










Factsheets

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



	 Culture	 Governance	 Procurement	 Energy Transition	 Climate	 Smart City	 Mobility and Transport	 Planning and Development	 Nature conservation
Global	CITTASLOW GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARING CITIES ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES TRANSITION NETWORK UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES GLOBAL PARLIAMENT OF MAYORS ICLEI METROPOLIS NRG4SD UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORLD MAYORS COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE	ICLEI	100% RENEWABLE ENERGY CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORK C40 ICLEI R20 TRANSITION NETWORK	C40 CARBONN CLIMATE REGISTRY COMPACT OF MAYORS ICLEI NRG4SD R20 TRANSITION NETWORK UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORLD MAYORS COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE	ICLEI UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	C40 ECOMOBILITY ALLIANCE ICLEI UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	C40 CITTASLOW ICLEI METROPOLIS NRG4SD UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	ICLEI INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE NRG4SD
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Cities and towns are focal points of global change and are increasingly taking responsibility beyond their administrative borders and core administrative tasks. International sustainability commitments offer ways for local authorities to turn this responsibility into action. These factsheets present a range of possibilities available to local authorities to engage in international sustainability action.

Why do international sustainability commitments matter for local authorities?

Since the 1992 Agenda 21 declaration by the United Nations (UN) in Rio de Janeiro, local authorities have been taking on tasks outside of their normal responsibilities within national constitutional frameworks. The mandate by the UN served as an especially important reference point in the field of sustainable development. Since then, there has been increasing demand for cooperation, networking and training opportunities across national borders, and a number of networks and alliances have emerged to enable local authorities to advocate their positions, organize exchanges and trainings, and to collaborate in a variety of ways.

Why is an overview of these sustainability commitments useful?

Today, local authorities are confronted with a multitude of possibilities to work on sustainability issues across borders. There are numerous declarations, agreements and networks available to them, all offering a variety of ways and topic areas in which they can engage and contribute. Yet it is often unclear how each commitment works and how even the seemingly simple term “network” can have countless definitions and functions. Therefore, these factsheets provide a concise summary of the most relevant commitments and programs to help guide local authorities, so that they can best participate, contribute, and educate themselves most effectively.

What is being provided?

Concise, standardized, and therefore easily comparable factsheets are being provided for a selected number of international sustainability commitments. The factsheets include a number of characteristics including, amongst others: organizational structure, patronage, thematic orientation, geographical reach, objectives of the commitment, and opportunities for cooperation. To better improve orientation for local authorities, the factsheets are clustered in distinct groups of commitments.

Who is providing the factsheets?

The factsheets about international sustainability commitments for local authorities are published by the German Environment Agency. They are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, an international network of local authorities, specializing in sustainable development.

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100% RENEWABLE ENERGY CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORK

GLOBAL
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WHO THEY ARE

The Global 100% Renewable Energy Campaign brings together stakeholders as a coalition of the willing and committed, to strengthen the dialogue about Renewable Energy (RE) and define a roadmap towards successful 100%RE transition. Campaign partners include RE industry associations, research institutes, and ICLEI, as local government partner. The **100%RE Cities and Regions Network** is the local government component of the Global 100% Renewable Energy Campaign and is comprised of cities and regions that are leading the transition to 100% Renewable Energy. The primary objective of the Network is to facilitate exchange and peer-learning between cities and regions, in order to build capacity for the transition to 100% renewable energy.

WHAT THEY DO

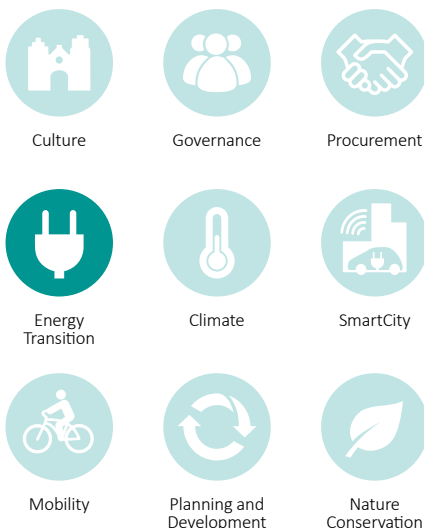
The Global 100%RE campaign has an extensive library of published studies and reports, Fact Sheets, books, and webinars to help support the development of 100% renewable energy worldwide. The 100% Renewable Energy Cities and Regions Network provides (1) networking, learning, and cooperation opportunities with other leading governments; (2) thematic guidance, workshops and support; access to RE and energy efficiency experts; (3) opportunities to globally promote local solutions and service providers; worldwide recognition of progress achieved locally; (4) visibility and profiling of champion local and regional leaders at the global level; access to experiences of national, regional and municipal initiatives on 100%RE; and direct access to the latest findings and reports.

Participating local and regional governments are expected to: make commitments and decisions towards 100%RE; drive the uptake of RE in their territories, pave the way to generate and use 100%RE, especially in electricity, heating/cooling, transportation, and local government operations; employ ambitious energy efficiency measures; systematically replace fossil fuels and/or nuclear energy with RE; give preference to local RE resources; transition towards 100% RE with a participatory and people-centred approach; and monitor and report progress towards 100%RE.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Local governments are invited to participate in the Global 100%RE campaign through the campaign's existing regional partner network, administered through ICLEI.

Joining the 100% Renewable Energy Cities and Regions Network is free and by invitation only. To participate in the Network, local governments must commit to a 100% Renewable Energy (RE) target in at least one sector; register with the carbonn Climate Registry, and demonstrate a clear interest in exploring the 100% RE pathway.



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AALBORG COMMITMENTS

WHAT IT IS

The **Aalborg Commitments** is a comprehensive commitment for local governments that aims to strengthen local sustainability efforts and the Local Agenda 21. It was built on the Aalborg Charter of 1994, which garnered support from more than 2,700 local governments in more than 40 countries. The Aalborg Commitments were adopted on the 11 June 2004 at the Fourth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Aalborg. Since then, over 700 local governments have signed the Aalborg Commitments and are actively working on local urban sustainability issues. The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, which includes both the Aalborg Charter and the Aalborg Commitments, is considered the single-most successful European effort in sustainable urban development to date.

WHAT IT DOES

Signatories of the Aalborg Commitments pledge to work in the following topic areas: (1) Governance; (2) Urban Management; (3) Natural Common Goods; (4) Responsible Consumption; (5) Planning and Design; (6) Better Mobility; (7) Local Action for Health; (8) Sustainable Local Economy; (9) Social Equity and Justice; (10) Local to Global.

Though local governments can set priorities within these topic areas, all of the topics should be addressed as part of the governance process. Implementing the Aalborg Commitments should follow a systematic governance approach, including a baseline review report, strategic target setting with strong public participation and regular monitoring reviews of the achievements.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any local government in Europe can join the Aalborg Commitments, irrespective of its EU Member State status. In order to join the Aalborg commitments, the mayor or another authorized person in a local government, has to sign the declaration and send it to the Aalborg Commitments Secretariat at the City of Aalborg. By signing the commitments, a local government agrees to start working in the topic areas of the Aalborg Commitments immediately, for example by publishing a baseline review of its sustainability efforts within the first 12 months after signing.



