

MIKE BLOOMBERG NAMES INDIANAPOLIS WINNER IN BLOOMBERG AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Indianapolis is one of 20 cities total to be awarded with resources and technical support to help achieve their ambitious climate goals under Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge

INDIANAPOLIS – October 29, 2018 - Today, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced Indianapolis as a winning city in the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge. The Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge is a \$70 million dollar program that will accelerate 20 ambitious cities' efforts to tackle climate change and promote a sustainable future for residents. Through the Climate Challenge – which is part of Bloomberg's American Cities Initiative, a suite of more than \$200 million in investments to strengthen city halls and advance critical policies – Indianapolis is accepted into a two-year acceleration program and will be provided powerful new resources and access to cutting-edge support to help meet or beat the city's near-term carbon reduction goals.

Bloomberg Philanthropies selected Indianapolis as a winning city because of its innovative and ambitious climate action plans to reduce air pollution and city-wide emissions with specific projects aimed at reforming its respective transit and buildings sectors, areas which are typically responsible for 80% total of all citywide emissions and over which mayors have significant authority. Bloomberg Philanthropies also recognizes Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and the city's Office of Sustainability for their commitment to ambitious climate action and securing a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment and economy for their residents.

"Cities are helping to keep America moving forward on climate change despite the lack of leadership from Washington, and this challenge was designed to help innovative mayors reach their goals," said **Mike Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action**. "We were looking for cities with ambitious and realistic plans to cut emissions in ways that improve people's lives, and mayors committed to getting the job done. Each of these winning cities brings those ingredients to the table - and we're looking forward to working with them and seeing what they can accomplish."

"Advancing the efficiency and connectivity of our community will drive the continued success of our neighborhoods and strengthen our local economy. When we invest in the sustainability of Indianapolis, we are not only thinking about our impact on the environment, we are supporting the well-being of our residents and enhancing the vibrancy of our city," **Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett** said. "Thanks to the support of the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge, we will continue to position Indianapolis as a leader in sustainability and innovation, now and for the future."

"The Paris climate agreement is a promise we made to our children—and we're going to keep it," said **Rhea Suh, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council**. "The American Cities Climate Challenge gives cities the tools they need to lead the way. With cities generating the majority of the fossil fuel pollution driving climate change, and bearing the brunt of its impacts, fighting climate change begins in City Hall. These mayors are committed to delivering a brighter, more hopeful tomorrow for future generations."

Indianapolis plans to use this support to implement several of the City's climate goals around emissions reduction and energy consumption, which have been identified by the public during this year's Thrive Indianapolis planning process. Bloomberg Philanthropies will work with the City to achieve the following actions by 2020:

- Accelerate energy efficiency in large buildings with the City of Indianapolis leading the way;
- Provide new programs to incentivize public transportation, and expand pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a part of a transit-oriented development strategy; and
- Pilot the City's first energy resource center to make available information about energy efficiency incentives and rebates; public health and safety resources; and emergency preparedness and resilience toolkits.

As Climate Challenge winners, the 20 selected cities will be accepted into a two-year acceleration program with powerful new resources and access to cutting-edge support, led by experts at the Natural Resources Defense Council, Delivery Associates and others, to help them meet – or beat – their near-term carbon reduction goals, from creating high-impact policies to putting them into action. These resources include a philanthropy-funded team member to facilitate the development and passage of high-impact policies, training for senior leadership to assist with implementation of their proposed climate plans, and citizen engagement support to maximize community buy-in.

Building on the [America's Pledge](#) initiative, which aims to keep the U.S. in the Paris Agreement, the Climate Challenge underscores Bloomberg's dedication to action as this investment will translate city commitments into tangible climate achievements. Bloomberg will announce the remaining winners of the Climate Challenge on a rolling basis throughout the fall, highlighting the ongoing, ambitious, and impactful actions cities are taking every day to address the growing threat of climate change.

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About Indianapolis and the Office of Sustainability

Home to top universities, world-class cultural attractions, premier sporting events, and the friendliest of neighbors, the Circle City has been recognized in recent years as a leader in low homeownership costs, downtown livability, job growth, and excellence in education. The Indianapolis Office of Sustainability works to inspire environmental, economic and neighborhood vitality through collaboration, education and community action. Under Mayor Joe Hogsett's leadership, Thrive Indianapolis, the first actionable plan of its kind in our city's history, has brought together City agencies, community partners, and residents to chart a course for an Indianapolis that is equitable, healthier, and prepared for the challenges of the 21st century – and then, together, building a more resilient future.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in 480 cities in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his

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foundation and his personal giving. In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$702 million. For more information, please visit www.bloomberg.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), and [Twitter](#).

About the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge

Recognizing that cities account for more than 70% of global carbon emissions, the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge was formed with an investment of \$70 million to enhance the work already being done by mayors across the U.S. and to support cities in the fight against climate change. The Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge aims to go beyond the theoretical and scale up high-impact urban climate solutions that are already proven to succeed - specifically, from the buildings and transportation sectors. World-class partners for the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge will be led by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Delivery Associates. The Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge is part of Mike Bloomberg's American Cities Initiative, a suite of more than \$200 million in investments to strengthen city halls and advance critical policies.