



*Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

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June 2009

**BCC
Steering Committee
Update
Briefing
Meeting Date:
June 11, 2009**

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BCC Steering Committee Meeting, June 11, 2009

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Executive Summary

This document contains a summary of notes from the first Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from April 30, 2009 as well as a compilation of notable information that committee members may want to review until June 11, 2009.

C4S Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee

Champions for Sustainability convenes leaders from Pittsburgh area businesses to recommend actions related to Pittsburgh's climate. The group meets every 6 weeks. The goals of the BCC are to:

- To provide an opportunity for businesses in Pittsburgh to learn what others companies and organizations are doing related to climate initiatives
- To design and oversee BCC events which raise awareness of climate related activities
- To create a best practices guide and case studies for local businesses relating to climate initiatives
- To oversee the Pittsburgh Business Climate Leadership Awards Program

About C4S

Champions for Sustainability brings together companies large and small, from many different industries, entrepreneurs, community leaders, university researchers, educators, and other social ventures to put sustainability into practice. C4S aspires to be the most effective region-based collaboration of leaders accelerating the practice and policy of sustainability in business and civic circles. Champions for Sustainability provides value to firms and organizations that seek sustainable solutions to operational practices through convening, networking, and direct consulting.

Memberships and Information:

- Champions for Sustainability www.C4SPgh.org
- Sustainable Pittsburgh www.sustainablepittsburgh.org

C4S Program Administration

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Program Manager
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Sustainability Coordinator Leadership

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Members of the 2009 Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee:

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Port Authority of
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Mr. John Burke
URA

Mr. Andrew Butcher
GTECH Strategies

Mr. William Cagney
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Mr. Chris Steffy
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1 Prior Meeting Summary

1.1 Agenda

Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee Meeting
April 30, 2009
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Location:
Regional Enterprise Tower (Old Alcoa Building)
425 Sixth Avenue
23rd Floor
O'Neill Room

Continental Breakfast Provided

Facilitated by Matthew Mehalik and Jillian Ryan, Sustainable Pittsburgh

- 8:30 Arrival & Check-in: Breakfast
- 8:40 Welcome
- Introduce new faces
 - Recap first meeting
 - Presentation of helpful resources
- 8:50 Business Initiative and Events
- Review and Discuss initiatives
 - Discuss Event ideas
 - Theme ideas
 - Arrangement
 - Steelers breakfasts
 - Case studies
 - Subcommittee
 - Implementation strategy
 - Integration with events
 - BCC members logo
- 9:40 Discussion and Planning
- 9:55 Closing Remarks

1.2 Prior Meeting Summary

- I. Call to Order:
 - A. Matt Mehalik called to order the second meeting for the Champions for Sustainability Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Each attendee introduced themselves: name & organization

- III. Opening Issues:
 - A. Recap of last meeting (3.19.09)
 1. Explanation of committee
 2. Association with Sustainable Pittsburgh and C4S
 3. Background on Pittsburgh Climate Initiative

- IV. Overview:
 - A. BCC Report
 1. Electronic version to be distributed
 2. Useful links and articles provided for examples
 - B. Business Initiative and Events
 1. Open discussion/ Brainstorm
 - a) Goals and targets part of overall PCO
 - (1) 1% year based of 2003Coalition among buildings downtown
 - b) No portfolio changes
 - c) Commissioning processes
 - d) Fighting for survival
 - (1) Need easy path to do what is right
 - e) Light off night- turn everything off?
 - f) What can this group do better than others?
 - g) Creative financial models
 - (1) Demand response
 - (2) State, Fed grants, support
 - h) Note that fuel supply effects pricing
 - i) Businesses need to understand deregulations
 - j) Documentation of initiatives for businesses very important
 - k) Getting the most out of your government
 - l) Getting the most out of your transmission/ utility
 - m) Getting the most out of your tenants
 - (1) Regs tend to not impact end-use consumer
 - n) Award programs
 - o) Connect businesses with expertise
 - p) Employee travel
 - q) Incentives alternative forms of transportation
 - r) What impacts the bottom line of a business?
 - (1) Inventory

