



Annual report

www.eumayors.eu

FOREWORD

“Making Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050 is our main ambition as the new European Commission. This means not only addressing the climate crisis, but also ensuring social justice, economic development, and well-being for all European citizens.

We no longer have the luxury of time. The Commission before us has done a tremendous work building the necessary legislative framework that will allow us to transition to a clean and fair energy system. Now, our mission is to make it happen. For that, we need to reach out to the European citizens and the governments and institutions that serve them. We need to work in an open, inclusive and cooperative way.

The European Covenant of Mayors movement is an excellent example of this inclusive and cooperative approach. For over ten years now, local governments from across Europe have voluntarily been taking bold commitments that they turn into local action. The movement now gathers over 9,200 signatory cities and towns, from all sizes and regions. Their average CO₂ emission reduction goals for 2020 and 2030 are higher than the EU targets, and many of them have already developed strategies to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 - sometimes even earlier than that.



© European Union, 2019 / Source: EC - Audiovisual Service

The energy transition is about more than renewable energy or great technologies: it is about smart use of resources, while strengthening democracy and well-being in Europe. Cities and towns are where all these things come together.

To become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, we need pioneers who will lead the way. I am proud and grateful to work with those bold, inspiring Covenant of Mayors stakeholders who have already shown that together we can achieve our ambitions.

For 2020, I wish us all a just, democratic and clean energy transition!”

European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson



CONTENT

Key achievements p.4

Mitigating climate change p.5

Adapting our cities to the effects of climate change p.6

Alleviating energy poverty p.7

Financing p.8

Cooperating to advance energy and climate action p.10

Country-focused activities p.11

Technical support p.12

Celebrating local governments' 2030 commitments p.13

The Covenant of Mayors at global level p.14

Key achievements

As part of the European Covenant of Mayors movement, cities and towns take climate and energy action to secure a better future for their citizens.

As of 31 December 2019, **over 9,700 local and regional authorities have voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives** on their territory through the European Covenant of Mayors.

On average, the commitments made by European Covenant of Mayors signatories are higher than the European Union's targets:

Reducing CO₂ emissions
by 31% by 2020
(EU target: 20%)

And by 47% by 2030
(EU target: 40%).

Cities and towns across Europe are taking actions against what they consider as main future climate hazards:



