CMA Partners with ICLEI for Planning Technical Support Capacity

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CHICAGO -- Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) welcomed the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning as its newest Regional Affiliate and the first in Illinois. Under the Regional Affiliate Program, ICLEI USA will provide the agency with state-of-the-art tools to help local governments in northeastern Illinois improve sustainability performance from software that measures energy expenditures to calculators that evaluate the impacts of different planning scenarios to policy templates that greatly improve the probability of plan execution.

"Regional planning bodies, including metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of government, are increasingly important partners to local governments," said Mayor Patrick Hays, City of North Little Rock, Ark., Corporate President and Chair of the Board of Directors, ICLEI USA. "Municipalities have long looked to them for data, technical expertise, and as conveners on critical regional issues. And because a growing number of metropolitan areas are creating plans for regional prosperity, as has been done in northeastern Illinois with GOTO 2040, localities will benefit from tools that bring that regional vision to life locally."

ICLEI USA will work with other regional partners, including the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, to bring recognition to the Regional Affiliate Program and build support for local energy and sustainability planning generally in the seven-county Chicago region.

"Local governments remain the last best hope for sustainability innovation," said Oak Park Village President David Pope, co-chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee. "Most community leaders increasingly understand that sustainability performance constitutes a key element of quality of life for their residents, employees and visitors. Access to ICLEI USA tools and resources will enable their municipal staff and elected officials to take action on and advance many important planning initiatives that would otherwise remain cost prohibitive."

The Regional Affiliate Program in northeastern Illinois is made possible in part through Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

SOURCE: ICLEI