

## Compact of Mayors – Frequently Asked Questions for Cities

### What is the Compact of Mayors?

The Compact of Mayors is an agreement by city networks – and then by their members – to undertake a transparent and supportive approach to reduce city-level emissions, to reduce vulnerability and to enhance resilience to climate change, in a consistent and complimentary manner to national level climate protection efforts. The Compact of Mayors builds on the ongoing efforts of Mayors that increasingly set ambitious, voluntary city climate commitments or targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and to address climate risk; report on progress towards achieving those targets by meeting robust, rigorous and consistent reporting standards (as established through City Networks); and make that information publically available by reporting through a recognized city platform."

(See <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/CITIES-Mayors-compact.pdf>)

### Why was the Compact of Mayors launched?

With 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions coming from urban areas, the enormous work being done locally to address climate change is more important than ever. Local leaders are seizing this opportunity by making ambitious commitments to fight and adapt to climate change, and the Compact of Mayors is providing a space to publicly recognize this. More specifically, the Compact:

- Enables recognition of new and existing city-level commitments by making annual reporting data publicly available. Existing initiatives include the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (2005), the EU Covenant of Mayors (2008), Making Cities Resilient Campaign (2010), the Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City Pact (2010) and the Durban Adaptation Charter (2011);
- Establishes a robust and transparent data collection standard for local action.

### What is the purpose of the Compact of Mayors?

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials pledging to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change, and track their progress transparently. Compact cities are supported by global city networks and "endorsing partners" in this significant undertaking.

The Compact was launched to communicate the impact of the multitude of city initiatives currently underway that have yet to be fully recognized, collectively, in the global community. Over the last 20 years, cities have continued to show leadership in addressing climate change, but the collective impact of this action is still not well known. The Compact therefore aims to recognize each of the efforts currently underway and thereby consolidate climate actions through consistent and transparent public reporting of greenhouse gas data as well as climate hazards and risk, and strategic plans to address both. This data-driven platform, which is similar to the one used by nations as they create national climate plans, will help direct resources and policies that better support and accelerate local climate actions.

More specifically, the Compact:

- 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
- 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;
- Encourages national governments to actively support additional city action by recognizing local commitments, establishing more enabling policy environments and directing resources to cities to limit any further increase in global warming and to appropriately resource both mitigation and adaptation of local climate action.

### **Does the Compact address both climate change mitigation and adaptation?**

Yes, the Compact recognizes that cities are taking critical action to both address existing climate risk (adaptation) as well as reduce urban GHG impacts (mitigation) and therefore asks cities to voluntarily publish and track commitments, targets and actions for both greenhouse gas emissions mitigation and assessing and adapting to climate risks.

### **How can a city take part?**

All cities and towns in the world may take part in the Compact of Mayors. Upon making an initial pledge to the Compact, cities will receive an official “Compact of Mayors” seal, which may then be displayed publicly on web and print materials. Cities then have up to three years to meet a series of requirements to fully comply, including greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement and target setting—culminating in creating a full climate action and adaptation plan.

As cities complete each part, they will be recognized with one of the digital badges to signify each of the below milestones, which can also be used for digital and print materials.

### **How will my participation in the Compact be recognized?**

Upon joining the Compact, cities will receive a “Compact of Mayors” seal, as well as badges to signify their progress in achieving compliance at each milestone along the way. It is anticipated that major global announcements on the cities that have declared their intent to comply with the Compact of Mayors will be made at the Paris COP21 in December of this year.

### **What are the Compact compliance requirements?**

All cities and towns may take part in the Compact of Mayors. Upon making an initial pledge to the Compact, cities will receive an official “Compact of Mayors” seal, which may then be displayed publicly on web and print materials. Cities then have up to three years to meet a series of requirements to fully comply with the Compact, including greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement and target setting. This culminates in creating a full climate action and adaptation plan. More details on compliance requirements are attached.

### **Where do I register and report my climate commitments and actions?**

Under the Compact, cities may continue to report through any existing recognized city climate reporting platform, including CDP Cities and Carbonn Climate Registry. The Carbonn Climate Registry is the central database that will enable the compilation of data through existing national, regional, and global city reporting platforms – eliminating the need to report your city’s climate data more than once.

### **What methodology will be used to standardize all Compact-related climate data?**

To ensure a consistent and transparent way to measure emissions which conforms with IPCC national guidelines, the Compact of Mayors will use the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC) -- the world’s most widely-endorsed GHG accounting and reporting standard for cities. For climate risks and adaptation data, a new framework is currently being developed.

### **What if my city has already met some or all the requirements towards being compliant?**

We warmly welcome all cities that have already taken steps towards being Compact Compliant! The Compact of Mayors has been designed to recognize that each city may have a different starting point on this pathway, and may progress to full compliance at different rates. Each of these stages present significant accomplishments and should be recognized accordingly. If your city has already completed some or all of the requirements, you will receive a “Compact of Mayors” seal and relevant badge to demonstrate your status. You can use this badge to demonstrate your leadership and commitment on marketing materials as well as social media and web channels.

### **What if my city is already Compact Compliant?**

If your city is already Compact Compliant, having completed and reported all requirements, you will receive a badge that you can use to demonstrate your status. Moreover, It is anticipated that major global announcements on the cities that have declared their intent to comply with the Compact of Mayors will be made at the Paris COP21 in December of this year.

### **How can I remain “Compact Compliant”?**

Cities remain compliant with the Compact by regularly reporting on their progress through the standard reporting platforms, ICLEI’s carbonn climate registry or CDP. This requires regularly updating their greenhouse gas inventories, documenting their emissions reductions and reporting on mitigation and adaptation actions.

### **Are there resources, trainings or technical assistance to help cities become Compact Compliant?**

Yes, the city networks C40, ICLEI and UCLG will be offering a series of training webinars to introduce the Compact of Mayors and compliance requirements. Compact support staff members are also available to respond to individual questions on an as-needed basis. We are also working to build a full suite of technical support tools, which will be available throughout the course of the year to support your commitment. Finally, and once your city has made its Compact commitment, we are also pleased to offer communications and media support to communicate this commitment to a global audience. Please contact us at [info@compactofmayors.org](mailto:info@compactofmayors.org) with any questions.

### **What will be announced at the Paris Climate Summit (UNFCCC COP21) in December 2015?**

The Compact aims to have hundreds of cities showcase their commitment by the COP 21 in December, demonstrating to nations that cities and local governments are crucial partners in a global climate solution now and in the future.

### **Who developed the Compact of Mayors?**

The development of the Compact of Mayors was led by the three global city networks - C40, ICLEI, and UCLG - in close collaboration with the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, UN-Habitat, and the UN Secretary General’s office. A number of cities and other city organizations were consulted directly throughout this process.

### **Where can I find more information about the Compact of Mayors?**

You can find out more by writing to us [info@uclg.org](mailto:info@uclg.org) indicating [Compact of Mayors] in the subject of your email.

[More information is also available here](#)