Compact of Mayors—FAQ for US Local Governments

Introductory Questions

What is the Compact of Mayors?

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance city resilience to climate change and track their progress transparently. The Compact was launched by the UN Secretary General and his Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael Bloomberg, in partnership with international city networks (namely C40, ICLEI and UCLG). These networks are working to support their members to decrease 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.

Why was the Compact of Mayors launched?

Over the last 20 years, cities have continued to show leadership in addressing climate change, often through regional or global initiatives like the MNCAA or CNCA, but the collective impact of this action is **still not well known.** This is in large part due to 1) a **lack of a single, consistent metric** for city climate impact and 2) **failure to adequately communicate** collective impact of city action. The Compact of Mayors 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.

More specifically, the Compact:

- Enables recognition of new and existing city-level commitments by making annual reporting data publicly available (see Table 1 below for a summary of how these initiatives relate directly to the Compact). Existing and complementary 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), the Durban Adaptation Charter (2011), the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (2014), the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (2014), and the Under2MOU (2014);
- Establishes a robust and transparent data collection standard for local action.

If my city has signed onto another commitment like the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda or the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, why should we join the Compact of Mayors?

The Compact of Mayors was developed to mirror as closely as possible existing commitments that many cities have already made through a range of city initiatives – some domestic, some international. In particular, if you already participate in an initiative like the MNCAA or the CNCA, you are already in alignment with the standards set forth in the Compact of Mayors. The

benefit in joining the Compact is that the commitments you have already made will be made more visible through a single, transparent, and consistent platform so that local action can be adequately recognized by the global community as effort critical part of the climate solution. And, as much as possible, the Compact will link to existing city reporting platforms so that commitment to the Compact need not require additional reporting.

Recently, President Obama challenged all US Mayors to publicly commit to a climate action plan ahead of the COP 21 talks in Paris and has set a goal of 100 US city commitments to the Compact of Mayors. Through the Compact, you will join fellow global cities in a growing coalition to shine a spotlight on local climate commitments on the international stage in Paris this December – making a strong case for greater national and international support and resourcing for local climate action as part of the COP21 negotiations and beyond.

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" commitment seal, which may then be displayed publicly on the web and in print materials. Cities then have **up to 3 years** to meet a series of requirements to fully comply with the Compact, including 1) greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement and climate risk assessment; 2) target setting; 3) developing a full climate action and adaptation plan; and 4) reporting on progress over time. Upon meeting all requirements, cities will be recognized with an official "Compact of Mayors" compliance seal.

COMMITMENT	INVENTORY	TARGET	PLAN	COMPACT of MAYORS COMPLIANT 2015
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Compliant

What are the detailed requirements around inventory, target, and action plan content and structure?

Step 1: Register Commitment: Cities may register their commitment to the Compact of Mayors through a formal email or letter sent to info@compactofmayors.org, or by uploading this commitment to either the carbonn Climate Registry or CDP reporting platforms.

Step 2: Take Inventory: Cities must complete a community-wide GHG inventory using the internationally recognized "GPC" standard; identify and catalogue the climate hazards that their city faces from climate change, and report both publicly.

Step 3: Set Reduction Targets: Cities must set a GHG reduction target and complete a climate vulnerability assessment and report both publicly.

Step 4: Plan: Develop a climate action plan demonstrating how the city will deliver on commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change and share this publicly.

Step 5: Track Progress: Annually report on progress towards meeting climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

Detailed compliance requirements are available on the Compact of Mayors website here.

If my city already has formal GHG goals that are publicly adopted and known, does that count towards my Compact commitment? Why should we sign another pledge when we are not committing to anything different?

All of your city's previous efforts can be applied towards your path to Compact compliance – including existing GHG inventories, risk assessments, targets, and climate action and adaptation plans. In many cases, very little additional work will be required – the only truly new requirement is the use of the international standard for community scale GHG emissions inventories (or GPC), which was adopted in December of 2014.

Because the GPC provides significant flexibility, and in particular was built to accommodate the US Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of GHG Emissions developed by the ICLEI US team, which many US cities are currently using, it is likely, your current GHG inventory will not need to be "redone" but you may simply need to adjust how you are reporting the individual data points that are part of your inventory to match the GPC standard.

