



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH

PRESS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAYOR BOLLWAGE PROACTIVE IN CURBING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

*New National Survey Demonstrates Four out of Five Cities Now Use  
Renewable Energy or Expect to By Next Year, Among Key Findings*

**Elizabeth, NJ July 30, 2007** – According to a new survey released by the Mayors Climate Protection Center of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, mayors nationwide are acting on many fronts to address climate protection, often without significant support from their state and federal partners. City of Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage responded to this national survey to highlight the city's many ongoing efforts to reduce energy use and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions already underway to protect the climate locally include:

- ∞ Through Groundwork Elizabeth, approximately 1,600 trees have been planted throughout the city. The Elizabeth River Trail Project will link areas of the City via a pedestrian/bicycle trail which will ultimately help decrease air pollution.
- ∞ Through the Elizabeth Home Improvement Program (EHIP), numerous affordable housing projects are being developed under Green Construction guidelines.
- ∞ Through our Public Works Department, the City has applied "Green Building" standards on the design of the Emergency Response Center. Additionally, the Public Works Department has recently planted more than 500 trees throughout the city.
- ∞ All city vehicles are smoke-free and idling is prohibited.
- ∞ An environmentally friendly program called C.A.R.E. (Clean Streets, Attract Visitors, Renew Neighborhoods, and Energize Elizabeth) has been developed to initiate neighborhood cleanups year-round.
- ∞ Strict and aggressive recycling program.
- ∞ Our Public Works Department is implementing efficient strategies to alleviate flooding throughout the city.
- ∞ Annual Citywide cleanup held on Earth Day includes all business districts and major thoroughfares.
- ∞ Local landfill transformed into area's largest outlet mall (Jersey Gardens) and several hotels.
- ∞ Host city to the largest biodiesel production facility in the east coast.

"Our city is continually working to provide our residents with a cleaner environment and more energy saving programs," said Mayor Chris Bollwage. "Together, with the combined efforts of local environmental agencies and residents, we can improve our environment and leave it a better place for generations to come."

This national survey indicates that cities throughout the country, regardless of size, have initiated a multitude of actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions. A first round of data was compiled to obtain this first-ever assessment of city climate protection efforts. Surveying mayors who had signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, here are a few of the survey's key findings:

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- *Four out of five of the survey cities now use renewable energy, or are considering beginning by next year.*
- *All but four of the survey cities (97 percent) are using more energy-efficient lighting technologies in public buildings, streetlights, parks traffic signals, and other applications, or expect to by next year.*
- *Seventy-two percent of the responding mayors stated that their city fleets now run on alternative fuels and/or use hybrid-electric technology.*

Conference Executive Director Tom Cochran added: “This survey demonstrates the high level of innovation and creativity that U.S. mayors are employing to create more sustainable communities. This is not a new phenomenon, since mayors are often at the forefront of positive change.”

To view the full survey results released by the Conference’s Mayors Climate Protection Center, please visit:  
[www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

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