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C40 - CITIES CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

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WHO THEY ARE

The **C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group** (C40) is a global network of more than 80 of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. The C40 network, created in 2005 by former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, is comprised of cities representing over 550 million people and one quarter of the global economy. The C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. The primary goal of the C40 network is to help position cities as a leading force for climate action around the world.

WHAT THEY DO

C40 convenes networks of cities throughout the world to provide a suite of services to support their efforts, including: direct technical assistance; facilitation of peer-to-peer exchange; and research, knowledge management and communications.

C40 has a data-driven approach to identify and launch networks, ensuring that resources are strategically deployed to city priorities and focus areas with the greatest potential Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and climate risk impact. C40's efforts are focused into seven overarching initiative areas and associated networks: (1) Adaptation and Water; (2) Energy, Finance and Economic Development; (3) Measurement and Planning; (4) Solid Waste Management; (5) Sustainable Communities; (6) Transportation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

C40 is a membership organisation with three membership categories to reflect the diversity of cities taking action to address climate change: Megacity, Innovator City, and Observer City. The categories consider characteristics such as population size, economic output, environmental leadership, and the length of a city's membership.

Cities that do not qualify as Megacities (3+ million or more), but have shown clear leadership in environmental and climate change work, may apply to C40 as an Innovator City or Observer City.



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CARBONN CLIMATE REGISTRY (CCR)

WHAT IT IS

Launched in 2010, the **carbonn Climate Registry** (cCR) is a voluntary online reporting platform for local governments where they can publicly and regularly report their local climate actions in the fields of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction commitments, emissions inventories, and climate mitigation / adaptation actions. The cCR has been designed to support and facilitate structured reporting on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to support vertically integrated reporting between different levels of government. The aim of the registry is to improve data collection methodologies and ensure that data are consistent with the standards of the global climate regime and encourage transparency, accountability and comparability.

WHAT IT DOES

Registering with the cCR ensures that the data collection process remains compliant with the international frameworks of such as the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC 1.0). Cities register with the cCR through an online interface and self-report data in the four reporting categories: City Info, Commitments, Performance, and Actions.

In the logic of the cCR, “Commitments” are quantifiable targets set by local government to address the consequences of human induced greenhouse gas emissions. The “Performance” category records Scope 1 and some of Scope 2 and 3 emissions for government and community sectors. In the “Actions” category, local governments report all of their actions and action plans on climate change mitigation and adaptation, not only including those that have been already implemented, but also those actions that are in the progress or planning stages and are still looking for funding. Once a city has registered and entered data, they can produce summary reports and access the raw data in spreadsheets.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any local or sub-national government may join the carbonn Climate Registry. Registration is free and available via the carbonn website (carbonn.org).

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CITTASLOW

WHO THEY ARE

Cittaslow is a network of local governments that applies the ideas of the Slow Food movement to municipalities. Initially founded in Italy in 1999, the movement has since expanded to 100 towns and 14 countries all over the world. In their own words, municipalities joining the association are “motivated by curious people of a recovered time, where one is still the protagonist of the slow and healthy succession of seasons, respectful of citizens’ health, the authenticity of products and good food, rich in fascinating craft traditions of valuable works of art, squares, theaters, shops, cafés, restaurants, places of the spirit and unspoiled landscapes, characterized by spontaneity of religious rites, (and) respect of traditions through the joy of a slow and quiet living.”

WHAT THEY DO

There are 54 goals and principles that each Cittaslow city commits to work to achieve. They serve as benchmarks to improve the quality of life in each city according to the principles of the movement. The main aims of the movement are to: (1) make life better for everyone living in an urban environment; (2) improve the quality of life in the cities; (3) resist the homogenization and globalization of towns around the globe; (4) protect the environment; (5) promote cultural diversity and uniqueness of individual cities; (6) provide inspiration for a healthier lifestyle.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Cittaslow is a global membership organization with national representation. To achieve the status of “Slow City,” a city must implement an extensive list of criteria. After four years, the implementation is evaluated by the association, after which a city can be admitted to the network. Full membership to Cittaslow is only available to towns with a population under 50,000. Cities with populations greater than 50,000 may join as a Cittaslow Supporter; individuals and families may join as a Cittaslow Friend.

Next to a one-time application fee, membership fees are paid annually. Membership fees are established on a sliding scale and based on city population.

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CIVITAS FORUM NETWORK

WHO THEY ARE

The CIVITAS initiative (whose name comes from the words City, Vitality and Sustainability) was launched by the European Union in 2000 to redefine European transport measures and policies so as to create cleaner, better transport in cities. The CIVITAS initiative enables cities to learn from each other and facilitate the exchange of ideas through the **CIVITAS Forum Network**, which provides a platform for exchange between currently 246 cities. In the last ten years, CIVITAS has tested over 800 measures and urban transport solutions, supported by the intensive exchange of good practices in the field.

WHAT THEY DO

The CIVITAS Forum Network facilitates workshops, conferences, training events and expert-led thematic groups, whereby cities have the opportunity to inspire one another and actively exchange knowledge, ideas and experience to facilitate change in the following fields of mobility and transport: (1) Car-Independent Lifestyles; (2) Clean Fuels and Vehicles; (3) Collective Passenger Transport; (4) Demand Management Strategies; (5) Integrated Planning; (6) Mobility Management; (7) Public Involvement; (8) Safety and Security; (9) Transport Telematics; (10) Urban Freight Logistics.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

All European Local Governments may join the CIVITAS Forum by signing the CIVITAS Forum Network Declaration and committing to the following: (1) attendance by a city representative at all CIVITAS Forum meetings; (2) providing a constructive and proactive approach in the distribution of information about the CIVITAS Initiative at a local and national level; (3) submitting a paper with background information on the city and its transport policy, which will also include how the categories of CIVITAS instruments and measures will be implemented and integrated into the city. Members of the CIVITAS Forum Network can participate in the annual CIVITAS Forum Conference. Membership is free.

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CLIMATE ALLIANCE

WHO THEY ARE

The **Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples** (Climate Alliance) is a network of local governments committed to protecting the world's climate. Demonstrating the commitment to the rights of Indigenous Rainforest Peoples, the Climate Alliance is governed by an international board that includes the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples Organisation of the Amazon Basin. Since the Climate Alliance's foundation in 1990, more than 1,700 cities, municipalities and districts have joined the association. More than 50 provinces, NGOs and other organisations have joined the Climate Alliance as associated members.

