

Mayors meet about climate change

By Lois Levin

Amelia Ravin, Green Decade Coalition/Newton Board member, and an environmental planner with CDM, a consulting, engineering and construction firm, recently joined mayors from 32 U.S. cities and 17 states at a meeting in southern Alaska on climate change, "Strengthening Our Cities: Mayors Responding to Global Climate Change".

Ravin spent 2 days visiting the Alaska coast with the mayors to witness the documented effects of climate change on glaciers, permafrost, forests, wildlife, and communities. To date, 30 of the 32 named glaciers fed by the 700-square-mile Harding Ice Field have thinned and retreated, and she got to see firsthand the impacts of warming on Alaska's ecosystems and economy.

The group met with tribal officials and other Alaskans to address possible solutions at the local level, and discussed the ecological and economic impacts of climate change in their communities. According to Ravin, "The participating mayors committed to reducing emissions in their cities and are preparing for the local impacts of climate change by strengthening their adaptation strategies and lowering their vulnerability."



Amelia Ravin, environmental planner, in Alaska last month.