



For more information, contact:  
Kate Hoagland  
Ash Institute  
617-495-4347  
[kate\\_hoagland@harvard.edu](mailto:kate_hoagland@harvard.edu)

Marty McOmber  
Office of the Mayor, City of Seattle  
206-684-8358  
[martin.mcomber@seattle.gov](mailto:martin.mcomber@seattle.gov)

## THE CITY OF SEATTLE HONORED AS INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD WINNER

### *Harvard University's Ash Institute Recognizes Efforts to Curb Global Warming*

**Cambridge, Mass., – September 25, 2007** – The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government today announced the city of Seattle as a 2007 Innovations in American Government Award winner. Selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants, Seattle was one of seven winners announced yesterday at the twentieth anniversary Innovations in American Government Awards reception in Washington, D.C. Recognized as an exemplary model of innovative government programming and for its groundbreaking work in halting the impact of global warming, the city of Seattle will receive a \$100,000 grant to share its best practices with jurisdictions nationwide.

According to the Union for Concerned Scientists, carbon dioxide emissions have reached levels that far exceed any other point in the last 420,000 years of the planet's history. Over the past decade, global temperatures have reached record highs. Spearheaded by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Seattle has successfully reduced government carbon dioxide emissions by 60 percent as compared to 1990 levels and fossil fuel consumption by 12 percent as compared to 1999 levels. These achievements are due to Seattle's launch of multiple programs that offer creative solutions to environmental challenges. Such programs include:

- **Seattle City Light Utility:** Seattle's municipally-owned electric utility company, reporting annual revenues of over one billion dollars, collaborated with the city to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through innovative alternative energy investment programs and new cruise ship docking procedures.

- **Clean & Green Fleet Program:** Seattle's Public Works department vehicles as well as regional buses and other vehicles now run on biodiesel fuels.
- **Smart Planning:** Seattle is at the forefront of creative urban planning programming that encourages energy efficiency and reduced dependence on motor vehicles.

"We are honored to be recognized as a 2007 Ash Institute Innovations in American Government recipient among the number of esteemed municipal government programs nominated," said Mayor Nickels. "We believe global warming is the biggest threat to our planet affecting each and every one of our citizens across the country. Higher atmospheric temperatures will ultimately damage Seattle's water and hydro-electric power supply and threaten our natural environment and the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. Thanks to the Ash Institute's support, Seattle will have an even greater opportunity to share our climate-friendly programs with citizens nationwide."

"We are pleased to welcome the city of Seattle to the Innovations in American Government hall of achievement, which celebrates successful federal, state and local government projects across the United States," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "Since its inception twenty years ago, the Innovations in American Government program has commemorated the creative ideas and solutions of organizations that drive reform in federal and state legislation. Seattle's leadership in involving cities in the battle against global warming serves as a shining example for cities and states around the country to also make the necessary steps to improve the health of our planet."

Established in 1986 at Harvard University by the Ford Foundation, the Innovations in American Government Award Program has honored 174 federal, state and local government agencies. Through this annual competition, the Program provides concrete evidence that government can work to improve the quality of life of citizens. Many award-winning programs have been replicated across jurisdictions and policy areas, and some have served as harbingers of today's reform strategies or as forerunners to state and federal legislation. By highlighting exemplary models of government's innovative programs over the past 20 years, the Program drives continued progress and encourages research and teaching cases at Harvard University and other academic institutions worldwide.

#### **About The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation**

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government

problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the institute. Additional information about The Ash Institute is available at [www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu](http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu). Organizations are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards by October 15, 2007 at [www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu](http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu).

###