



Innovation for Our Energy Future

Climate Action Planning Breakout Session



**Southwest
EECBG/SEP Peer
Exchange**

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David Peterson

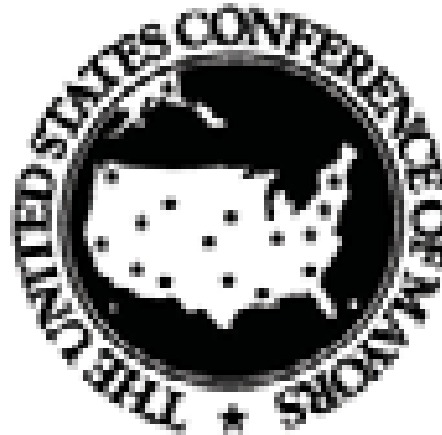
david.peterson@nrel.gov

Climate Action Planning Defined

- Develop a planning framework and targets for greenhouse gas reduction and strategic energy management
- Produce, adopt, and implement a climate action plan or climate protection plan

Existing Networks Focused on Climate Action Planning

- ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
- U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign



Climate Action Plans

States

- California – 1997
- Arizona – 2006
- Nevada – 2007
- Utah - 2007

Cities and Counties

- Los Angeles - 2001
- San Francisco – 2004
- San Diego – 2005
- Berkeley – 2008
- Santa Monica – 1994
- Marin County, CA – 2006
- Contra Costa County, CA – 2005
- Sonoma County, CA - 2008

Why Climate Action Planning? Co-benefits

- Cost savings both to the government and the community as a whole
- Economic development – green jobs
- Improved local air quality / public health
- Improved community livability
- Establish the community as an environmental leader

Climate Action Planning Process

ICLEI's Five Milestone Methodology

1. **Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast**
2. **Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year**
3. **Develop a Local Climate Action Plan**
4. **Implement policies and measures**
5. **Monitor and verify results**

NREL's Energy Planning Process



Scope of Climate Action Planning

1. Does the community have a municipally-owned utility?
2. Does the planning effort target municipal government operations only or city-wide emissions?
3. Does the community want to include transportation and land use in the climate action plan?

Types of Mitigation Activities Included in Climate Action Plans

- Renewable energy - rebates, RE on gov't facilities
- Energy efficiency – audits, standards, rebates
- Green building – LEED standards,
- Transportation – green fleets, reducing VMT
- Land use – transit-oriented development
- Water use efficiency – landscaping, water recycling
- Waste reduction/recycling – increase waste diversion rates
- Offsetting carbon emissions – tree planting, carbon offsets

General Barriers to Climate Action Planning

- Community-wide planning efforts limited by factors outside of the control of the local government
 - Little control over the source of electricity from grid
 - Regional transportation networks and land use patterns
- Technical, bureaucratic, and political obstacles
- Financial obstacles
- Public support

General Barriers to Plan Implementation – Achieving GHG Emissions Reductions

- Lack of financial resources
- State and Federal support
- Implementation often requires legislative and executive action
- Plan too ambitious

Where are local governments in the climate action planning process?

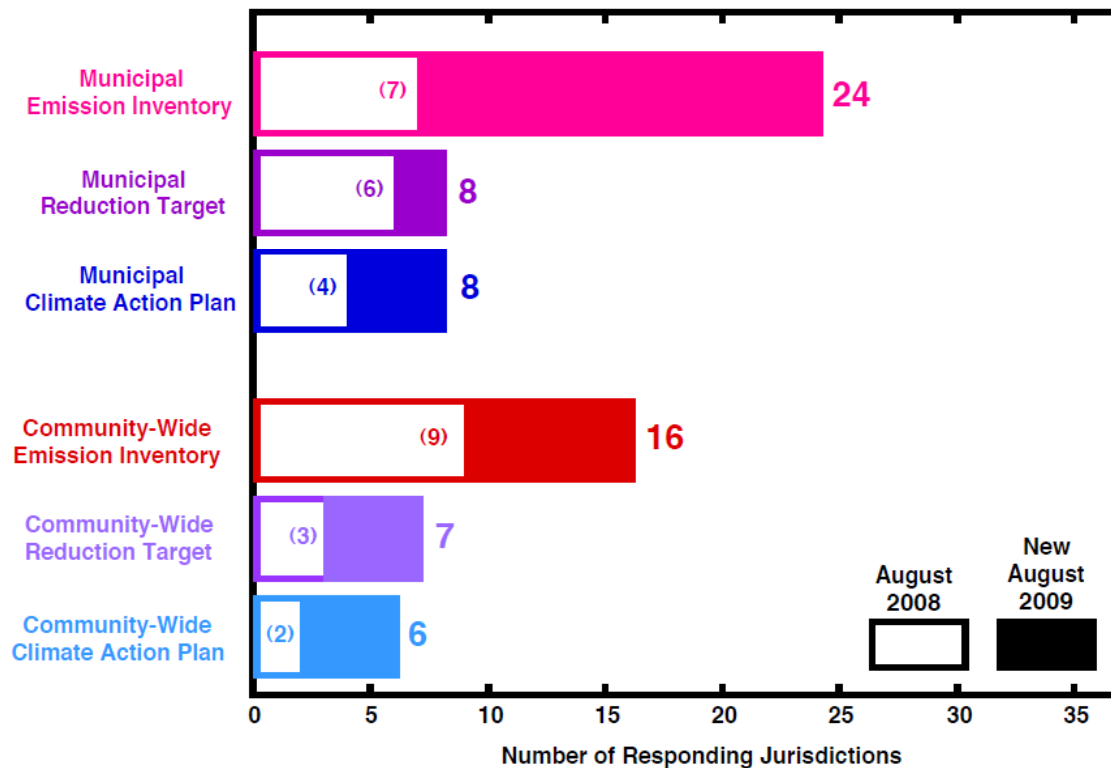


Figure 1: Climate action planning milestones achieved by the responding jurisdictions as of August 2009.

Possible Discussion Topics

- Where are governments in the climate planning process?
- How are plans structured?
- What are the implementation barriers?
- Tracking progress?
- Have governments revised and expectations plans?
- How has state policy impacted the effort?