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**\$5000 GRANT AWARDED TO HAILEY CITY CLIMATE PROTECTION EFFORTS**

(Hailey, Idaho) – The City of Hailey, working in partnership with the Environmental Resource Center, Blaine County, and the cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley and Bellevue, has been awarded a \$5000 grant through the Northwest Cities for Climate Protection Initiative, a program sponsored by the US EPA and ICLEI ([www.iclei.org/us](http://www.iclei.org/us)). Focusing on the Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho, only 3 grants were awarded to help local governments implement climate protection programs that will reduce their carbon emission or carbon footprint.

The City of Hailey's grant will not only directly help Hailey continue to support its Climate Protection Committee's efforts but will also benefit the County and cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley and Bellevue as they take their initial steps toward addressing climate protection and their carbon footprint.

The City of Hailey's Climate Protection Committee has been endorsed by Mayor McBryant and the City Council and has spent hundreds of hours strengthening resource conservation practices within the City's operations. This grant will, in part, help support a circuit rider who can collect comprehensive inventory of all the greenhouse gas emissions that result from the City's operations. Using special software applications, the circuit rider will calculate the city's carbon footprint, after which efforts will then be focused on the other partnering local governments to complete their inventory and carbon footprint. At the end of the grant, all the local governments should have solid understanding of what activities generate the most GHGs emission and then they can begin to objectively make decisions on how best to control these emissions.

ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection program is one of the oldest and most respected programs in the country and this grant will help these partnering local governments address several program steps. In total, there are 6 steps including: 1) Signing a resolution pledging to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG); 2) Conducting a GHG emissions inventory for all of the local governments' activities; 3) Adopt emissions reduction targets; 4) Develop a local action plan; 5) Implement the plan; 6) Monitor and evaluate the results.

Such efforts will not only help curb GHG pollution but they should help the Cities save money on energy expenses. Ultimately these governments want to do their part now to help ensure that the future generations will enjoy the same pristine environment that we all currently enjoy.