



*City of Charleston*  
*South Carolina*

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
MAYOR

BARBARA W. VAUGHN  
DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION



*For Release: Thursday, February 18, 2010*

## **City of Charleston to Launch Green Office Challenge Program to Help Businesses Go Green and Save Money**

*Charleston, SC* – City of Charleston was selected as one of four U.S. local governments to receive assistance to create a Green Office Challenge program. The Green Office Challenge is an innovative program that engages property managers and office tenants in a friendly competition to save money and reduce energy use in their buildings, as well as reduce waste, save water, and reach other environmental goals.

“The City of Charleston is committed to helping businesses and property managers save energy and money, and the Green Office Challenge is an effective way to show them how – and give them the recognition they deserve for these efforts,” said Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. “With help from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA and our community partners, we’re eager to develop this program, which will also help the City reach its long-term goals to reduce harmful carbon emissions.”

To set up the program, City of Charleston staff will receive guidance and technical support from ICLEI, which developed the Green Office Challenge in collaboration with the City of Chicago in 2009. Due to the program’s success and popularity in Chicago, ICLEI is expanding it to four selected pilot communities: Charleston; Nashville, TN; Arlington County, VA; and San Diego, CA.

“We are very excited to work with City of Charleston staff and build on the impressive initiatives they already have in place to grow a green economy and promote sustainability,” said Amy Malick, Program Manager for ICLEI USA. “The City’s robust community partnerships and deep commitment to their climate protection and sustainability efforts make the Green Office Challenge primed for success.”

Dozens of local businesses have already expressed interest in the Green Office Challenge, and groups such as the Sustainability Institute, Lowcountry Local First, and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce will play important roles in the development and promotion of the program.

Once launched in fall 2010, Charleston's Green Office Challenge hopes to engage at least 60 businesses each year, who will receive support and training to monitor and reduce their energy and resource use. The participants who make the biggest strides will be recognized by Mayor Riley for their achievements.

To learn more about how the Green Office Challenge works, contact ICLEI's communications officer or visit the ICLEI USA website:  
<http://www.icleiusa.org/programs/climate/climate/chicago-green-office-challenge>.

#####

*More about ICLEI: ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is a membership association of more than 600 local governments in the United States and 1,100 worldwide, committed to advancing climate protection and sustainability. For more information, visit [www.icleiusa.org](http://www.icleiusa.org).*

**FOR MORE INFO:**

Barbara W. Vaughn, Director  
Media Relations/Public Information  
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734  
Email: [vaughnb@ci.charleston.sc.us](mailto:vaughnb@ci.charleston.sc.us)

Don Knapp, ICLEI USA  
(510) 844-0699 Ext. 315  
(510) 206-1011 (cell)  
[don.knapp@iclei.org](mailto:don.knapp@iclei.org)