Toward 1.5°

I·C·L·E·I
Local Governments for Sustainability
USA

Annual Report
2016

Local governments are leading the way toward a **1.5-degree** future.

1.5 ⊙
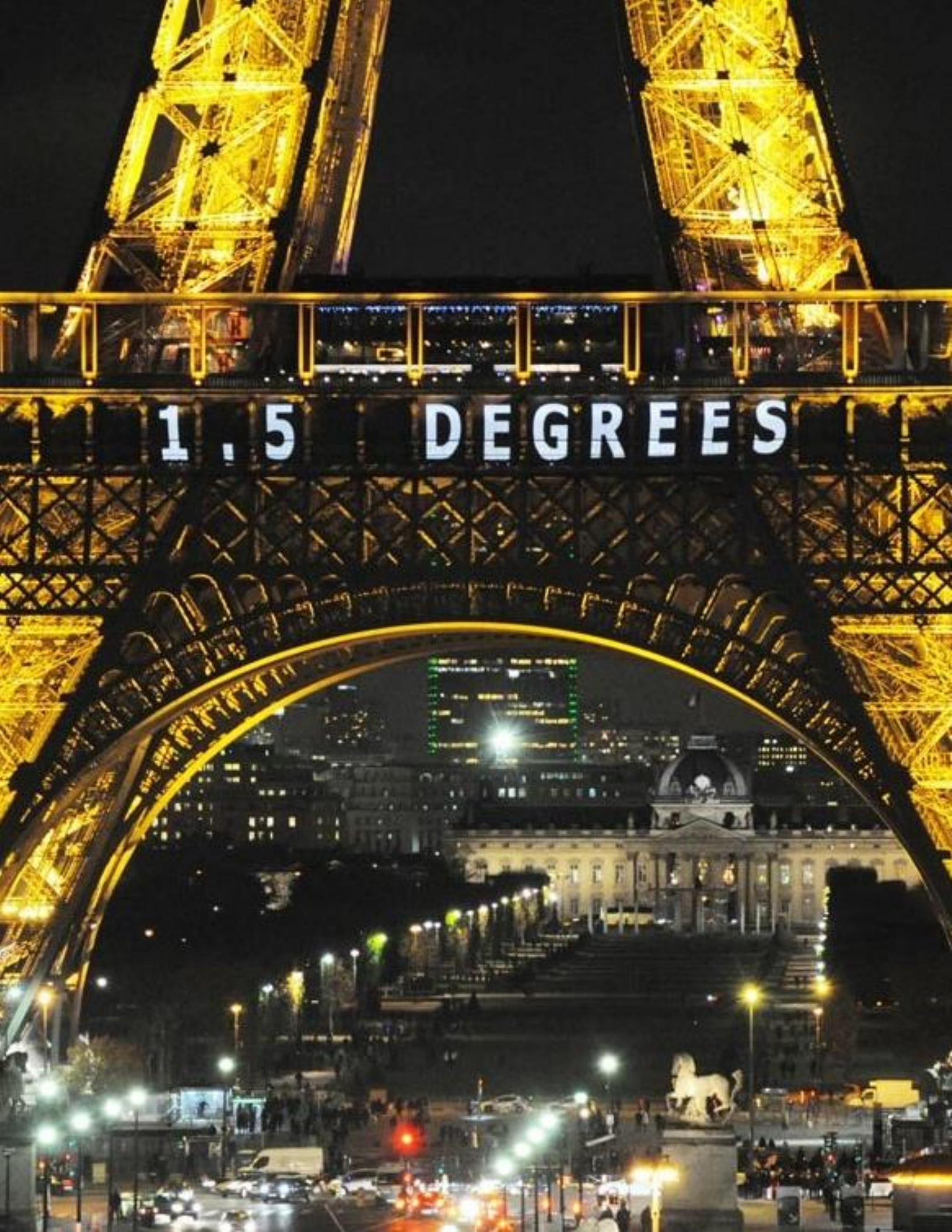
Toward 1.5 **Degrees of Warming**

Spurred by calls from the communities most exposed to climate change impacts, the Paris Climate Agreement set the ambitious goal of limiting the end-of-century global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

The Paris Agreement includes Nationally Determined Contributions, reductions in GHG emissions by country — which offer this reality: In 2030, global emissions will be 22 gigatons of CO_2 equivalent (GT CO_2e) higher than the level needed to stay on track towards the 1.5° target and 15 GT CO_2e higher than the level needed for a 2.0° scenario (UNFCCC analysis, May 2016). This is roughly equivalent to the emissions produced by 4,400 coal-fired power plants in one year.

The global community must push to peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, eliminate the use of fossil fuels in the power sector by 2050, and deploy negative-emissions strategies by 2040 in order to protect the most vulnerable (Climate Analytics, October 2016).

Will the United States continue to play a significant role in the global effort to curb warming? Trump said he would look into climate change. He needs look no further than American cities — some of whose climate actions are highlighted in this report. ⊙

▶ Contents

THE GREENS
JOBS

Letter from our Executive Director

ICLEI USA built its brand as a catalyst — the prime change agent in local climate action. If you're working in local sustainability today, you're likely building on something created or initiated by ICLEI: community protocols for greenhouse gas emissions accounting, climate action planning and climate adaptation processes, green business engagement programs and tools, community-scale sustainability rating systems — all pioneered by ICLEI.

Where advocacy for local governments in climate action is concerned, ICLEI has led the way in (and taken more than its share of arrows for) connecting ambitious local and subnational governments to the work of the United Nations. This is done through our leadership role and accreditation status since 2002 on behalf of the Local Authorities Major Group and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For those cities, counties, associations of government, funders, and partners who continued to support us in 2016, I sincerely thank you.

I also thank the incredible staff at ICLEI USA and my ICLEI colleagues around the world for their dedication and their personal belief that informed and empowered local governments can solve our climate crisis in ways that are responsive to the needs of people while creating economic opportunity and healthy communities.

For those waiting and watching, my hope is that this report will articulate the relevance of ICLEI USA and our network in a way that urges you to join us in 2017 and to catalyze the next wave of local climate action.

tool

something (such as an instrument or apparatus) used in performing an operation or necessary in the practice of a vocation or profession

(to͞ol/)

Tools and Protocols for Local Governments

Our vision

All local governments have access to the resources, technical guidance, and tools that allow them to effectively manage — and greatly reduce — greenhouse gas emissions and climate-induced impacts.

pro·to·col

a set of conventions governing the treatment and especially the formatting of data

(ˈprōdəˌkôl)

The EcoMobility World Festival is an ICLEI project in which participating cities close an entire neighborhood to fossil fuel-powered vehicles for an entire month. The Festival has been hosted by Suwon, South Korea (2013), and Johannesburg, South Africa (2015). Join us in October 2017 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and get in touch to host an EcoMobility Festival and bring this event to the U.S.

EcoMobility WorldFestival 2017

Kaohsiung
1-31 October

Cities Told Us Their Emissions-Management Needs.
We Listened.

ICLEI USA's flagship resource, ClearPath, continues to grow as the go-to resource for cities to create emissions inventories, create action plans, and monitoring progress. In addition to an increase in the number of users, the tool's functionality was enhanced again in 2016.

• In 2016, we expanded the reach of ClearPath worldwide to support compliance of the Compact of Mayors. Now available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese versions, the tool is used by over a dozen cities outside the U.S.

• ClearPath now supports one-click reporting of GPC-formatted inventory summary data directly to the Carbon*n* Climate Registry (cCR), the world´s leading reporting platform to enhance transparency, accountability and credibility of climate action of local and subnational governments.

