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Dubuque joining **Climate Communities**

Group focuses on funding for environmental projects at the local level

BY ANDY PIPER TH STAFF WRITER



Goodmann - Teri Goodmann
Iowa Values Marketing Board
Member. Development Director ,
America's River and Dubuque
Airport commissioner.

The Sustainable Dubuque initiative sprouted another branch last week when the city joined **Climate Communities**, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that focuses on national legislative action that helps fund local projects.

"This is one piece of the whole picture that we're putting together," said Assistant City Manager Teri Goodmann. "It's significant because it has to do with funding, and sustainability is very fundable. Everything we are doing right now is about creating strength through partnerships, sharing information and positioning ourselves for funding when it becomes available."

Climate Communities' advocacy has secured \$300 billion for action at the local level through the Climate Security Act of 2008 and is seeking \$295 million in 2009 as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

As a member, Dubuque positions itself for inclusion in pilot programs, and \$15 million could become available for 50 Environmental Protection Agency climate change demonstration programs in 2009.

Climate Communities also works to ensure that reauthorization of the federal transportation law provides a significant portion of the \$300 billion federal transportation investment for transportation planning, public transit, green vehicles and other local actions that reduce vehicle miles traveled and curb carbon emissions.

Since 2007, **Climate Communities** has grown to 25 participating local governments. It cost Dubuque \$1,250 to join and will cost \$2,500 to retain membership in subsequent years.

"When we can work together, we have a louder voice to advance legislation that funds local projects in our attempts to live more sustainably," Goodmann said.

Other **Climate Communities**

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Calif.; Blue Earth County, Minn.; Sacramento County, Calif.; High Point, N.C.; Santa Ana, Calif.; Nassau County, N.Y.; Sonoma County, Calif.; Greenville, S.C.; Stamford, Conn.; James City County, Va.; Boynton Beach, Fla.; Loudoun County, Va.; Charlotte County, Fla.; New Kent County, Va.; Miami-Dade County, Fla.; King County, Wash.; Savannah, Ga.; Snohomish County, Wash.; Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, Wash.; Story County, Iowa; Tacoma, Wash.; Annapolis, Md.; Whatcom County, Wash.; Wyandotte, Mich.

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This story about the City of Dubuque's decision to join **Climate Communities** appeared in the Telegraph Herald on July 13, 2008. **Climate Communities** is working to ensure passage of the federal climate change legislation that could, if approved by the House and Senate, provide upwards of \$300 billion for local governments.