

# U.S.-China Climate-Smart & Low-Carbon Cities Summit

An overview of Eugene Mayor Piercy's visit, in an effort to bridge the gap between community and climate action.



*"For several years, Eugene has been one of the cities out in front in working toward a low-carbon future. The adoption of the Climate Recovery Ordinance in July 2014 made Eugene one of the first cities in the country to place the City's fossil fuel and greenhouse gas reduction targets into City code, although our work had been underway since we conducted our first greenhouse gas inventory in 2009, and subsequently developed the 2010 Community Climate and Energy Action Plan,"* said Mayor Piercy.

The second annual U.S.-China Climate-Smart/Low-Carbon Cities Summit in Beijing on June 7 and 8, hosted Mayors and executive staff from over 20 US and 40 Chinese cities. The Summit corresponded with Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew's visit to China for the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogues; which included meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Given the strained relations over actions in the South China Sea, the Climate Summit provided the opportunity for both national governments and local leaders to focus on collaborative learning to take action on reducing carbon emissions. The Summit served as a continuation of the work started with the group last year in LA, and the subsequent COP21-Climate Agreements in Paris this last winter.

The summit is a public/private partnership between the U.S. State Department, the Chinese Government, and the C40 Cities Program in association with Bloomberg Philanthropies. The non-profit C40 Cities funded all travel expenses for Mayor Piercy and accompanying staff. The summit featured more than a dozen sessions led by leading NGOs, research institutes, and government agencies. It included a low-carbon exhibition, as well as major announcements in areas including transportation, access to financing, and city-level partnerships.

Mayor Piercy participated in the session titled 'City Low Carbon Economy Transition', hosted by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), World Resources Institute (WRI), and the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC). Other panelists included Chinese officials from Chengdu, Jilin Huaibei, and Jinchang; with Mayor Wade Troxell of Fort Collins, CO joining the mayoral presentations. The second section of the session included a panel discussion with executive leaders from CCS, WRI, NCSC, World Bank, and China Center for Urban Development.



Mayor Piercy's comments emphasized three key elements of Eugene's low carbon economy success:

### 1) Leadership with Vision

Our community's vision for conservation and quality of life has shaped our leaders decision and actions over the decades in regard to our access to clean energy and water, investments in energy conservation, transit, and sustainable business support.

### 2) Policy Innovations

Our public bodies develop and implement a wide variety of policy innovations-most importantly the guidance for a low carbon economy within the Climate Recovery Ordinance.

### 3) Investments

Our community's investments in green buildings, thoughtful land use approaches and education, as well as our regional prosperity industry clusters, are where the 'rubber meets the road' and differentiates us from our Chinese counterparts.



In addition to presenting Eugene's successes, Mayor Piercy was able to meet with officials from the city of Chengdu to express support for the existing University of Oregon's Sustainable Cities Initiative-China (SCI-China) Program partnerships with the Chengdu Institute of Planning and Design (CDIPD). Each year experts from CIPD visit Eugene to study Oregon's land use planning system to learn different approaches regarding land use planning and citizen involvement. The meetings helped to create relationships for continued opportunities regarding educational and economic exchange into the future.



Mayor Piercy took part in the official function of the Summit with Secretary of State John Kerry, Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, US Special Envoy for Climate Change Dr. Jonathan Pershing, China Special Representative for Climate Change Affairs Xie Zhenhua, and US Ambassador to China Senator Max Baucus.



In addition to the official functions, the Mayor was able to spend time experiencing the culture of one of the world's greatest cities with over 3,000 years of history to share. This included walking through the historical Huatong neighborhoods, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden Palace, Great Wall, and a tour with US Mayors of the Temple of Heaven.

Representing Eugene was an honor for Mayor Piercy and one that was resoundingly popular. Overwhelmingly, when she shared that she was the Mayor of Eugene, both US and Chinese attendees responded excitedly, with warm admiration for Eugene and our community. While the trip to China was exceptional, the Eugene delegation was very happy to be back in the Willamette Valley to our home. A land with clean water, clean air, productive industry, quality educational institutions, and a community that engages in deciding the future.

