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City of Cambridge picked for 2007 Climate Champion Award

Presentation at Global Warming and Energy Solutions conference

Manchester, NH – The City of Cambridge, MA, has received the 2007 award for community leadership on climate action from Clean Air - Cool Planet, the leading nonprofit working to find and promote solutions to global warming in the Northeast.

“Cambridge is receiving this year’s Climate Champion Award because the city exemplifies the municipal commitment to reducing heat-trapping gases and solving the climate change problem that we would like all communities to emulate,” said Adam Markham, executive director of Clean Air - Cool Planet (CA-CP) in announcing the award.

Chair of CA-CP’s Board of Directors, Susan Tierney, presented the award at the group’s Global Warming and Energy Solutions conference here, noting that Cambridge:

- Formed a first-of-its kind, proactive and dedicated Cambridge Energy Alliance to offer a variety of energy-related services to the community, including independent expertise, project management, flexible financial assistance, centralized coordination of services, and will also set up a funding from private investors and revenues from new public programs designed to stimulate energy conservation savings.
- Passed a Parking & Transportation Demand Management Ordinance & Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance These cover their bike & ped programs and efforts to reduce auto trips (see www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/index.html).
- Created a city-wide Cambridge Climate Leader program, which currently has 21 partners.
- Started an Energy Management Work Group that is responsible for green building policy for municipal projects (City Hall Annex is LEED Gold, there are 5 other projects in LEED pipeline); a green fleet committee; transportation incentives for employees (EPA Best Workplaces for Commuters community).
- Set a goal that 20% of municipal electricity load come from renewable sources by 2010.
- Developed a business organics collection/composting program.
- Proposed a green building zoning regulation for private development.

Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy accepted the award on behalf of the city.

“Cambridge is very proud to have long been implementing climate protection measures, even before it was 'Keen to Be Green',” Healy said, recounting how Cambridge first became involved in energy efficiency when they had to rehab the old city hall.

“Cambridge has been a leader in climate efforts for many years,” said CA-CP Community Program Manager Christa Koehler, “and we have been privileged to count Cambridge among our more active partners.

“Their initiation of this new, groundbreaking effort this year places them among leading cities worldwide in the effort to fight global warming,” she added.

The Climate Champion awards are presented every two years at Clean Air - Cool Planet’s climate solutions conferences. Past winners among community climate leaders include Hull, MA, Stamford, CT, and New York City.

Maplewood, NJ also won CA-CP’s community honor this year.