



EU4Energy



THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

We, the Mayors signing up to this Covenant, share a vision for a sustainable future - whatever the size of our municipality or its location on the world map. This common vision drives our action to tackle interconnected challenges: climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable energy. Together, we stand ready to deliver concrete, long term measures that provide an environmentally, socially and economically stable environment for present and future generations. It is our collective responsibility to build more sustainable, attractive, liveable, resilient and energy efficient territories.

WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

Climate change is already happening and is one of the greatest global challenges of our time, calling for immediate action and cooperation between local, regional and national authorities from all over the world;

Local authorities are key drivers of the energy transition and the fight against climate change at the level of governance closest to citizens. Local authorities share the responsibility for climate action with the regional and national levels and are willing to act irrespective of the commitments of other parties. Local and regional authorities in all socio-economic situations and geographical locations stand at the frontline of reducing the vulnerability of their territory to the various impacts of climate change. Although emissions reduction efforts are already underway, adaptation remains a necessary and indispensable complement to mitigation;

Climate change mitigation and adaptation can bring multiple benefits to the environment, society and the economy. Tackled together, they open up new opportunities to promote sustainable local development. This includes building inclusive, climate-resilient, energy efficient communities; enhancing the quality of life; stimulating investment and innovation; boosting the local economy and creating jobs; reinforcing stakeholder engagement and cooperation;

Local solutions to energy and climate challenges help provide secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for citizens and therefore contribute to reducing energy dependence and protecting vulnerable consumers.

WE, THE MAYORS, SHARE A COMMON 2050 VISION TOWARDS:

- Decarbonized territories, thus contributing to keeping average global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, in line with the international climate agreement reached at COP21 in Paris in December 2015;
- More resilient territories, thus preparing for the unavoidable adverse impacts of climate change;
- Universal access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy services for all, thus enhancing quality of life and improving energy security.



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TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION WE, THE MAYORS, COMMIT TO:

- As a mid-term target: reducing CO₂ (and possibly other GHGs) emissions on the territory of our municipalities by **at least 30% or 35% by 2030**, namely through improved energy efficiency and the greater use of renewable energy sources¹;
- As a long-term target: reducing CO₂ (and possibly other GHGs) emissions on the territory of our municipalities by **at least 60% by 2050** compared to **1990** emission levels, or **by at least 40% by 2050** compared to emission levels in a baseline year **after 2005**;
- Making an effort to achieve more **ambitious long-term targets** in our climate and energy policies comparing with NDC commitments and the above-mentioned minimum targets for the Eastern Partnership region, in order to **achieve climate neutrality by 2050**.
- Increasing our resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change;
- Tackling energy poverty as one key action to ensure a just transition and access of population to affordable, secure and sustainable energy.
- Sharing our vision, results, experience and know-how with fellow local and regional authorities within the Eastern Partnership countries, the EU and beyond through direct cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange, namely in the context of the Global Covenant of Mayors.

In order to translate our local authorities' commitments into action, we undertake to follow the relevant procedures and methodologies of the Covenant of Mayors, including the development and submission of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan as well as regular monitoring of progress.

WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR COMMITMENT REQUIRES:

- Strong political leadership;
- The establishment of ambitious long-term objectives going beyond political mandates;
- A coordinated (inter)action between mitigation and adaptation through the mobilization of all municipal departments involved;
- A cross-sector and holistic territorial approach;
- The allocation of appropriate human, technical and financial resources;
- The engagement of all relevant stakeholders within our territories;
- The empowerment of citizens as key energy consumers, as "prosumers" and as participants in a demand responsive energy system;
- Immediate action, notably via "no-regret", flexible measures;
- The implementation of smart solutions to address the technical and societal challenges of the energy transition;
- Regular adjustments of our actions according to monitoring and evaluation findings;
- A combined horizontal and vertical cooperation between local authorities and with all other levels of government.

