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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dubuque Mayor Buol Joins Local Governments Nationwide to Call on President-elect Obama and Congress to Invest Stimulus Dollars in Local Climate Action**

### **Sustainable Dubuque Initiative Provides Opportunity for Green Jobs, Energy Independence, Emissions Reductions**

*DUBUQUE, Iowa* – Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol joined with local elected officials across the country today to urge President-elect Obama and the incoming Congress to invest stimulus dollars in local climate action as a quick and effective way to create new green jobs, revitalize the economy and promote energy independence.

“We were pleased that during his campaign, President-elect Obama indicated support for investment in energy saving projects to help create jobs and spur economic recovery,” said Mayor Buol. “We want President-elect Obama and Congress to know that with federal assistance we are ready to put hundreds of Dubuque citizens to work in jobs that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and cut greenhouse gas emissions.”

Increasingly, economists are promoting green jobs as key to the country’s economic recovery and long-term growth. One local example is Dubuque Warehouse District Revitalization, an Envision2010 Top 10 project and part of the Sustainable Dubuque initiative. Dubuque’s Warehouse District is a 17-block area of significant, historic industrial warehouses that, once restored, will create over one million square feet of an energy-efficient, mixed-use neighborhood to compete with other urban neighborhoods across the country. “Historic preservation is the purest form of sustainability and is the heart of a green collar job base,” said Buol. “The most sustainable building is one that is already built. The embodied energy that exists in our warehouse district and historic downtown represents a significant reuse of materials that would otherwise wind up in our landfill and create gases that are harmful to our environment.”

Buol added that restoration involves the use of skilled trades such as carpentry, masonry and similar careers that provide livable wages. Nearly 60 to 70 percent of the cost of restoration is labor -- Green jobs that can not be exported. Renovation of historic neighborhoods also takes less energy than building new. Preserving and continuing to use existing buildings means that less raw land and historic landscapes are consumed for growth.

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A recent economic impact study completed for the City of Dubuque shows there was an economic gain in restoration of historic structures. Twelve recent restoration projects in Dubuque represented an **investment of nearly \$24,000,000**. That investment has meant **224 jobs** in Dubuque and nearly **\$8.5 million in household income** for workers. Those same projects generated **another 144** indirect jobs in Dubuque and an additional **\$3.77 million into bank accounts of Dubuque citizens**. Another **41 direct jobs and 123 indirect jobs were created elsewhere in Iowa**. These jobs generated **an additional \$5.4 million in household income for citizens in Iowa**.

Mayor Buol and more than 340 other local elected officials nationwide joined with Climate Communities and ICLEI USA this week to endorse *Empowering Local Government Climate Action: Blueprint for the President Obama and 111<sup>th</sup> Congress*. “Climate Communities and ICLEI USA are organizing city and county leaders from across America to make sure that federal decision makers understand the essential role of local governments in reducing energy use and addressing climate change,” said Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County Supervisor and Climate Communities Executive Committee member. “We look forward to working with President-elect Obama and Congress to ensure that federal policies empower local communities with the tools and resources we need to get the job done.” Download the Blueprint at [www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html](http://www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html) or [www.icleiusa.org/blueprint](http://www.icleiusa.org/blueprint).

Local government actions have the potential to dramatically reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Energy Information Administration, more than 40 percent of energy consumption and carbon emissions come from residential and commercial buildings and one-third is generated by the transportation sector.

“Supporting local government action should be a top priority as Washington develops new economic stimulus, climate and energy policies,” said Mayor Buol. “Local governments set and enforce building codes, we determine transportation and land use policies and we are dramatically affected when our communities suffer untold human and economic loss from floods, wildfires, water shortages and other climate events.”

“Local governments have laid the foundation for this country’s response to global warming, providing the leadership, solutions and innovation that city by county by town have helped curb greenhouse gas emissions and reduce energy use and costs,” said Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of ICLEI USA.

Mayor Buol noted the leadership Dubuque has demonstrated through actions as part of the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

Currently there are no federal programs to support local climate and energy initiatives. The Local Government Climate Action Blueprint calls for stimulus legislation to include \$10 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and \$18 billion for public transit and green vehicles infrastructure. The Blueprint outlines many other opportunities for the federal government to invest in local government innovation, including:

- Enactment of a national GHG cap-and-trade program with a portion of the estimated \$150 billion carbon trading revenues invested in local government climate action and green jobs initiatives;

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- Investment in public transit, green vehicles and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction through reauthorization of \$400 billion federal transportation legislation; and
- \$250 million for EPA Local Climate Demonstration Grants that empower local governments to continue creating new solutions to the climate challenge.

Today's announcement was part of "Local Climate Action Week," when dozens of city and county officials are showcasing energy and climate innovations, sending the message to federal leaders that given support, local governments can and should be a critical partner in addressing climate change, achieving energy security and developing a green economy.

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**About Climate Communities:** Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change and promoting a strong local-federal partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, see [www.climatecommunities.us](http://www.climatecommunities.us).

**About ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability:** ICLEI USA provides expertise, technical support, and innovative tools to help local governments advance their emissions reductions and sustainability goals. More than 500 cities, towns and counties in the U.S. are members of ICLEI. For more information, see [www.icleiusa.org](http://www.icleiusa.org).