WHAT THEY DO

The Climate Alliance advises cities and municipalities on the implementation of climate protection strategies and develops tools for recording standardised energy consumption and CO2 emissions data. It also provides advice and services such as: (1) promoting the exchange of experience through conferences, workshops and publications; (2) showcasing members' achievements; (3) providing recommendations, aids and tools for local climate change policies (e.g., local climate plans, individual themes and measures, CO2 monitoring, etc.); (4) lobbying for improved framework conditions for local climate change policies on international, European and national levels; (5) developing and coordinating European projects and campaigns.

The Climate Alliance works closely with its indigenous partner organisations in South America to organise campaigns and political initiatives on the conservation of the tropical rainforests and the defence of indigenous rights; raise awareness on the situation and positions of the indigenous peoples in the Amazon; inform and educate about the impacts of the Climate Alliance's action on the rainforests and the indigenous peoples; and collaborate in practical partnership projects.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Climate Alliance is a membership organization. By joining the Climate Alliance, cities and municipalities accept the following voluntary commitments: (1) to reduce CO2 emissions by 10 percent every five years; (2) to halve per capita emissions by 2030 at the latest (from 1990 baseline); (3) to preserve the tropical rainforests by avoiding the use of tropical timber; (4) to support projects and initiatives of the indigenous partners.

An annual membership fee is paid by each municipality and each administrative district in the amount of Euro 0.0073 per resident, with a minimum of €220 and a maximum of €15,000 per municipality or district.

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COMPACT OF MAYORS

WHO THEY ARE

The **Compact of Mayors**, established in 2014, is a global coalition of mayors and their local governments who have committed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress publicly. It is an agreement by city networks – and through their members – to fight climate change in a consistent and complimentary manner to national efforts. The Compact of Mayors was launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg, under the leadership of the world's global city networks, and the support of UN-Habitat at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit.

WHAT THEY DO

The Compact of Mayors consolidates cities' climate actions through consistent and transparent public reporting of greenhouse gas data. This data-driven platform will help direct resources and policies to better support and accelerate local climate actions. More specifically, the Compact: commits cities to common reporting processes that allow for consistent and reliable assessment of progress towards meeting their GHG targets; creates an evidence base of the greenhouse gas impact of city action to enable capital flows into cities to support taking further action and to be held responsible for that action and the associated investments; demonstrates the commitment of city governments to contribute positively towards more ambitious, transparent, and credible national climate targets by voluntarily agreeing to meet standards similar to those followed by national governments; and encourages national governments to actively support additional city action by recognizing local commitments, establishing more favourable policy environments, and directing resources to cities to limit any further increase in global warming and to appropriate resources for both mitigation and adaptation of local climate action.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any city of any size in the world may commit to the Compact of Mayors. A city has up to three years to meet a series of requirements and fully comply, culminating in the creation of a full climate action and adaptation plan. The city must commit to registering the city with the Compact, complete a GHG inventory and record it with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) or the carbonn Registry within one year of signing the commitment; create reduction targets, and; establish a system of measurement within two years of signing the commitment.

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS (CEMR)

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WHO THEY ARE

The **Council of European Municipalities and Regions** (CEMR) is Europe's oldest and broadest association of local and regional governments and represents the interests of local authorities and their associations in more than 40 countries at the European level. Since its creation in 1951, CEMR has promoted the existence of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and citizen participation.

CEMR's members are national associations of local and regional governments, whose own members are local and regional authorities in their country. CEMR is made up of 60 member associations from 41 of the 47 Council of Europe member countries, including all 28 EU Member States. Together, they represent some 150,000 municipalities and regions.



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WHAT THEY DO

CEMR's work is organised around two main pillars. First, influencing European policy and legislation in all topic areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions, and second, providing a forum for debate between local and regional authorities via their national representative associations.

CEMR's work focuses on five thematic areas, which affect all aspects of the lives of European citizens, as well as the local and regional authorities that represent them: (1) Democracy, Citizenship and Enlargement; (2) Resource Efficiency and Environment; (3) Partnership, Cooperation and World Affairs; (4) Economic, Social and Territorial cohesion; (5) Local and Regional Governments as Employers and Service Providers.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Local governments cannot join the CEMR directly as it is a network of national associations of local governments. Their interests are nevertheless represented by CEMR through established national networks. Local government associations of states that are not members of the Council of Europe and the European Union may join CEMR as associated members.

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AND ENERGY

WHO THEY ARE

The **Covenant of Mayors**, established in 2009 by the European Commission, is the world's largest urban climate and energy initiative, comprised of 6600 cities and regions in 57 European countries. Covenant Signatories share a long-term vision of decarbonised and resilient territories that provide sustainable and affordable energy to all, and voluntarily commit to meet and exceed the European Union's CO2 reduction target and to increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

WHAT THEY DO

In order to meet the self-imposed CO2 reduction targets, signatories commit to a series of steps and accept to report and be monitored on their actions. Within predefined time frames, they formally undertake the following: (1) develop adequate administrative structures, including the allocation of sufficient human resources, in order to undertake the necessary actions; (2) prepare a Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI); (3) submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan within two years of signing a commitment to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, which must include concrete measures leading to a 40% reduction of CO2 emissions by 2030 and a "Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment" for climate adaptation; (4) submit an implementation report at least every second year after submission of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes.

To comply with the necessity of mobilizing local stakeholders in the development of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans, signatories also must: share experience and know-how with other local authorities; organise Local Energy Days to raise citizen awareness of sustainable development and energy efficiency; attend or contribute to the Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony, thematic workshops and discussion group meetings; and spread the message of the Covenant in the appropriate fora and encourage other mayors to join the Covenant.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Covenant of Mayors is open to all local authorities democratically constituted with/by elected representatives, whatever their size and whatever the stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies. A city can join at any time at no cost.

Neighbouring small and medium-sized local authorities can also, under certain conditions, decide to join as a group of signatories and submit a joint Sustainable Energy Action Plan, either committing individually (option 1) or collectively (option 2) to the CO2 reduction targets.

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ECOMOBILITY ALLIANCE

WHO THEY ARE

EcoMobility is defined as “travel through integrated, socially inclusive, and environmentally-friendly transport options, including walking, cycling, wheeling, and passenging.” The **EcoMobility Alliance**, created in 2011, is a global network of 16 cities committed to implementing sustainable urban transport solutions as part of their transportation planning and management systems. This network of Ecomobility leaders aims to engage both public and private actors from different sectors and segments from all over the world, as well as promote and advocate for EcoMobility worldwide.

WHAT THEY DO

Through a service-oriented structure, collective learning exercises, peer-to-peer exchanges and joint activities, EcoMobility Alliance Cities help each other reach self-set goals. A secretariat, along with a group of Partners from business, transport, user and governmental sectors, will support EcoMobility Alliance Cities with their expertise, experience, and technologies. Methods and mechanisms include: (1) Peer-to-peer exchanges: Through workshops and webinars, usually centred on one city or topic at a time, where all Alliance Cities and expert Partners participate and benefit from a collective learning exercise and deepen their knowledge; (2) Collaborative learning: A common program of activities including training courses and seminars, with the EcoMobility Congress as the flagship event; (3) General services: Other services of general interest to the Alliance Cities and Partners and the general public, such as the Alliance website, case studies, and progress reports.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Interested cities may submit an Expression of Interest to join the EcoMobility Alliance. Membership is free, but Alliance Cities must contribute in the following ways: propose specific goals and quantified targets they intend to achieve; measure and report progress according to a common set of indicators at the end of every phase; host and fund at least one city workshop; participate in at least one initiative of the collaborative learning activities per year; and participate in the EcoMobility Congress.

