



CONTACT:
Mayor Roy D. Buol
563-564-5455
rdbuol@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2011 – For Immediate Release

Dubuque and Buol Honored for Climate Protection Efforts

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque’s community-wide sustainability efforts and Mayor Roy D. Buol were honored today in the 2011 Mayors’ Climate Protection Awards, an initiative sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Walmart. Buol and Dubuque received honorable mention in the small city category (population under 100,000). The awards were announced at U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting in Baltimore, June 17-21.

The Mayors’ Climate Protection Awards program is in its fifth year and recognizes mayors for innovative practices in their cities that increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An independent panel of judges selected the winners from a pool of 130 applicants.

Dubuque’s application focused on several innovative efforts under the umbrella of the *Sustainable Dubuque* initiative. *Sustainable Dubuque*, defined by a community task force, creates a platform for sustainability that integrates environmental integrity, economic prosperity, and social/cultural vibrancy and is further defined by 11 principles that guide policy decisions and investment. *Smarter Sustainable Dubuque*, a research partnership with IBM, builds on this vision by deploying “smart” technology to improve information available to citizens about water, electricity, natural gas, and travel resources. *Dubuque 2.0*, sponsored by the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, is a community-led initiative to inspire sustainability by connecting citizens, business, schools and non-profits to Dubuque’s sustainability efforts.

“Traveling throughout nation and the world, it is the innovation and commitment of U.S. mayors, like the winners being announced today, who are leading the nation toward greater energy independence and lower carbon emissions,” said Conference President Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz. “Each mayor is acting locally, just as in my City of Burnsville where our sustainability plan guides us towards ever greater efficiency in our buildings and operations and in developing solar and other new renewable energy supplies.”

“We are proud to honor these cities and their mayors, who remind all of us how their leadership is making a real difference in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the quality of life in their communities,” said Maggie Sans, Walmart’s Vice President of Public Affairs and Government Relations. “At the end of the day, these local efforts reduce our energy dependence and save money, results that strengthen the U.S. economy.”

Evanston, Ill., and Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl received the small city award for the Evanston Climate Action Plan. Other honorable mentions in the small city category included: Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Chapel Hill (NC); Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Eden Prairie (MN); Mayor Scott W. Lang, New Bedford (MA); and Mayor James M. Baker, Wilmington (DE).

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. More information is available at usmayors.org.