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NEWS RELEASE

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Climate Change Fight Starts at Home Mayor Buol Joins Local Leaders from Across the U.S. in Historic Gathering to Develop Climate Change Blueprint

TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK – **Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol** will participate in an historic climate action meeting on Sept. 14-16 that will bring together 50 of the nation’s top local government leaders to develop a “Blueprint for Local Climate Action” for the next President.

The Local Government Climate Leaders Retreat is being organized by [Climate Communities](http://ClimateCommunities.org), a coalition of local governments that is advocating for federal support for local climate change action, and [ICLEI USA](http://ICLEIUSA.org), an association of local governments that is helping communities measure their carbon footprint and implement local climate action plans. With support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the meeting will be held at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in Tarrytown, NY.

“As a founding member of Climate Communities, the City of Dubuque is proud to be part of the growing national movement leading our nation to energy independence, a prosperous new economy based on clean energy and green jobs, and preservation of our planet for our children and grandchildren,” said Buol.

Local governments across the country are implementing innovative policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including promoting green buildings, expanding public transit, purchasing hybrid busses, using geothermal energy to heat police and fire stations, and providing incentives to residents to replace old boilers and home energy units.

Buol will facilitate a “Green Jobs & Green Businesses” breakout session at the meeting. Sustainability rose to the top as a key policy priority for the Dubuque City Council at their recent annual goal-setting session. “Our sustainability model includes economic prosperity and ‘green collar jobs’ play an important role in that model,” said Buol. “We have identified four key themes that are critical to an economy based upon green collar job development: Preservation, Restoration and Embodied Energy; Smart Energy and Energy Conservation; Waste to Wealth; and Green Design.”

Buol and city and county leaders from across America were invited to the Local Government Climate Leaders Retreat to identify opportunities to enhance local-federal climate change collaboration. The blueprint will focus on federal policies needed to empower local communities to make progress in reducing vehicle miles traveled, implementing green buildings, creating green energy, promoting green jobs, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

“Local governments have the power to effectively combat climate change and reduce our dependence on foreign oil,” King County, Wash. Councilmember and Climate Communities founding member Larry Phillips said. “I am convinced that if we work together, we can bring about the kind of change we need to reduce our carbon footprint as well.”

The local leaders will also discuss their strategy to implement the blueprint, which includes meeting with the new President’s transition team in December, educating key Members of Congress, and effectively communicating their message about the critical role of local governments in addressing climate change.