• 25 New Inventory Calculators (see next page)

• Improved Transparency

2016 ClearPath Snapshot

26 New Emissions Management Calculators Released

128 Community & 53 Gov Ops Inventories Created

83 New US Cities Using ClearPath

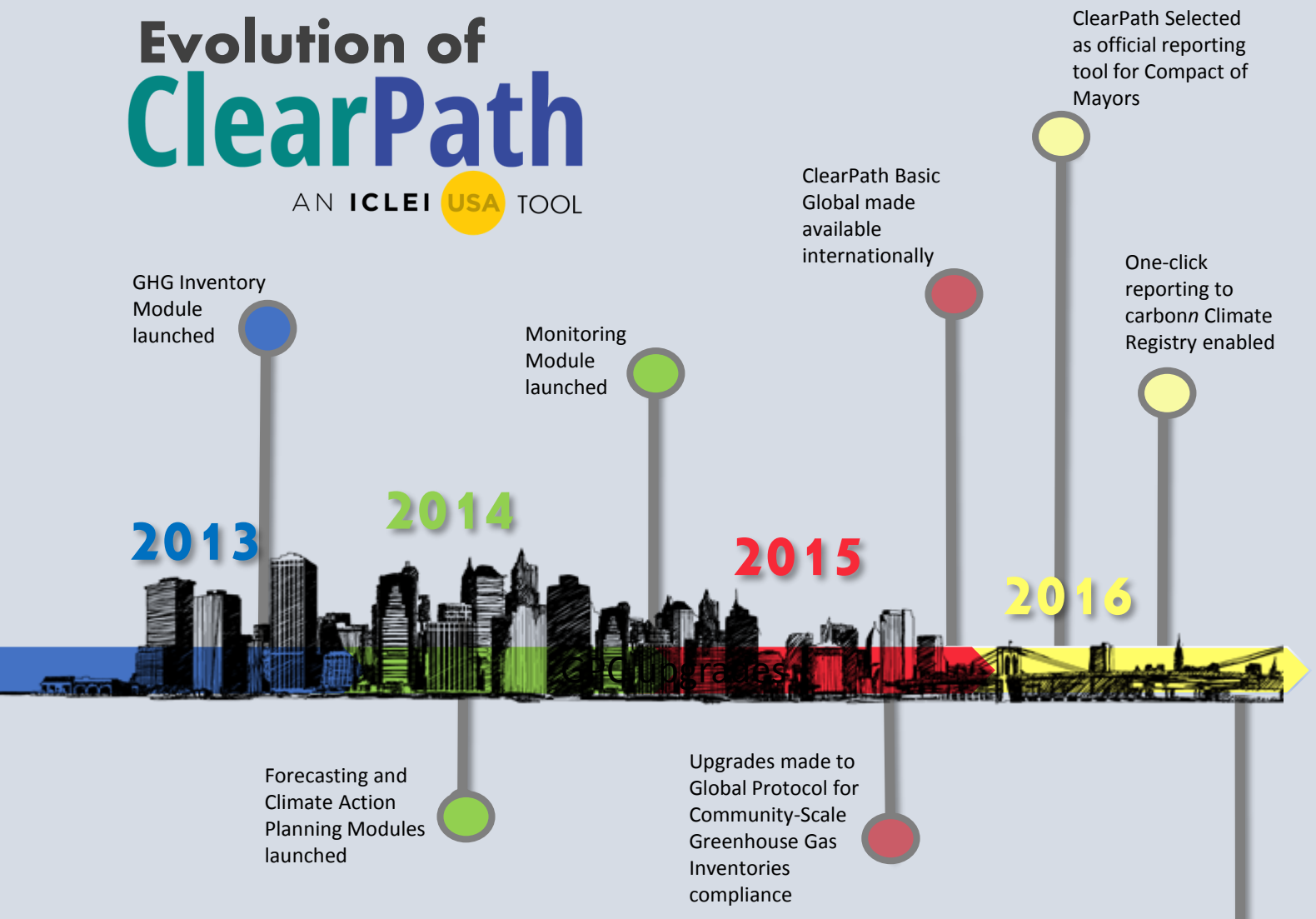Users Spaning 10 Countries World-Wide

"This is the software we have been hoping for! With a web-based platform, ClearPath addresses several key challenges for local governments in tracking GHG emissions."
— Kathy Jack, Sustainability Coordinator, Denton, TX

The Evolution of ClearPath

AN **ICLEI USA** TOOL

GHG Inventory Module launched

Monitoring Module launched

ClearPath Basic Global made available internationally

ClearPath Selected as official reporting tool for Compact of Mayors

One-click reporting to carbon*n* Climate Registry enabled

2013

2014

2015

2016

Forecasting and Climate Action Planning Modules launched

Upgrades made to Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories compliance

25 New ClearPath Calculators

You told us the measures your town or county is exploring to reduce carbon emissions, and we built new greenhouse gas management calculators to capture the impact of those work in our ClearPath tool. Your emissions reporting and climate action planning will be more effective and reflective of your local needs now that you can take into account water conservation, PV installations, composting, and the other actions listed here. Log into or get access to ClearPath Pro to evaluate the potential of these measures to reduce energy use and emissions in your community.

- Consumption of District Energy
- Residential Heat Pumps
- Increase Transit Frequency
- Increase Transit Coverage Area
- Residential Showerhead Retrofits
- Getting to ZNE Growth Calculator
- Residential Faucet Retrofits
- Implement Bus Rapid Transit Service
- Emissions from Combustion of Biosolids and Sludges
- LED Streetlight Retrofits
- Fugitive Emissions from Oil Systems
- Emissions from Combustion of Landfill Gas by Flaring
- Process Emissions Associated with Landfilling
- Water Conservation-User Defined

- Emissions from the Combustion of Landfill Gas
- User Defined Wastewater Treatment Energy
- Electric Vehicle Promotion
- Biologic Treatment of Solid Waste (Composting)
- Fugitive Emissions from Natural Gas Distribution
- Emissions from Grid Electricity
- Emissions from Stationary Fuel Combustion
- Increased Commercial Solar Thermal
- Solar Photovoltaic Installation
- Residential Toilet Retrofits
- Use Reclaimed Water

Greenhouse Gas Inventories Meet a Global Standard

Through funding provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, ICLEI USA trained a cohort of local government staff from 20 communities to meet the Year 1 Compact of Mayors commitments. During the 15-week program, ICLEI USA guided participants through the process of creating a community-scale GHG inventory — or the update of an existing inventory —

compliant with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). ICLEI USA hosted live, web-based trainings, interactive office hours, peer exchanges, and new tools. Compact of Mayors signatories can choose to report their official inventory results to the ICLEI-managed carbon*n* Climate Registry.

carbon*n*® Climate Registry

The world's leading reporting platform to enhance transparency

726	67	660	>1	43
Number of reporting entities	Countries	Million people, represents 9% of the world population	gigaton of CO_{2e} reductions by 2020	Adaptation and resilience committments

As the world's leading reporting platform for local climate action, carbon*n* Climate Registry has linked up to the UNFCCC's NAZCA portal. NAZCA was launched at COP 20 to catalog the actions that companies, regions, and investors are taking to address climate change — 12,549 total commitments to date, with thousands provided via the carbon*n* Climate Registry.

Visualizing the Data

In its three years of existence, ClearPath has accumulated a vast quantity of data. At the end of 2016, there are some 40,000 individual inventory records in the tool. That may seem like the kind of dataset that would tell us a lot about the performance of cities. However, only about half of those are marked "Official"; with the remaining being a combination of cloned inventories, test records, and training data. Those are further split between government operations and community scale inventories and divided among 119 different emissions generating processes covered in the tool as well as countless different combination of calculation methods, fuel types, and other differences.

After all those are separated out, the number of observations on a particular process across cities is small enough that drawing major conclusions from it at this time is difficult. That said, we believe we have the richest such dataset available and it grows everyday. As we continue to watch this resource grow, we're learning not only about the performance of cities, but the ways in which people enter data and interact with the tool.
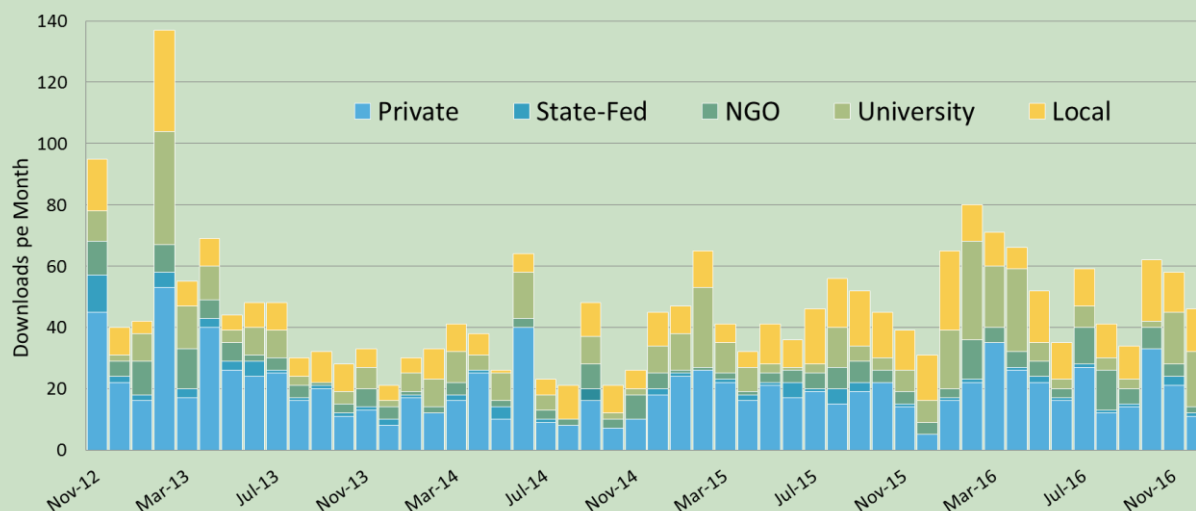
As we continue to develop new resources, ICLEI-USA will leverage that information to refine our program offerings and support the work of cities better where we see gaps. Below are a few observations drawn from some of the more aggregate datasets in the tool. Each one poses new deeper questions that we'll be continuing to explore in 2017.

