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News Release

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It's Not Just Markets But Also Cities and Subnational Governments Driving Climate Action Forward Despite Federal Politics, Say NGO and Government Leaders at COP22

[Marrakech, Morocco – November 16] At a [press conference](#) at the COP22 climate conference in Marrakech today, NGO and government leaders highlighted how subnational governments and major cities around the world, including in the USA and Canada are moving forward on implementing the Paris Agreement regardless of national politics by adopting [No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure](#) policies and pledges. These policies move cities and regions away from all fossil fuel export infrastructure and toward 100% renewable energy.

Speaking to the COP22 delegates this afternoon, US Secretary of State John Kerry announced the Obama administration's plan for [deep decarbonization](#), though the Trump administration could well undo it. Kerry acknowledged the uncertainty Trump's win creates, but predicted markets would continue to drive the transition to clean energy sources, and that the question was whether it would happen fast enough to avoid catastrophic climate damage.

At this evening's press conference, speakers highlighted how citizens, cities and regional governments are stepping in and stepping up the pace of climate action regardless of federal action or inaction. To date cities across the Western US including Portland, Oregon, as well as Vancouver, BC have signed onto No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure declarations, and uptake is accelerating.

"The US plan for deep decarbonization Secretary Kerry unveiled today is a welcome recognition of the need for urgent action, however, it does not go nearly

far enough," said Daphne Wysham, director of the climate and energy program at the Center for Sustainable Economy. "It's the people who are claiming the mantle of genuine global climate leadership. Locally elected officials, tribal activists, communities of faith, and the grassroots communities that are supporting them have stepped into the void and are acting with urgency, great courage and defiance. They are putting their bodies on the line, as in North Dakota, blocking pipeline construction; they are putting in place binding ordinances to ban all new fossil fuel export infrastructure; and they are ensuring 100 percent renewable energy targets are met by 2020, if not sooner."

"The urgency of reducing greenhouse emissions dictates that our resources must be focussed on rolling out infrastructure that provides fossil free energy," said Shane Rottenbury, ACT Greens MLA & Government Minister of Canberra, Australia. "Investment in fossil fuel infrastructure can no longer be justified. As a jurisdiction committed to 100% renewable electricity by 2020, we are striving to do our part in this change."

"We support Portland, Oregon's groundbreaking City Council resolution opposing all new fossil fuel export infrastructure," said Salote Soqo, the Senior Program Leader for Environmental Justice and Climate Action of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. "We see this local resolution as a reflection of the growing voices of grassroots movements and people of faith around the world, who are calling on their leaders to take bold and ambitious actions to end the devastating era of fossil fuel consumption and usher in the age of clean, renewable energy and climate justice."

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PRODUCERS: These and other sources are available for interviews on request. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Stephen Kent, skent@kentcom.com 914-589-5988