

NEWS RELEASE-NC LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

(Agenda Item #3)

Municipalities honored for sustainable practices

Raleigh, NC – October 27, 2010 The municipalities listed below have been honored as NCLM Green Challenge cities by the N.C. League of Municipalities. The NCLM Green Challenge was the idea several years ago of the late Susan Burgess, Charlotte council member and past NCLM president, as a way to honor those municipalities that have taken the initiative to conserve energy and natural resources at the local government level.

Cities and towns that achieved NCLM Green Challenge status in 2010 were honored at the NCLM Annual Conference, October 24-26, 2010, at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem.

“The N.C. League of Municipalities is proud to honor these communities for doing such good work,” said Brevard Council Member Rodney Locks, 2009-2010 NCLM president. “These cities and towns have led the way in saving money and energy. Each and every one of them are pioneers. The citizens and taxpayers in all of these communities can take pride in knowing that their city leaders are taking the necessary steps to save energy, natural resources and money.”

More than 90 North Carolina municipalities have participated in either Level One, Intermediate or Advanced Green Challenge level since its inception.

Founded in 1908, the League is a voluntary, nonpartisan association of more than 540 cities, towns and villages in North Carolina. The League advocates for municipalities at the state and federal levels and provides a variety of direct services.

If you are interested in more information about the NCLM Green Challenge, please contact Matt Lail at (919) 715-3929 or mlail@nclm.org or go to www.nclm.org and click on Programs & Services.

2010 NCLM Green Challenge Municipalities

Level One

Bald Head Island
Elon
Kernersville
Knightdale
Williamston

Intermediate

Boone
Goldsboro
North Wilkesboro
Pinehurst
Rocky Mount

Advanced

Black Mountain
Cary
Concord
Greenville
Kill Devil Hills
Manteo
Navassa

The NCLM Green Challenge was first initiated in 2007. The Town of Black Mountain entered the NCLM Green Challenge for the first time in 2010 at the Advanced level of recognition, and is one of only 27 cities (out of 540) statewide to have achieved the Advanced status. In order to achieve advanced status, the town was required to complete a number of activities designed to conserve energy, natural resources and reduce energy costs at the local government level. Accomplishments and innovations that earned the Town points toward successfully completing the Challenge included:

- Town-wide comprehensive recycling program
- Installation of alternative energy sources (e.g. geothermal HVAC at the new Town Hall)
- Detailed energy audit of all town facilities
- Appointment of a Town sustainability manager
- Procurement policy requiring 30-100% post-consumer recycled content
- Addition of electric and pedal-powered vehicles to Police patrol
- No idling policy for town vehicles
- Use of alternative fuels where possible (biodiesel)
- Retrofitting of existing buildings for increased energy efficiency (motion detection lights, additional insulation)
- Participation in regional electric vehicle & fueling station consortium
- Storm/Rain-water recycling (community garden and golf course irrigation, rain barrel collection systems)
- Special town-wide recycling projects in partnership with Rainbow Recycling
- Educational programs promoting recycling and sustainability
- Construction and Promotion of multi-modal transportation opportunities (pedestrian, bikeways, greenways, mass transit); adopted Master Greenways and Pedestrian Plans Development and adoption of Stormwater Master Plan