

High-Carbon Fuels Resolution - U.S. Conference of Mayors- 76th Meeting

Sponsored by Mayor Kitty Piercy of Eugene, OR
Co-Sponsored by Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco, CA
Mayor Franklin Cownie of Des Moines, IA
and Mayor Marty Blum of Santa Barbara, CA

Whereas, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities, and the Federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and,

Whereas, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has declared that climate change could have severe economic and environmental impacts on U.S. cities in the coming decades; and,

Whereas, the production and burning of conventional fuel such as gasoline, and diesel by motor vehicles, contributes to air pollution, and increased carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change; and,

Whereas, the health of the planet, including its oceans, wildlands, rivers, air, and climate, faces increasing threats from our continued dependence on fossil fuels; and,

Whereas, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong resolutions to encourage clean, renewable energy sources and discourage our dependence on fossil fuels; and,

Whereas, the production of fuels derived from unconventional sources, such as tar sands, liquid coal, and oil shale, emits even greater amounts of global warming pollution than conventional petroleum sources; and,

Whereas, the production of tar sands oil from Canada emits approximately three times the carbon dioxide pollution per barrel as does conventional oil production and significantly damages Canada's Boreal forest ecosystem--the world's largest carbon storehouse; and,

Whereas, the continued production and purchase of these higher-carbon unconventional or synthetic fuels slows the United States' transition to clean, renewable energy sources;

Now, therefore be it resolved, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports federal legislation that prohibits government use of unconventional or synthetic fuels, such as tar sands, liquid coal, and oil shale, with lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions greater than fuel produced from conventional oil sources; and

Be it further resolved, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the use of lifecycle analyses that evaluate the greenhouse gas emissions from the production—including extraction, refining, and transportation—of fuels, including unconventional and synthetic fuels.

Be it further resolved, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the origin of various types of fuel in order to facilitate life cycle analysis.

Be it further resolved, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to track and reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from their municipal vehicles by preventing or discontinuing the purchase of higher-carbon unconventional or synthetic fuels for these vehicles.