



# Engage Your Government

*Best Practices from the Field*

## Fair Trade Burlington Network

Every council member received a copy of the our resolution before we presented it at a meeting to get voted on. For the most part we sent it to them by email, but this allowed them time to review or comment on it. We also made sure that we attended a city council meeting prior to presenting the resolution just to introduce Fair Trade and our initiative. We did it around Halloween and gave each council member a piece of chocolate to make it meaningful.

## Ballston Spa Fair Trade Coalition

Early on we presented to the local business association and followed up with a presentation during one of the Mayor's meetings.

## Fair Trade Berkeley

Just before the Fair Trade Berkeley campaign was to go before City Council, members of the steering committee hand delivered a GIANT Valentine to the Mayor. The week before, the Valentine was at the local Farmer's Market, where many Berkeley residents signed the card, a giant petition. The Valentine read, "To: Mayor Bates, From: the People of Berkeley. For the LOVE of Fair Trade! Make Berkeley a Fair Trade Town." It was a pretty neat "stunt," because the Mayor was surprised, but also delighted to hear from his constituents in this way.

## Fair Trade Red Bank

We read every single existing Fair Trade Town resolution before we wrote ours, which helped us make it comprehensive.

