



**Alaska Municipal League**  
Local Government At Its Best!

# Developing Local Climate Protection Policies

Presentation to the Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission  
October 10, 2007

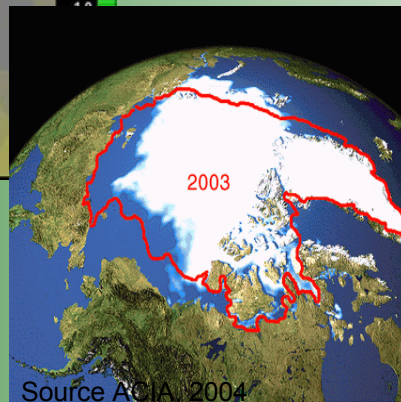
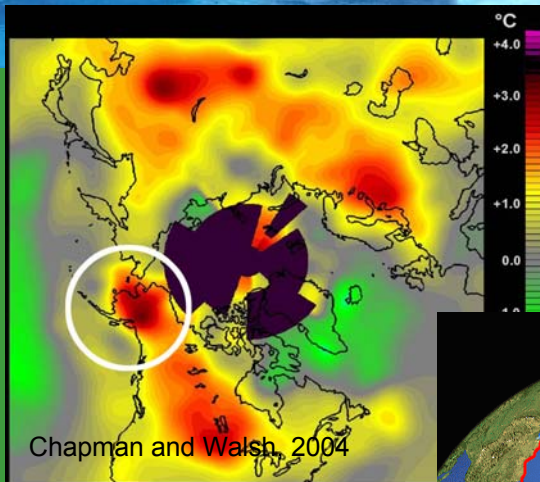
- Mayor Mark Begich
- Mayor Bruce Botelho
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Member Luke Hopkins

**AML Climate Change Working Group charge:**

To facilitate information exchange among municipal officials, on local and regional actions to reduce greenhouse emissions, increase energy efficiency, promote renewable and alternative energy uses and address local impacts of climate change in Alaska



# Headline Impacts



- Rising temperatures
- Threatened polar bears
- Shrinking polar ice Cap
- Threatened coastal communities

# Local Impacts, Local Costs



- Public health costs
- Economic sectors impacted
- Infrastructure damage
- Wildfire risk
- Traditional activities endangered

# Cities Are Taking Action



**U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement**  
– Est. in 2006 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and managed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to get city leaders to reduce emissions by those of the Kyoto Protocol – 7% below 1990 levels by 2012



**Cities for Climate Protection Campaign** – Est. in 1993 to provide a policy framework and technical assistance for cities to implement comprehensive energy and climate policy to reduce emissions.

