

Announcing the

# Resilient Communities for America Agreement



Mayors and county officials:  
America needs your leadership  
to create more resilient com-  
munities that can overcome our  
climate and energy challenges

## Emerging Threats to Our Safety and Economic Prosperity

America's communities and businesses have been battered. By ongoing economic uncertainty. By unstable energy prices. By a record number of extreme weather events fueled by a changing climate—heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, flooding—that cost us an estimated \$188 billion in 2011–2012. Our economic prosperity is in jeopardy if we do not prepare for these challenges.

America's communities must become more “resilient”: able to bounce back and remain strong. The Resilient Communities for America Agreement is a national campaign that will mobilize thousands of local elected officials who pledge to create more resilient cities, towns, and counties.

## How the Agreement Works

Local elected officials who sign the Agreement will:

- Make their own commitment to create a more resilient city, town, or county (based on existing local plans or goals, or new, self-defined goals).
- Commit to sharing their solutions, annual progress, and success stories with other local governments.

Local governments that join the campaign will in turn receive:

- Free resources—such as software and technical guidance—to achieve their self-defined resilience goals.
- Leadership and recognition opportunities that will inspire more local leaders and communities to take action.

## What America needs:

Resilient communities, built to endure and overcome our energy, economic, and climate crises. America can bounce back and remain strong, but the work starts at the local level!

## Who can make it happen:

City and county leaders, supported by the Resilience Campaign partners, who take proven actions that increase preparedness to destructive climate impacts, expand energy independence, strengthen local economies, and save energy and money.

## Launching in June 2013

The Resilient Communities campaign will launch in June 2013. A group of leading local elected officials will announce the campaign as “Inaugural Signatories” of the Agreement letter. On the national stage, they will speak out and showcase their leadership on climate action, renewable energy, and economic prosperity.



## A New Vision of Prosperity

It is time to re-energize and empower local governments to address these challenges. For more than 20 years, cities, counties, and towns have led the way on climate action, even as other levels of government lagged.

But the era of thinking about climate change as a standalone issue is over. A changing climate, energy independence, and economic competitiveness are inextricably linked. With the right tools and support, local governments can lead on the solutions to address all three simultaneously—solutions that build stronger, more resilient communities that can sustainably prosper for generations to come.



Photo credit: Jack\_Amick on Flickr

## A Campaign Coalition of Leading Organizations

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability USA has built a coalition of partner organizations that will support cities and counties working to become more resilient. Core partners include: the National League of Cities, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the World Wildlife Fund. This coalition will draw on the strengths of each organization to provide technical resources (new or existing) or to help promote the campaign and generate greater awareness of the need for resilient communities, as well as promote the opportunities and success stories.

ICLEI will coordinate the efforts of core partners and supporter organizations. ICLEI is prepared to play this role, having been at the forefront of the local climate and sustainability movement for more than 20 years, providing the cutting-edge resources and technical guidance that more than 800 U.S. local governments have relied on to reach their goals.

## Connecting the Dots

### Climate

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Adopting and implementing preparedness policies that protect vulnerable populations and natural resources from extreme weather and other climate impacts, from droughts to floods and heat waves.
- Reducing the community's carbon footprint to help reverse climate change and avoid the costs of adapting to more severe climate impacts.

### Energy

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Expanding local renewable energy sources to achieve greater energy independence and energy price stability.
- Saving energy and money through energy efficiency measures for their government, local businesses, and residents.

### Economy

Local leaders can take proven actions such as:

- Retaining and attracting investment by safeguarding businesses from extreme weather and ensuring reliable access to energy, water, and other key resources.
- Supporting the private sector in creating more diversified local economies that are more resilient to economic downturn, through job creation in sectors such as clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and local agriculture.