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ENERGY CITIES

WHO THEY ARE

Energy Cities is an association of local authorities working on Energy Transition throughout Europe. The association, created in 1990, represents more than 1,000 towns and cities in 30 countries. It is one of the founding organisations behind the European Commission-created Covenant of Mayors. For more than 25 years, Energy Cities has supported a locally-led energy transition by advocating devolution, democratisation and divestment – in Europe and beyond. Energy Cities is deeply committed to tapping into the unlimited human potential needed to change the energy paradigm.

WHAT THEY DO

Energy Cities has three primary objectives: (1) to strengthen the role and skills of local government in the field of sustainable energy; (2) to represent local government interests and influence the policies and proposals made by European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy; (3) to develop and promote local government initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know-how and the implementation of joint projects.

Members of Energy Cities receive one-on-one guidance on how to build an energy transition strategy; may participate in information exchange and sharing through a variety of campaigns, projects, site visits and study tours, and media outlets; may participate – free of charge – in annual meetings, workshops, and seminars; and benefit from representation and advocacy in Brussels at the European Union.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Energy Cities is a membership organization and is open to all local authorities, municipal authorities, local energy management agencies, municipal companies, and regional and national associations of municipalities. Municipalities located outside of the geographical Europe may join with the status of Associated Members. Annual membership fees are determined by population.



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EUROCITIES

WHO THEY ARE

Formally established in 1991, **EUROCITIES** is a network of major European cities that brings together the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities, who work together on exchanging best practices and who lobby European institutions for better inclusion of urban requirements in European policies. The objective of EUROCITIES is to reinforce the important role that local governments should play in a multi-level governance structure. EUROCITIES aims to shape the opinions of Brussels stakeholders and ultimately shift the focus of EU legislation in ways that enable city governments to tackle strategic challenges at the local level.

WHAT THEY DO

EUROCITIES offers their members a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas using a framework of six thematic forums, a wide range of working groups, projects, activities and events. Thematic forums include: Culture, Economy, Environment, Knowledge Society, Mobility, Social Affairs, and Cooperation.

EUROCITIES also hosts an awards program, which recognizes outstanding achievements by their member cities in the delivery of local activities or practices that improve the quality of life for citizens. The theme of the awards changes every year in line with the EUROCITIES annual conference. The EUROCITIES awards have been running since 2006.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

EUROCITIES is a membership organization. Membership is open to large cities (at least 250,000 inhabitants) in all European countries. The organization is comprised of Full Members (inside EU or European Economic Area (EEA)) and Associate Members (outside EU or EEA). Local authorities or organisations that are not eligible for full or associate membership may join as Associate Partners. Annual membership fees are determined by membership type and level of access.



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EUROPEAN ENERGY AWARD

WHO THEY ARE

The **European Energy Award** (EEA) is a quality management and certification system for local energy efficiency and climate mitigation efforts in Europe. Founded in 1988, the EEA is currently used by over 1,300 local and regional authorities in 11 European countries. Local and regional authorities in Switzerland, Austria and Germany, where the origins of the EEA lie, comprise the majority of users. The European Energy Award is a private initiative that is supported and endorsed by many public institutions.

WHAT THEY DO

The implementation of the EEA quality management and certification system is built around an integrated management cycle. Local and regional authorities engage in a certification process that begins with a baseline analysis and development of an action plan, implementation of the measures identified in the Action Plan, and finally, a comprehensive evaluation of the entire management process which, in successful cases, will be awarded with an EEA certificate.

The EEA actively supports local and regional authorities by providing access to specially-trained EEA consultants and auditors, as well as calculation and evaluation tools.

The concrete measures that local and regional authorities agree on with their EEA consultant take place in the following categories: (1) Spatial Planning and Development; (2) Public Buildings and Property (3) Infrastructure and Technology; (4) Mobility; (5) Management and Governance; (6) Communication and Cooperation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The EEA is organized by national coordination units. If such a national coordination exists, any local or regional authority in that country can participate in the EEA. Expenses for participating in the EEA are a combination of an annual fee and the costs for the assistance by EEA consultants and auditors. These costs are calculated based on the number of inhabitants.

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EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL AWARD

WHAT IT IS

One of the policy tools the European Commission is using to address impacts of urbanization on the natural environment is the **European Green Capital Award** (EGCA), which recognises and rewards local efforts to improve the environment, the economy and the quality of life in cities. The EGCA is awarded each year to a city that has demonstrated leadership in promoting environmentally-friendly urban living and can serve as a role-model to inspire other cities. Cities throughout Europe differ enormously and sharing concrete examples of what a European Green Capital can look like is essential if further progress towards urban sustainability is to be made.

WHAT IT DOES

The EGCA is awarded every year. Entries are assessed on 12 criteria/indicators: (1) Local contribution to global climate change; (2) Transport; (3) Green Urban Areas; (4) Noise; (5) Waste Production and Management; (6) Nature and Biodiversity; (7) Air; (8) Water Consumption; (9) Wastewater Treatment; (10) "Eco-innovation" and Sustainable Employment; (11) Environmental management of the local authority; (12) Energy Performance. The title is awarded by an international jury supported by a panel of experts from different environmental fields. The first city to hold the title was Stockholm (Sweden) in 2010. In the following years, the title has been awarded to Hamburg (Germany), Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Nantes (France), Copenhagen (Denmark), Bristol (United Kingdom), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Essen (Germany).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Cities from EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland with more than 100,000 inhabitants can apply for the award. In countries where there is no city with more than 100,000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply. The application process requires an extensive self-evaluation with the 12 criteria/indicators. Therefore, a city can already benefit from the knowledge created in the application process even if the application is not successful. The European Green Capital scheme does not include funding to support initiatives in the winning cities, but being awarded a Green Capital city may be relevant for local authorities to explore other funding opportunities at the EU level.

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EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF

WHAT IT IS

The **European Green Leaf** (EGL) is a sustainability award for European cities with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. It recognizes efforts and commitment in the areas of sustainability and environment with a particular focus on efforts that generate green growth and new jobs. Following the success of the European Green Capital Award, many smaller cities wished to gain EU recognition for their achievements. In response, the European Commission launched the new European Green Leaf initiative in 2015.

WHAT IT DOES

The European Green Leaf will be presented on an annual basis by the European Commission in conjunction with the European Green Capital Award. Candidate cities are assessed on the basis of six environmental categories: (1) Climate Change and Energy Performance; (2) Mobility; (3) Biodiversity and Land Use; (4) Air Quality and the Acoustic Environment; (5) Waste Management and Green Economy; (6) Water and Wastewater Management.

