

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Barry K. Hogan, Community Development Director 
Prepared By: Richard S. Denniston, Assistant Planner I 

DATE: March 28, 2006 (CC Meeting of 5/03/06)

SUBJECT: Consider Participation in the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

BACKGROUND

On September 21, 2005, Councilmember Mikos requested a future agenda item to discuss the global warming issue and to consider the City participating in the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

DISCUSSION

On February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, became law in 141 countries. The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement between nations to reduce greenhouse emissions seven percent (7%) from 1990 levels by the year 2012.

The United States, although a signatory to the protocol, has neither ratified nor withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol. Therefore, the Kyoto Protocol is non-binding over the United States unless ratified.

On the same day that the Kyoto Protocol took effect in the other countries, Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle, Washington, launched an initiative to adopt the goals of the Kyoto Protocol by at least 141 American cities, which is equal to the number of countries that adopted the agreement.

On June 13, 2005, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed the *United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement*, a resolution that urges Congress to recognize global warming and enact the Kyoto Protocol policies (Attachment 1).

Under the Agreement, participating cities commit to take following three (3) actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies, to urban forest restoration projects, to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments and the federal government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol; and
- Urge the United States Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act, which would establish a national emission trading system.

As of March 22, 2006, a total of 218 United States cities, representing 44 million Americans in 39 States, have agreed to match or better the standards laid out in the Kyoto Protocol through actions such as reducing urban sprawl, adopting and developing alternative energy technologies, and educating the public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff as deemed appropriate.

Attachments:

1. U.S. Mayor Climate Protection Agreement
2. U.S. Mayor Climate Protection Agreement Signature Page

ENDORISING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a

- flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and

12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to track progress and implementation of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting.

US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Signature Page

You have my support for the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____

Staff Contact Title: _____

Staff Phone: _____

Staff Email: _____

Please add my comments in support of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
We will add these to the Website (*optional*):

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:
US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

By Mail:
c/o City of Seattle
Office of Sustainability and Environment
Seattle Municipal Tower
PO Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

By Fax: (206) 684-3013
By Email: john.mauro@seattle.gov

For more information, please contact John Mauro, Climate Project Analyst at (206) 733-9084, or Kim Drury, Senior Policy Advisor at (206) 684-3214.

US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Contact Information

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels is coordinating this initiative. He can be reached at 206-684-4000.

The primary staff contacts for Seattle are:

- Steve Nicholas, Director
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US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement Website: www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate