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City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS ADVISORY

SUBJECT: Nickels launches "Operation Save Santa"

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Nickels launches "Operation Save Santa"

Helpers will hand out free energy-efficient light bulbs at Westlake tree lighting

SEATTLE - Mayor Greg Nickels today launched "Operation Save Santa" to help protect the North Pole from the ravages of global warming. The mayor will enlist helpers in Santa hats to hand out 2,000 free energy efficient light bulbs prior to the tree lighting celebration at Westlake Center at 4 p.m.

The mayor kicked off the campaign today with an open letter to Santa.

[Mayor Nickels' Open Letter to Santa](#)

Concerned by the record ice melt in the Arctic Ocean this summer, Nickels reassured Santa that Seattle and 728 other U.S. cities are making progress protecting their communities, the planet and the North Pole from global warming. As he pointed out when he launched the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in 2005, Nickels is convinced that in the absence of federal leadership, cities must take action together.

"Some say that if we don't do something to cut greenhouse gas emissions soon, the North Pole might be ice-free in summer as early as 2030. That's why we're launching 'Operation Save Santa,'" Nickels wrote in his letter.

Nickels asked Santa to recognize that Seattleites should be on his "nice" list for all of their efforts to conserve energy. They helped make Seattle the first city in the nation to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 8 percent below 1990 levels. And they continue to make a difference through Seattle Climate Action Now, a grassroots campaign to help people reduce climate pollution at home, at work and when making transportation choices.

"I'm really proud that Seattle is making progress on protecting our climate. I know a few light bulbs won't fix the ice maker at the North Pole, but it's a start. And when we all work together, we can make a difference," Nickels wrote.

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