¹ Applies only to CoM2030 signatories with 30% or 35% emission reduction commitments by 2030 that are joining to CoM2050



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WE, THE MAYORS, WELCOME:

- The initiative of the European Commission bringing mitigation and adaptation – both pillars of the fight against climate change – under this single umbrella initiative and further strengthening the synergies with other relevant EU policies and initiatives;
- The European Commission's support for the extension of the Covenant of Mayors model to other parts of the world through the Global Covenant of Mayors;
- The support of the Committee of the Regions, as the institutional voice of EU local and regional authorities, for the Covenant of Mayors and its objectives;
- The assistance provided by Member States, regions, provinces, mentor cities and other institutional structures to local authorities in complying with their mitigation and adaptation commitments under the Covenant of Mayors.

WE, THE MAYORS, INVITE:

- OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO:

- Join us in the Covenant of Mayors' community;
- Share knowledge and engage in capacity-building activities under the Covenant of Mayors.

- REGIONAL / SUB-NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO:

- Provide us with strategic guidance, policy, technical and financial support in the development, implementation and monitoring of our action plan(s) and related measures;
- Help us foster cooperation and joint approaches for more efficient and integrated action.

- NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Shoulder their responsibility in tackling climate change and provide appropriate policy, technical and financial support for the preparation and implementation of our local mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Involve us in the preparation and implementation of the national mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Ensure appropriate access to financing mechanisms to support local climate and energy action;
- Recognize the impact of our local efforts, take account of our needs and reflect our views in the national, European and international climate processes.

- THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TO:

- Consolidate policy frameworks which support the implementation of local climate and energy strategies and city-to-city cooperation;
- Provide us with the appropriate operational, technical and promotional assistance;
- Continue mainstreaming the Covenant of Mayors in relevant policies, support programmes and activities of the European Union, whilst involving us in the preparation and implementation phases;
- Continue making funding opportunities available for the implementation of our commitments as well as proposing dedicated project development assistance facilities that help us to develop, tender and launch investment programmes;
- Acknowledge our role and efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation and share our achievements with the international community.



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- OTHER STAKEHOLDERS² TO:

- Mobilize and share expertise, know-how, technology and financial resources that complement and strengthen our local efforts, scale up capacity-building, foster innovation and boost investment;
- Become active players in the energy transition and support us by getting involved in community action.

WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE:

- **Political endorsement:** The commitment, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and other relevant planning documents shall be ratified by resolution / decision of the municipal council. This allows for secured long-term political support.
- **A robust, consistent, transparent and harmonized data compilation and reporting framework:** Based on the experience of municipalities, regions and city networks, the Covenant of Mayors methodology relies on a sound technical and scientific basis developed together with the European Commission. Common methodological principles and reporting templates have been developed, enabling signatories to track, report, and publicly disclose their progress in a structured and systematic manner. The submitted Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan is made publicly available on the online signatory profile on the Covenant of Mayors website. This ensures the transparency, accountability and comparability of their local climate actions.
- **Recognition and high visibility of the efforts undertaken:** The individual and collective results collected through the reporting templates are made publicly available – namely on the Covenant of Mayors website – to inspire and facilitate exchanges and self-assessment. Reporting data via the Covenant of Mayors allows signatories to demonstrate the wide impact of their actions on the ground. Data compiled through the Covenant of Mayors reporting framework also gives essential feedback on local actions to national, European and international policy-makers.
- **Evaluation of the data reported by signatories:** This quality control contributes to guaranteeing the credibility and reliability of the whole Covenant of Mayors initiative.
- **Suspension in case of non-compliance:** Signatories accept to be suspended from the initiative – subject to prior notice in writing by the Covenant of Mayors Office – in the event of non-submission of the above-mentioned documents (i.e. Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and Monitoring Reports) within the established deadlines. This procedure ensures transparency, robustness and fairness vis-à-vis other signatories who deliver on their commitments.

² E.g. private sector, financial institutions, civil society, scientific community and academia