Putting the Protocols into Perspective

At the basis of all our work are protocols. The chart below illustrates monthly downloads of the U.S. Community Protocol (USCP) since it's launch (omitting more than 500 downloads in October of 2012 for purposes of scale). In 2016 —a year dominated by cities aiming to fulfill the requirements of the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Emissions Inventories — the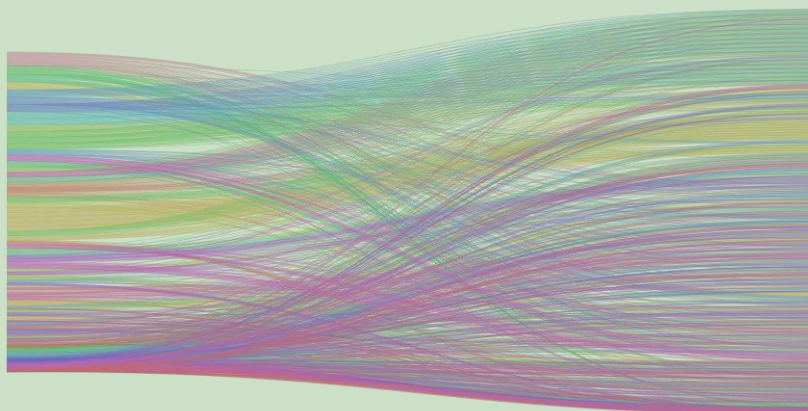 USCP saw its greatest number of annual downloads ever. This document is a vital tool for describing not only methods for performing inventories specifically within the U.S. context, but also for guiding users through compiling an inventory that supports their own goals as a community. What else is clear is that it is not only local governments who rely on this resource — a great many professionals and students learn from and use this document as well.
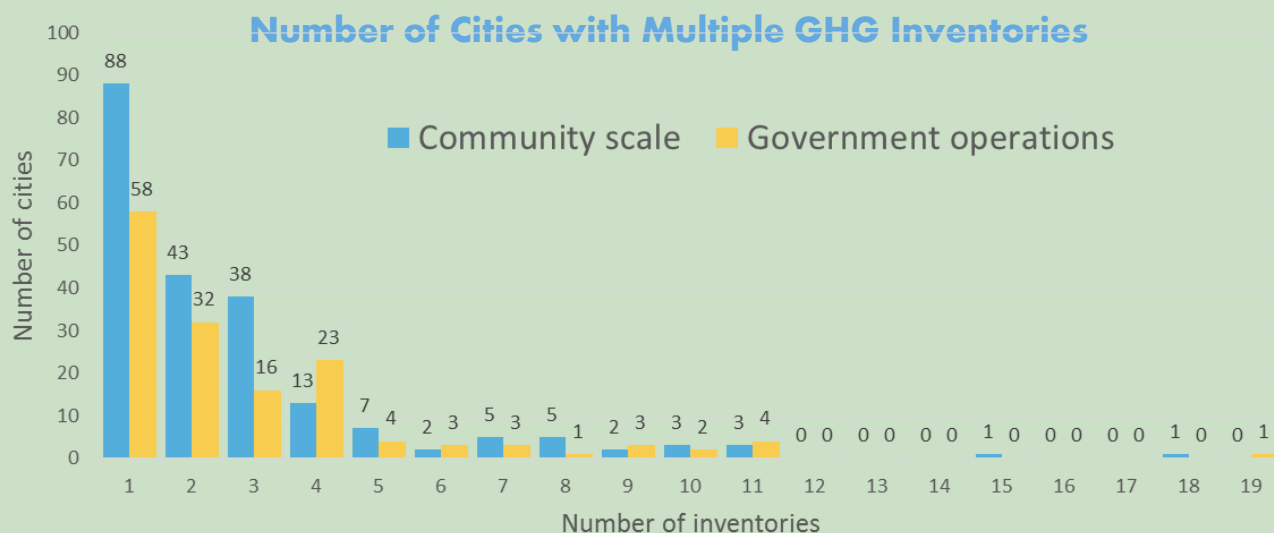
U.S. Community Protocol Downloads

Putting the protocol into action is a big lift and ClearPath is built for collaboration to complete that work. Within the tool, individual users can work with many communities and communities can have many users. The visualization to the right illustrates the many links between the individual users on the platform and the cities they are working with. Each color division on the left represents a user.

Therefore, large blocks of one color showcase "Power Users" — consultants, regional agencies, and NGO supporters who work with many communities. On the right side are the city accounts that each user is connected to. People working together, it's a beautiful thing.

Taking Stock of City GHG Inventories

Number of Cities with Multiple GHG Inventories

Number of cities (y-axis), Number of inventories (x-axis). Legend: Community scale, Government operations.
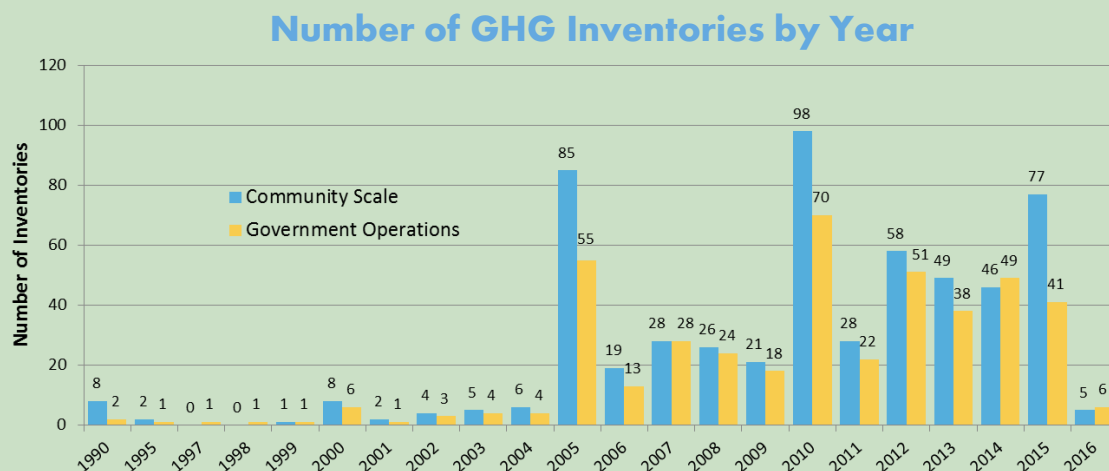
Our members and other constituents have been busy: Undertaking an inventory requires significant effort. Many of them have completed inventories using ClearPath. More impressive is the number of communities that have accomplished this task two, three, 10, or even 19 times over (as indicated in the graph above)! It is encouraging to see the number of communities that are institutionalizing regular tracking of emissions inventories. This is a good indication that, increasingly, these figures are being used as key indicators of community performance.