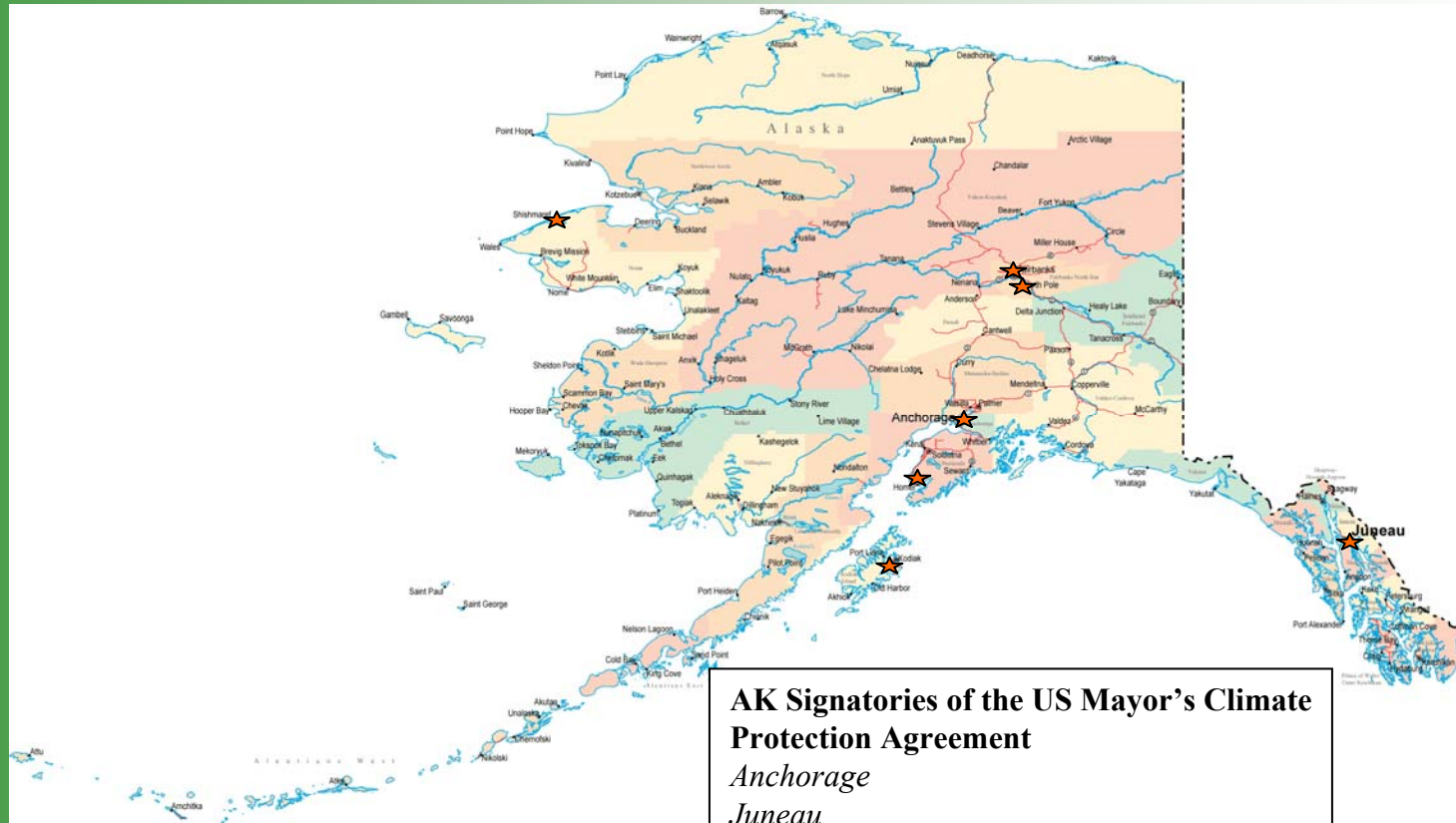
# Cities Are Taking Action



## Climate Resilient Communities Campaign

– A new ICLEI grant program, est. in 2004, to provide a policy framework and technical assistance for communities to develop a comprehensive local plan that adapts to and mitigates climate impacts through local energy plans and climate policies to reduce emissions.

# Alaska Communities Taking Action



**AK Signatories of the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement**  
*Anchorage*  
*Juneau*  
*North Pole*  
*Shishmaref*  
*Homer*

**Passed Local Resolutions**  
*Fairbanks North Star Borough*  
*Kodiak*

# Adaptation: Climate Resilient Communities

- Link local governments to available climate change science
- Create climate change preparedness teams
- Assess community vulnerability/risk assessment
- Need to address:
  - Built Environment
  - Natural Environment
  - Social, Cultural and Economic Environment
- Identify opportunities for increasing resiliency

# Alaska Communities Take Adaptation Steps

## Fairbanks

- Passed resolution to develop climate impacts plan
- Partnering with NOAA RISA program at UAF
- Utilizing UA - IPY funded SNAP resources

## Juneau

- Created Climate Impact Assessment Panel

## Anchorage

- Developed Salmon in the City program
- Using FireWise program to reduce wildfire risk
- Hosted national mayor's summit on risks, adaptation and mitigation

## Coastal Communities

- Relocation plans developed
- Looking to new technologies



# What Other Communities Are Doing

## King County, WA

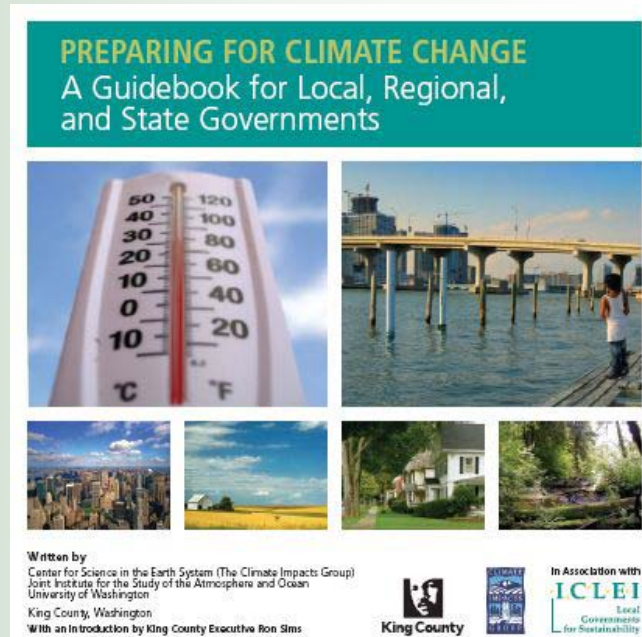
-Produced the Climate Adaptation Guide  
[www.iclei.org/us](http://www.iclei.org/us) with ICLEI & UW Climate Impacts Group

## Fort Collins, CO

- integrating issues such as increased drought, water supply threats & forest fire risk into emergency planning

## Miami-Dade County, FL

- Set up task force to review capital & financial planning and assess infrastructure vulnerability such as drinking water sources



