

# Media Release 234

JOINT PRESS RELEASE WITH LGIB

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## 100,000 LOCAL AUTHORITIES CALL FOR G8 ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Local authorities must be given the tools to change energy consumption patterns and promote awareness of how people can tackle climate change in their everyday lives, according to a global alliance of local authority representatives. The Local Government Association and Local Government International Bureau are leading the call from associations representing more than 100,000 local authorities from all over Europe, and every G8 member country.

'Eight messages for the G8 and EU' has been signed by the LGA, LGIB, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Energie-Cités, Climate Alliance and ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability and asks the G8 countries, presided over by the UK Government in 2005, to provide adequate resources and appropriate frameworks for local government all over the world to tackle the problems of climate change.

The document will be delivered to G8 Environment and Development Ministers, including Margaret Beckett, UK Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, at today's G8 Environment and Development Ministers Outreach meeting in Derbyshire. During today and tomorrow the LGA will participate in climate change discussions with environment ministers from the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, France, Italy, Germany and Russia calling on them to 'move from rhetoric to reality' in tackling climate change.

Cllr David Sparks, chairman of the LGA Environment Board said: 'The debate on climate change must not remain a talking shop. There are already fantastic examples from across the world\* where - despite barriers to local action - local councils are leading the way on climate change. We are urging national governments to provide the national frameworks and resources to enable action by all local authorities.'

***'During ongoing meetings with ministers across Whitehall departments the LGA has delivered a consistent message on the role local government has to play in delivering sustainability and tackling climate change. This has met with a positive response and we have welcomed the UK's sustainable development strategy as step in the right direction.*** Now is the time for action. Climate change is a massive threat but there are major opportunities to tackle it at a local level. Only by doing this will we achieve truly global benefits.'

ENDS

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LGIB MEDIA CONTACT: Graham Welch, LGIB press office, on 020 7664 3111.

Embargoed electronic copies of 'Eight messages for the G8 and EU: local government calls for a climate of change' are available from the LGA press office (020 7664 3333) and the LGIB press office (020 7664 3111).

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*\*'Eight messages for the G8 and EU: local government calls for a climate of change'* includes case studies from England, USA, and France.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Signatories:

**LGA [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)**

The Local Government Association represents the local authorities of England and Wales – a total of just under 500 authorities. These local authorities represent over 50 million people and spend around £78 billion per annum.

**LGIB [www.lgib.gov.uk](http://www.lgib.gov.uk)**

The Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) acts as the international arm of the Local Government Association (LGA) to promote local government interests in European legislation, funding and policy and in international developments, such as sustainability.

**Council of European Municipalities and Regions [www.ccre.org](http://www.ccre.org)**

The Council of European Municipalities is the largest organisation of local and regional government in Europe. Its [members](#) are national associations of towns, municipalities and regions from over 30 countries; together they represent some 100,000 local and regional authorities. Contact: Sylvian Chevassus +32 2 500 0535

**Energie-Cités [www.energie-cites.org](http://www.energie-cites.org)**

With over 110 members in 21 countries and representing close to 300 towns and cities, Energie-Cités is the association of European local authorities for promotion of local sustainable energy policies. Contact: Gérard Magnin +33 3 81 65 88

**ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)**

Founded in 1990, by local authorities at the United Nations headquarters as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI is an association of cities, towns, counties, metropolitan governments and local government associations. Contact: Gino Van Begin +49 761 368 920

**Climate Alliance <http://www.klimabuendnis.org>**

Climate Alliance was founded in 1990, and has members from almost 1000 European cities, municipalities and district authorities that have entered into a partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples. This worldwide alliance is united by a common concern for the world's climate. Our climate protection contributions build upon commitment and diversity at the local level. Contact: Gotelind Alber phone +49 69717139 0