

Fifth EPA State & Local Climate Change Partners Conference
Remarks by U.S. EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman
via Video
November 20, 2002
Annapolis, Maryland

Welcome to the EPA State and Local Climate Change Partners Conference. I'm sorry that I can not be with you in person today, but I'm pleased to recognize and thank you for all the hard work and progress you have made in addressing climate change.

In February, the President set forth a new comprehensive climate change strategy for the U.S., including the goal of reducing our greenhouse gas intensity by 18% in the next ten years. Through your leadership, creative policies, and innovative actions, we are already making significant strides towards reaching this goal.

Since EPA's State and Local Climate Change Partners Program began, we have seen impressive progress – 40 states have inventoried their greenhouse gas emissions, 27 states have developed action plans to help curb rising greenhouse gas emissions, and 10 states have voluntary greenhouse gas emission registries in place or under consideration. In addition, 130 cities have joined the Cities for Climate Protection campaign.

All around the country, EPA's State and Local Climate Change Partners Program has shown that by working together, we can improve our understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and achieve cost-effective reductions of those emissions.

Though, we have indeed made much progress, there is still more to do. EPA recognizes the importance of state and local policy innovation in achieving our goals, and we will continue to work with you and support your climate change efforts.

Thank you for your leadership in our shared pursuit of providing a healthier climate for this and future generations.