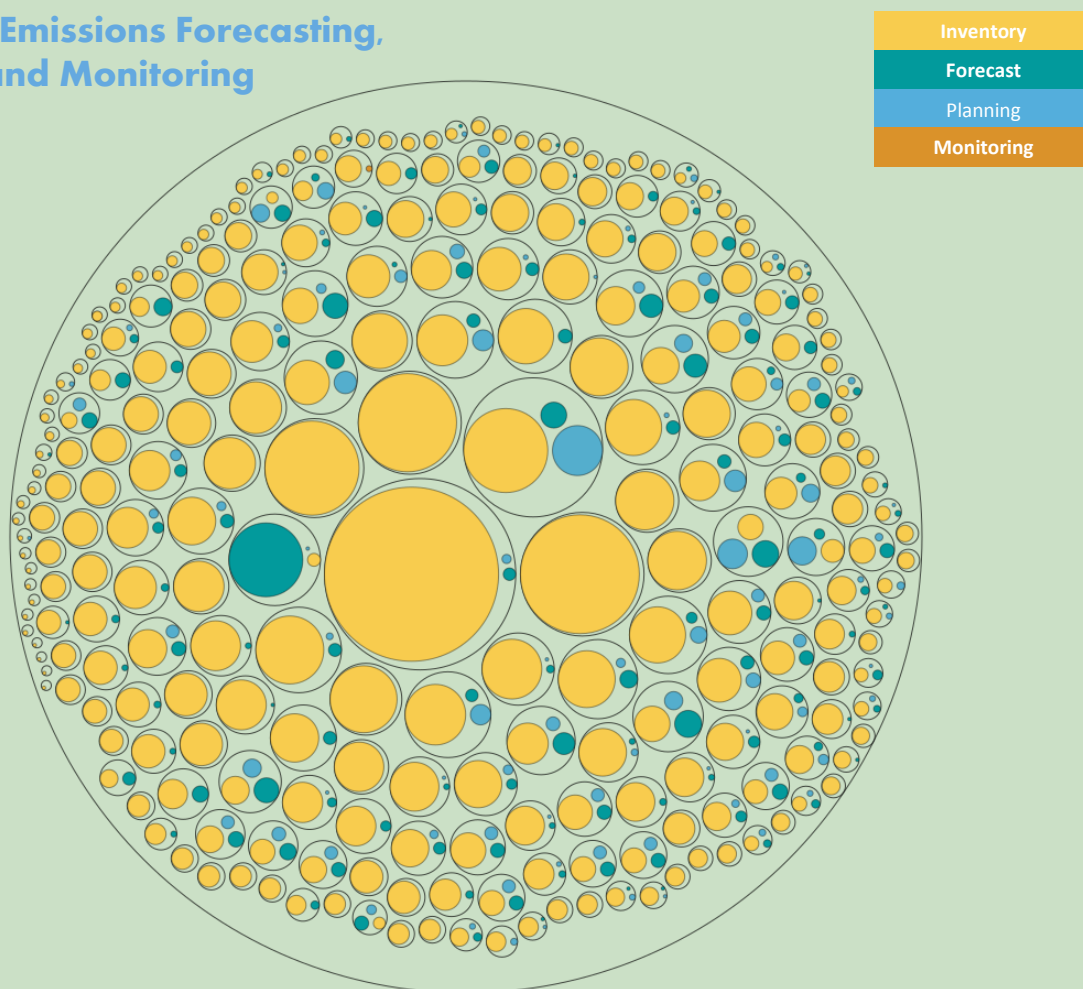The span of years covered by some users is also impressive. When we launched ClearPath in 2013, we were quite proud of delivering a tool that would allow cities to begin developing trends within the tool for their inventories going forward. We were delighted to then see the number of users who went back and re-created their historical inventories — in some cases, stretching back to 1990 in order to finally house their data all in one place.

It is also interesting to observe in the chart below the relative dominance of inventories in 2005, 2010 and, to a lesser extent, 2015. It would appear that the intervening years are creeping up again as this activity is becoming a regular exercise for many. (Even as we just begin 2017, there are already a handful of communities working to develop 2016 inventories.)

Number of GHG Inventories by Year

Number of Inventories (y-axis), year (x-axis). Legend: Community Scale, Government Operations.

Assessing How Cities Utilize the Tool

The Proportional Use of ClearPath's Modules: GHG Inventory, Emissions Forecasting, Planning, and Monitoring

Inventory
Forecast
Planning
Monitoring

Yes, there is a great deal of GHG inventory data in ClearPath, but use of the other modules is growing. In this bubble chart, the black circles represent individual cities. The colored circles within represent the number of records created in each of the modules by a community. While inventory records dominate, a few users have spent as much effort forecasting emissions trends and planning climate actions as they have in compiling their emissions inventory.

By their nature, inventories will always have more data points than the other functions of the tool. However, over time, we hope to see these distributions even out. Moreover, we hope to see and facilitate more use of the Monitoring Module in the coming years (can you find the dot?).

While creating multiple inventories is one form of monitoring, tracking performance on actions will be critical going forward — so that cities can learn from their reduction strategies and share what works with others. There is clearly a need for more resources to support cities in performing that work.
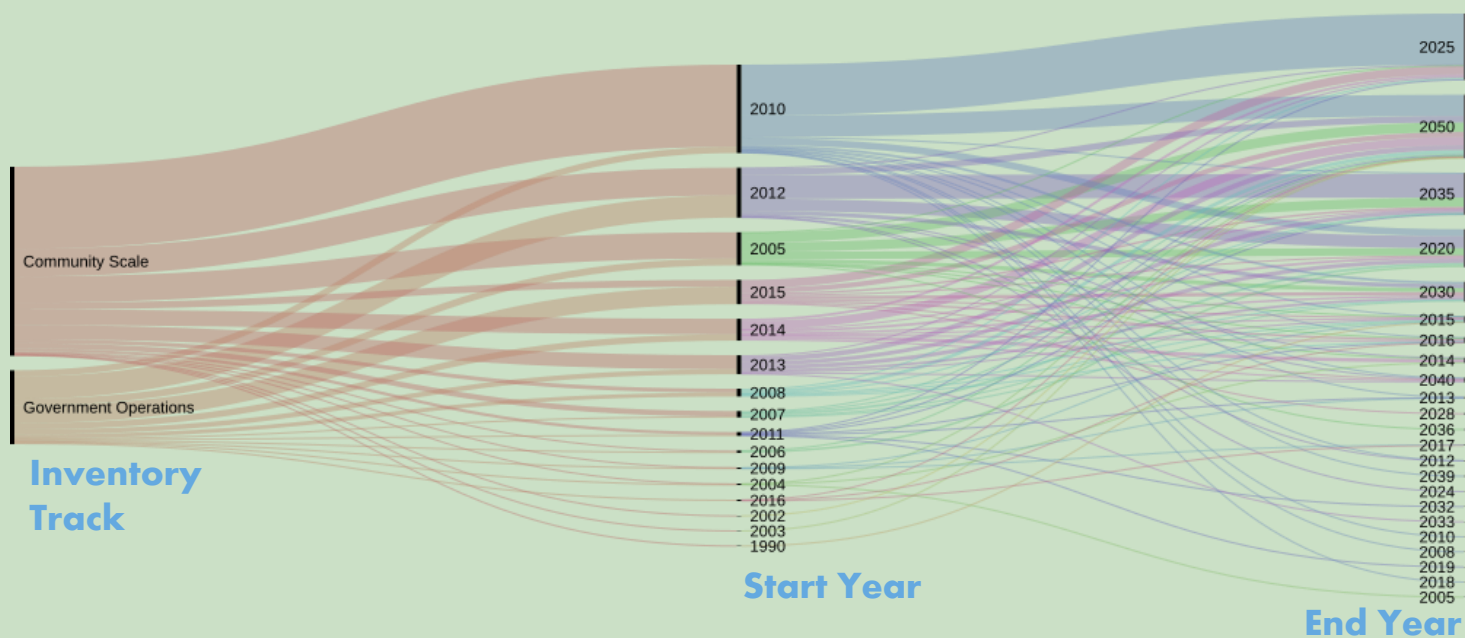
Planning Horizons Near and Far

While they may seem relatively few in comparison, there is a great deal of interesting data to explore in the emissions forecasting and climate planning activities of our users. Observing the Forecast and Planning Module scenarios created in ClearPath provides some insight into the planning horizons that cities are considering.

The graphic below shows the relative number of forecasts — from both the Community-scale and Government Operations tracks in the tool — with the starting and ending year of each. We see that most forecasts are created at the community scale and cover the period of 2010-2025. With as much emphasis as is placed on planning for 2050, it is interesting to see that the year 2025 is a far more common end year ClearPath users are planning for. This may be a reflection that cities are working within planning timeframes aligned with their state governments (or an acknowledgement that projecting the future over very long time horizons is challenging).

Also interesting is that several cities have used this feature of the tool to reconstruct and visualize the pathways from their earliest inventory work done in the early 2000s — and even as far back as 1990.

