

PRESS RELEASE



Mayor Cownie Attends United Nations Meetings on Climate Change, Join the Local Conversation RSVP by Tuesday at 5PM

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT:

Shekinah Young
Public Information Office
(515) 283-4057

DES MOINES, IOWA – Monday, September 11, 2017 – Last week, Mayor Frank Cownie attended a High Level Meeting at the United Nations in New York as a member of the United States Conference of Mayors and led a delegation of nearly 50 local and regional leaders and representatives of the networks of the Global Task Force convened by the President of the UN General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat. The meeting discussed the [report](#) of the Independent Panel to Assess, Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the Adoption of the New Urban Agenda and next steps to ensure the achievement of the agenda over the coming decades.

“Our biggest asset is the inspiration, vision and capacity that stem from the principles of Agenda 21 for sustainability that were adopted in Rio in 1992, which rolled out in thousands of communities worldwide since then - including my city Des Moines, in Iowa,” said Mayor Frank Cownie. “Let’s be clear - time for negotiation of sustainability is already over. We don’t have to invent the wheel again – integrated, sustainable, urban and territorial development is the same wherever you live; decent and affordable services, low emissions economy, shared society, preserving our public goods and ensure preparedness to increasing disaster. Our challenge now is to expand this perspective to every village, town, city, county, metropol, region, or state of the world.”

He has been invited back to the United Nations Headquarters next week by the Secretary General to discuss how to advance the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

What can you do locally? [Join the Des Moines Sustainable Community Conversation.](#)

The City of Des Moines continues to enhance its efforts in sustainability. This Thursday, the City will be hosting a Sustainability Community Workshop with city officials and staff, community partners and members. Registration closes on Tuesday, September 12th. The goal of this workshop is to build collaboration around sustainability efforts in Des Moines and work towards a higher STAR Community Rating in 2018.

To learn more about this effort and register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainability-community-workshop-tickets-36370291521?aff=es2>

Des Moines has been focused on becoming a more sustainable community since 2006. In that time:

- City Council issued a directive all new City facilities must meet a minimum of LEED Standard. Seven LEED facilities have been constructed.

- Des Moines was certified as a 3-STAR Community in 2014. Council has set a goal to achieve a 5-STAR rating by 2020.
- Since STAR Certification, the City has incorporated planning efforts around energy and sustainability through Guide DSM and Plan DSM.
- Des Moines joined the City Energy Project in 2017. Now one of 20 cities across the US to develop a plan around measuring and reducing energy through benchmarking, challenge programs, and policy.
- Partnered with the Downtown Community Alliance to incorporate recycling into our downtown to enhance our waste minimization goals.
- Completed a tree inventory to help identify the health of our tree canopy, and locate areas to plant new trees. The City maintains more than 40,000 trees.
- Recipient of the Greening America's Capitals grant, providing technical assistance to help establish Des Moines' most sustainable streetscape along the 6th Avenue Corridor.

The City of Des Moines is honored to be invited to the United Nations as part of the ongoing discussions on Climate Change.

For more information contact the City of Des Moines Public Information Office at (515) 283-4057.

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