



Department of Administration
Office of Environmental Sustainability

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January 21, 2009

TO: Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk

FROM: Ann Beier, Director
Office of Environmental Sustainability

RE: Council File 060424 – Membership in ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, has been active in providing support for local, national and regional governments to respond to climate change by developing policies to help reduce green house gas emissions. The City of Milwaukee has been a participating member of ICLEI since 2007.

ICLEI has developed a software package to help local governments inventory green house gas emissions and to assess the impacts of policy changes on reducing emissions. Prior to 2008, ICLEI had limited staff available to provide technical assistance to local governments. In 2008, ICLEI hired additional staff, including a Midwest director, located in Chicago, to help improve service. With this additional staff assistance, on-line training was made available to help the City of Milwaukee and other local governments become familiar with the software to inventory green house gas emissions. ICLEI staff was helpful in answering questions about data needed to begin the inventory.

The Office of Environmental Sustainability, with the assistance of a volunteer, began collecting data for the baseline greenhouse gas inventory in 2008. We have collected information for community level greenhouse gas emissions and have entered most of that information into the ICLEI software. We are still entering data on City facility and fleet energy use (the software requires data from each individual city building). We hope to find a volunteer to help complete this data entry process.

Although we have not completed the inventory, we have set some energy reduction goals for the City itself based on the inventories of other jurisdictions. For example, we know that nation-wide, building energy use and fleet energy use are the biggest contributors to green house gas emissions. We have taken steps to reduce green house gas emissions from buildings by setting a goal of reducing energy use in city buildings by 15% by 2012 (using a 2005 baseline). We have reduced the size of our fleet and have converted almost 50% of our vehicles to alternative fuels that emit fewer greenhouse gases. We are monitoring energy use in major department facilities to assess progress in meeting our goals.

We will be working with ICLEI to host a climate change discussion with the public in April 2009. This will be the first step to develop a community wide climate change action plan.

The Office of Environmental Sustainability will continue to report on the progress of the green house gas inventory and the development of a climate change action plan for the City of Milwaukee.