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Discussion highlights link between community planning, pollution

By John C. Stevenson
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The author of a study that advocates community planning as a way to reduce greenhouse gases will be in the Upstate Thursday to talk about how communities can take the lead in tackling automobile emissions and climate change.

Reid Ewing, a research professor at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth, will lead discussions at 7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday. Thursday's presentation will be in the Jim Self Auditorium at the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University; Friday's will be at the Marriott Greenville.

Ewing, who holds degrees from Harvard and MIT, led the study, "Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change." In the study, Ewing concluded that, while automobile efficiency and cleaner fuels are necessary, Americans will have to cut down on the miles they drive in order to reduce automobile emissions.

According to a press release from program cosponsor Upstate Forever, Ewing advocates land-use planning as a way individual communities can impact automobile emissions and climate change. Transportation is responsible for roughly one-third of South Carolina's greenhouse gas emissions, according to the release.

Other cosponsors of the free presentations include the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area, and Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Each discussion is open to the public, and is aimed at local residents as well as community leaders and policymakers.