The GPC is important because there is growing recognition and demand for a common and consistent standard for measuring city GHG emissions, in large part from potential investors looking for confidence that city climate protection activities are yielding real, measurable and comparable results. Standardized measurement and reporting are therefore core values of the Compact of Mayors, and while there may be an initial outlay of resources necessary to "translate" your city's current inventory to this new standard, it is clear that this is the protocol that private investors, national governments, and the broader global community will be utilizing to quantify, compare and aggregate the impact of local climate action.

Your commitment to the Compact of Mayors will:

- Allow national governments to understand the extent of existing city action so that it might be incorporated into national level strategies and further supported through more enabling policy environments and resourcing approaches;

- Encourage increased capital flows into cities to support local action;

- Establish a consistent and transparent accountability framework that can be used by national governments, private investors, or the public to ensure that we are held accountable to our commitments.

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3

GHG Inventory Questions

What year(s) can the inventory be from to count for compliance?

To meet compliance requirements, cities must complete a new inventory every 4 years, using data that is no more than 4 years old. Therefore a current inventory using data from 2011 or later would meet compliance requirements in 2015. A new inventory would then need to be completed by 2019, and using data from 2015 or later. More details on compliance requirements are available on the Compact of Mayors website (here).

If I'm not an ICLEI member, can I still use the ClearPath tool for GHG emissions management?

To support engagement with the Compact of Mayors, any local or regional agency in the US and their consultants have no-cost access to ClearPath Basic, the community-scale inventory module of the platform. Global access (for cities outside the US) will open in late Fall 2015. A more robust version of the ClearPath tool (ClearPath Pro) remains exclusive to ICLEI members and non-member subscribers. Registration is found on the ClearPath Basic webpage and can also be accessed through the Compact of Mayors website (here). The Compact of Mayors will also be developing a number of other tools, including a climate action planning tool and a climate risk assessment framework which will be available on the resource page on the Compact of Mayors website.

How do GPC inventory requirements differ from how I've been doing inventories in the past?

The GPC is primarily a reporting framework that emphasizes transparency and organization of your emissions data in a way that facilitates consistency and comparability across cities globally. The GPC does not specify the calculation methods used to arrive at your emissions results – so you will not have to reassess emissions, but rather potentially restructure your approach to reporting.

Where GPC may differ from past practice relates to "scopes-based" reporting. Scopes are three categories for breaking down reported emissions in order to avoid double counting. Most emissions sources clearly fall into one of three scopes, and in these cases it is simple to reorganize data consistent with scopes. However a primary challenge for some may be the clear attribution of transboundary activities into different scopes: scope 1 or 2 for activities that occur within the physical boundary of the jurisdiction, and scope 3 for those that occur outside of the jurisdiction. Conforming with this aspect of GPC may require additional data conditioning to differentiate local from non-local transportation and waste flows across jurisdiction boundaries. However, this reporting is not required until 2 years after initial commitment to the Compact to allow for the potential need for additional analysis.

If I have an inventory in ClearPath, will ICLEI pull it into the GPC format for me?

GPC requirements have now been integrated into ClearPath, allowing cities to easily create new GPC inventories or convert existing inventories into GPC format. To convert existing inventories, users simply need to click a button to "recalculate" their inventories and then run a detailed report to generate GPC figures. Step-by-step instructions are contained in the ClearPath GPC Conversion How-to Guide, found on the ClearPath user landing page and available for download here. Both ClearPath Basic (free community inventory tool) and complete versions of the ClearPath platform (Pro or SEEC) can be used for this operation.

Because the original version of ClearPath was developed prior to the release of the GPC, early adopters of ClearPath may need to perform some additional steps to adjust existing inventories to a format consistent with the GPC. ICLEI cannot make these distinctions for you because your knowledge of the source of the underlying data will be the best guide to separating activity data appropriately for your location.

If I'm using ClearPath, is there an easy way to report my data to the carbon*n* Climate Registry (cCR)?

A direct "one-click" reporting link from ClearPath to cCR as well as the CDP cities platform will be established in late fall of 2015. This will allow ClearPath users to send their inventory data to cCR without the need to manually transfer data from ClearPath to a cCR or CDP reporting form. Users will still need to initiate the process of data transfer once they have completed their inventory work and are prepared to publicly report the results; ICLEI will not transfer or publish a user's data without their consent.

