



<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-070206globes,1,2912204.story?coll=chi-news-hed>

City plans global warming-themed street art

By Emma Graves Fitzsimmons
Tribune staff reporter

Advertisement

February 6, 2007, 6:22 PM CST

One globe sculpture will advocate hybrid cars. Another will push wind farms.

A total of 100 globes will be scattered along the downtown lakefront this summer to bring awareness to the need for solutions to reduce global warming.

Much like the popular Cows on Parade, each 5-foot-wide globe will feature an artist's design

Mayor Richard Daley unveiled plans Tuesday for the walking exhibit called "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet," which will crop up in the grassy area from Buckingham Fountain to the Field Museum.

A United Nations report released this month finding that humans have "very likely" caused the Earth to become warmer confirmed the urgency of the issue, Daley said.

"We all share responsibility for global warming," Daley said. "We can all be a part of the solution."

The globes will be on the lakefront from June to September. They will then be auctioned off to raise funds to pay for the expansion of conservation clubs at Chicago public schools.

The sculptures will be accompanied by plaques with messages—some from well-known people such as former President Bill Clinton and actress Jodie Foster, organizers said. A few of the globes will surface at Navy Pier and possibly along Michigan Avenue and in Millennium Park.

Daley introduced the program at a breakfast seeking donors to add to the growing list of corporate sponsors involved in the project, which is the brainchild of local philanthropist Wendy Abrams.

The mayor said he has tried to keep Chicago in the forefront on environmental issues, pointing to programs such as adding hybrid buses to the city's fleet and building "green" libraries, police stations and public schools.

The walking exhibit will serve as a call to action to get people involved in easing climate change, said Abrams, an environmental activist.

"The public understands it's a problem we need to address," Abrams said. "Now they want to know what to do about it."

The city's Department of Environment, the Field Museum and Exelon Corp. are coordinating the educational display, which backers say is the first of its kind in the country.

Exelon CEO John Rowe thanked Daley at the breakfast for his efforts to make Chicago "a cleaner, greener place to live." Corporations also have a responsibility to reduce emissions and to help reduce global warming, he said.

"The trick is to deal with this problem effectively," Rowe said. The school district already has after-school conservation clubs at 22 schools and hopes to have 50 by the end of the next school year. The clubs perform service projects dealing with the environment.

Art teacher Turtel Onli is the club sponsor at Kenwood Academy High School on the South Side. At weekly meetings, his 30 students survey waste on their campus and monitor indoor air quality, he said.

"We want to help children make the transition from consumers to committed, passionate citizens," Onli said.

The "Cool Globes" program will also include a business roundtable to discuss corporate responsibility and a contest for children to design papier-mâché globes for display at the Chicago Children's Museum.

efitzsimmons@tribune.com

Copyright © 2007, [Chicago Tribune](#)