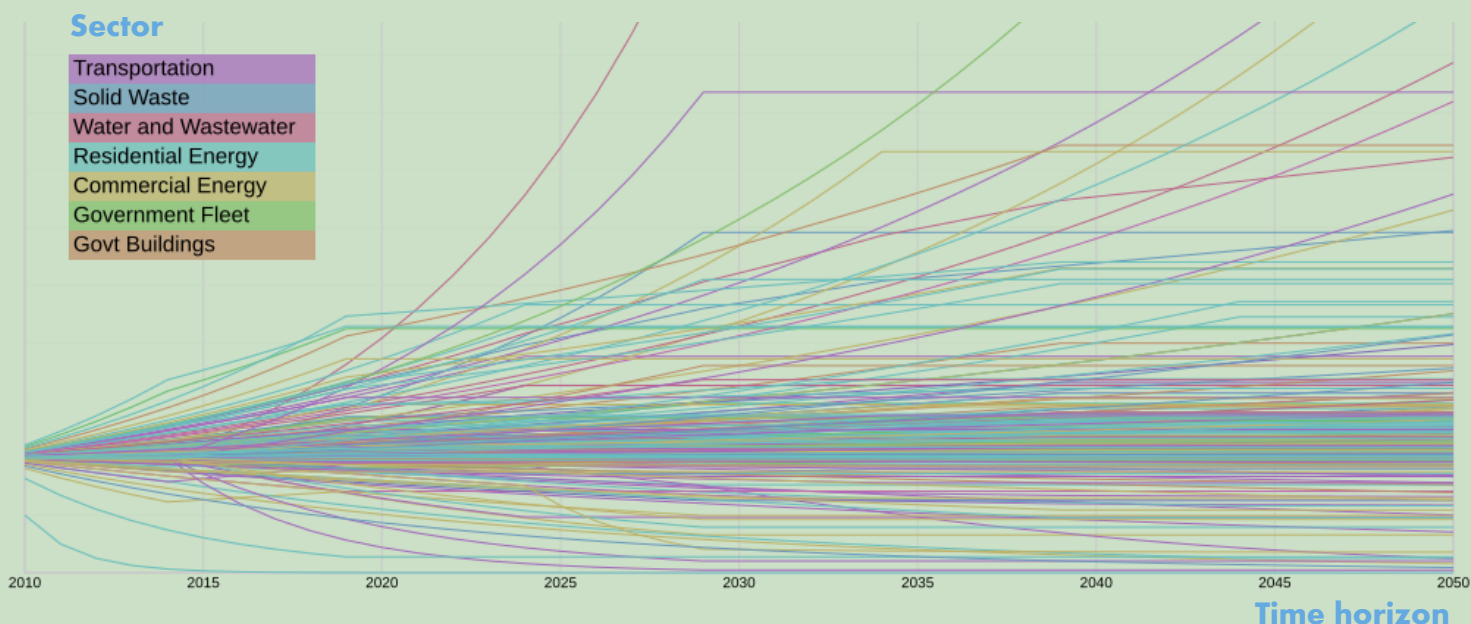## Forecasted Projections of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Pathways

Imagining Many Futures

What do cities expect to happen under a business-as-usual pathway over the time horizons they are planning for? ClearPath's Forecast Module allows users to create dynamic business-as-usual scenario projections for emissions-generating activities with independent rates of change. These can be applied to many different sources of greenhouse gas emission. Moreover, users can project some sources growing while others are declining naturally through market-driven changes, such as fuel switching from fuel oil to natural gas.

This illustration shows the rates of change ClearPath users have specified to apply to emissions-generating activities in various sectors. For display, these were "normalized" to all begin at the same starting point. Keep in mind that emissions projected to grow very quickly from some activities may, in fact, be applied to very small sources within an inventory.
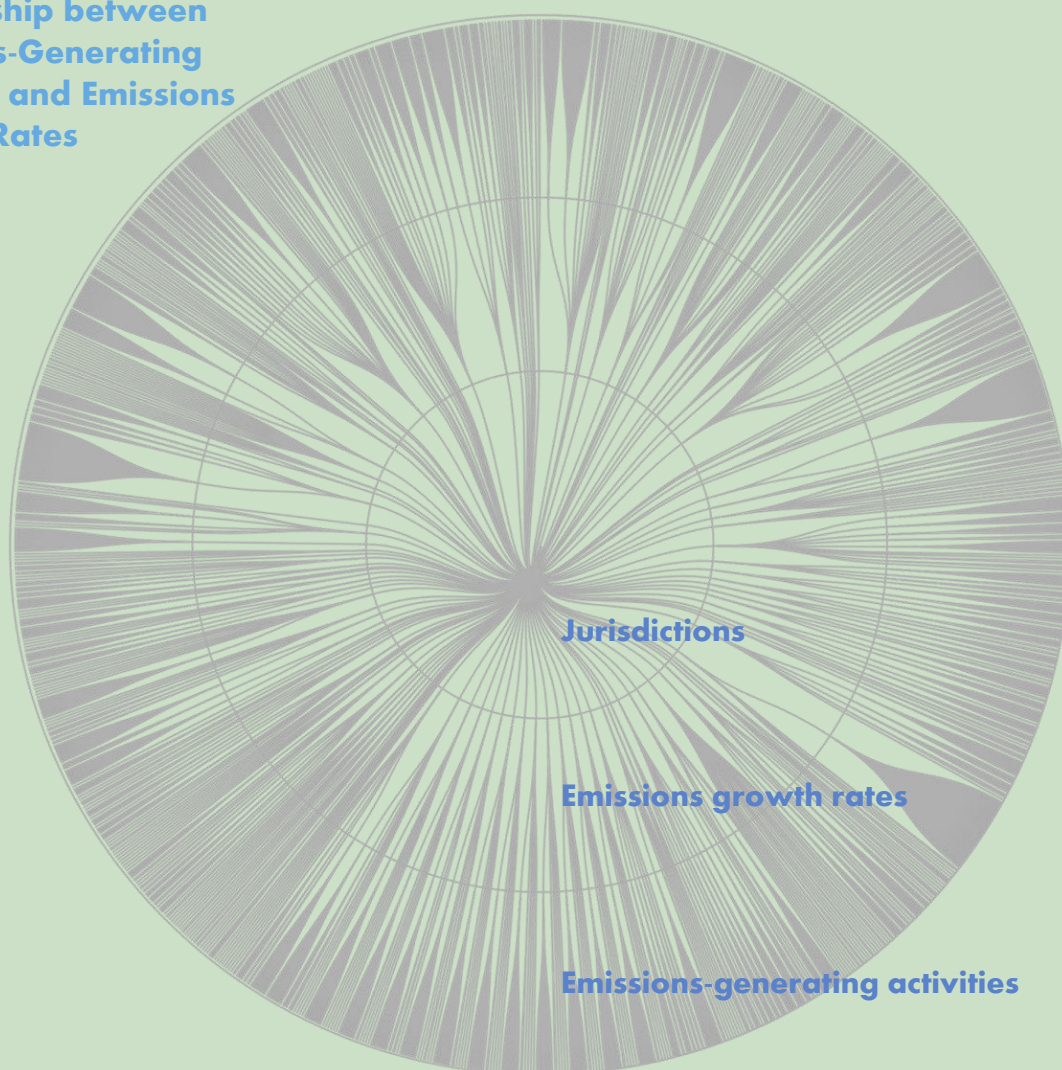
While outliers exist, it is clear that most users anticipate generally moderate growth in most areas under business as usual. As this dataset grows, we expect patterns to emerge, revealing an outlook for changes cities are projecting across different typologies and geographies. This data can help inform context-appropriate mitigation actions that better target those areas where challenges appear greatest.

