FROM COOL COMMUNITIES & GREEN SNEAKERS TO CLIMATE ACTION TEAMS

Maine Partners for Cool Communities was all about finding solutions to stop global warming and climate change. It was a collaboration of Sierra Club Maine with several other organizations that were alarmed by the threat to the health of our planet caused by increased greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.


Sierra Club Maine helped develop a toolkit packed with resources, successful programs and technical assistance that would help communities meet the goals of the Maine Governor’s Carbon Challenge and the US Mayors Climate Action Agreement. The Cool Communities/Cities campaign enabled volunteers to build political demand for smart energy solutions by advancing global warming solutions in communities and cities around Maine and the country.

The Maine campaign used the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the Maine Governor’s Carbon Challenge as organizing centerpieces around which solutions could be built. Nearly 300 mayors in 44 states, representing over 49 million Americans, signed the agreement pledging to meet or exceed the global warming reduction targets laid out in the Kyoto treaty, a 7% reduction in fossil fuel emissions from 1990 levels by 2012. Over 50 communities and organizations in Maine signed on to the Maine Governor’s Carbon Challenge, which had similar goals for carbon reduction.

Creating Cool Communities across Maine was a win-win for all. It helped to secure a safer and cleaner environment and a sustainable economy for today’s citizens and tomorrow’s generations. It began building local foods systems, alternative methods of transportation, and energy networks that
connect us to our land, air, and water, and to each other as caring neighbors.

MPCC had a successful track record for delivering effective grassroots programs statewide. For nearly a decade Sierra Club Maine led the way on community-based initiatives that engages our constituents, their neighbors, local contractors and state agencies in actions to improve indoor and outdoor air quality, promote cleaner energy sources, and mitigate/adapt to global climate change.

**The Green Sneakers Project**, an off-shoot of MPCC, launched a door-to-door neighborhood campaign created to motivate local, personal actions that address the global challenge of climate change and deteriorating air quality through energy efficiency in the home. The Green Sneakers Project recruited and trained teams of local volunteers in eight communities to bring weatherization and energy efficiency technologies, information and opportunities directly to the doorsteps of at least 4000 Maine households.

**The Climate Action Teams** of today (our CAT teams) was built from the groundwork laid by The Green Sneakers project. Whereas the Green Sneakers Project focused on energy efficiency, today’s CATs have expanded their scope to include many other projects that reduce fossil fuel emissions. Besides weatherization, the projects may include renewable energy, alternative transportation, plastic bag and waste reduction, no idling campaigns, municipal use of LED lighting, solar and anything that would help mitigate climate change.