



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION PRESENTS ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR CREATING ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY POLICIES

Students show local officials how going “green” saves green for cities

Environmentally-friendly practices are good for the planet, but the real benefit for local government lies in the tremendous amount of tax dollars that can be saved, according to Eddie Hollenbeck, the Chair of a student organization called The Ecological Student Citizens of Seminole County.

“Even just one LEED certified school, on a national average, can save over \$100,000 a year and carries only a short one-year payback on the initial investment of being more ecologically friendly. This is just one example of how cities are saving hundreds of thousands of tax payer dollars all over the country,” said Hollenbeck at a recent presentation to the Council of Local Governments (CALNO). “Some are doing this simply because of small infrastructure changes in what brand of office products they purchase and others because they are adhering to new LEED building standards that have been created by the U.S. Green Building Council.”

The main push of the Eco Students that night was focused primarily on the economic benefits that signing onto ecological-friend policies and national agreements like that of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels’ US Mayor Climate Protection Agreement. Under Nickel’s agreement mayors join together and develop action plans on ways to eliminate the amount of greenhouse gases their cities are producing. This can be through public transportation improvements, equipment purchases, and even gas-alternatives for city fleets.

The Eco Students will continue its tour of local public presentations with an invited appearance at the monthly Seminole County DEC meeting. In addition to reaching out to official government meetings the Eco Students are presenting to other organizations that may also help push their mission of educating Seminole County elected officials about the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

The Eco Students will be doing a short presentation about what Seminole County cities needs to do to participate in becoming “cool” and how signing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement will not just benefit the environment, but also the health and economic impacts going green can have. The DEC meeting will be open to the public and held at the Sanford Public Library (150 N. Palmetto Ave., Sanford, FL 32771), Thursday, May 24, at 7 p.m.

The Eco Students have put out an offer to the Seminole County Republican Executive Committee to present to their organization as well.

The Ecological Student Citizens of Seminole County is a group of honors students enrolled in Seminole County focusing on educating Seminole County elected officials about the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (authored by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels -- <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/>) and putting pressure on them to have their mayors sign it. The Sierra Club has a campaign that is championing the same agreement which they coin “Cool Cities” (<http://www.coolcities.us/>).

The Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) of Seminole County is the official representative body of registered Democrats in Seminole County and is governed by the State of Florida and the Florida Democratic Party. For more information you can contact DEC Chair: Jeremiah Jaspon, 407-697-8276, or Vice Chair Chris Lomas, 407-666-0406.

Contact: **Eddie Hollenbeck**
800-390-2029
813-476-3819 (direct)
eddie@ecostudents.org

###