Winning cities will act as a "green ambassador" in order to encourage other cities to progress towards better sustainability outcomes.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The European Green Leaf is open to EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland with populations between 20,000 and 100,000 at the date of application. In this context, a "city" is understood to be an urban area and an administrative unit governed by a city council or democratically-elected body. Previous winners may not apply for a period of three years after they have been awarded a European Green Leaf.

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EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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WHO THEY ARE

The **European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities** (EIP-SCC) is an initiative of the European Commission that brings together cities, industry and citizens to find innovative technical solutions to major environmental, societal and health challenges facing European cities today. It is the belief of the EIP-SCC that these innovative technical solutions will be found at the intersection of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), energy management and transport management. The Partnership's primary objectives are to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, poor air quality and road congestion, with the overall goal of developing scalable and transferable solutions to contribute to the European Union's climate action goals.

WHAT THEY DO

The Partnership aims to overcome bottlenecks impeding the changeover to smart cities, to co-fund demonstration projects and to help coordinate existing city initiatives and projects, by pooling its resources together. It ultimately looks to establish strategic partnerships between industry and European cities to develop "smart" urban systems and infrastructures.

The EIP-SCC works through a number of formats: (1) through "Commitments", which are projects within the framework of the EIP-SCC. They are measurable and concrete Smart City engagements/ actions from public and private partners; (2) through the Market Place of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities ("Market Place"), where participants can help develop and implement integrated Smart City solutions, support networking and partnering, accumulate knowledge and facilitate exchange of information, and focus on the intersection of Energy, ICT and Transport; (3) through Action Clusters, which are an assembly of partners committed to working on specific issues related to Smart Cities.

Current Action Clusters are: Business Models, Finance and Procurement; Citizen Focus; Integrated Infrastructures and Processes; Policy and Regulations; Sustainable Districts and Built Environment; and Sustainable Urban Mobility.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

As of April 2016, no new "Invitation for Commitments" to join the EIP-SCC is foreseen for the time being, but cities may still join an Action Cluster or an existing commitment / project. All cities and their Smart City partners can register at the Market Place, free of charge, and get involved in an Action Cluster through an additional application process.



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GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES (GNLC)

GLOBAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMITMENT NETWORK AWARD

WHO THEY ARE

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) initiated the **Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)** to promote lifelong learning in urban communities. The GNLC aims to assist cities in their transformation into learning cities and create a better future – for their economies, their environment, their citizens and the planet. It does this by creating a global network to mobilise cities and demonstrate how a city's resources can be used most effectively to provide learning opportunities to citizens. The goal is to enrich human potential, promote equality and social justice, maintain social cohesion, and create sustainable prosperity.

WHAT THEY DO

The GNLC has five principle objectives. They are: (1) promote lifelong learning for all as an organising principle for education policy in cities/regions; (2) provide member cities with normative instruments to measure progress in building a learning city or region; (3) foster policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities; (4) serve as a clearinghouse of successful practice in establishing learning cities/regions; (5) collaborate with related international associations, networks and various stakeholders promoting sustainable socio-economic development in cities/regions.

To achieve these objectives, the GNLC has created a network to help member cities develop partnerships and collaborate with stakeholders. It monitors the Key Features of Learning Cities as a comprehensive checklist of action points for governments and other stakeholders in building learning cities, and facilitates and disseminates research on successful practices in establishing learning cities. The network also organises international and regional conferences, seminars and exchange activities, provides capacity-development programmes for stakeholders in partnership with cities that are striving to become learning cities, and informs member cities about sources of information which they can use to improve the knowledge and performance of their leaders, administrators, stakeholders and citizens.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any city in the world may participate in the GNLC through an application and adoption process. City leadership must adopt the Guiding Documents of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, which includes 12 commitments and a Key Features assessment tool that can serve as a comprehensive checklist of action points to help municipal governments and other stakeholders of cities in their efforts to build learning cities. Membership is free, but the GNLC accepts voluntary contributions to support the activities of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

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GLOBAL PARLIAMENT OF MAYORS

WHO THEY ARE

The **Global Parliament of Mayors** (GPM) is, as of 2016, still a governance movement in the making. The GPM is an experimental global governance network comprised of city mayors addressing issues of power and politics. It aims to be a bottom-up, “soft governance” institution that works to influence other levels of governance and the civic and private sector with sound policies and effective solutions.

The GPM is based on an idea by the political theorist Benjamin Barber, which he first developed in his 2013 book, “If Mayors Ruled the World”.

WHAT THEY DO

A key declaration of the GPM is that “cities have the right to self-govern, especially in our 21st century era of interdependence where independent states are failing to solve global problems that threaten not only sustainability and justice, but existence itself.” The GPM proposes steps to achieve efficacy and legitimacy, and a decision-making model based on the internet governance ecosystem’s modus operandi of “rough consensus and running code.” “Rough consensus” refers to the ecosystem’s underlying governing ethic in which decisions are reached by consensus rather than formal voting, while “running code” means that developing practical results drives the network’s activities. The idea is that the network would operate as a global urban network with a vibrant online community that collaborates on key issues 365 days a year.

The inaugural GPM is expected to convene September 10-12, 2016 in The Hague (The Netherlands) to establish its governance legitimacy and address an agenda of cross-border issues selected by the mayors.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Cities are being chosen by the GPM organisers with input from engaged mayors and mayors associations, by global importance and regional distribution. The selection process will be configured to reflect mayoral elections. Mayors from cities with populations 250,000 and larger can request to participate in the Parliament. Mayors from smaller cities are also welcome to participate if they represent a cluster of small cities. A yearly meeting and regional meetings are proposed. While the inaugural sessions are free, the GPM will eventually agree and institute a self-funding mechanism with a modest and sliding-scale schedule of dues amongst its members.

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GLOBAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL

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ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

WHO THEY ARE

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, established in 1990, is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI is founded on the premise that locally-designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives. One of ICLEI's early and most lasting achievements was the creation and promotion of Local Agenda 21, which has since evolved into a global sustainability campaign at the local level. ICLEI has since built on this expertise to address all aspects of urban sustainability with its local government network and partner organisations. Today, more than 1,200 cities, towns, counties, and their associations in 84 countries comprise ICLEI's membership, representing more than 20% of the world's population.



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WHAT THEY DO

ICLEI works with its members, strategic partners, and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs. It provides technical consulting, training, and information services to its members to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local governments in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level.

