

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: March 31, 2009
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Page: 1 of 1

TUCSON JOINS COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE TO DISCUSS CLIMATE, ENERGY, ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS ON EARTH DAY

Tucson will host a "Spotlight Conversation on Climate Action" as part of an elite group of 10 communities that were selected by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability to be highlighted nationally. This event is part of the National Conversation on Climate Action (www.climateconversation.org), a series of local-level community engagement events taking place nationwide on April 22, 2009. Registration is now open for the Spotlight Conversation at www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd/climateaction.

The Tucson event is hosted in partnership by the City of Tucson, Pima County, and The University of Arizona. The organizers' goals are to educate the community about the challenges of climate change in southern Arizona, and to discuss the community's values, perceptions, and priorities regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

"At a time when headlines are dominated by reports of the struggling economy, job losses, energy concerns and climate change, there is a critical need for communities to take comprehensive action to cut energy use and emissions and to rebuild local economies," said Leslie Liberti, Director of the City's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development.

In the coming months, the City will be working with a recently-appointed Climate Change Citizens' Advisory Committee to develop a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. The input received from the community at the Conversation on Climate Action will contribute to the development of this plan as well as to the City's General Plan update. Community recommendations that grow out of the event will also help inform the County's Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Tucson Community Conversation on Climate Action will feature presentations from local experts followed by Climate Change discussion groups focusing on Human Health and Food Security, Drought Preparedness, Affordable Housing, Mobility, Jobs and Economy.

The Tucson Community Conversation on Climate Action is part of a full day of events taking place at The University of Arizona to celebrate Earth Day. Registration and a full calendar of events are available at www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd/climateaction.php

If you require materials in accessible format or in a language other than English, call Nicole Urban-Lopez, City of Tucson, at 837-6934.

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