TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2006 CMR:426:06

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION JOINING THE ICLEI CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION® CAMPAIGN AND PLEDGING TO UNDERTAKE THE CAMPAIGN’S FIVE MILESTONES TO REDUCE LOCAL EMISSIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL WARMING

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that City Council approve the attached resolution joining ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign (CCPC) and pledging to undertake the campaign’s five milestones to reduce local emissions that contribute to global warming.

BACKGROUND
Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities, dominantly carbon dioxide from burning of fossil fuels, alter the earth’s atmosphere, increasing the risk of significant and potentially catastrophic changes in global climate.

The City of Palo Alto is actively involved in several activities that either directly or indirectly seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including Utility programs to foster energy efficiency and renewable energy, the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, use of alternative fuels in the City’s fleet, commute programs, and committing to green building principles. The City is an active participant in Sustainable Silicon Valley, is a member of the California Climate Action Registry, and is a signatory to the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement. The community at large is also involved in developing approaches to address greenhouse gas emissions, through the Mayor’s Green Ribbon Task Force that was created in March 2006 to “recommend tangible steps and local actions by all stakeholder groups, including the City, to reduce global warming and encourage sustainable practices.”
DISCUSSION
ICLEI is short for International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, an international association of local governments dedicated to the prevention and solution of local, regional, and global environmental problems through local action. ICLEI’s CCPC provides much more than just a list of milestones, as members are provided with access to a wealth of software tools, technical expertise and guidance, best practices information, and a network of other cities worldwide with whom to share experiences and ideas. A city joins the CCPC by joining ICLEI and adopting a resolution or making an executive proclamation committing to reducing local emissions that contribute to global warming. The process consists of working through five milestones to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community, specifically:

1. Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction;
2. Establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
3. Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
4. Implement the action plan; and
5. Monitor and report progress and update plans.

Joining ICLEI will also make the software tools available to Mayor’s Green Ribbon Task Force members to help improve methods for estimating community-wide emissions for difficult-to-quantify categories such as transportation.

Staff is already on track to complete its emissions inventory for City government operations. Staff plans to coordinate the development of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and climate action plan through the interdepartmental Environmental Stewardship Steering Committee and Executive Staff, and to consider and address the ideas and recommendations of the Mayor’s Green Ribbon Task Force in formulating the action plan specified as milestones 3 and 4 above.

RESOURCE IMPACT
Joining ICLEI costs $1,200 per year. The development and implementation of a climate action plan consistent with the ICLEI CCPC are included in the approved budget. Staff will return to Council in 2007 with a proposed action plan as specified in milestone 3, along with any resource impacts.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The ICLEI Cities CCP pledge supports the City’s Sustainability Policy adopted April 2, 2001 (CMR 175:01), the Green Government Pledge adopted July 19, 1999 (CMR 284:99), and Comprehensive Plan Policy N-44: “Maintain Palo Alto’s long-term supply of electricity and natural gas while addressing environmental and economic concerns.”

The pledge also supports the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and is consistent with and complement the California Publicly Owned Electric Utilities’ Principles Addressing Greenhouse Reduction Goals endorsed by Council August 7, 2006 (CMR:315:06), and can serve
as a core foundation for development of the Climate Action Plan as described in the Long-term Electric Acquisition Plan Implementation Task #1 (CMR 169:06, April 17, 2006), which states, "Promote environmental stewardship by completing the California Climate Action Registry process for reporting and certifying greenhouse gas emissions, developing a Climate Action Plan for utilities, and supporting City efforts to address climate change and other environmental issues."

**NEXT STEPS**
2. Proposed Climate Action Plan, Fall 2007

**ATTACHMENTS**
A. Resolution joining ICLEI CCPC  
B. ICLEI FAQ’s

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