

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Meeting August 14, 2007

Request to adopt resolution requesting approval to join Local Governments for Sustainability ICLEI

Anne Marie Green

Director of General Services

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Ms Green advised that Roanoke County is a leader in environmental initiatives having adopted an environmental policy in 2001 and implemented a system of environmental management (SEM) shortly thereafter. She further advised that the County has met its commitment to the EPA's Ozone Early Action Plan and it has also reduced energy consumption which has translated into real dollar savings as utility and fuel charges have continued to rise. She reported that the County has also received an Environmental Excellence Award from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Ms Green advised that many local governments have joined Local Governments for Sustainability, formerly the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and commonly known as ICLEI. She reported that ICLEI is an international association committed to improving the global environment through local action. She stated that over 660 cities, counties, towns and villages are members of ICLEI worldwide and that the organization helps local governments generate public awareness and support for environmental and sustainability issues and provides technical assistance as well as training toward realizing tangible goals. She added that part of the assistance provided includes software to track success notification of grants and technical assistance in implementing plans. She advised that staff has been in contact with faculty at Virginia Tech and James Madison University JMU concerning assistance from student interns in inputting data into the software.

Ms Green advised that ICLEI's foremost program is Cities for Climate Protection (CCP). She further advised that this program is performance oriented and designed to assist local governments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a program model and appropriate training and technical assistance.

Ms Green reported that there are five milestones in this program:

1. establishing a baseline by calculating greenhouse gas emissions
2. adopting emissions reduction targets
3. developing a local action plan
4. implementing policies and measures and
5. monitoring and verifying results

Ms Green advised that Roanoke County already has much of this information through its SEM program and will be able to use this data with ICLEI's assistance to determine how to further reduce energy consumption and save both the environment and tax payer dollars. She noted that several other Virginia localities are currently members of ICLEI including Arlington County, the cities of Charlottesville, Harrisonburg and Roanoke and the town of Blacksburg.

Ms Green stated that the first step in implementation is for the Board to pass a resolution pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from government operations and the community at large. She stated that an elected official and a staff member will need to be designated as liaisons to ICLEI and there is an annual fee of \$1,200. She reported that General Services will provide the staff support for this program so that the Board member appointed as liaison need only do what his schedule allows.

Ms Green advised that the major benefits to joining ICLEI are access to tools, software and technical support to reduce energy consumption. In addition there will be financial savings due to reduced utility costs for the County businesses and homeowners. She reported that measurable improvements in air quality will contribute to the overall health and well being of the community. She stated that participation in the program will provide stimulus to economic development due to the retention of local energy dollars that can be reinvested in the community as well as positive recognition for actively participating in a high profile international organization.

Ms Green advised that the annual dues are \$1,200 and the funds are available in the General Services budget. She reported that Staff is anticipating that with assistance from Virginia Tech, JMU or both there will be minimal cost involved in meeting the milestones.

Ms Green requested that that the Board approve the resolution pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and designate a member of the Board to serve as liaison to ICLEI.

Supervisor Wray stated that joining this organization will allow the County to save on energy costs and help reduce emissions and is a move in right direction. In response to an inquiry from Supervisor McNamara Ms Green advised that the Board liaison can be appointed at a later date.

Supervisor Wray moved to adopt the resolution and appoint the Board liaison at a later date. The motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Supervisors Wray Church Altizer Flora McNamara

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 081407 3 REQUESTING APPROVAL TO JOIN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ICLEI)

WHEREAS the U S Conference of Mayors endorsed the 2005 US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement initiated by Seattle Mayor Nickels and signed by 592 mayors in the United States as of June 2007 and

WHEREAS the Urban Environmental Accords adopted by local government delegates during UN World Environment Day 2005 call for reduced emissions through energy efficiency, land use and transportation planning, waste reduction and wiser energy management, and

WHEREAS 162 countries including the United States pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and

WHEREAS energy consumption specifically the burning of fossil fuels accounts for more than 80 percent of U S greenhouse gas emissions and

WHEREAS the use of energy and fuel have an impact on the citizens of Roanoke County Virginia through air quality government operational cost and resident quality of life and

WHEREAS local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures and saving money for the local government its businesses and its residents and

WHEREAS the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign sponsored by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability has invited the County of Roanoke Virginia to join ICLEI and become a partner in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Roanoke Virginia will join ICLEI as a full member and participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and as a participant pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Roanoke will undertake the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign's five milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community and specifically

1 Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction

2 Establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target

3 Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target

4 Implement the action plan

5 Monitor and report progress and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County of Roanoke Virginia requests assistance from ICLEI s Cities for Climate Protection Campaign as it progresses through the milestones.

On motion of Supervisor Wray to adopt the resolution and appoint the Board liaison at a later date and carried by the following recorded vote

AYES: Supervisors Wray, Church, Altizer, Flora, McNamara

NAYS: None