1. Extreme heat



2. Drought

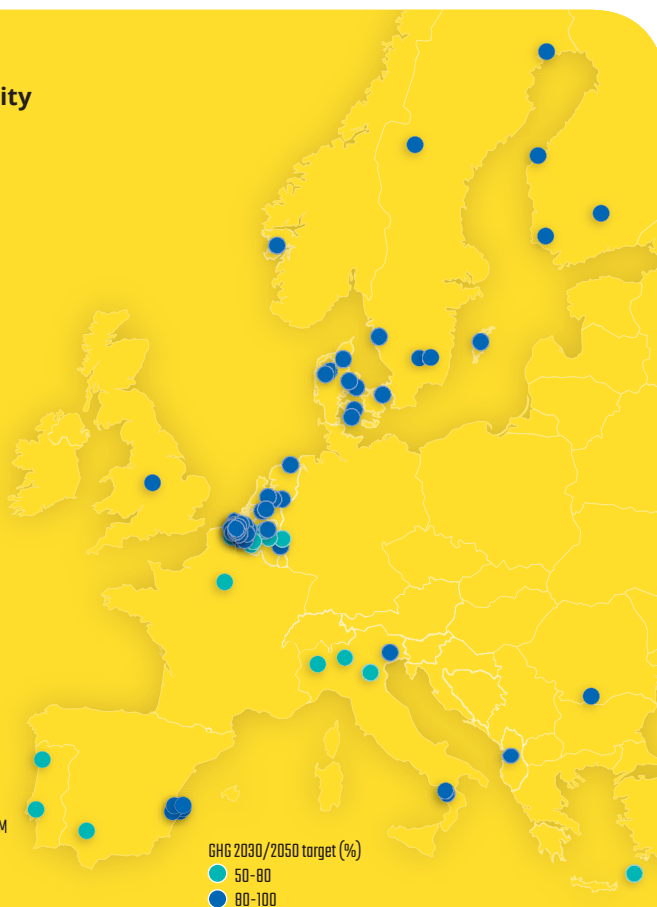


3. Extreme precipitation

Going further - Aiming for climate neutrality

A number of signatories are even going further than the EU's energy and climate targets and aim at climate neutrality. Check out this map!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ ALBANIA Tirana ▲ BELGIUM Aalst Anzegem Avelgem Bemissart Brugge Chièvres Deerlijk Dour Ecaussinnes Ellezelles Enghien Estinnes Flobecq Fromeries Frosnes-Lez-Anvoing Gouvy Halle Harelbeke Heron Kortrijk Kuurne Lendelede 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leuven Lincent Malmedy Menen Péruwelz Pont-à-Celles Rumes Silly Sivry-Rance Spierre-Helkijn Stavelot Tournai Waregem Wervik Wevelgem Zwevegem Nikopol ▲ DENMARK Aalborg Årø Albertslund Århus Samsø Skive Struer Svendborg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ FINLAND Lahti Turku Vaasa ▲ FRANCE Boussy Seclin ▲ GREECE Karpathos ▲ ITALY Acquappesa Chiarano Paola Quintano San Giorgio Canavese San Lazzaro di Savona ▲ NETHERLANDS Breda Groningen Lingewaard s-Hertogenbosch Tilburg Utrecht 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ NORWAY Bergen ▲ PORTUGAL Lisboa Porto ▲ SWEDEN Kungsbacka Lessebo Luleå Östersund Region Gotland Växjö ▲ SPAIN Balones Beniardà Dénia Gorgo Sevilla Tàrbena Teulada Tibi ▲ UNITED KINGDOM Birmingham
--	---	--	---



Mitigating climate change



MITIGATION

Covenant of Mayors signatories commit to achieving at least a 40% reduction in their CO₂ emissions by 2030.

What happened in EU policy?



On 11 December 2019, the European Commission presented its Communication on the European Green Deal - an ambitious package of measures aimed at enabling European citizens and businesses to benefit from the transition to a green and sustainable economy and society. The **European Green Deal** will be rolled out by implementing notably a series of key policies, supporting clean, affordable and secure energy production, through a cross-sector approach, promoting 'clean buildings' and building renovations as well as sustainable transport and smart mobility, as ways to rapidly cut emissions and pollution. It will be supported by a European Climate Pact bringing together citizens with national, regional and local authorities, civil society and industry working together with the EU institutions and consultative bodies. Above all, the European Green Deal will increase the EU's ambition on emission cuts by 2030 and aim at achieving climate neutrality in Europe by 2050.

How we supported signatories



Case studies

- **Reggio Emilia, Italy:** Reducing GHG emissions through the energy conversion of social housing
- **Mouscron, Belgium:** A city going solar
- **Turin, Italy:** Energy efficiency interventions for public buildings and lighting systems
- **Warsaw, Poland:** Towards the 'green metropolis' through multiple public transport investments
- **Arad, Romania:** EBRD grants to implement sustainable transport system



Webinars

- Energy management systems as dynamic enablers for local authorities
- Urban densification solutions for achieving near zero energy buildings
- New solutions for sustainable district heating in European cities
- Heating & cooling planning made easier - The Hotmaps toolbox
- Integrated home renovation services: How to set them up and get the EU funding support on top
- Choosing locally-adequate solutions for waste water management



Event

May, Oslo, Sweden

During the Urban Future Global Conference, the mayors of Stavanger (Norway), Turku (Finland) and Leuven (Belgium) shared their innovative plans for decarbonising, and how they are taking everyone on board using well-functioning stakeholder platforms.



More info at www.eumayors.eu

Adapting our cities to the effects of climate change



ADAPTATION

Signatories commit to conducting a Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment, and to integrate adaptation actions in their energy and climate planning.

What happened in EU policy?



As announced in the European Green Deal, the European Commission will adopt a new, more ambitious EU strategy on adaptation to climate change. It will aim to strengthen the efforts on climate proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness, while continuing to influence public and private investments, including on nature-based solutions. It will be important to ensure that across the EU, investors, insurers, businesses, cities and citizens are able to access data and to develop instruments to integrate climate change into their risk management practices.