Forecasted Rates of Change for Emission-Generating Activities by Sector

Sector
- Transportation
- Solid Waste
- Water and Wastewater
- Residential Energy
- Commercial Energy
- Government Fleet
- Govt Buildings

Time horizon

Improving Resources with Data-Driven Insights

Relationship between Emissions-Generating Activities and Emissions Growth Rates

Jurisdictions

Emissions growth rates
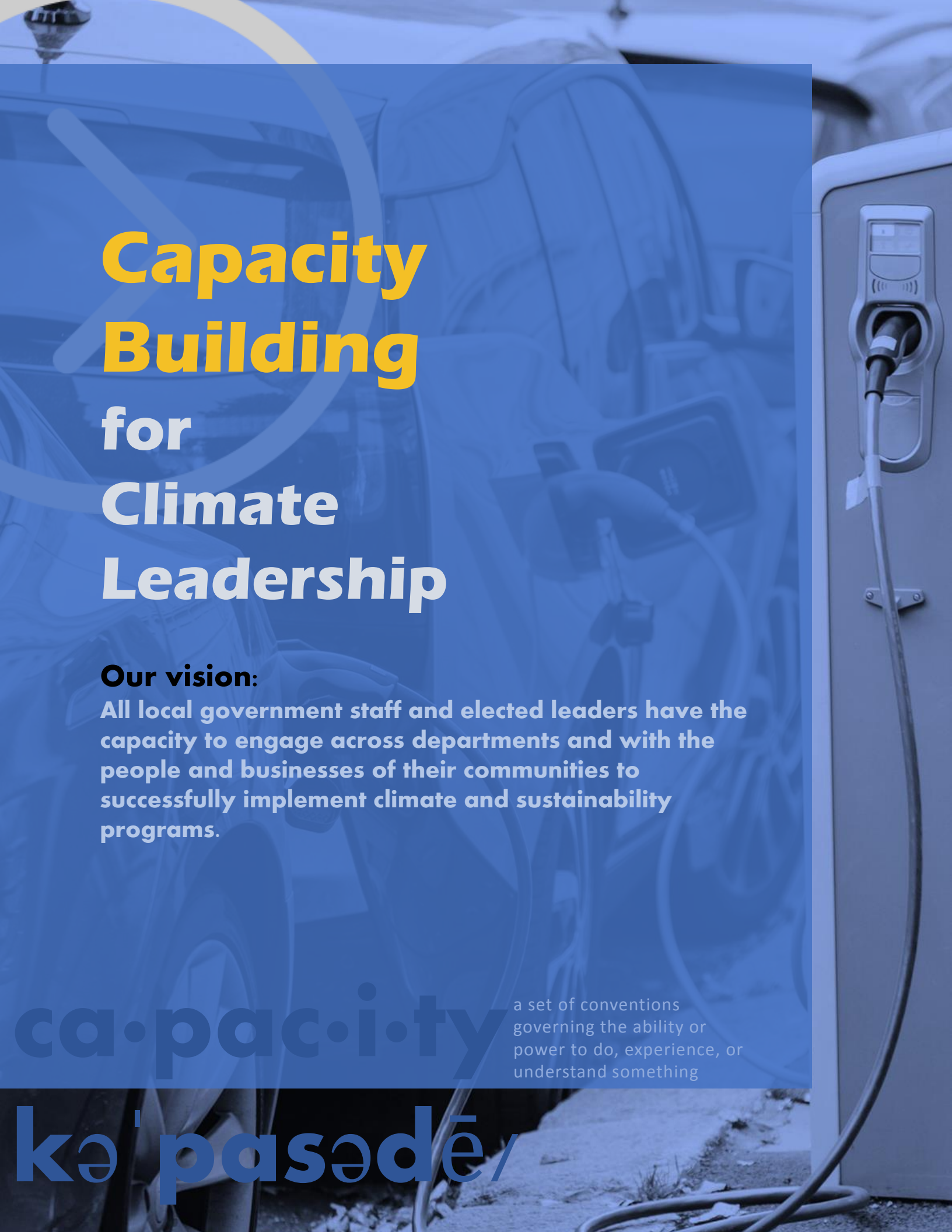
Emissions-generating activities

How emissions growth rates are applied is another aspect we can observe in the data created by ClearPath users. This dendrogram chart illustrates how some of those rates are used and re-used. Here, lines representing cities emanate from the inner ring. In the middle ring, each set of growth rates they've designated branch out. And the specific emissions-generating activities that experience those forecasted rates reside on the outer ring.

The fanning out between the inner and middle rings indicates cities that have developed many possible growth scenarios for the many different activities taking place in their communities.

Fanning out in the outer ring illustrates cities that are applying the same set of assumptions across many activities. Here is an example of how, when we look at patterns in how the ClearPath tool is being used, we can inform our plans to develop new resources. The ability of cities to make nuanced projections of emissions from different activities is an indicator of their ability to plan effectively to reduce those emissions.

We're watching these and other trends in the data to identify needs and develop the resources to improve the capacity of all cities to consider future emissions-reductions trends that can drive change in their communities.

Capacity Building

for Climate Leadership

Our vision:
All local government staff and elected leaders have the capacity to engage across departments and with the people and businesses of their communities to successfully implement climate and sustainability programs.

ca·pac·i·ty

a set of conventions governing the ability or power to do, experience, or understand something

kə'pasədē/

The Unite2Green Hayward Leaders conduct a composting and waste training during a workshop to prepare a new cohort of climate leaders.

"The Unite2Green Hayward program would not have been possible without ICLEI USA staff, who recruited and managed the Unite2Green Leaders as well as organized event logistics. As City staff, we greatly value the ability to be out in the community training leaders and talking to our residents. Unfortunately, we have limited staff capacity to do direct outreach. With the help of ICLEI USA, the Unite2Green Program bridged that gap."

— Mary Thomas, Management Analyst for Utilities and Environmental Services, City of Hayward, CA

Inclusionary Stakeholder Engagement

Cities are in search of strategies to meaningfully engage under-served populations on a variety of topics, including climate change. ICLEI USA's Unite2Green program partnered with ICLEI Member Hayward, CA, local educators, and nonprofits to empower youth and adults from a low-income neighborhood to become climate leaders in their community. ICLEI led a series of workshops and coordinated a neighborhood challenge to empower the Unite2Green Team to help residents save money and resources, safeguard their health, and protect their community from the effects of climate change. The City plans to replicate this outreach strategy for other community engagement topics.

The 2016 Unite2Green Leaders (from left to right): Nathaniel Barron, Arlenn Galvan, Ben Nash, Mateo Cuellar, Erica Barron, and Guadalupe "Daisy" Romero. Follow the leaders on Instagram at @Unite2Green.

ICLEI USA Executive Director Angie Fyfe attends the Inclusive Growth in Cities kickoff at the Ford Foundation.
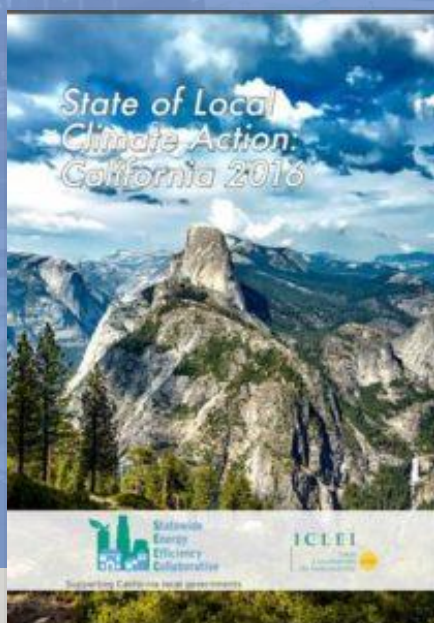
Scaling Up to Meet Statewide Climate Goals

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative

California's Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) is an alliance between ICLEI USA, the Local Government Commission, the Institute for Local Government, and California's four investor-owned utilities. Through SEEC, the partners build government capacity at the local level to help California reach its climate action planning and energy-efficiency objectives.

SEEC resources are built around ICLEI's proven Five Milestones framework, which offers a systematic approach for local governments to analyze their baseline greenhouse-gas emissions, develop emissions-reduction targets, implement a climate action plan, and monitor their progress.

State of Local Climate Action: California 2016 provides a comprehensive analysis of the local climate targets and actions and concludes that local governments make a significant contribution toward the State's climate goals — which are among the most aggressive in the world (40% GHG reduction below 1990 levels by 2030). The first-of-its-kind report was made possible for the first time by drawing on stores of data in ICLEI's ClearPath emissions management software platform.

Energy Analysis and Planning

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Energy launched Cities Leading Through Energy Analysis and Planning (C-LEAP), which provides a range of new planning tools, guidance, and a unique curation of datasets to help cities better understand their energy use.

With DOE funding to the City of Bellevue, WA, ICLEI USA will develop a new "contribution analysis" framework to help cities quantify the impact of local climate action distinct from external drivers, such as population change and economic fluctuations. The results will enable cities to target areas where their actions can have the greatest impact.

The work will continue during 2017 with pilot communities Aspen, CO; Bellevue, WA; King County, WA; Santa Monica, CA; Houston, TX; and the Metro Washington Council of Governments, and will conclude in 2018 with the creation of an open-source toolkit to be used by cities across the country.

Grounding Climate Action in Science

The Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX), a program of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), matches communities with earth and space scientists to lay strong, scientifically based foundations for climate action and adaptation planning. ICLEI partnered with TEX for a facilitated workshop with scientists and 12 communities, including *ICLEI members Reno* and *Missoula*. We are looking forward to continued work with TEX in 2017 with *ICLEI members Atioch, East Lansing, and Savannah*.

