



STATE OF WISCONSIN

BARBARA LAWTON
LT. GOVERNOR

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Lt. Governor Lawton and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to Convene Historic Climate Change Summit

Regional Leadership Teams to Gather in Stevens Point, Strategize Response to Global Challenge

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton today announced that, as part of her *Green Economy Agenda*, she will call on municipal leaders across the state to assemble regional teams that will gather in Stevens Point this December to create a framework for regional and local response to global climate change.

Lt. Governor Lawton will host the summit along with the [University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point](#), partnering with [the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities](#), the [Wisconsin League of Municipalities](#), [1000 Friends of Wisconsin](#), and the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#).

"In Wisconsin, we don't wait for change, we author change," said Lawton. "This summit is designed to give local leaders the tools they need to address energy independence and climate change together. With this unprecedented gathering, we will develop a powerful statewide solutions network."

The summit's unique form places a region's lead elected officials –mayors, village presidents, etc.—at the center of carefully composed teams representing leaders from private industry, economic development, all levels of government, education, media and environmental organizations. Teams will learn together from national, regional and local experts and gather tools to build smart strategies to address challenges of energy conservation, reducing carbon emissions and adapting to regional climate changes predicted or already upon us. Lawton noted that she expects to see an eco-vision for Wisconsin emerge from the day's proceedings.

Attendees will hear from nationally recognized experts, including Terry Tamminen, former senior advisor on environmental issues to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and author of [Lives Per Gallon: The True Cost of Our Oil Addiction](#), as well as Doug Scott, Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and former mayor of Rockford. They will also be invited to tour green buildings and sustainable businesses in the Stevens Point area.

Breakout sessions will address:

- Understanding Impacts of Climate Change in Wisconsin
- Dealing with Risk, Uncertainty and Local Capacity for Change
- Options for Changes in Community Energy Usage
- Options for Changes in Community Transportation Management
- Options for Changes in Community Waste Management
- Options for Changes in Community Purchasing
- Options for Changes in Planning and Infrastructure
- Creating Local Food Markets
- The Role of Biofuels in our Local Community
- Vulnerabilities of Local Economies and Opportunities for Local Businesses

“I’m thrilled that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will host the *Climate Change Summit: Wisconsin Communities Take Action* on December 12, 2008,” said UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Linda Bunnell. “UWSP is dedicated to maintaining a sustainable campus and community as part of our strategic vision for the University. I believe our campus will be a perfect fit for this historic summit.”

The conference itself will have a “Green” design. Proceeds from the \$60 per person pre-registration fee will fund carbon offsets through long-term on-campus environmental projects. Energy, food, materials and waste will be handled in a sustainable manner.

“This summit puts those responsible for implementing strategies to adapt to a carbon-constrained economy –our local leaders— in the lead,” Lawton said. “With them at the helm, Wisconsin can recast the challenges of energy independence and global climate change as an opportunity to create jobs and strengthen our competitive position.”

More information and registration option are available online at <http://www.WiClimateChangeSummit.com>