How we supported signatories

Urban Adaptation Support Tool

In cooperation with the European Environment Agency, we developed an updated version of the **Urban Adaptation Support Tool** in January 2019. This tool is the main adaptation resource for the European Covenant of Mayors Community, explaining all the steps needed to develop and implement an adaptation action plan and providing reference to valuable guidance materials and tools. In 2020, we will further update the tool to reflect the improvements made to the Covenant reporting framework.



Case study

- ▲ *Dresden, Germany:* **A heat resilient city**



Webinars

- ▲ **Co-creation of climate action and adaptation support tools by local governments and researchers**
- ▲ **How to engage citizens in local climate action with online tools?**
- ▲ **Business models for nature-based solutions**
- ▲ **Integrating mitigation and adaptation for more effective climate action**

We held four webinars as part of our “Adaptation webinar series” tackling various aspects of adaptation to climate change:

- ▲ **#1 – Assessing risks and vulnerabilities**
- ▲ **#2 – Designing climate change adaptation strategy and action plan**
- ▲ **#3 – Monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions**
- ▲ **#4 – Financing adaptation actions**



Event

September, Rostock, Germany

We organised a workshop titled ‘Citizen and Community Participation for Climate Change Adaptation’ on the occasion of the 28th International Conference of Climate Alliance. City practitioners from the cities of Brno, Leicester and Hannau shared experiences, including on the use of online applications and digital platforms for citizen engagement.



More info at www.eumayors.eu

Alleviating energy poverty



ENERGY
POVERTY

Covenant of Mayors signatories are encouraged to highlight the actions in their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans that are having a positive impact on energy poverty. Energy poverty actions should be linked to mitigation and/or adaptation targets to promote a culture of social inclusive climate and energy policies.

What happened in EU policy?



The European Green Deal will contribute to put the focus on energy poverty, as part of efforts to ensure a 'just transition', alleviating economic and social issues stemming from the transition. As a first step, the European Commission will produce guidance for Member States to better address energy poverty.

How we supported signatories

Reporting framework

In 2019, our office updated the European Covenant of Mayors reporting framework to include energy poverty. Full inclusion of energy poverty in the reporting framework will be completed in the coming years.



Publications

- How to alleviate energy poverty at the local level? Get inspired by Covenant of Mayors cities and regions
- Alleviating energy poverty – Useful resources: a collection of information and materials that signatories could use when defining and/or implementing their energy poverty policies and actions.



Case studies

- Almere, the Netherlands: No debts for energy
- Cornellà de Llobregat, Spain: Run for energy



Webinar

- INVENTAIR: Mapping energy poverty and assessing its climate impacts to support clean air policies in the Eastern European countries



Event

June, Brussels, Belgium
We organised a workshop called 'Multilevel and participatory action to tackle energy poverty' as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week. It explored how to make energy poverty a priority at local and national levels, and how vulnerable consumers can take part in policy processes that aim at responding to energy poverty. It also focused on how to mainstream energy poverty in sectorial policies through actions developed by Covenant signatories.



More info at www.eumayors.eu

Financing



Financing the ambitious policies signatories have planned to decarbonise, make their community resilient to climate change and alleviate energy poverty require investment that far exceeds local public budget capacities.

What happened in EU policy?



Meeting the objectives of the European Green Deal will require significant investment. Achieving the current 2030 climate and energy targets is estimated to require investments of approximately €470 billion/year. This investment will need the mobilisation of the public and private sectors. The Commission will present in early 2020 a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan to help meet investment needs. At least 25% of the EU's long-term budget should be dedicated to climate action, and the European Investment Bank will provide further support. In November 2019, the European Investment Bank launched its new climate strategy and energy lending policy, and will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021. This new policy has the potential to push the EIB further towards becoming "Europe's climate bank". For the private sector to contribute to financing the green transition, the Commission will present a Green Financing Strategy in 2020.

How we supported signatories

Interactive funding guide

The [interactive funding guide](#) is now available in 24 languages! The online guide gathers information on the funding initiatives managed by the European Union, the Member States and key financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank. The guide also includes information about support services and innovative financing schemes. We regularly revise the guide to include up-to-date information.