"The (ICLEI connection to the) Thriving Earth Exchange matched Eugene city staff with a physicist who supported our development of a communitywide, science-based greenhouse gas emissions target. This support built confidence in our City Council with the methods and recommendations, and enabled our community to take bold steps that are scientifically sound."

— Ethan Nelson, Intergovernmental Relations and Sustainability Manager, City of Eugene, OR

Building Urban Resilience

In July, more than 500 participants **gathered in Bonn, Germany, for ICLEI's 7th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation** at the Resilient Cities Congress. Insights came from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's evaluation of 44 local U.S. adaptation plans, which found that most plans fail to provide implementation processes.

Plans authored by planning departments and those that engaged elected officials in the process were of higher quality. Other sessions looked at *ICLEI member Reno*'s food systems, green shoreline strategies for coastal cities, and an examination of catastrophic flood events like the one that hit Boulder County, CO, in 2013.

You're invited! 8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation
May 4-6, 2017 in Bonn, Germany
Resilient Cities 2017 will explore climate-related health risks, internal displacement and forced migration, risk transfer and insurance, financing resilience, DRR planning, and more. ResilientCities2017.ICLEI.org

Resilient Cities 2017

Build
the
Movement
with Us

Our vision:
Local governments continue to lead the global call for deep decarbonization by demonstrating tangible improvements in sustainability and resilience — and share those successes with their peers.

In the pages that follow, we are pleased to share a sample of activities undertaken last year by **ICLEI** members and partners.

move·ment

a group of people working together to advance their shared ideas

THE GREENS
JOBS

(ˈmo͞ovmənt/)

In all, more than 825 cities, counties, and regional associations — representing a population of more than 141 million Americans — have participated in ICLEI USA's climate programs during the past two decades.

Cities and Regions Commit to 100% Renewable Energy

Eliminating fossil fuel use in the electric power sector is essential to meet the Paris Agreement temperature targets. Cities that have renewable energy targets report, on average, twice as many RE actions than cities that do not have a renewables target, paving the way for higher energy efficiency measures and the introduction of electric vehicles.

The 100%RE Cities and Regions Network galvanizes local governments around a fundamental shift to renewable energy, by bringing committed jurisdictions together to access experts, tools, peer-to-peer networking, and latest findings, including through in-person events like the North American Dialogue. Let's move farther and faster together. Join the network.

The North American Dialogue for 100% Renewable Energy in Cities was the first of its kind and combined the technical expertise of ICLEI USA, Sierra Club's experience working with American cities on 100% renewable energy, and Renewable Cities' skills in dialogue facilitation.

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Getting Out the (Energy Code) Vote

Buildings account for about 40% of total U.S. energy use.
Ensuring buildings are as efficient as possible is an essential component of meeting ambitious GHG reduction goals. So, while a discussion on building energy codes may not, at first, sound like the most exciting conversation we have on sustainability, these codes determine minimum building efficiency standards, critically shaping potential for emission reduction in cities. In 2016, officials from municipalities and states had the opportunity to cast one of the most critical energy policy votes: the International Code Council updates to the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

ICLEI partnered with the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, National Association of Regional Councils, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Institute for Market Transformation, and the Building Codes Assistance Project to provide local governments with opportunities to engage with the voting process for the 2018 IECC. We provided outreach and education to city networks, disseminated resources, facilitated webinars, and organized in-person workshops across the country. Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, Denver, CO, Columbus, OH, Chicago, IL, and West Palm Beach, FL, were among the jurisdictions that worked with us to bring informed decisions to the vote in November.

⏵ Aspen, CO
Achieves 100% Renewable Energy

ICLEI member City of Aspen established its 100 percent renewable energy target over a decade ago. Since that time, investments in renewable energy have enabled the municipal-owned electric utility to progressively replace fossil fuels. In August of 2015, the City of Aspen achieved 100 percent renewable energy by negotiating with Aspen's wholesale electric energy provider, MEAN, to fill the remaining 25% of the portfolio with wind power. More than 6,000 customers in Aspen now receive clean energy while paying some of the lowest electricity rates in the state.

"We've prepared for the new energy economy by powering Aspen's electric utility with 100% renewables. We're finding our rates are among the lowest in Colorado, and that a commitment to a sustainable future is practical, profitable and improves local quality of life."
— Mayor Steve Skadron, City of Aspen, CO

▶ Miami Beach, FL
Launches its
Solar Marketplace

ICLEI member City of Miami Beach has continuously supported initiatives that utilize renewable sources of energy with the goal of reducing city-level GHG emissions and enhancing climate resilience. Connected to this goal is the City's partnership with the Solar Marketplace.

A partnership with EnergySage, the Solar Marketplace is a one-stop shop for residents and businesses to obtain solar energy quotes from pre-screened vendors in an online platform designed to resemble a search engine similar to those used for flights and hotels. The interactive and user-friendly website helps the community understand solar options in a convenient way. Read more about our partnership with EnergySage .

▶ Santa Cruz, CA
Participates in the Compact of Mayors 'Fall Session'

During 2016, ICLEI USA held a "Fall Session" for local governments seeking to prepare greenhouse gas inventories to meet their Year 1 Compact of Mayors commitments. *ICLEI member City of Santa Cruz* joined 19 cities for the 15-week program to receive direct technical assistance through live, web-based trainings, interactive office hours, peer exchanges, and new tools. The City had completed its GHG inventory and wanted to take advantage of the Quality Control and Quality Assurance provided by the Fall Session.

"The primary benefit was not having to do this entire process all on our own, having people to answer questions and to benefit from ICLEI staff expertise each step of the way," Tiffany Wise-West, Sustainability and Climate Action Coordinator with the City of Santa Cruz, said. "The experience allowed the City to stay on task for the December 15 deadline, keeping it in the foreground of our work plan."

⟩ Metro Washington Council of Governments
Charts a ClearPath

Using ICLEI's ClearPath tool in 2016, *ICLEI member Metro Washington Council of Governments* (MWCOG) determined that the District of Columbia region had surpassed its initial 2012 goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 10% below 2005 levels.

The MWCOG is an independent association of 300 elected officials working to address major regional issues in D.C., suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The MWCOG also is a 2015 White House Climate Action Champion, with a long-term goal to reduce area emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2050.

"The results of using ClearPath show the region met its first reduction target and will help regional stakeholders evaluate the next steps in emissions reduction as we kick off the update of our Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan," Steve Walz, Director of Environmental Programs for MWCOG, said. What has contributed to this success? MWCOG launched a public-sector solar procurement initiative, assessing the solar potential of 170 public facilities and then purchased solar resources in bulk. The effort resulted in procurement of more than 28 megawatts of solar in the region by early 2016.

ICLEI member City of Denver joined Seoul, Tshwane, and other global cities to exchange best practices, approaches, challenges, and targets through ICLEI's Global Lead Cities Network on Sustainable Procurement. Denver's initial goal is to reduce GHG emissions and increase spending efficiency in office supplies and municipal fleet vehicles. Denver established a new requirement for fleet vehicle cleaning products to be Eco-Logo certified, which reduced costs by 38% and eliminated unwanted organic materials in water drainage systems. By reducing maintenance costs of car-wash bays, system performance is also improved. The City's total annual spend on all products exceeds $300 million, offering a significant opportunity to expand into other key procurement sectors in the future.

Denver, CO
Joins Sustainable Procurement Leaders

▶ **Sarasota, FL**
Innovates with
Climate Finance

The funding source for **ICLEI member City of Sarasota**'s first vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation plan may surprise some – Deepwater Horizon (BP oil spill) money. After receiving settlement funds, the City of Sarasota's sustainability program [pitched an idea](#) to use a portion for this much needed and important component of the climate planning process. City employees' climate literacy is building throughout the process – especially within public works, utilities, and the planning department.

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art complex in Sarasota, FL, enjoys sea views along the City's Sarasota Bay.

