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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

November 18, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am pleased to submit the City of Cambridge Climate Protection Plan for City Council consideration and approval.

The City Council launched this climate protection effort in May 1999, when it voted to join Cities for Climate Protection, a project of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

After City staff conducted an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions within Cambridge, I appointed a task force, comprising residents, representatives of the business and academic communities, and staff, to set an overall emissions reduction goal and develop a plan to meet the goal.

Creating and carrying out this plan is an important step for Cambridge. Evidence is growing that the impacts of global climate change will be severe and that we need to act quickly. The scientific community no longer debates whether climate change is happening; the debate is now about how to combat it.

While actions that Cambridge takes will not in themselves have much effect, as more communities join Cities for Climate Protection, the program will have a growing impact. Already, 134 U.S. local governments are engaged creating and carrying out plans.

The Cambridge plan calls for 20% reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. We believe that this goal, while ambitious, can be achieved. The proposed actions involve all sectors of the community—City operations, businesses, the universities and other institutions, and residents. They include actions related to energy use, transportation, land use and building construction, and waste reduction. Many of the actions have multiple benefits—they will reduce air pollution, lower energy costs, increase energy security, and make Cambridge a healthier, a more livable city as well as lowering our greenhouse gas emissions.

I look forward to working with you on these important environmental goals.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

S-338

Consent Agenda #2

Submission of the City of
Cambridge Climate Protection
Plan.

In City Council November 18, 2002

**REFERRED TO THE HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR
NOVEMBER 22, 2002.**