European Structural and Investment Funds	European Funding Programmes	Project Development Assistance	Financial Institutions Instruments	Alternative Financing Schemes
Cohesion Fund	CEF	EEEF	EFSI	Citizen Cooperatives
EAFRD	Horizon 2020	ELENA	Municipal loans	Crowd-funding
EMFF	JPI Urban Europe	Horizon 2020 PDA	NCFI	EPC
ERDF	LIFE	JASPERS		Green municipal bonds
ESF	Territorial Cooperation			On-bill-financing
	UIA			Revolving loan funds
	URBACT			Soft loans, guarantees

Support services

- European Investment Project Portal
- fi-compass
- EIAH

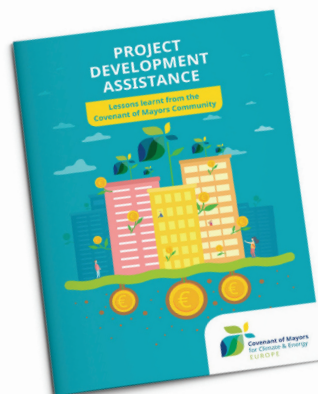


Publications



cooperatives, soft loans, on-tax financing, third-party investments, revolving funds.

Innovative Financing Schemes: A collection of lessons learned from cities and regions across Europe in implementing innovative financing schemes, such as, green municipal bonds, environmental or energy taxes, energy performance contracting, local energy co-



Assistance (ELENA) and the European Energy Efficiency Fund Technical Assistance Facility.

Project Development Assistance - Lessons learnt from the Covenant of Mayors Community: A collection of lessons learnt by European cities and regions in using technical assistance facilities, such as Horizon 2020 Project Development Assistance (PDA), the European Local Energy



Case study

- Aradippou, Cyprus: Aradippou explores innovative financing solutions in energy efficiency



Webinars

- EU funding for climate adaptation and mitigation: LIFE September calls
- EU funding for energy efficiency projects: Horizon 2020 September calls
- Innovative procurement and Horizon 2020 funding support
- International financial sources and institutions relevant to city action



Event

February, Brussels, Belgium
The **Covenant Investment Forum** gathered more than 550 representatives from local authorities, industry and financial institutions to discuss the key success factors for financing climate adaptation, clean urban transport and energy efficiency in cities and regions. Six parallel thematic strands covered sustainable energy planning, financing urban transport, energy efficiency in the public sector, home renovation schemes, financing climate adaptation, and the market for climate and sustainable energy finance. In total, over 30 successful projects were presented and discussed in the workshops.

More info at www.eumayors.eu

Cooperating to advance energy and climate action

European Covenant of Mayors twinning programme

14 pairs (12 pairs of cities and 2 pairs of provinces/public entities) from 16 countries

Topics: public/alternative transport, public/green spaces, circular economy, lighting, adaptation, mitigation, energy efficiency, citizen and industry engagement, air quality, waste management and separate waste collection, heat consumption in municipal buildings, sustainable food.



Albertslund, Denmark, will develop a digital map for citizens to suggest new urban developments, inspired by Ljungby, Sweden.



Xirivella, Spain, is willing to set up a 'repository' for reusing household appliances - inspired by Formigine, Italy - in collaboration with local civil society organisations.

Work with the Committee of Regions



The Committee of the Regions, with the Rapporteur Ms Benedetta Brighenti, prepared an opinion on the Future of the Covenant of Mayors post 2020

to reflect on how to enhance the initiative and make it even stronger and more successful. The policy recommendations of the opinion are divided in 4 pillars covering the important role played by the Covenant of Mayors in European climate policies, the governance of the Covenant of Mayors, interactive transition towards climate neutrality, systemic planning underpinned by suitable financial instruments.

[Read the opinion here](#)



The Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy is a key tool for responding to

the climate emergency and for steering local and regional authorities in the transition towards climate neutrality and responding to the increasing request of the European civil society for urgent and ambitious climate action.'
Ms Benedetta Brighenti, Rapporteur on CoR opinion 'Covenant of Mayors post 2020'

Country-focused activities

The European Covenant of Mayors Office has been closely working with national stakeholders in each EU Member State. We tailor our activities to the national contexts, and provide support to signatories according to local circumstances and their country-specific needs. We carry out these activities in collaboration with Covenant Coordinators and Supporters who have the best knowledge about the local context, challenges and opportunities. Over the past years, the Covenant has gathered many positive experiences and built strong partnerships – through bilateral exchanges with ministries and agencies, multiple workshops and events. While activities cover local authorities in each EU Member State, below are some 2019 highlights.

