

GREENHOUSE GASES TARGETED BY STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

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Washington, DC – State and local governmental officials today unveiled an innovative tool to foster clean air decisions that will reduce not only air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act, but greenhouse gases (GHGs), as well.

Developed by the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA), the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the “Clean Air and Climate Protection Software” (CACPS) will significantly expand the capabilities of states and localities to analyze the benefits of various air pollution control scenarios and select and implement those that not only address traditional air pollutants, such as ozone precursors like nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides and particulate matter, but also GHGs, which cause global warming.

“As the national debate over climate change continues, states and localities are taking matters into their own hands. This unique decision-making tool will open a multitude of doors for those interested in incorporating GHG reductions into their clean air plans,” said S. William Becker, Executive Director of STAPPA/ALAPCO. “At the same time, it will allow areas pursuing GHG reduction strategies to determine the impact of these specific strategies on efforts to reduce regulated air pollutants,” he continued.

“One beauty of this tool is that it can be used for a wide range of analyses, from a single measure – like encouraging a 10-percent switch from cars to public transit – to a full-fledged action plan,” added Nancy Skinner, Director of ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. “CACPS can estimate not only anticipated reductions, but also cost savings and the expected payback period,” she noted.

“This new software tool will be an invaluable resource for states and localities interested in taking action to tackle climate change. By enabling us to analyze the impacts of various control measures and plans, we will be able to make decisions that harmonize our goals of achieving clean air and mitigating climate change,” commented STAPPA President Lloyd Eagan of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

STAPPA, ALAPCO and ICLEI will conduct CACPS training sessions for state and local air pollution control officials across the country over the next several months.

STAPPA and ALAPCO are the two national associations of air pollution control agencies in 54 states and territories and more than 165 metropolitan areas across the country. For further information, go to www.cleanairworld.org/scripts/stappa.asp. ICLEI is an international association of local governments – including over 450 cities, towns, counties and their associations around the world – implementing sustainable development. For further information, go to www.iclei.org.

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