



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECO STUDENTS TO PRESENT BEFORE OVIEDO AND LAKE MARY DECISION MAKERS

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

With over 500 mayors already signed onto the US Mayor Climate Protection Agreement, a group of local college, honors students are posing the question to local officials as to why Seminole County cities are not participating. The group of Seminole Community College students has dubbed itself The Ecological Student Citizens of Seminole County and has been added to the agendas of the upcoming Oviedo City Council and Lake Mary City Commission meetings.

These opportunities are allowing the Eco Students to push for change in each of the members' local communities and also are proving to be a great learning experience for the young adults: "Speaking in front of our elected officials made me realize that they are not ephemeral creatures situated behind an impenetrable screen. They are, in fact, real people that were fairly receptive to our cause and just glad that some of the younger generation are responsibly interested in ecological and economical interests," said Eco Students member Cara McNeil.

The Eco Students will continue to push the group's primary focus which that the economic benefits that comes along with participating in ecological-friendly 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.

At the latest stop on its tour while speaking to the Democratic Executive Committee of Seminole County, Eco Students presenters brought up President Bush's "Twenty In Ten" initiative which is a direct national call for action to cut down on emissions caused by automobiles. While this is a great step for our federal government to take, Eco Students chair Eddie Hollenbeck pressed that local governments also need to consider stronger building codes, such as the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program, citing that over 50% of the green house gas emissions from major cities are created by buildings alone.

The Eco Students will be doing a short presentation about what Seminole County cities needs to do to participate in becoming "cool" and how the adoption of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement will not just benefit the environment, but also the health and economic impacts going green can have.

The Oviedo City Council meeting will be open to the public and held at the Oviedo City Hall (400 Alexandria Blvd, Oviedo, FL 32765), Monday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. Oviedo City Council meetings are televised live on Cable Channel 9 (Government). The Lake Mary City Commission meeting will also be open to the public and held at the Lake Mary City Hall (100 N. Country Club Road, Lake Mary, FL 32795), Thursday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The Ecological Student Citizens of Seminole County is a group of college, 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/>).

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