

RESOLUTION URGING COUNTIES TO ADOPT THE “2030 CHALLENGE” GOALS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Issue: Climate Change and Green Energy Efficiency Buildings.

Adopted policy: NACo supports the goals of the 2030 Challenge to encourage counties to set goals for renovated and all new public buildings to become carbon neutral by 2030. NACo supports federal efforts to promote high performance green building principles.

Background: The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community’s most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality.

The federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. has already adopted high performance green building principles.

Studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in green, high performance school buildings. Emphasis should be placed on the “life cycle costs” of a public building rather than solely on its initial capital costs.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA), has pledged to develop tools to assist local governments in pursuing local goals of energy efficient public buildings.

The AIA 2030 Challenge supports goals:

- New construction and renovation projects of buildings should be designed to achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of buildings should employ cost effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible.

The 2030 Challenge attempts to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, with the following targets:

- 60% in 2010
- 70% in 2015
- 80% in 2020
- 90% in 2025
- Carbon-neutral by 2030.

NACo has previously supported immediate and long-range efforts by the federal government to involve all levels of stakeholders to mitigate possible sources of climate change now through a series of practical incentives and through more federal funding for all means of emissions reduction.

NACo’s policy currently supports voluntary measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: To be determined.

Adopted July 17, 2007