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- (2) Cost of doing an inventory
- s) Pair businesses with CMU/DU students
- t) LGA internship program
- u) Internship programs
 - (1) Get into award program
 - (2) Have student event for pairings with students
 - (3) Teach students how to do demand response analysis
- v) Demand response- Reduce consumption during times of high consumption. Enrollment leads to payments from PJM or grid carrier
- w) Unused electricity from energy efficiency and sell that back into grid
- x) Cost savings- save on electric consumption- need to raise this awareness
- y) Mechanisms in marketplace to transfer cost of constructing power plants to consumers as expressed through utility prices- and incentives energy savings
- z) Need to bring this information to the marketplace
- aa) Bundling creates scale
- bb) Social media, viral networking, control equipment, aggregation of retail customers, municipal aggregation
- cc) SMART Energy efficiency- Piggyback on chamber of commerce
- dd) Series of events
- ee) Revenue stream from @\$ savings 509a- aggregate customers to create viral network
- ff) Tie in with awards program
- gg) Duquesne light, Allegheny power stakeholder groups PUC filing July 1

V. Conclusion**A. Initiative Direction**

- 1. Based/ focused on reduction of energy consumption
 - a) Demand response- reduce consumption during times of high consumption
 - b) Unused electricity sold back for profit
- 2. Awards program
 - a) Recognition to businesses for participating

B. Development of subcommittees (Will meet before next BCC meeting)

- 1. Smart Energy Initiative Subcommittee
 - a) Carolyn Pengidore
 - b) Chris Steffy
 - c) Cat Sheane
 - d) William Cagney
 - e) Rob Jones
 - f) Joyce O'Connor

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- g) Janet Lauer
- C. Requests from BCC group
 - 1. Duquesne Light representative needed
 - a) Jan Lauer— knows the contact
 - 2. Larger businesses need to be present
 - a) Alcoa –especially, because they have already instituted energy reduction ideas
 - b) U.S. Steel
 - c) PPG
 - 3. Sustainability Coordinators Group
 - a) Present on what their companies are doing
 - b) Helpful for small businesses who do not have a sustainable representative
 - c) Provide information on what large businesses are doing in the region
- VI. Next Meeting:
 - A. June 11, 2009
 - B. Initiative integration into events
 - C. Mission Statement
- VII. Adjournment:
 - A. Matt Mehalik adjourned the meeting at 10 am
 - B. Networking continued

****Handouts:**

- Agenda
- EPA carbon regulation article
- Insurance Company article

Minutes submitted by: Jillian Ryan

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

1.3 Goals Committee Summary

In order to devise a plan on how the BCC will fulfill its first year's benchmarks, a subcommittee (Goals Committee) was organized. Through discussion and a presentation on achievable targets for CO₂, the committee was able to create practicable actions for the BCC to advocate. The strategies outcomes comprise the PCI business recommendations, the BCC goals and the requests of the BCC members.

Goals Committee Summary:

At the goals committee meeting on May 27, 2009 the BCC members created and proposed two possible actions to be brought forth to the collective BCC group on June 11, 2009. One action is to create energy workshops...

The Energy workshops will inform businesses (small, large, commercial, industrial) on how to reduce their energy costs. To reach the most abundant and diverse businesses, we plan to use the C4S business network, BCC member's colleagues and the local chambers of commerce, lion clubs, and rotary clubs, where smaller businesses aggregate. By holding multiple workshops in different districts it will enable more businesses to participate and benefit.

Individuals with expertise in energy efficiency will inform businesses on the best energy management practices (the judicious and effective use of utilities to maximize profits, minimize costs). Such activities include: reducing overhead (simple fixes, behavioral fixes), retrofitting, demand-response programs, funding opportunities, alternative energy opportunities (CHP solar, wind, geothermal, biomass), understanding utility bills, teaming with a building's owner to split costs of renovations, improving environmental conditions in the work place, and enhancing a business's competitive position.

