

PLEDGING GUIDANCE

FOR CITIES



#MyWorldOurPlanet
#EUClimatePact

This document introduces citiesⁱ to pledging under the European Climate Pactⁱⁱ.

The purpose of this document is to give a very brief overview of the different types of pledges and their respective ambition levels, provide a few illustrative examples, and point out the different channels through which cities can pledge under the Pact.

The examples of template pledges shown below are merely illustrative and not exhaustive. The current list of all template pledges can be found on the European Climate Pact website. Further tailored pledges can also be created via the Pact pledging platform.

PLEDGE TYPES

Joint pledge A pledge made by a city together with one or more other actors (e.g., with other cities, their region, a business, an NGO, a school, citizens, etc.) to collaborate towards meeting common objectives.

Joint pledges are an essential element of the Pact. They are a channel to create innovative, impactful, collective action. By joining forces actors can activate their ecosystem, magnify their impact, and inspire others.

Pledging together is also a way of finding complementary knowledge, expertise, and resources to meet a common goal.

Examples - A city could make a joint pledge with:

An SME manufacturing and making installations of electric vehicle charging stations, to increase the percentage of charging stations in the city's jurisdiction by 50% in 2 years

An Energy provider, to have all city owned and occupied buildings operating at net zero carbon emissions by 2030

A citizens group, to establish regular dialogue fora for climate and environmental action in the city

Solo pledge A pledge made by a city alone, committing to actions relevant to their jurisdiction.

Pledges should contribute to fighting climate change. This means the action taken should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address environmental degradation, and promote sustainability.

Pledges can relate to the way a city administration operates, produces, communicates, or motivate citizens, employees, partners, and other stakeholders to take action. Any pledge must go beyond what is required by legislation.

Examples - A city could pledge to:

Incorporate water security targets into their city master planning

Have a target for reducing food waste to disposal (landfill and incineration)

Sign-up to the Covenant of Mayors for a fairer, climate-neutral Europe

PLEDGE AMBITION LEVELS

North Star pledge A promise to set a target at the highest level of ambition that is informed by climate and environmental science.

Examples - A city could pledge to:

Commit to setting a science-based target of 1.5°C for emissions reductions by the end of the current year

Have a GHG emissions city-wide reduction target of 95% by 2050 or earlier

Pathway pledge A commitment that represents a step forward in their climate and environmental action journey.

Examples - A city could pledge to:

Identify and report on the most significant climate hazards affecting their administrative boundary by the end of the next calendar year

Incentivise [local] fresh fruit/vegetables vendor locations

Have a fleet of public busses which are Electric + Hybrid + Plug in hybrid + Hydrogen surpassing 15% of the total fleet

HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

Cities can pledge directly through the [Climate Pact website pledging form](#), via the [MyCovenant dashboard \(for CoM 2050 pledge only\)](#), or through the [CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System](#).

Contact details of a representative having the authority to pledge on behalf of a city will be requested in the process.

Cities can either pick from a list of actions developed by existing environmental pledging, reporting and organisational engagement structures (template pledges) or create new pledges (only available via the pledging form).

Pledging topics include but are not limited to:



Adaptation



Emissions



Energy



Fair transition



Food



Health



Transport



Waste



Water

All pledges should include a description and key details where possible, including specific targets, activities, and related timelines.

For Covenant of Mayors 2050

signatories

When cities make a political commitment under CoM 2050, they can choose to count their commitment as a pledge under the Climate Pact. No additional pledging is required to reflect this stated commitment.

By ticking the box 'European Climate Pact' in the Covenant of Mayors dashboard, your city's 2050 commitment will be converted into a Pathway pledge under the Climate Pact.

Signatories of CoM 2050 that wish to make further pledges can do so through the Climate Pact website or via partner climate and environmental data reporting initiatives.

REPORTING ON YOUR PLEDGE

During the process of pledging online, your state/region will be asked to provide a link where information on progress on their pledge is publicly available.

Using publicly available data to monitor, report, and verify (MRV) your pledges ensures accountability and transparency of data provision as well as avoiding greenwashing.

Reporting data should be provided either via partner climate and environmental data reporting platforms or by providing regular updates to your pledge via publicly available data sources.

For Covenant of Mayors 2050

signatories

The regular reporting to the Covenant of Mayors also counts as reporting for the Pathway pledge related to your city's CoM 2050 commitment. There is no additional reporting requirement for this specific pledge. Reporting can be done either through MyCovenant or the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System (URS).

All cities

making a pledge from the list of template pledges available on the Climate Pact online pledging system can also report their progress through the CDP-ICLEI Unified Report System. Additionally, already existing pledges coming from several climate and environmental initiatives can also count as Climate Pact pledges if reported through the URS.

If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ on the Climate Pact website](#) or [write to our helpdesk](#).

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ⁱ For purposes of the European Climate Pact, the following classifications are considered as cities:

Local government area within a greater city / metropolitan area: A sub-tier of local government responsible for local services not overseen by the executive governing body (e.g., the City of London local authority within the Greater London Authority).

City / Municipality: A city, town, village or borough, etc. with some degree of general purpose self-governance.

Independent city: A city or town that does not form part of another local government entity (e.g., cities within U.S. States that are independent from county-level government such as Baltimore, Maryland or Carson City, Nevada; the German Kreisfreie Stadt or Stadtkreis such as Leipzig and München).

Special city: Cities or districts with special administrative status as compared to other similar urban areas (e.g., Seoul, South Korea; Kiev, Ukraine; Hong Kong Special administrative region).

Federal district: A type of administrative division of a federation under the direct control of a federal government (e.g., Brasilia, Brazil; Washington, District of Columbia, USA; México, Distrito Federal, Mexico).

Sovereign city-state: A state consisting of a sovereign city and its dependencies (e.g., Singapore; Vatican City).

Metropolitan area: A region consisting of a densely populated urban core and its less-populated surrounding areas (e.g., an urban area closely linked economically and socially, such as a commuting catchment area).

Province/County: A geographical region that forms a subnational or substate division of governance that may include a number of cities, town, villages, etc. (e.g., Northumberland, UK).

Independent province: An administrative division within a country or state, many have their own powers independent of central or federal authority, especially in Canada

Intercommunality: A grouping of communes or municipalities that share some services.

Sub-municipal district: An area within a town, village, or borough, etc. with some degree of general-purpose self-governance.

ⁱⁱ For guidance on states and regions pledging please see the relevant document on the Climate Pact website.