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## Statement on Local Governments and Climate Change

New York, NY/December 8, 2008 – Arthur “Jerry” Kremer, Chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) today issued the following statement in conjunction with an announcement of Nassau and Westchester Counties’ participation in a report for President-elect Obama on steps local governments can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The counties are working in conjunction with Climate Communities ([www.climatecommunities.us](http://www.climatecommunities.us)) and Local Governments for Sustainability ([www.iclei.usa.org](http://www.iclei.usa.org)) which today issued a report, “Empowering Local Government Climate Action – Blueprint for President Obama & 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.”

“This report outlines the importance of local governments taking a hands-on, direct approach to address climate change and positive, tangible steps that can be taken in this regard. In 2007, Mayor Bloomberg announced a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New York City, a program New York AREA has supported as a founding member of the Mayor’s PlaNYC 2030 coalition. We look forward to finding ways to work with Nassau and Westchester Counties on their important work in this regard,” said Mr. Kremer.

“While New York has a large amount of overall greenhouse gas emissions, on a per capita basis our emissions are among the best in the country. To ensure that we do not lose ground on greenhouse gas emissions, and comply with the carbon reduction mandates of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, it is important that the state keep its sources of hydro and nuclear power. These account for nearly half of our electricity generation and mitigate tens of millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually that would otherwise come from fossil fuel sources.”

About New York AREA: Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of more than 125 business, labor, and community groups whose mission and purpose is to ensure that the New York metropolitan area has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost, reliable, clean electricity.

For additional information visit: [www.area-alliance.org](http://www.area-alliance.org) .

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