

December 3, 2007

Dear

Climate change may be the greatest challenge of our time. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends that we reduce global carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 in order to stabilize the climate. In the absence of leadership at the federal level, cities and states all over the country are stepping up to meet the challenge by taking concrete actions to reduce their carbon emissions now.

With the price of oil nearing \$100 a barrel, and the voices of the scientific community becoming more urgent each day, we cannot afford anything less than bold action to slow global warming.

Now is the time to engage America's can-do spirit as never before. To inspire our capacity for innovation and caring for community, ECA is launching the **Community Carbon Trust**. The Community Carbon Trust will protect the environment and increase social justice by saving energy in low income homes right here in Philadelphia. The energy saved and emissions reduced will be verified by an independent evaluator and posted on the ECA website.

Through the Community Carbon Trust, ECA will provide additional energy conservation services in low income homes to protect the wellbeing of low income families, and at the same time reduce Philadelphia's greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, ECA provided over 68,744 energy services to 30,814 low income families. This work prevented the emission of 2,074 tons of carbon dioxide. We are ready and willing to do more - much more.

By contributing to the Community Carbon Trust, you will enable ECA to install additional energy saving measures in the low income homes we weatherize. The goal of the Community Carbon Trust is to raise enough revenue to undertake additional energy conservation projects in low income neighborhoods, working block by block to make these neighborhoods healthier and more affordable for their residents, and more sustainable for the city and the planet.

Each of us produces greenhouse gas emissions through our daily activities of heating and cooling our homes, driving, buying food and other products, etc. The amount of carbon we produce is called our **carbon footprint**. America's carbon footprint is larger than anyone else's in the world. The carbon footprint of the average American is 20 tons per year,¹ most of which comes from our use of gasoline, coal, oil, and electricity. Only 5% of the world's population, we produce a staggering 25% of the total global carbon emissions.²

The Community Carbon Trust will focus on reducing energy consumption and emissions in buildings because more than half of all greenhouse gas emissions in Philadelphia come from buildings.³ Fully 65% of all buildings in Philly are residences.⁴ Thus home energy conservation is a big part of the solution to climate change.

¹ Union of Concerned Scientists

² Department of Energy

³ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, City of Philadelphia, Health Department April 2007

⁴ City Planning Commission

⁵ C-SNAP in collaboration with Citizens Energy Corporation

Did you know that more and more people are losing their utility service? Last year in Philadelphia, there were more than 60,000 utility terminations for non-payment. Living in an unheated home compromises human health - particularly for children and the elderly. Families are often forced to choose between heating and eating, which increases the risk of malnutrition and long-term developmental issues.⁵ The use of unvented kerosene heaters, which too often cause deadly house fires, is widespread in Philadelphia.

Won't you join us in this effort to keep low income families in Philadelphia safe and secure in their homes? When you contribute to the Community Carbon Trust, 100% of your dollars go directly into conservation work which would not have happened without you. Every dollar you invest will help keep a low income family warmer in winter, a neighborhood more stable and will reduce carbon emissions, thus helping to stabilize the climate.

You can make a difference. You will be able to see the results of your investment right in your own backyard and have those results confirmed by a trusted independent evaluator.

ECA has been a leader in energy conservation, education and advocacy for the past 23 years. Our mission is "to help people conserve energy and promote a sustainable and socially equitable energy future for all in the Philadelphia region." Our core services are energy conservation, education, and bill payment assistance, which we provide through a citywide network of 13 Neighborhood Energy Centers (NECs). Energy conservation is a great way to create stable green collar jobs with a bright future in America's rapidly growing clean energy economy. Everyone benefits.

The Community Carbon Trust is creating carbon offsets at \$25 per ton. Your contribution of \$1,000, or \$500, or \$100, or \$50, or whatever your budget permits, will protect our environment, and at the same time help your neighbors keep warm and safe in their own homes. If you prefer to give on line, please go to: www.communitycarbontrust.com.

Your contribution to ECA's energy conservation work is fully tax deductible. If you have questions, please call Pam Carunchio at 215-988-0929 x 257 or e-mail her at pamc@ecasavesenergy.org.

Thank you very much. We look forward to partnering with you to make Philadelphia a truly sustainable city for all Philadelphians. Happy Holidays!

With best wishes,

Ed Grusheski
Board President

Liz Robinson
Executive Director
