meet or exceed the national targets; and
- Produce 25 percent of the nation's power from renewable energy by 2025 through renewable portfolio standards, and measures to overcome interconnection and rate barriers to community-scale renewables.

Invest in local climate capacity through annual federal appropriations that:

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants at $2 billion annually;
- Provide $250 million annually for EPA Local Climate Demonstration Grants;
- Provide $400 million annually for the DOE Clean Cities program to support low emission vehicles and cleaner fuels including alternative fuels infrastructure and plug-in hybrid vehicles; and
- Provide $100 million annually for the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program.

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Transform the nation's transportation strategy by:

- Substantially increasing federal resources for public transit;
- Supporting local initiatives to reduce vehicle-dependence and use including resources for smart growth and transit-oriented development, VMT reduction planning and implementation, walkability programs, bikeways and greenways, infill and brownfields revitalization, and reuse of historic and existing buildings; and
- Funding low-emission busses, clean local fleets, and local alternative fuels infrastructure.

Create American green jobs and green businesses by:

- Creating a $500 million "Climate Prosperity" demonstration grant program that directs Economic Development Administration, HUD, Small Business Administration, and USDA Rural Development funding to support local economic development strategies that produce green businesses and green jobs;
- Fully funding the Green Jobs Act of 2007 at $125 million annually to support worker training in emerging manufacturing and hi-tech sectors; and
- Creating an "Energy Conservation Corps" service program to empower young Americans to be part of new clean energy solutions.

Build self-reliant communities that are prepared for climate impacts by:

- Creating a federal interagency task force on Climate Resiliency and Community Preparedness to produce a federal action plan for (a) national research and development; (b) local technical assistance; and (c) new protocols for intergovernmental collaboration at local, state, regional and federal levels;
- Expanding the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program to $500 million annually to support local government initiatives to address climate impacts;
- Expanding NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Act and climate programs to directly support local climate adaptation planning and implementation; and
- Fostering and funding local efforts to support families and populations most vulnerable to climate impacts.

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ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA

Join the Nation's Local Government Climate Protection Leaders and Endorse the Climate Action Blueprint for the New President and Congress

Climate Communities and ICLEI USA are seeking the endorsement of local elected leaders from across America for the "Empowering Local Government Climate Action" Blueprint for the new President and Congress. The Blueprint will be released the first week of December 2008 at a series of local media events across the country. Climate Communities members will convene in Washington, DC in mid-February 2009 to meet with leaders of the new President's climate change team and the incoming Congress to discuss the Blueprint recommendations.

These Founding Leaders helped to develop and endorse the Blueprint--you can join them!

Sacramento County, CA
- Supervisor Roger Dickinson

Santa Ana, CA
- Mayor Miguel Pulido

Sonoma County, CA
- Supervisor Valerie Brown
- Supervisor Paul Kelley
- Supervisor Mike Kerns
- Supervisor Mike Reilly
- Supervisor Tim Smith

Stamford, CT
- Mayor Dan Malloy

Boynton Beach, FL
- Vice Mayor Jose Rodriguez
- Commissioner Marlene Ross
- Mayor Jerry Taylor
- Commissioner Ronald Weiland

Charlotte County, FL
- Commissioner Richard Loftus

Gainesville, FL
- Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

Leon County, FL
- Commissioner Bob Rackleff
- Commissioner Cliff Thaell

Miami-Dade County, FL
- Commissioner Natacha Seijas

St. Petersburg, FL
- Councilmember James Bennett
- Councilmember Jeff Danner
- Councilmember Karl Nurse

Savannah, GA
- Mayor Otis Johnson
- Alderman Larry Stuber

Dubuque, IA
- Mayor Roy Buol

Story County, IA
- Supervisor Jane Halliburton

Annapolis, MD
- Mayor Ellen Moyer

Montgomery County, MD
- Councilmember Roger Berliner
- County Executive Isiah Leggett

Washtenaw County, MI
- Commissioner Conan Smith

Blue Earth County, MN
- Commissioner Colleen Landkamer

High Point, NC
- Mayor Rebecca Smothers

Keene, NH
- Councilor James Duffy
- Mayor Phillip Dale Pregent

Nassau County, NY
- County Executive Thomas Suozzi

Westchester County, NY
- County Executive Andrew Spano

Hamilton County, OH
- Commissioner David Pepper

Greenville, SC
- Mayor Knox White

James City County, VA
- Supervisor John McGlennon

Loudoun County, VA
- Supervisor Stevens Miller
- Supervisor Andrea McGimsey

New Kent County, VA
- Supervisor James Burrell

King County, WA
- Councilmember Dow Constantine
- Councilmember Jane Hague
- Councilmember Larry Phillips
- County Executive Ron Sims

Snohomish County, WA
- Councilmember Mike Cooper
- County Executive Aaron Reardon
- Councilmember Dave Somers

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District, WA
- Commissioner Karen Webster

Tacoma, WA
- Mayor Bill Baarsma

Whatcom County, WA
- County Executive Pete Kremen

To endorse the Blueprint, visit
www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html
or www.icleiusa.org/blueprint

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Climate Communities is a national coalition of local governments seeking national support for local climate action.

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA

ICLEI USA provides expertise, technical support, and innovative tools to help local governments advance their emissions reductions and sustainability goals.