

## Cities for Climate Protection

The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force has been working for almost two years to develop resources for local and state Leagues to use in advancing citizen action to combat global climate change. Visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for a complete list of these valuable tools. These resources include stories about what a few cities are doing to mitigate climate change through the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program of the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI). For a full report, see "Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming" by Win Colwill on [lwv.org](http://lwv.org). As you read these stories, think of what your city or town could do.

**Medford, MA**, (pop. 55,000) joined the CCP program in 1999 and became the first city in Massachusetts to have an approved Climate Protection Plan. The installation of solar panels on the roof of city hall, combined with upgrading indoor fluorescent lighting with electronic ballasts, is saving \$7000 in electricity costs and reducing CO2 emissions by 130 tons annually. The city has also converted its traffic lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDS), which are 90 percent more efficient, and last at least seven years longer than conventional incandescent signal lights. Medford encourages replacement of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs by providing a link on its Web site that enables residents to consider different types that they can purchase online. The city is also raising funds to help build a 100 kilowatt wind turbine near a school to provide electricity and also to educate students about clean, alternative sources of energy.

**Burlington, VT**, (pop. 39,000) also joined the Cities for Climate Protection program in 1999. The city created an Energy and Environment Office and adopted time-of-sale minimum standards for rental housing to improve energy efficiency in rental properties. Burlington's "Top Ten" program offers the city's largest electric customers a customized menu of energy reduction options that will provide "positive cash flow" financing. The "10 percent Challenge" program prompts individual efforts to calculate and reduce personal global warming emissions by 10 percent. This program, which includes an interactive Web site, has spread to 80 other Vermont cities.

**Madison, WI**, (pop. 208,000) developed a plan in 2002 that targets emissions from waste as well as electricity generation. Methane gas produced in the sewage treatment facility is used to heat hot water and run the anaerobic digester. Waste heat from the generators and blowers is captured and used to heat buildings. Madison has also installed generators at its landfills; using methane for electricity production reduces the amount of methane released to the atmosphere. City outreach efforts have increased participation in the curbside recycling program to 97 percent.

The ICLEI's Climate Action Handbook provides cities with a resource guide for planning and action. See [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org) for details.

- Martha Dickinson, LWV Downeast