Until the reporting link is available, the process for reporting inventory results manually is a matter of transferring data from ClearPath reports, or wherever the inventory was prepared, to the appropriate GPC reporting line items in cCR or Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). The required time investment will depend on the quality of the existing inventory and completing the reporting forms could take 1 to 4 hours. Users familiar with GPC should expect the time investment to be on the shorter end of that range.

What technical or financial assistance is available for performing and reporting GPC inventories ?

Shortly, a series of online trainings will be available to provide high-level guidance on all Compact compliance requirements on climate mitigation and adaptation on the Compact website.

More detailed online training modules on performing GPC inventories in ClearPath are available on the ClearPath user landing page, along with a ClearPath Inventory Users Guide.

ICLEI members and regional affiliates can access the organization's mitigation and adaptation resources and on-call technical assistance online or by calling their member support line at (855) 504-8097. A limited amount of pro bono assistance may be available to convert existing inventories to GPC and report to cCR in 2015, through a partnership between ICLEI, World Wildlife Fund and Booz Allen Hamilton; email Kevin.Taylor@wwfus.org to inquire.

C40 members can rely on the organization for hands-on technical assistance by contacting Brendan Shane at bshane@c40.org.

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6

Commitment Type	Compact Commitment	MNCAA Commitment	CNCA Commitment	Under2MOU Commitment	C40 Participation Standards
GHG Measurement & Reporting	Within 1 year of commitment complete a community-wide GHG inventory using the internationally recognized "GPC" standard (can be an existing inventory). Inventory must be updated every 3 years.	Report annually or bi-annually a municipal and community-wide inventory, preferably using 3rd party verification. Standard and reporting platform TBD.	TBD – no specific reporting requirements yet defined.	TBD – no specific reporting requirements yet defined.	Within 1 year, complete and publicly report a community-wide GHG Inventory
Climate Hazard & Risk Measurement and Reporting	Within 1 year of commitment complete a hazard assessment, within 2 years of commitment complete a climate risk assessment – using international standard currently under development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Climate Mitigation Target	Within 2 years of commitment, establish a target for GHG reduction (can be an existing target). No requirements around target year, or specific ambition.	Establish, or renew, an aggressive GHG emissions reduction target for both the near term (i.e., by 2020 or sooner) and long term (e.g., 80% reductions by 2050)	Establish an aggressive GHG reduction target (cutting GHG emissions by at least 80% by 2050)	Establish an aggressive GHG reduction target (below eighty percent below 1990 levels, or below two metric tons per capita, by 2050)	Within 2 years, establish both a short and long term climate mitigation and adaptation goals and associated action plan.
Climate Adaptation Target	Within 2 years of commitment, establish a target for climate resilience (can be an existing target).	N/A	N/A	N/A	Within 2 years, establish both a short and long term climate mitigation and adaptation goals and associated action plan.
Climate Action Plan - Mitigation	Within 3 years of commitment, publish a plan to address GHG reduction target (can be an existing plan)	Develop, or update, a community climate action plan, which identifies specific strategies for meeting the emissions reduction target	Develop a plan to meet an aggressive GHG reduction commitment	Develop a plan to meet an aggressive GHG reduction commitment	Within 2 years, establish both a short and long term climate mitigation and adaptation goals and associated action plan.
Climate Action Plan – Adaptation	Within 3 years of commitment, publish a plan to address adaptation target (can be an existing plan)	Develop or update a community climate action plan, which identifies specific strategies for meeting adaptation targets possible	N/A	N/A	Within 2 years, establish both a short and long term climate mitigation and adaptation goals and associated action plan.
Advocacy & Communications	Support provided through the Compact of Mayors to communicate city commitment to the international audience.	1) Call for binding commitments from the US government as well as a global agreement; 2) Support activities leading up to and	1) Identify and advocate for policies to reduce emissions not controlled directly by cities 2) Help CNCA cities demonstrate their	N/A	

		during the 2015 negotiations in Paris to support to a global agreement	leadership and communicate with a common voice.		8
Environmental Justice	N/A	Ensure climate equity and environmental justice is prioritized in climate action plans.	N/A	N/A	
Climate Offsets	N/A	Commit to finding an appropriate offset project(s), working collectively to remove barriers, and expanding offsets available to municipalities	N/A	N/A	