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Maplewood picked for 2007 Climate Champion Award

Presentation at Global Warming and Energy Solutions conference

Manchester, NH – The Township of Maplewood, NJ, 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.

“Maplewood is receiving this year’s Climate Champion Award because the township exemplifies the municipal commitment that we would like all communities to emulate in reducing heat-trapping gases and solving the climate change problem,” 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 Saturday, October 13th, at the group’s Global Warming and Energy Solutions conference here. Tierney cited several of the reasons for Maplewood’s selection, including:

- The Maplewood jitney program, a municipally operated service that provides trips to and from the local train station, which serves as an example to numerous other NJ communities.
- Construction of the Maplewood Police and Court Building, which is on track to be one of the first LEED-certified municipal buildings in New Jersey.
- In January, Maplewood expanded its recycling program in part in recognition of the significance of recycling as an element of community greenhouse gas reduction.
- In June, Maplewood facilitated a Town Meeting where nearly 100 attendees ratified the goal of cutting measurable community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent.
- This summer, Maplewood conducted a detailed audit of energy use in municipal buildings, and established a network of block captains to spread information and interest in greenhouse gas reduction efforts, which more than 40 citizens have already joined.
- 150 Maplewood residents have signed up for CleanPower Choice, the NJ administered renewable electricity program.
- Maplewood will be one of about 10 stops for a nationwide bus tour this fall to promote energy efficient lighting from the EPA Change a Light Bus Tour.

“We have been privileged to count Maplewood among our more active partners,” said Christa Koehler, manager of CA-CP’s community program. “We acknowledge the innovative steps you have undertaken to reduce green house gas emissions, and we appreciate the leadership you have demonstrated that is so essential for real progress.”

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.

Cambridge, MA, was also presented with CA-CP’s community award this year.