The energy workshops are a creative way to reduce businesses' greenhouse gas emissions while pursuing profits. Electric utilities have something to gain by reducing their needed emergency capacity energy amount. Utilities are required to maintain such otherwise excess capacity in case of peak electricity demand.

Champions for Sustainability and the Business Climate Coalition will provide a networking source for marketing the energy workshops and in developing the workshops' structure.

The second action is to create a focus group that will determine which achievable action items make the most economic sense.

Proposed ideas on how the focus groups should be grouped:

- By size: Small, medium and large firms or small/medium and large firms. Typically, small firms do not have the in-house staff to study or implement initiatives, which means they will have a completely different perspective when

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they look at the cost/benefit of various green options. Large firms may have in-house staff that can focus on these issues.

- By type of firm (for example, service companies versus warehousing)
- By location - Pittsburgh companies located in the downtown corridor have very different requirements compared to companies in Lawrenceville or the North/South Sides, etc.

These focus groups will create a list of action items that they *believe* would help decrease their costs and carbon emissions (meeting 1). From the desired list, research will be completed to see which action items make the most economic sense, including which actions make the most economic sense based on their emissions reduction (meeting 2). The focus group(s) will then choose which action items they want to promote. [Combine actions and choose from total list or keep separate (to maintain specificity for different business types.)]

Once the focus groups decide on the achievable actions, a clearinghouse needs to be organized. The clearinghouse will be used to enable a collaborative initiative that can take full advantage of the most cost effective action items, by reducing the overhead cost even further, such as the biodegradable coffee cup pool.

Logistics on how the clearinghouse will run still need to be developed; who will be the host, who will maintain it, and what will be done with the money saved (1/2 put in for future sustainable projects).

2. Resources

2.1 Climate Related Legislation

Legislation:

It is helpful for every business to have some idea of what climate legislation is out there or being proposed because of the potential effects they may have on their establishment. We have comprised key legislation, and related information, that is either being proposed or has already passed into law at the different levels of legislation.

International:

- UNFCCC: [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
 - The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The Convention enjoys near

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universal membership, with 192 countries having ratified.

- Under the Convention, governments: gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1994.
- The United States of America ratified the UNFCCC
- Kyoto Protocol
 - The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions .These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.
 - The major distinction between the Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialized countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so.
 - Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities.”
 - The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. 184 Parties of the Convention have ratified its Protocol to date. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh in 2001, and are called the “Marrakesh Accords.”
 - The United States of America did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol

Federal Level:

- Congress:
 - Senate:
 - Warner – Lieberman Bill (2007)
 - The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2007 requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish: (1) a federal greenhouse gas

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(GHG) registry, for which certain facilities must report information regarding fossil fuels and GHGs produced and consumed; and (2) specified quantities of GHG emission allowances, which decline for each of 2012 to 2050.

- The cap-and-trade program would have reduced GHG emissions from covered sectors by 4% below 2005 levels by 2012; 19% below 2005 levels by 2020; and 71% below 2005 levels by 2050.
- This bill did not pass through the Senate. [For analysis of the bill click here](#)
- **Boxer Amendment to Warner- Lieberman Bill** (2008):
 - Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Environment and Public Works Committee Chair (2008), introduced the bill on May 21, 2008 with few differences from the Warner- Lieberman Bill. [To read about the similarities and differences click here](#)
 - Emissions reduction: 4% by 2012, 19% by 2020, 71% by 2050, thus total overall reduction: 66% by 2050.
 - This bill did not pass through the Senate.
- Climate Matters Act (2008)
- **Chart of Economy-wide Cap-and-trade Proposals in the 110th Congress (2007)** [Link here](#)
- **Energy Bill 2009**: “The measure, which cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on a 15-to-8 vote, would also require utilities to produce up to 15 percent of electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar power by 2021. That standard is somewhat weaker than one in a House energy and [climate change](#) bill.” ([WSJ 6.17](#))
- House of representatives:
 - **Waxman and Markey** (2009) “The American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009”
 - The legislation has four titles:
 1. A clean energy title that promotes renewable sources of energy, carbon capture and

- sequestration technologies, low-carbon fuels, clean electric vehicles, and the smart grid and electricity transmission
 - 2. An energy efficiency title that increases energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including buildings, appliances, transportation, and industry
 - 3. A global warming title that places limits on emissions of heat-trapping pollutants
 - 4. A transitioning title that protects U.S. consumers and industry and promotes green jobs during the transition to a clean energy economy.
- On May 12, 2009 major reductions in the bill occurred in the House of Energy and Commerce Committee: [Click here for Washington Post article](#) (5.13.09)
 - Change from 20% greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 to 17%
 - Change from all states required to have 25% of their energy from renewable sources by 2025 to 15% and 5 percent gain in energy efficiency
 - Some Cap and Trade credits will be given away
 - This bill has passed through the House of Representatives (June 26, 2009); 219 to 212. It is expected to be brought up in fall 2009 in the Senate.

State (Pennsylvania):

- [PA Act 129](#) – Public Utilities: Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is actively involved in the implementation process for Act 129 of 2008. On Oct. 15, 2008, Governor Rendell signed HB 2200 into law as Act 129 of 2008, with an effective date of Nov. 14, 2008. The Act expands the Commission’s oversight responsibilities and imposes new requirements on electric distribution companies (EDCs), with the overall goal of reducing energy consumption and demand.

The Act adds several new sections to, and amends several existing sections of the Public Utility Code. The Commission will implement the Act in phases. The first phase will deal with the Commission’s obligation to adopt an energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) program by Jan. 15, 2009. Subsequent phases of the Commission’s Act 129 implementation process will address EDC and default service provider responsibilities; conservation service providers; smart meter technology; time-of-use rates; real-time pricing plans;

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default service procurement; market misconduct; alternative energy sources; and cost recovery.

- [PA Act 213](#) – Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS): On November 30, 2004, Governor Edward Rendell signed Act 213 into law. Generally, Act 213 requires that electric distribution companies and electric generation suppliers include a specific percentage of electricity from alternative resources in the generation that they sell to Pennsylvania customers. The level of alternative energy required gradually increases according to a fifteen year schedule found in Act 213. While Act 213, does not mandate exactly which resources must be utilized and in what quantities, certain minimum thresholds must be met for the use of Tier I, Tier II, and solar photo voltaic resources.

Municipal (Pittsburgh):

- [Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan](#):
 - 20% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2023 from 2003 inventory

2.2 Climate Related Funding

Funding:

This is not a comprehensive list of the funding opportunities for businesses, but it's a start. Please note that many businesses do not even try for grants because they are overwhelmed with the long, tedious process, however many of the site highlight have changed their application processes to make the grants more accessible.

Federal:

- Department of Health and Human Services, [Grants.gov](#) is the one place to find all available federal grant opportunities. All opportunities posted will include specific application instructions, including as appropriate, instructions for submitting applications outside of Grants.gov.
 - Some examples:
 - [Department of Labor Recovery Act Competitive Grant Opportunities](#) (Employment and Training Administration)
 - [Recovery Act-Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction](#) (DOT/Federal Transit Administration)
 - [FDA SMALL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PROGRAM \(R13/U13\)](#) (Conferences/scientific meetings that are relevant to its scientific mission and to the public health)
 - [EDA Recovery Act Funding](#) (EDA provides financial assistance to distressed communities in both urban and rural regions.)

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- [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#) (ACEEE), This page serves as a comprehensive informational resource detailing energy efficiency measures included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), or the economic stimulus package
- U.S. Department of Energy
 - [The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's](#) (EERE's) primary funding vehicle for businesses, industries, universities and others is a grant. Most EERE grants are awarded on a competitive basis.
 - [Laboratory Subcontracts](#): The national laboratories that receive research funding from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) often have financial opportunities for industry and outside organizations. The most common of these, laboratory subcontracts, are very much like grants at the EERE level.
 - [Recovery Act](#): Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) from Industrial Sources and Innovative Concepts for Beneficial CO₂ Use
 - [Recovery Act](#): Geologic Sequestration Training and Research
 - [Recovery Act](#): Clean Coal Power Initiative - Round 3
 - [Recovery Act](#): Regional Sequestration Technology Training
 - US Government [Business Loans](#): You can get specific information, compare options, or take a short questionnaire to determine your eligibility for each program.

State:

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - The [DEP Grant and Loan Program](#) has dozens of grants and loans to assist individuals, groups and businesses with a host of environmental issues. This website is very user friendly, with short grant applications.
 - PA Energy Development Authority (PEDA) Grant (until May 29)
 - Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (coming June/July)
 - Examples for small business:
 - Pollution Prevention Assistance Account (PPAA_ Loan Program
 - [PA Sunshine](#) Small Business Solar PV Program
 - Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant (coming soon)
 - Small Business Advantage Grant (coming soon)

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- [Pennsylvania's Energy Independence](#): Pennsylvania is investing \$665.9 million to spur the development of alternative and renewable energy sources and help families and small business conserve energy and use it more efficiently.

The \$650 million Alternative Energy Investment Fund and the nearly \$16 million Alternative Fuels Investment Fund include \$237.5 million specifically targeted toward helping consumers conserve electricity and manage higher energy prices

[Click here](#) for the most up-to-date list of new energy conservation programs and alternative energy investment programs that will benefit the state's power consumers at work.

- [PA American Recovery and Reinvestment Money](#), The federal recovery plan provides local governments, [businesses](#), individuals, health care organizations and School Districts with much needed aid in the form of tax credits, grants and financing - all designed to create jobs and promote economic growth. In addition to federal relief, businesses can also increase their revenues by [applying for state government contracts](#).
- [Energy and Technology Funding Opportunities](#), search here for various state, federal, and private, funding programs, including opportunities established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. (PA DEP Technology Clearinghouse)

Local:

- Pittsburgh and the Southwestern PA Region
 - [Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh](#) (URA), The Business Development Center (BDC) offers a variety of financing products for commercial real estate development and small and medium size business development. These are gap financing products and work in conjunction with private equity and private debt to help businesses close the financing for their business growth and expansion.
 - [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#), There are many opportunities available to fund environmental or energy related projects that will improve the bottom line for your business. Let EMAP help you see if any grant, loan, or other incentive programs exist that meet your funding needs.
 - This useful site also contains links for other funding opportunities, such as:

- [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority Financial Assistance](#)
- [PA DEP Small Business Advantage Grant](#)
- [PA DEP Grants and Loans Resource Center](#)
- [U.S. EPA Pollution Prevention Grants](#)
- [U.S. Department Of Energy Grants Homepage](#)
- [USDA Rural Assistance Energy Grants](#)
- [Internal Revenue Service Small Business Tax Information](#)

2.3 BCC Climate related articles as of 6.11.09

- **China Outpaces U.S. in Cleaner Coal-Fired Plants**, TIANJIN, China — China's frenetic construction of coal-fired power plants has raised worries around the world about the effect on climate change. China now uses more coal than the United States, Europe and Japan combined, making it the world's largest emitter of gases that are warming the planet. But largely missing in the hand-wringing is this: China has emerged in the past two years as the world's leading builder of more efficient, less polluting coal power plants, mastering the technology and driving down the cost. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Democrats to Relax House Emissions Bill**, House Democrats said last night that they would scale back some of the most aggressive provisions of a bill to cut greenhouse gas emissions, a compromise designed to win the votes of fellow Democrats whose states rely on coal or heavy industry. Such a deal would give a crucial boost to a measure that is a key priority for both President Obama and Democrats on Capitol Hill. It had run aground amid concerns that it would cost too much, or weigh too heavily on states in the Midwest and West. [Click here for more information.](#)
 - **Statement: House Committee Passes Landmark Climate & Energy Bill**, Today the House Energy and Commerce Committee achieved something extraordinary – passage of a bill that sets us on a path to tackle climate change, drive our economic recovery, and advance our energy independence. Congressmen Waxman, Markey, Dingell and Boucher, and their colleagues on the committee have drawn from more than two years of intensive work to produce this landmark legislation. The bill will provide the certainty businesses need to invest in a clean energy future and provide protection for consumers. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **'Earth 2100': Note from the Producer**, The scenarios in Earth 2100 are not a prediction of what will happen but rather a warning about what might happen.

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They are based on the work of some of the world's top scientists and experts, as well as peer-reviewed articles from publications around the world. These notes are just a glimpse of the wide and diverse sources used to develop this program.

[Click here for more information.](#)

- **EPA Budget Aims to Create Jobs, Protect Human Health and the Environment**, (Washington D.C. – May 7, 2009) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson released EPA's fiscal year 2010 budget blueprint, which takes significant strides to ensure that our air, land, and water are safe and clean. Expanding on the investments of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this \$10.5 billion budget allows EPA to provide real solutions to our economic crisis. It significantly improves accountability and transparency, ensuring fiscal responsibility at a time when every dollar counts. "EPA's new budget reflects the President's commitment to growing a clean energy economy while protecting human health and the environment," said Administrator Jackson. "These investments demonstrate that it is possible to work towards both a green economy and a green environment by positioning EPA to lead the way in green jobs, in innovation and technology, and in action on global climate change." [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Everything you always wanted to know about the Waxman-Markey energy/climate bill—in bullet points**, You keep hearing about the Waxman-Markey climate and energy bill—aka the American Clean Energy and Security Act, ACES, H.R. 2454—but what's actually in it? We combed through the 946-page beast so you don't have to. Here are the highlights of the bill, which is sponsored by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and was passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 21. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Four of Five Cities Call Sustainability a 'Top Priority'**, [Living cities](#) has released its Green Cities report that provides an assessment of how cities in the United States are trying to limit their carbon footprint, and identifies areas where environmental efforts lag. The report shows that cities have not waited for federal or state governments to initiate green policies that help combat climate change. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **In Ecuador, an Unusual Carbon-Credit Plan to Leave Oil Untapped**, QUITO, Ecuador -- Beneath the tropical jungles of northeastern Ecuador lies a vast pool of oil, representing one-fifth of the small Andean country's petroleum reserves and potentially billions of dollars in revenue. Directly above that pool, the Yasuni National Park is home to a diversity of wildlife that is among the richest on the planet, Ecuadorians and U.S. biologists say. Faced with these two treasures, Ecuador is pursuing an unusual plan to reap the oil profits without actually drilling for oil. [Click here for more information.](#)

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- **In the Future, the City's Streets Are to Behave**, Imagine narrow European-style roadways shared by pedestrians, cyclists and cars, all traveling at low speeds. Sidewalks made of recycled rubber in different colors under sleek energy-efficient lamps. Mini-islands jutting into the street, topped by trees and landscaping, designed to further slow traffic and add a dash of green. This is what New York City streets could look like, according to the Bloomberg administration, which has issued the city's first street design manual in an effort to make over the utilitarian 1970s-style streetscape that dominates the city. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Miller Center of Public Affairs -- National Discussion and Debate Series: Energy (VIDEO)**, The dual shocks of record-high energy prices and global recession have produced fertile ground for policymakers to radically reform America's energy policy. While many have called for increasing production of domestic oil and coal supplies, others have seen this as a unique opportunity to move beyond an energy policy dominated by fossil fuels. [Click here for more information.](#)
 - **Expenses and Effects the Focus of Miller Center Debate on America's Energy Future**, May 14, 2009 – America must move away from its dependency on carbon-based fuels – our national security and economic and environmental stability depend on it. So argued John Podesta, former chief of staff in the Clinton White House, and James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, at a debate co-sponsored by the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **NYC Can't Afford Not to "Go Green"**, Mayor Mike Bloomberg and Council Speaker Chris Quinn announced plans to introduce legislation that will require owners of 22,000 office and apartment buildings around the five boroughs to invest in building improvements that will reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions. The announcement, which came on Earth Day, seems like a winning proposition in a city where 80 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming and air pollution emanate from buildings and their tenants. Coming on top of tax increases and a lousy economy, the threat of a new mandate has raised some concerns in the business community. Can we afford the cost of "greening" so many buildings in the current economic climate? The answer turns out to be a resounding yes! In fact, widespread compliance with green building laws will end up saving money for businesses and helping to launch New York's economic recovery. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Obama Sets New Auto Emissions and Mileage Rules**, [President Obama](#) announced tough new nationwide rules for automobile emissions and mileage standards on Tuesday, embracing standards that California has sought to enact for years over the objections of the auto industry and the Bush administration. "For the first time in history, we have set in motion a national policy aimed at both

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increasing gas mileage and decreasing greenhouse gas pollution for all new trucks and cars sold in the United States of America,” Mr. Obama said in remarks from Washington, flanked by officials from Michigan and California. [Click here for more information.](#)

- **Vehicle Emission Rules to Tighten**, The Obama administration today plans to propose tough standards for tailpipe emissions from new automobiles, establishing the first nationwide regulation for greenhouse gases. It will also raise fuel efficiency targets to 35.5 miles per gallon for new passenger vehicles and light trucks by 2016, four years earlier than required under the 2007 energy bill, sources close to the administration said. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Pittsburgh will host next G20 Summit**, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs just announced that the next G-20 summit will be Sept. 24 and 25 in Pittsburgh. The economic problems of the Steel City and western Pennsylvania make it "a good place to highlight" the challenges of the global recession, Gibbs said. He added that world leaders will already be in the USA for the United Nations General Assembly. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Selling The Green Economy**, Few things are more appealing in politics than something for nothing. As Congress begins considering anti-global-warming legislation, environmentalists hold out precisely that tantalizing prospect: We can conquer global warming at virtually no cost. Here's a typical claim, from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF): "For about a dime a day [per person], we can solve climate change, invest in a clean energy future, and save billions in imported oil." This sounds too good to be true, because it is. About four-fifths of the world's and America's energy comes from fossil fuels -- oil, coal, natural gas - - which are also the largest source of man-made carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas. The goal is to eliminate fossil fuels or suppress their CO₂. The bill now being considered in the House would mandate a 42 percent decline in greenhouse emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels and an 83 percent drop by 2050. [Click here for more information.](#)
 - **The Cost of Climate Inaction**, Robert J. Samuelson's April 27 op-ed, "Selling the Green Economy," was way off the mark on the economics of tackling climate change. It was a call to bury our collective heads in the sand simply because the future involves uncertainty -- exactly the opposite of what we need to do. Samuelson argued that the cost of moving to a clean-energy economy is higher than advocates expect and that transition can't happen nearly fast enough to meet the ambitious goals proposed in the climate and energy bill sponsored by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.). [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Smart Energy Meters In Every UK Home By 2020: UK Government Reveals Ambitious Smart Meter Plans**, The European Union has already made moves to

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mandate smart meters, but now the Guardian tells us that the UK Government has revealed that it will be ensuring that every UK home is fitted with a smart meter by the year 2020. So what's the big deal? Click here for more information. [Click here for more information.](#)

- **Southern Company to Demonstrate Technology to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Electric Generating Plant, ATLANTA, May 21** -- Southern Company today announced plans to demonstrate carbon capture and sequestration on a coal-fired power generation plant to support the development of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [Click here for more information.](#)

- **U.S. Corporations Size Up Their Carbon Footprints**, Like many companies, Coca-Cola wants to cut its carbon footprint. The soft-drink maker has pledged to eliminate 2 million tons of CO2 emissions from its manufacturing operations by 2015. To do that, Coca-Cola has become adept at using spreadsheets and databases to measure how much carbon it produces and energy it consumes. It's even able to track less tangible causes, such as greenhouse gases emitted by vending machines. But when it comes to tracking and managing the projects that will help it reduce carbon emissions and make better use of resources, Coca-Cola is having a harder time. [Click here for more information.](#)

3. Meeting Schedule for 2009:

- √ March 19
- √ April 30
- √ June 11
- July 23
- Sept. 3
- Oct. 15
- Nov. 19