



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tucson One of 10 Communities Selected to Host Local Climate Conversations on Earth Day 2009 “Spotlight Conversation” Will Highlight Tucson Locally and Nationally

Tucson has been selected as one of 10 communities to host a major event on Earth Day 2009 as part of the National Conversation on Climate Action, a series of potentially hundreds of local-level community engagement events taking place nationwide on April 22, 2009.

Tucson will host a “Spotlight Conversation” as part of an elite group that will be highlighted nationally and receive extensive support in event planning and promotion. ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and *AmericaSpeaks* are partners in organizing this national event.

Besides Tucson, the communities selected to host Spotlight Conversation events: are Boise, Idaho; Hennepin County, Minnesota; Houston, Texas; Jackson, Wyoming; Lexington, Kentucky; Los Angeles County, California; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Sarasota County, Florida; and Sumter, South Carolina.

The Tucson event will be hosted in partnership by the City of Tucson, Pima County, and the University of Arizona, reaching a broad range of community members and drawing on the knowledge of local climate change experts. Tucson will work closely with the event partners in the coming months to plan and promote events that focus on civic engagement, solutions-oriented dialogue, and local climate action.

“We look forward to supporting Tucson’s Spotlight Conversation event on Earth Day,” said Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA. “This will be an opportunity for Tucson to advance their local climate protection goals and feed into a crucial national dialogue on the imperative of local climate action.”

The 2009 National Conversation will build off the successful 2007 event and the burgeoning demand from local governments for support with community outreach and engagement on climate concerns. Hundreds of communities will be invited to join the Spotlight Conversation communities to engage in substantive, solutions-oriented dialogues about climate action opportunities at the local level. More information can be found at www.climateconversation.org

If you would like more information about the City's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development, please visit www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd