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Mayors from 10 Major Cities Unite to Cut Climate Pollution from Buildings

New City Energy Project Could Save \$1 Billion Annually and Cut Emissions Equal to Taking More Than a Million Cars Off the Road

January 29, 2014 – The mayors from 10 major U.S. cities today announced they will undertake a united effort to significantly boost energy efficiency in their buildings, a move that combined could cut as much climate change pollution as generated by 1 million to 1.5 million passenger vehicles every year, and lower energy bills by nearly \$1 billion annually.

“New York City’s sustainability efforts are a major reason our greenhouse gas emissions are down 19 percent since 2007 and our air is cleaner than it has been in more than 50 years. They have also substantially driven down energy costs for consumers,” said **Michael R. Bloomberg, philanthropist and 108th mayor of New York City**. New York knows the value of building energy efficiency from experience, thanks to its pioneering efforts under the Bloomberg Administration. “The City Energy Project will bring the significant economic and environmental benefits that energy efficiency has to offer to other cities – and accelerate progress by helping them learn from each other's successes.”

The mayors will be participating in the new City Energy Project (CEP), an initiative from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Institute for Market Transformation that is designed to create healthier, more prosperous American cities by targeting their largest source of energy use and climate pollution: buildings. The following 10 cities will be CEP’s first participants: **Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia and Salt Lake City**.

Funded by a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and The Kresge Foundation, the City Energy Project will help the 10 cities craft their own customized plans for boosting energy efficiency in their buildings.

“The City Energy Project is a promising opportunity and partnership for the City of Chicago as we work to become a more energy efficient city,” said **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel**. “More energy efficiency means new jobs and continued economic growth, and a more sustainable City, which will lead to a further increase in the quality of life for the people of Chicago.”

Buildings are the largest single source of U.S. carbon emissions, representing 40 percent nationwide – more than either the transportation or industrial sectors. That number is even more dramatic at the city level, with more than half of carbon emissions in most U.S. cities coming from buildings – and in some cities as much as 75 percent. Much of the energy these buildings use, however, is wasted.

Fortunately, we have the technology and know the best practices that can make our buildings vastly more efficient. Working together, these cities can make significant progress in reducing their contribution to climate change. And in the process, they can give their local economies a boost.

“City skylines have long been symbols of aspiration and innovation—this project takes that to a new level,” said Laurie Kerr, Director of the City Energy Project at the **Natural Resources Defense Council**. “These mayors are showing there is the political will to put people to work to build a healthier, more



prosperous future for America’s cities. In the face of a changing climate and increasingly extreme weather, these city leaders know they cannot wait for the state or federal government to make them more resilient and sustainable – they are taking action now.”

“We have the skills and technology to make buildings more efficient, but we need a coordinated effort by major cities and the private sector to make it happen,” said Cliff Majersik, executive director of the **Institute for Market Transformation**. “The City Energy Project will give city leaders and the real estate industry the support they need to make buildings better, improving the lives of millions of city residents.”

Projected Economic & Environmental Benefits

Boosting building efficiency reduces the pollution that is turbocharging weather across the country. It reduces demand for new power plants. It makes cities more resilient to energy-related crises. And it helps clean up the air our cities’ children breathe by reducing other hazardous air pollution.

The CEP is projected to cut a combined total of 5 million to 7 million tons of carbon emissions annually. To put that in perspective, that is equivalent to taking 1 million to 1.5 million passenger vehicles off the road per year, the amount of electricity used by roughly 700,000 to nearly 1 million American homes annually, or taking 3-4 power plants offline.

It also has significant economic benefits. This includes creating jobs in a range of fields and skill levels to implement the efficiency measures – from electricians to architects, construction workers to engineers, and building technicians to software providers. It includes helping to raise property values, as efficient buildings are in great demand. And it includes lowering energy bills for residents and businesses, reducing the cost of living and doing business, and freeing up money that can flow back into the local economy.

The CEP is projected to save ratepayers a combined total of nearly \$1 billion annually on their energy bills (at current prices).

“Building energy efficiency has far-reaching benefits, not only for the environment, but also in enabling high performing work space, facilitating jobs, and resulting in better financial return,” said Kyung-Ah Park, Head of Environmental Markets Group at **Goldman Sachs**. “As a global financial institution committed to facilitating market-based solutions to critical environmental issues, we are excited to see the launch of the City Energy Project, which will bring the leadership of 10 cities to help address market barriers and catalyze this important opportunity.”

“As a global leader in bringing energy efficiencies into commercial buildings, Jones Lang LaSalle strongly supports the City Energy Project for building partnerships between local governments and the real estate community to advance energy efficiency,” said Robert Best, Executive Vice President, Energy & Sustainability Services, at real estate investment company **Jones Lang LaSalle**. “We intend to be actively engaged in the City Energy Project, as both a public advocate and as a building manager, to expand and strengthen these valuable partnerships across the participating cities.”

How it Works

Through this new project, the cities will develop their own locally tailored plans to advance energy efficiency and reduce waste in their large buildings, which can represent roughly 50 percent of their



citywide square footage. These plans, which will include multiple integrated strategies, can make more progress in each city than any one program or policy could alone.

The City Energy Project will offer their energy expertise to help guide the cities through the planning, designing and implementing processes. The energy efficiency solutions that CEP will help the cities develop are flexible to each city's unique situation, supporting the following goals:

- **Promote efficient building operations:** Strong building energy performance can be achieved through efficient operations and maintenance, and the training of facilities personnel.
- **Encourage private investment:** Common-sense solutions to financial and legal barriers to energy efficiency should be adopted to increase private investment in building energy improvements.
- **City leadership:** Cities should lead by example and reduce taxpayer-funded energy consumption in municipal buildings, and encourage the private sector to match their actions.
- **Promote transparency:** Building energy performance information should be transparent and accessible to enable market demand and competition for energy-efficient buildings.

“Energy efficiency creates jobs, lowers energy bills, and is a cornerstone of constructing a sustainable future,” said **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**. “Los Angeles has long been a leader in environmental policy and we look forward to working with cities around the country to jointly implement policies that stimulate our economy, save money, and reduce our carbon emissions.”

“As a six-time ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year recipient, CBRE prioritizes energy efficiency as a strategic way our real estate clients can get ahead,” said David Pogue, Global Director of Corporate Responsibility at **CBRE**, the world's largest commercial real estate services firm. “We strongly support the efforts of the City Energy Project to advance the real estate markets in cities through localized strategies to encourage energy efficiency.”

“With U.S. buildings consuming more primary energy than countries like Russia and India, the scale of the opportunity to optimize building energy performance is significant,” said John Mandyczek, Chief Sustainability Officer, **UTC Building & Industrial Systems**. “Cities collaborating and implementing creative, practical energy efficiency policies can go a long way to reducing America's \$450 billion annual energy bill and carbon emissions.”

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