ITALY

With over 5,000 Covenant signatories in Italy, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office is collaborating with several national actors including ENEA (the national agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development) and GSE (Gestore dei Servizi Energetici) to implement a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of Italian signatories in the transition towards the 2030 objectives. In 2019, we notably organised technical exchanges, workshops, mini ceremonies for cities and towns that symbolically committed to the Covenant 2030 targets. In parallel, supported by the EU Committee of the Regions rapporteur for the Covenant of Mayors, Benedetta Brighenti, and ENEA, we initiated a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Economic Development and ANCI - the national association of local authorities - to include the SECAP as one of the key instruments to monitor the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan.

SPAIN

In Spain, more than 1,800 signatories are supported by their respective regions and provinces. The latest provide them with tools for developing their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, as well as financial support. The Environment Ministry supports them via the National Climate Change Agency (Oficina Española de Cambio Climático), which delivers all necessary meteorological data and projections for the development of municipal climate adaptation plans. The Spanish Covenant Club, which brought together over 150 coordinators and municipalities in its last meeting, discussed the current state and future developments of the Covenant movement in Spain, and the Environment Ministry is actively involved in this process. New regional processes are unfolding. For instance, in Navarra over 90 municipalities recently joined the movement.

Technical support

Improvement of the Covenant reporting framework

The year 2019 saw the conclusion of a 1.5-year long consultation on making the Covenant reporting framework better suit signatories. The aim of this engagement was to integrate recommendations made by city practitioners, elaborate further the pillars of adaptation and energy poverty, as well as ensure coherence with the Global Covenant of Mayors common reporting framework. The Covenant Office presented the outcomes of this process [in a webinar](#).

The online reporting platform of the Covenant of Mayors - [MyCovenant](#) - is already available to signatories in its new version. Updated reporting guidelines and online tutorials will follow soon.



In-person consultation with city practitioners, March 2019, Brussels

Celebrating local governments' 2030 commitments

Many signatories officially or symbolically upgraded their commitments at various events throughout 2019.

- ▲ The cities of Bologna, Genoa, Milan, Mannheim, Oslo, Porto, Rijeka, Strasbourg, Tampere, Tirana, Turin, Verona, at an event hosted by the city of Genoa
- ▲ The cities of Leuven, Essen, Stavanger, Roeselare, Warsaw and Celje, at the Oslo Urban Future Global Conference
- ▲ Almost 30 Greek municipalities
- ▲ Over 100 Italian mayors from the regions Emilia Romagna and Marche ... and many more.



12 cities commit to the 2030 Covenant of Mayors targets in Genoa, Italy

Renew your commitment

If your city committed to the 2020 targets of the European Covenant of Mayors, make sure to stay part of the movement by officially committing to the 2030 targets!

You need to go through the 2030 adhesion procedure. For more information, see our website or get in touch with our Helpdesk at info@eumayors.eu.

The Covenant of Mayors at global level

2019 in 5 key facts



1

The Covenant of Mayors was launched in the Caribbean region and in Canada to support local governments to respond to climate change threats.

2

The Global Covenant, the Governments of Germany and Luxembourg announced the launch of the **City Climate Finance Gap Fund**, with plans to unlock €4BN in high-quality low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure projects in cities.

3

Mission Innovation and the Global Covenant Secretariat announced their **commitment to strengthen collaboration** to deliver the research and innovation to accelerate the clean energy revolution.

4

The Global Covenant and the European Investment Bank announced the 20 shortlisted cities of the **Global Climate City Challenge**.

5

The Global Covenant is utilising a global coalition of over 10,000 cities and local governments, to endorse the **Amazon Cities Pact** and develop ambitious campaigns to influence key decision-makers around air quality.



Join the Covenant of Mayors movement! #2030together

CONTACT



Covenant of Mayors Office
63-67 rue d'Arlon, 1040 Brussels – Belgium



press@eumayors.eu



@eumayors

www.eumayors.eu

The EU Covenant of Mayors Office is responsible for the overall coordination of the initiative in Europe. It is composed of networks of local and regional authorities: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, CEMR, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE, & ICLEI Europe. The Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office is funded by the European Commission.

Published by the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office in March 2020
Designed by www.TUTTIQUANTI.net



© European Union, 2020
This publication does not involve the
European Commission in liability of any kind.



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy
EUROPE

PART OF THE



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY