

**Testimony of Michael Schmitz
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**Public Meeting to Consider the Local Government Toolkit
For Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

California Air Resources Board

May 28, 2009

Good morning Chairperson Nichols, members of the Board.

My name is Michael Schmitz. I am the new California Director of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Thank you for providing this opportunity for public involvement in the development of the Local Government Toolkit for Reducing Greenhouse Gases. This toolkit has the potential to be a national model for assisting cities in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions and realize critical energy cost savings.

ICLEI has a long history of working with local governments nationwide to drive deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and build sustainable cities. Through our work we have learned important lessons about what approaches work and tools are most useful.

Allow me to touch on a few of these lessons and how the Toolkit incorporates them:

- Local governments face significant resource-related challenges in achieving their climate protection goals. The array of add-value, self-help tools and strategies available through the Toolkit help address this key challenge.
- Many organizations and advocates are developing useful tools and strategies for tackling climate change but lack the ability to connect with end users. The Toolkit platform connects these providers with the localities in need of solutions through a one-stop shop.
- Coordination and collaboration among jurisdictions is vital to advancing climate protection work. The Toolkit provides forums for all the agencies and organizations working to support local government action to communicate, coordinate, share tools and resources, and organize.
- The challenges facing cities will continue to change. The Toolkit platform is dynamic and flexible, allowing for growth and the ability to further develop

and respond to emerging needs, like the development of regional tools and strategies.

We are very excited about our partnership with the California Air Resources Board in the development of the toolkit and particularly in the creation of a comprehensive decisions support tool, CAPP, the Climate and Air Pollution Planning Assistant. CAPP is a first of its kind decision making tool designed to help localities identify projects, policies, strategies and measures targeted at meeting their own climate and air pollution emissions reduction goals. This tool will enable cities and counties, regardless of size and resources, to create sophisticated local government operations and community climate action plans.

Finally, it is important to note how this project will significantly advance the work of local jurisdictions in the effort to reduce GHG emissions, even in the face of continuing economic and budgetary difficulties. As a result of the forward thinking approach of the State to develop the Toolkit, the critical efforts of cities across the state will continue to advance.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.