



# Climate Change Professional Fellowship

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### What is the US Climate Change Fellowship?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for six Australian local government professionals to undertake a fellowship to the United States in 2011 to consider climate change issues and initiatives.

LGMA in partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is offering six exchange fellowships to the United States (funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs).

The objectives of this fellowship program are to:

- Provide six Australian fellows the opportunity for professional development and cultural exchange during a four-week fellowship in the United States;
- Provide up to four fellows from the United States the opportunity to take part in a reciprocal experience with their counterparts in Australia;
- Promote partnerships on climate change and sustainable communities at the local governance and community level between key local government practitioners and professional associations in the United States with counterpart organizations in China, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand;
- Actively engage the fellows in exploring the local government policies and adaptation strategies for dealing with climate risks and in creating more sustainable communities;
- Develop and implement a long term post-grant plan of engagement between exchange fellows and other local governance stakeholders; and
- Increase opportunities for local government professionals to network and develop solutions for impending climate risks by helping them to create more sustainable and resilient communities.



## Climate Change Professional Fellowship FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Travel Details

You can participate in this Climate Change program either by applying to become:

- an Australian Climate Change fellow travelling to the United States; or
- a host Council for US Climate Change fellows.

Three fellows will travel to USA in April and September 2011. The first three fellows will be required to arrive in the US on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. Fellows will be absent from Australia for at least 4 and possibly 5 weeks in total. Participants will spend:

- an orientation week in Washington DC;
- two weeks in a host community;
- Fellows in the September-October 2011 round will also spend one week attending a conference in the first week of their visit to the U.S (to be confirmed); and
- a wrap-up week in Washington DC to attend a 'Fellows Congress' and will be joined by over 200 other fellows also taking part in the program.

In return, an Australian council will host two American fellows for two weeks (only) in June/July 2011 and late January/February 2012 (to be confirmed).

As a large component of this program is aimed at:

- promoting ongoing partnerships on climate change and sustainable communities at the local governance and community level; and
- developing an international network of local government practitioners

It is essential that successful applicants are willing to participate in ongoing activities.



# Climate Change Professional Fellowship

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Program Dates

Round One	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2011 – 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	Australian fellows travel to the United States	<b>Applications Close:</b> 5pm Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2011.
Round One	June-July 2011 <i>(Dates to be confirmed)</i>	2 United States fellows travel to Australia	Application dates to be confirmed.
Round Two	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2011 <i>(Dates to be confirmed)</i>	Australian fellows travel to the United States  Includes attendance at the ICMA National Conference	Application dates to be confirmed.
Round Two	January-February 2011 <i>(Dates to be confirmed)</i>	2 United States fellows travel to Australia	Application dates to be confirmed.

### Selection Criteria

#### Fellows

Fellows are ideally mid-level professionals working in Local Government and preferably with a role in, or connection to, sustainability and/or climate change. Successful fellows will also be chosen based on their good interpersonal skills, good command of the English language and demonstrated leadership abilities.

The fellows and host councils will need to be willing to participate in a range of activities following the formal conclusion of the program.



# Climate Change Professional Fellowship

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Applicants will also need to have a current and valid passport at the time of application and be willing to meet the necessary visa requirements (including face to face interview with US Embassy representatives) and security clearance to enter the United States for the duration of the fellowship.

Australian fellows will ideally be LGMA members.

### **Australian Host Communities**

Australian councils will be invited to host two US fellows for two weeks.

The ideal host communities will have an active climate change agenda and must have a proven track record of developing and implementing climate change initiatives in line with their communities needs.

### **The Program**

#### **While on exchange in the United States**

While in the United States, fellows will have an opportunity to connect with international local government leaders with city and county managers in the United States and other local government practitioners, nonprofit organizations and state and federal agencies in the United States.

Participants in round one will spend the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the exchange program in Washington D.C as part of an 'enrichment and debriefing' program. Weeks 2 and 3 will be spent with a selected host community in the United States. It is possible that Australian fellows in the round 2, September/October exchange, will be attending a climate change conference during their first week in the U.S.

### **Australian Host Communities**

Following a one day orientation program for visiting US fellows, the host council program might include: short-term internships, job shadowing, meetings with officials from local,



## Climate Change Professional Fellowship FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



state and federal government and outreach to non-profits and community groups working in the sustainable communities/climate change.

### **Ongoing activities**

The Program will require ongoing commitment from fellows participating in this program. It is expected that the fellows will:

- assist an LGMA reference group to develop a national position on climate change in light of the federal government's commitment to implement a price on carbon;
- participate as experts on LGMA's climate change panel that will be established to generate discussion and raise the sector's awareness through a virtual knowledge network;
- participate as a presenter at LGMA's 2012 National Congress in Perth; and
- continue partnerships established while undertaking the fellowship program and participate in the State Department's online alumni network.

### **Why should Australian Local Government get involved?**

The exchange program offers an opportunity for Australian local government practitioners to network and develop solutions for impending climate change risks by creating more sustainable and resilient communities.

Fellows from participating countries as well as host communities will become part of an international network of practitioners that will contribute to, and benefit from, a growing body of knowledge and shared expertise aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change at the local level.

### **Costs and Logistics**

#### ***Fellows***

The following costs will be covered by the program:



# Climate Change Professional Fellowship

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- International flights and local transfers;
- Relevant visas (J-1 and DS2019);
- Insurance; and
- Accommodation and meals.

### ***Host Communities***

Host communities are not expected to make a financial contribution but rather in-kind contribution by way of staff time.

We are also looking for families to host the US fellows during their stay in Australia for a period of up to 14 days.

### **Visas and Insurance**

#### ***Visa***

In addition to a current passport, Australian fellows will need to be in possession of a [J-1](#) and [DS2019](#) visa to enter the United States to participate in a Government-to-Government exchange program. LGMA, in conjunction with ICMA, will facilitate the necessary application visa process. To ensure visas are processed on time it is important that applicants provide the following information at the time of application:

- Full name
- Copy of passport main page
- Date of birth
- City of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Current job position, employer's name, and address of employer
- Home address
- Contact info. (telephone and email)
- Date of passport expiry
- Date of passport Issue



- Place of passport Issue

**Insurance**

All participants coming to the United States must be enrolled in the Bureau’s participant health benefit program. ICMA will handle this enrollment process from Washington DC, and will produce individual health benefit cards for each Australian fellow. ICMA will distribute these health benefit cards to the program participants upon arrival to the US.

**Photos**

Fellows will also need to provide:

- One passport photo; and
- One good quality digital photo in jpeg format to be used in the US State Department’s ‘Fellow Pamphlet’.

**Application Process**

**Fellows**

<b>Application stage one:</b>	<i>Submission of written application and short listing of candidates.</i>
<b>Application stage two:</b>	<i>The selection panel will be conducting phone interviews with shortlisted candidates  Phone interviews for round one will be conducted on the <u>18<sup>th</sup> February 2011.</u></i>

**Host Communities (TBC)**

<b>Application stage one:</b>	<i>Submission of written application and short listing of candidates.</i>
<b>Application stage two:</b>	<i>The selection panel will be conducting phone interviews with shortlisted candidates</i>