While ICLEI was originally founded to address environmental issues, the organization has evolved over time to focus on broader themes that also take the social, economic and cultural aspects of sustainability into account. Today, ICLEI's work is based on 10 thematic agendas: (1) Sustainable City; (2) Low-Carbon City; (3) Resource-Efficient and Productive City; (4) Resilient City; (5) BiodiverCity; (6) Smart City; (7) ECOMOBILE City; (8) Happy, Healthy and Inclusive Communities; (9) Sustainable Local Economy and Procurement; (10) Sustainable City-Region Cooperation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

ICLEI is a membership organization open to local governments and associations throughout the world. Local governments may join through their respective regional offices (e.g., ICLEI – European Secretariat).

Membership rates and fees are based on Gross National Income (GNI/GDP) and population.

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

WHO THEY ARE

Founded in 1948, the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature** (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, representing the environmental interests of more than 1,000 members in some 160 countries. Conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN.

Their work directly addresses the global production and consumption patterns that are destroying Earth's life support system – nature – at persistent and dangerously high rates. One of IUCN's best-known projects is the Red List of Threatened Species, which is widely recognized as the world's most comprehensive inventory of the conservation status of plant and animal species.

WHAT THEY DO

The IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practices that demonstrate how biodiversity is fundamental to addressing some of the world's greatest challenges, such as climate change, sustainable development and food security.

Their projects and advocacy work focus on three core areas: (1) valuing and conserving nature enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature; (2) effective and equitable governance of nature's use consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature; (3) deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Membership to IUCN is generally open to states, government agencies, political/ economic integration organizations, and national and international non-governmental organizations. Local and regional governments, or their affiliated institutions (e.g. zoos, museums, etc.), are welcome to join IUCN under conditions specified in the statutes, but local government participation is unconventional; IUCN partners are more typically national or international organisations.

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NETWORK
AWARDMEDCITIES - NETWORK OF
MEDITERRANEAN CITIES

WHO THEY ARE

MedCities is a network of Mediterranean cities that was created in Barcelona in November 1991. The network currently brings together 30 cities as diverse as Barcelona, Izmir and Benghazi. While founded to support cities dealing with urban environmental problems, MedCities has since broadened its activities to other local sustainable development fields, including waste, air quality, mobility, water, and urban development.

WHAT THEY DO

MedCities works along two main lines of activities: capability-building and knowledge transfer in urban issues between the cities of the network.

For the important task of knowledge transfer, the MedCities network established three Knowledge Transfer Centers based in the cities of Málaga (Spain), Al Fayhaa (Lebanon) and Sfax (Tunisia). These centers work to disseminate the concept of strategic urban planning; advance the methodological tools for the elaboration and implementation of strategic plans; and promote exchange between cities that are elaborating or implementing strategies.

For additional capacity building, the MedCities network implements and coordinates various projects, either as projects in one specific city, or as cooperations between its members. All these projects take place within the four working lines of the network: Waste, Air Quality and Mobility, Water, and City Development.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Membership is open to cities preferably over 50,000 inhabitants located in Mediterranean coastal countries, Portugal and Jordan, which promise to carry out or promote activities aligned with the objectives of the association. Qualifying cities who are not yet members of MedCities are encouraged to apply. Annual membership fees are based on city population and EU Member State status.



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NETWORK
AWARDMETREX - NETWORK OF EUROPEAN
METROPOLITAN REGIONS AND AREAS

WHO THEY ARE

Founded in 1996, the **Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas** (METREX) provides an exchange platform for practitioners - politicians, officials and their advisers - concerned with spatial planning and development at the metropolitan level. The Network is also interested in ancillary issues associated with spatial planning, like socio-economic futures and environmental, transportation and infrastructure issues. The Network has members from some 50 metropolitan regions and areas and partners throughout Europe.

WHAT THEY DO

The objective of METREX is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between members, by encouraging concrete cooperation through projects, events, and information and lobbying campaigns on behalf of metropolitan regions in Europe.

These objectives are implemented through the biannual METREX meeting, its biennially-organized METREX conference, and through projects that, for example, help metropolitan regions measure their greenhouse gas emissions and plan for energy.

Continuous, in-depth work on issues of common interest takes place in expert groups. Currently there are nine expert groups working on selected key issues, including planning for industry in major metropolitan areas, affordable housing, and planning for major events, like the Olympics.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

METREX is a membership organization. All political, territorial, public or private organizations that undertake spatial planning and development at the metropolitan region and area level in Europe can become Members of the METREX Network. The criteria for membership of METREX may vary, and will depend on the different legal and administrative frameworks for spatial planning and development across Europe.

Annual membership rates are based on the number of partners in a metropolitan region that support METREX membership, as well as the country in which a metropolitan region is located. Membership discounts are available for CEEC countries, Balkan states, and Poland.



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GLOBAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL

COMMITMENT NETWORK AWARD

METROPOLIS

WHO THEY ARE

Metropolis - World Association of the Major Metropolises is an international network of cities and metropolitan regions with more than a million inhabitants. Created in 1985, Metropolis represents more than 140 members from across the world and operates as an international forum for exploring issues and concerns common to all big cities and metropolitan regions. Its mission is to build a network of initiatives among metropolitan governments and their collaborating partners to promote projects in partnership for urban sustainability, understood simultaneously in its environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects.

WHAT THEY DO

Metropolis promotes collaborative projects and learning programs between the major cities of the world. The organisation has over 12 initiatives in four thematic categories (Innovation, Governance, Social Inclusion and Sustainability), operates the Metropolis International Training Institute, and manages a platform on Integrated Urban Governance and Policy Transfer, a resource for experts and anyone who wants to learn more about integrated urban governance.

Metropolis also promotes outstanding urban development experiences and recognizes the key role of local decision makers in the international arena with annual meetings and world congresses, an awards program, support of an Urban Innovation Community, and the Voice of the Mayors program, which spotlights mayors for their active role in global development through the exercise of their mandates. Metropolis also hosts networks that promote gender mainstreaming and empower young citizens in urban management.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Metropolis is a membership organisation. Representatives from cities or metropolitan regions with over 1,000,000 inhabitants are welcome to join. Local and regional governments are welcome to join if they are part of the metropolis. Engagement is a core requirement of Metropolis, either through leadership (hosting events, board participation, etc.) or engagement through participation (in training, programs, projects, etc.).

Annual membership fees are based on Gross National Income (GNI). A discount is available for joining both Metropolis and UCLG.

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NRG4SD

WHO THEY ARE

Established in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa), the **Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development** (nrg4SD) is a non-profit international organization that represents subnational governments and associations of subnational governments at the global level in the field of sustainable development. nrg4SD is the only international network on sustainable development matters with worldwide presence and representing solely subnational governments. Since its creation, the Network has worked directly with and has been accredited to several entities of the United Nations, including UNEP, UNFCCC and CBF, as well as the different institutions of the European Union.

WHAT THEY DO

The objectives of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development nrg4SD are: (1) to promote sustainable development at the level of subnational governments around the Globe; (2) to act as the voice and representative of subnational governments at global level in the field of sustainable development; (3) to seek a wider recognition at international level of the importance of the commitment of subnational governments towards sustainable development; (4) to contribute to the elaboration and implementation of responsible and ambitious territorial policies, tools and resources, which are adapted to the subnational level; (5) and to encourage expertise exchange, partnerships and projects among our members, as well as between them and other major international stakeholders.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

nrg4SD is a membership organisation. All subnational governments and associations of subnational governments who accept the nrg4SD Founding Declaration of Gauteng and the payment of an annual fee can apply for membership to nrg4SD.