# Recommendations to the Commission & Legislature



Shishmaref

photos courtesy of the Nome Nugget

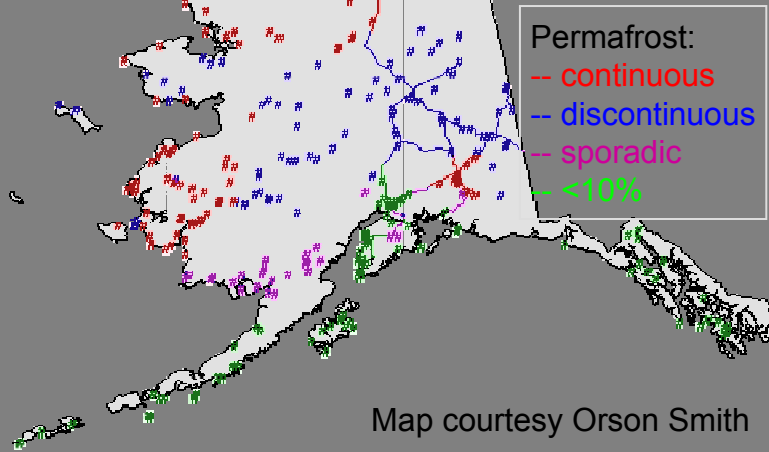
- Funding for University of Alaska to help communities assess impacts and develop adaptation plans
- Build on the ISER study
- Research and technology development funding
- Fund to help communities implement adaptation strategies



Cold Climate Housing Research mobile lab

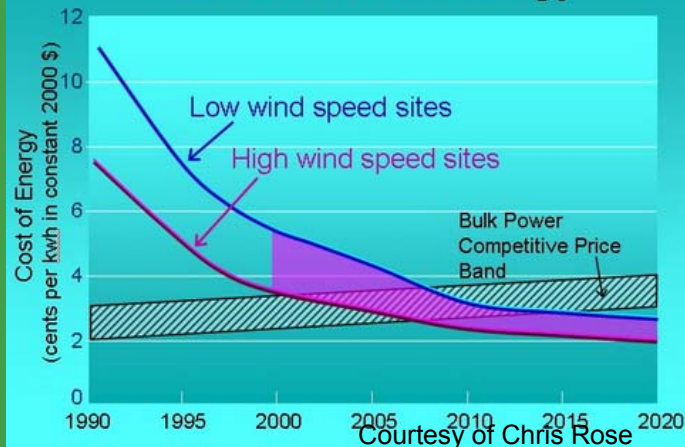
# Adaptation Action is Needed But is Not Enough

## Alaska Highways and Communities Susceptible to Permafrost Melting



- Steps to reduce climate emissions will save money in the long run
- Need to make investment to spark the next energy boom - renewables
- Alaska cannot afford to be left behind

## Wind Cost of Energy



# Alaska Communities are Reducing Their Carbon Footprint



- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable buildings
- Renewable energy
- LED street lighting
- Building retrofits

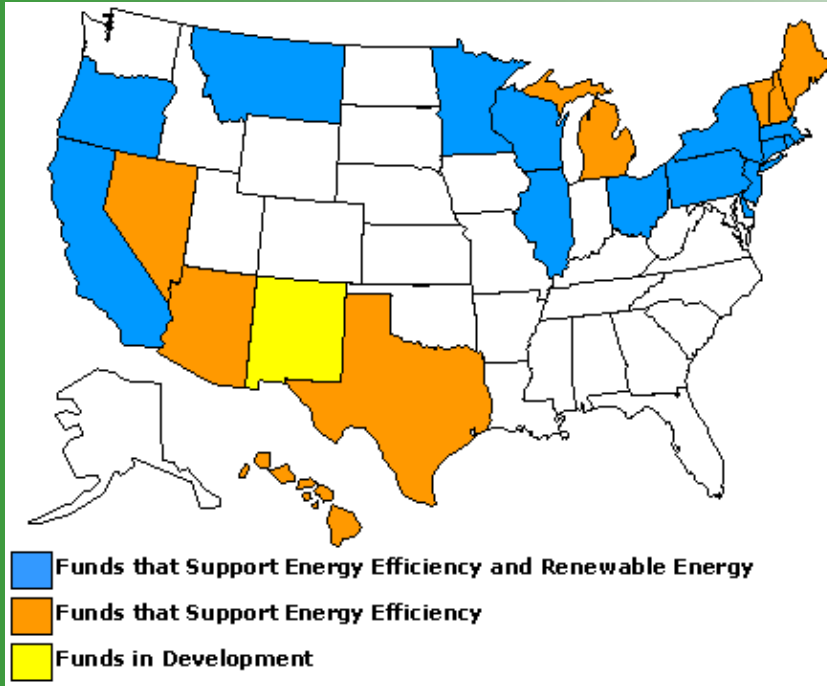


# Alaska Commission & Legislature Should Help Communities Take Adaptation and Mitigation Actions



- Need mitigation fund to help communities develop renewable energy sources and adopt energy efficient practices
- Can leverage federal funds through pending Energy Block Grant program and Sen. Bingaman climate bill

# States Are Also Taking the Lead



- Renewable energy funds
- Emission reduction targets
- Utility programs

## Western State Emission Targets:

CA – 80% below current levels by 2050

NM – 75% below 2000 levels by 2050

AZ – 50% below 2000 levels by 2040

WA – 1990 levels by 2020

OR – 10% below 1990 levels by 2020

# Thank You

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