

Summary Report

Our Place in the Urban Age

The Levin College of Urban Affairs 30th Anniversary Forum Series



Building a Renewable Energy Economy

Our Place in the Urban Age is a year-long series of forums and exhibits celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and exploring the dynamic role of cities in a world transformed by technology, climate change, modern lifestyles and a global economy.

On Thursday, May 31, 2007, nearly 100 people gathered at the Levin College Forum to hear Jerome Ringo of the Apollo Alliance speak about building a renewable energy economy for Northeast Ohio and the nation. Based on the strong belief that America can become free from foreign oil while at the same time providing good jobs for American workers, the Apollo Alliance is working to focus public attention and investment, research, science and technology education and worker training towards this purpose.

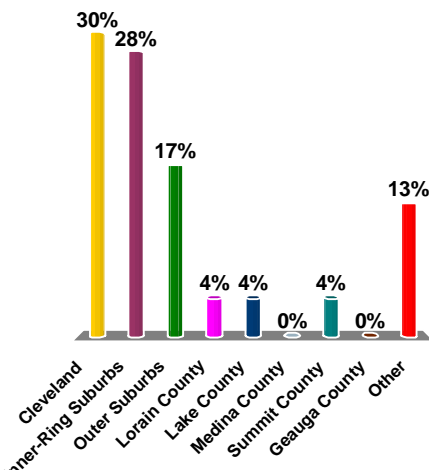
With this goal in mind, Mr. Ringo presented the audience with a passionate discussion on why it has become so critical that the United States push a clean energy strategy.



Who Attended?

The Forum Program seeks to strengthen the capacity of the community to tackle difficult issues across government, business and civic sectors to strengthen the region's future. Since 2000, over 11,000 people have attended over 100 forum events. So where did forum participants on May 31st come from in the region?

Where do you live?



Please indicate the sector you represent.

Private Sector	17%
Non-Profit	39%
Government	9%
Academia	6%
Entrepreneur	6%
Student	17%
Retired/not Working	4%
Other	4%

The debate is over.....

When Greenland is melting at twice the speed first thought, the debate about global warming is over. When storms of the magnitude of hurricane Katrina put America's cities at risk, the debate is over.

America, Mr. Ringo said, can no longer stand to suffer from 'category five denial' when it comes to energy. America's gluttonous appetite for energy has allowed this country to be in effect held over an oil barrel. He pointed out that Brazil is economically energy independent. They import their energy from no one. Stressing that "if Brazil can do it, so can we".

Underscoring his passion, Mr. Ringo told the audience that he could not think of a time since the Civil Rights Movement when there has been an opportunity to bring people of such diversity together to help fix America, saying now is the time to reactivate activism.

Cleveland is well positioned to play a role in building a renewable energy economy.

The driving force behind national policy he said, isn't going to happen in Washington, but in cities like Cleveland. Cleveland does not have to be a follower. It can be a leader. He encouraged the audience to change the landscape of Cleveland from what it is today.

Mr. Ringo sees great opportunity for Cleveland and Ohio to make real contributions to a green economy. We have strong labor unions and other mechanisms in place to train large numbers of people to manufacture what is needed for a green economy. He sees strong non profit and government will to create economic stimulation.

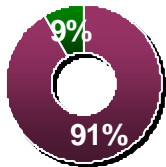
He also emphasized that on top of global warming concerns, there are economic woes to consider when looking at the current state of things in America's cities like Cleveland. While environmental disruption disproportionately affects the poor, the loss of high paying and high productivity manufacturing jobs has cost people their livelihoods and created greater social inequity. Clean energy is just as much about solving our economic crisis as it is about solving our environmental one. At its heart the program is about reinvesting in the competitiveness of American industry, rebuilding our cities, creating good jobs for working families, and ensuring good stewardship of both the economy and our natural environment – all things that Cleveland and Ohio can benefit greatly from.

It's up to us.

Mr. Ringo reminded the audience that in the end, what is going to happen with all of this is up to us. We must demand accountability and responsibility from our leaders. We too, must be passionate. He urged participants to take action telling us all that "you possess more power than you think and more than you believe". Inaction he said, will cost us a whole lot more in the long run than doing something, anything, right now.

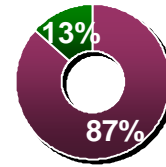
Will renewable energy and creating a green economy be our battle cry? Can Cleveland become passionate about energy? Jerome Ringo hopes that we will.

Did today's forum give you new ideas that you can use?



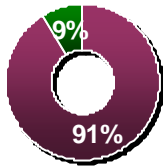
■ Yes ■ No

Did today's forum inspire you to think about pursue new collaborations?



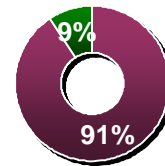
■ Yes ■ No

Did Today's forum inspire you to take some action?



■ Yes ■ No

Did today's forum suggest any new strategies for transforming Northeast Ohio cities into hubs of innovation, places for sustainable living and places of opportunity?



■ Yes ■ No

Data was analyzed from 80 forum participants. Survey was conducted on May 29, 2007. Respondents were asked to answer a series of questions at two points in time during the forum program. The results of audience surveys will be incorporated into an end of the series report.

All forums are archived at www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum

Special Thanks to our 30th Anniversary Sponsors:

**Enterprise Community Partners
Jones Day
Cuyahoga County Public Library**