

(November 5, 2007) Lipinski Hails Chicago Carbon Auction on Behalf of U.S. House

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Auction Will Help Cut Down on Emissions of Global Warming Gases

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Representative Dan Lipinski participated in a press conference at the Chicago Climate Exchange to announce the results of a carbon auction on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives. As part of the Greening the Capitol Initiative, the House purchased carbon credits in its quest to offset its emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases and become carbon neutral.

"Americans are increasingly concerned about the impact of foreign energy dependence on our national security and the effects of global climate change on the planet," said Lipinski. "This is an important step in our quest to make Congress carbon neutral and I am extremely proud to be standing here, in Chicago, on this historic day."

The House-purchased carbon credits are intended to offset the impact of 30,000 tons of carbon emitted by the U.S. Capitol's coal-burning power plant each year. The funds will be used on carbon-reducing measures, such as planting trees and underground storage of carbon dioxide, as well as green technologies like wind and solar power.

Dedicated to reducing the federal government's impact on climate change, Representative Lipinski earlier this year introduced H.R. 1705, the Bulb Replacement in Government with High-efficiency Technology (BRIGHT) Energy Savings Act. The bill, which directs the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to replace low efficiency light bulbs with high efficiency bulbs whenever a new bulb is installed in GSA-owned office buildings, was incorporated into the comprehensive energy package that passed the House in August.

"By upgrading to more energy efficient technologies, such as Energy Star-certified Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs, we can reduce our energy use by approximately 75% per bulb, preventing the release of 450 lbs. of climate changing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere," stated Lipinski. "With over 3 million lights throughout the federal government, my legislation would go a long way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while saving tens of millions of taxpayer dollars."

In addition to Rep. Lipinski, the event was attended by Dan Beard, U.S. House Chief Administrative Officer; U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL); U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (D-IL), and Dr. Richard Sandor, Chicago Climate Exchange Chairman and CEO. The Chicago Climate Exchange is North America's only and the world's first global marketplace for integrating voluntary legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction, registry, and trading program.

[Click here for Congressman Lipinski's speech from today's press conference.](#)