Annual membership fees are individually determined in accordance to population and Gross Domestic Product GDP.

ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES (OWHC)

GLOBAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMITMENT NETWORK AWARD

WHO THEY ARE

An international nonprofit non-governmental organization, the **Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)** was created to help member cities adapt and improve their management methods in relation to the specific requirements of having a site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Organization is comprised of 250 cities that include sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These 250 World Heritage Cities have a combined population of over 130 million. Within the Organization, these cities are represented by their Mayors with the active participation of their heritage management specialists.

WHAT THEY DO

The objectives of the OWHC are to favor the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, to encourage cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise on matters of conservation and management, as well as to develop a sense of solidarity among its member cities.

It works to achieve these goals through a variety of activities. Conferences and congresses, such as its World Congress but also smaller seminars and workshops, provide an opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange. Youth on the Trail of World Heritage is a school twinning program between member cities, which makes it possible for groups of young people between 15 and 18 years old to acquaint themselves with the concept of world heritage. The “Solidarity Day of the World Heritage Cities” is an annual campaign promoting world heritage.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Organization of World Heritage Cities is a membership organisation. Any city may become a Member if a site located within its territory is recognized by UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee and meets at least one of the criteria of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In addition, any person or city may become an Observer Member, enjoying many benefits of membership but with no voting rights.



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POLIS

WHO THEY ARE

Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Since 1989, local and regional authorities have been working together within Polis to promote sustainable mobility. The network is currently made up of 64 members and is supported by a secretariat. Polis is the only self-governed network of local and regional authorities in the field of transport and mobility in Europe.

WHAT THEY DO

The primary goal of POLIS is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities. It also facilitates dialogue between local and regional authorities and other actors of the sector such as industry, research centres and universities, and NGOs.

The activities of Polis are organised around four thematic pillars: (1) Environment and Health in Transport (reducing the impacts that urban and regional mobility have on the environment and on health); (2) Mobility and Traffic Efficiency (network management, network efficiency and innovative services); (3) Transport Safety and Security (road safety policies, vulnerable user and multi-modal innovations); (4) Social and Economic Aspects of Transport (accessibility, financing public transport, regulation, planning and governance).

Polis members meet regularly in working groups organised in the framework of these pillars.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Polis Membership is open to all European local and regional authorities including cities, provinces, regions, etc., as well as to their transport authorities, mobility agencies and local public transport organisations. Entities that are not eligible for Full Membership, such as non-European cities and regions, may apply for Associate Membership, which allows them to enjoy the benefits of membership without voting rights. Varying membership fees apply to all members.

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PROCUREMENT NETWORK

WHO THEY ARE

Procura+ is a sustainable procurement network and service provided by ICLEI to support public authorities in implementing sustainable public procurement for common goods and services, like transportation (i.e., buses and fleets), cleaning and maintenance products, green electricity, food and catering services, IT equipment, and building construction and renovation. The objective of Procura+ is to motivate a significant number of public authorities to include environmental, social and economic considerations into their procurement policies and tendering procedures. Through this, the market for cost-effective environmentally and socially responsible products and services can be stimulated and more globally adopted.

WHAT THEY DO

Procura+ provides direct assistance to local governments to help support their work in implementing sustainable procurement and promotes their achievements internationally. The Procura+ Network also offers members customized trainings and direct consultancy, priority in joining project consortia and proposals developed by ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team and speaking at ICLEI events, discounts on international seminars, workshops and conferences where new trends and experiences on sustainable procurement are presented, and participation in the Procura+ Exchange. The Procura+ Exchange is a free-to-join multi-lingual (English, German and French) information and exchange email list for professionals interested in Sustainable Public Procurement.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any public or semi-public authority can join the Procura+ Network. Each participant will need to pay a small administration fee, which helps to cover the cost of coordinating the Procura+ Network. The size of the fee for local and regional authorities will depend on the population of the area covered by the authority.



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Source: regions20.org

R20 – REGIONS OF CLIMATE ACTION

WHO THEY ARE

Founded in 2010 by former Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and with the support of the United Nations, the **R20 - Regions of Climate Action** (R20) is a nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to help sub-national governments implement low-carbon and climate-resilient projects, as well as to share best practices in renewable energy and energy efficiency, in order to build a “green economy”. The R20 is a coalition of sub-national governments, private companies, international organizations, NGOs and academic and financial institutions. Currently, 47 sub-national governments are members of R20.

WHAT THEY DO

The R20 helps sub-national governments around the world develop and communicate low-carbon and climate resilient economic development projects, in order to build an effective “green deal flow” at the sub-national level. This is made possible by connecting Regions, Technology and Finance to build sustainable low-carbon projects. The R20 works - upon demand from the regions - as a “matchmaker” for three actors: sub-national governments, technology developers, and investors. Its purpose is to connect them with each other, in order to facilitate the implementation of green projects targeting GHG emission reductions, public health improvements, creation of new jobs, and poverty reduction in accessing public services for all.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

R20 is a membership organisation, consisting of both members (subnational governments) and partners (organizations other than subnational governments). Subnational governments from around the world who are committed to develop, implement, and communicate low-carbon and climate resilient economic development projects, policies, and best practices are invited to join as members. Members must commit to work toward progressive policies to address climate change and build sustainable economies; be able to designate one person with the authority to make decisions on behalf of the subnational government to participate in the R20’s activities; and be willing to share best practices, policies, and lessons learned with other members.

Membership fees start at \$1000 to join the network; an additional program fee will be charged when R20 begins to actively do work within the Member’s region.

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REVES

WHO THEY ARE

REVES - European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy, is a unique European network based on partnership between local and regional authorities and territorial social economy organisations. REVES represents, defends and promotes the common values of its members vis-à-vis European and International institutions. REVES members are local and regional authorities and social economy organisations working together to develop stable partnerships.

WHAT THEY DO

REVES represents, defends and promotes the common values of its members vis-à-vis European and International institutions. Jointly with its members, it pursues the objectives set out in the REVES charter, in order to establish a dialogue with European and international Institutions in order to (1) create positive conditions for the development of a social and solidarity based-economy; (2) develop social responsibility and exchange expertise and know-how, and to implement innovation in the fields of inclusion, participation and empowerment of local communities; (3) educate and communicate the contribution of social economy-based partnership for more solidarity-based communities; (4) be a laboratory for innovation in social policies and to support their dissemination in all territories; (5) cooperate and create synergies with other national, European and international networks and to complement them; (6) pursue these objectives in Europe and at international level with a view to territorial cohesion, international solidarity, promotion of equal opportunity and north-south cooperation; (7) capitalize on its own and members experiences in the different fields of interest and make them available to all members.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

REVES is a membership organisation. Local and regional authorities and social economy organisations are invited to join the network and participate in accordance with the REVES Charter.

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Source: www.transitionnetwork.org

TRANSITION NETWORK

WHO THEY ARE

Transition Network is a charitable organisation founded in 2006, whose role is to inspire, encourage, connect, support and train communities as they self-organise around the Transition model, create initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions. The aim of Transition is to enable citizens to be catalysts in their community to make where they live more resilient, healthier and bursting with strong local livelihoods, while also reducing its ecological footprint.

WHAT THEY DO

The Transition Network develops initiatives and projects with citizen-led partner groups throughout the world, and helps connect them with other partner groups and associated networks (i.e., local governments, foundations, established nonprofit organizations). The Transition Network provides a range of dissemination services to support Transition Groups with their projects, including events, conferences, trainings, blogs and webinars. They also produce monthly newsletters, books, films, guides, and are active on social media.

The Transition Network is comprised of seven Principles, which provide the foundation and fundamental motivation for the movement: (1) Positive Visioning; (2) Help People Access Good Information and Trust Them to Make Good Decisions; (3) Inclusion and Openness; (4) Enable Sharing and Networking; (6) Build Resilience; (6) Inner and Outer Transition; (7) Subsidiarity: self-organisation and decision making at the appropriate level.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Because the Transition Network is based on “bottom-up”, citizen-led initiatives and governance, Local Governments cannot directly join the Transition network. Rather, Local Governments should educate themselves about the commitment and collaborate with existing Transition groups and their partners on community projects.

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UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES (UBC)

WHO THEY ARE

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a voluntary, proactive network of local governments from all ten countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. Founded in 1991, the network is working to mobilize the shared potential of its member cities for democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

WHAT THEY DO

The tasks of the UBC are comprehensive and varied. They promote exchange of experience between Member Cities in their common fields of interest, and organise meetings, exhibitions, scientific and popular sessions, as well as other events to popularise achievements of the individual member Cities. They support and assist the member Cities in carrying out research and development work and publish their efforts, and promote interest in the history of the Baltic Region, its ecological and cultural heritage and work together to protect the Region's landscape as well as its cultural and historical monuments. They launch initiatives and cooperate with the Baltic Sea Region governments and international organisations to resolve regional economic development and environmental protection problems. They also participate in European integration and multi-level governance, bearing in mind the importance of the European dimension to the future of the cities, by emphasising the role of local and regional authorities. UBC serves its Member Cities with information and help generate projects that are co-financed by the European Union and other funders, offering cities quality project consulting.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any city located in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, or Sweden may become a Member City of the Union. Any other city may become an Associated City of the Union. Interested organisations, businesses and institutions may become a Partner of the Union. Cities, organizations, businesses and institutions may join the Union by making a written declaration of their will to enter it. The Executive Board is authorised to decide upon the acceptance, terms and fees for Associated Cities and Partners of the Union.

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UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)

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WHO THEY ARE

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was founded in 2004 by uniting previously existing local government organizations with a global scope. Ever since its establishment, UCLG has been the largest local government organization worldwide. Through its over 1000 direct member cities and more than 175 national associations of local governments that are united in UCLG, the network represents 5 billion people across the world, 70% of the world's total population in 140 countries.

UCLG represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. The mission of UCLG is "To be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community."



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WHAT THEY DO

UCLG is one of the main advocates for the interests of local governments at the international level. The network, in a coalition with other global local government associations, is active in global policy processes such as the SDGs or HABITAT III. UCLG also represents the voice of local governments in many United Nations institutions.

Furthermore, UCLG supports international cooperation between cities and their associations, and facilitates programmes, networks and partnerships to build the capacities of local governments. The organization promotes the role of women in local decision-making, and is a gateway to relevant information on local government throughout the world.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

UCLG is organized through seven regional sections in all parts of the world, such as the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. To become a member of the World Organization, local governments can opt for membership through the corresponding regional section or as a direct member of the World Organization.

All members are required to pay an annual membership fee. Membership fees are based on a calculation that takes into consideration the number of inhabitants represented by the member, and the state of the country's economic development.

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URBACT

WHO THEY ARE

URBACT is a European exchange and learning program promoting sustainable urban development. It is an instrument of the European Union's cohesion policy. The third and current edition from 2014-2020 was developed to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy. The program is jointly funded by the EU, its Member States, Norway and Switzerland, and is, for the current period, equipped with a total budget of 96 M€. The previous edition of the program, from 2007 to 2014, brought together 550 cities and over 7000 local stakeholders.

WHAT THEY DO

The URBACT Programme offers three main packages of activities to cities and urban practitioners:

Transnational Exchange: URBACT enables European cities to work together to develop effective and sustainable responses to major urban challenges, through transnational exchange networks. For the URBACT III program these networks all fall under one of the categories action planning network, implementation network or transfer networks.

Capitalisation and Dissemination: URBACT enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with an international audience through formats like workshops, conferences, or URBACT publications.

Capacity building: URBACT offers capacity building activities, such as national capacity building seminars or the URBACT University, to improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Local Governments interested in Sustainable Development may become a Lead Partner or a Project Partner of an URBACT network (competitive proposal process). Each URBACT partner is required to set up a Local Support Group gathering key local stakeholders in order to co-produce the Local Action Plan (LAP). The URBACT Program provides each approved network with a specific financial envelope for the appointment of URBACT experts. It is available to the EU 28 Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland. Other countries can participate with their own funding.

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WORLD MAYORS COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHO THEY ARE

Founded in 2005, the **World Mayors Council on Climate Change** (WMCCC) is an alliance of committed local government leaders who are concerned about climate change. They advocate for enhanced engagement of local governments as governmental stakeholders in multilateral efforts to address climate change and related issues of global sustainability. There are presently over 80 members of the Council, representing a vast network of local governments working to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

WHAT THEY DO

The World Mayors Council on Climate Change has four primary methods of action: (1) They showcase local leaders' climate and sustainability actions that contribute to policy change at local and global levels; (2) they support their members to enhance their climate and sustainability leadership capacities; (3) they address global climate and sustainability policy makers as a global body of leaders from diverse local governments; (4) they politically steer the development and implementation of mechanisms that support local climate and sustainability action.

The WMCCC also advocates in United Nations forums related to global sustainability, such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Membership to the WMCCC is open to mayors, governors and equivalent leaders of municipal levels of government. Joining the World Mayors Council on Climate Change is a commitment to demonstrate leadership on climate and global sustainability issues. Members agree that: (1) Climate change is a major global challenge requiring urgent and concerted action and collaboration by all spheres of government; (2) that municipal leaders have the potential and the will-power to tackle climate change; (3) that National and sub-national governments must recognize the fundamental role of local governments in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Mayors whose terms have expired are welcome to maintain their WMCCC membership and continue lending their expertise and advice.