Advocating
for
Local
Governments

Our vision:

The international policy environment represents the needs of local governments and supports local-level sustainability efforts. We work to reshape the global landscape so that cities and local governments are recognized, engaged and have the resources needed to advance their sustainability goals.

ad·vo·ca·cy

an activity by an individual or group, which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.
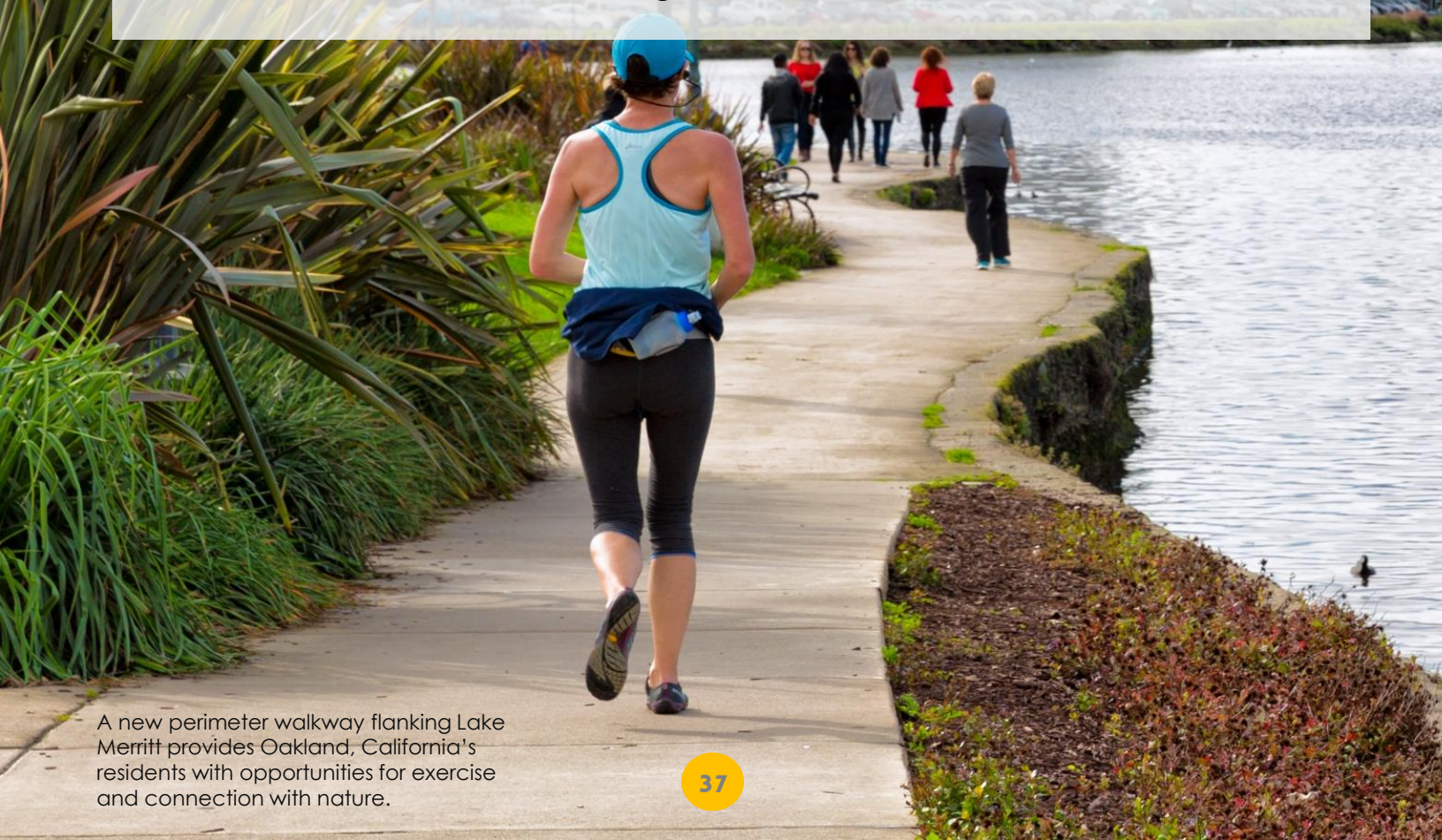
[ˈadvəkəsē/]

ECH 2016

As the focal point for the Local Government and Municipal Authorities working group of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), advocacy is fundamental to ICLEI's activities. While the incoming administration in Washington D.C. has suggested it will abandon the Paris Agreement or the UNFCCC, ICLEI will continue to represent local governments in this global setting.

2016 marked the adoption of the New Urban Agenda through HABITAT III in Quito, which provides comprehensive guidance for integrated sustainable urban and territorial development as a mechanism to support goals in other sustainability agendas.

The biodiversity agenda advanced via the Biodiversity COP in Cancun and the implementation of a 10-year work plan of nations to collaborate with cities and subnational governments, which can be seen as a replicable practice for nations to accelerate implementation of the sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

2017-2018 is a critical period to raise ambition and accelerate action by ensuring vertical integration between levels of government and horizontally among all agendas. ICLEI member city Montréal Canada will host the ICLEI World Congress in June 2018, where this new action agenda will come to life.

A new perimeter walkway flanking Lake Merritt provides Oakland, California's residents with opportunities for exercise and connection with nature.

ICLEI Members Lead at Habitat III

In October 2016, leaders from local governments around the world gathered in Quito, Ecuador, to determine the roadmap for urban development and sustainability during the next 20 years. ICLEI USA cities played a leading role, bringing their sustainability work to Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

ICLEI member Boulder was recognized as a 2016 U.S. Capital of the Earth Hour City Challenge. *ICLEI Member Santa Monica* City Council Member Pam O'Connor spoke to ensure issues of social and climate equity were central to the conversation, explaining Santa Monica's data-driven well-being index , which the City uses to evaluate differences between neighborhoods and target resources to overcome inequality. *ICLEI Member Oakland* Mayor Libby Schaaf shared highlights from Resilient Oakland, the City's innovative resilience strategy, with more than 385 local and regional leaders at the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

City of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf speaks in support of multi-stakeholder city resiliency on a Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy panel during Habitat III.

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

During 2016, the Compact of Mayors and the Europe-based Covenant of Mayors announced their merger to create the new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. This new coalition will comprise thousands of cities across six continents, representing about 600 million people, or over 8% of the world population. ICLEI, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) are the Covenant's global city network partners. The Global Covenant's Board of Directors includes strong U.S. representation from Mayor Kasim Reed of *ICLEI member City of Atlanta, GA*.

UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael Bloomberg, launched the Compact of Mayors in 2014.

U.S. mayors gather January 18, 2017, in Washington DC to make clear that their dedication to fighting climate change is at the forefront of their agendas despite any national uncertainty.

"Now more than ever, local voices must be heard, and it is up to this coalition to unlock the full potential of city action to secure a sustainable urban future for all."
— Mayor Kasim Reed, City of Atlanta, GA, and Board Member, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

COP22: Conference of Action

Mayor Ulrich Sumptoh of Port Vila, Vanuatu, delivers his remarks during the ICLEI-organized Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders.

The UN Climate Change Conference held last November in Marrakech, Morocco, was the first Conference of the Parties (COP) following the adoption and swift ratification of the Paris Agreement. It was a COP of action — a place where nations and other climate stakeholders focused on building the architecture needed to achieve 1.5 degrees of warming.

Paris Agreement Enters into Force

November 4, 2016, marked the occasion of the Paris Agreement entering into force. Entry into force was key to secure that there is no turning back in this new era of global climate action, regardless of changes in the political arena at the national and global levels. In recognition of the civil society's role in reaching swift adoption UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hosted a meeting of NGOs. ICLEI was among the groups invited to speak on behalf of its network's commitments to combat climate change.

ICLEI USA Executive Director Angie Fyfe exchanges a handshake with then-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who wished to acknowledge the role civil society played in support of the Paris Agreement.

Local Action in the Year Ahead

ICLEI supports local governments as they improve the lives of their citizens, foster green growth, and react to the existential threat posed by climate change. To that end, we encourage the following local government actions:

1. Keep up the good work underway, and build on it with more ambitious commitments - for instance, divesting from fossil fuels and committing to 100 percent renewable energy.

2. Advocate that the national government continue with policies that create green jobs and protect people's health and the environment.

3. Encourage fellow local leaders to join the movement for local climate action.

4. Keep engaging in global advocacy efforts through networks such as ICLEI.

5. Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, a city-led initiative of 7,100 cities from 119 countries, representing over 600 million people that allows local governments to report, monitor and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, while also setting climate adaptation and resilience targets.

6. Build local implementation architectures with partners in the private sector, civil society, and the research community.

The road to COP23, the 2017 UN Climate Summit in Bonn, Germany, will be the next chapter of the climate action story. ICLEI will be there and we invite all local leaders from the U.S. to join our members and us on this journey. ◗

Thank You to Our
2016 Partners and Funders

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Geophysical Union
ARIA Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Building Codes Assistance Project
C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
California Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Center for the New Energy Economy
City of Bellevue, WA
Colorado Municipal League
EcoDistricts
Energy Efficient Codes Coalition
Energy Foundation China
The Ford Foundation
ICLEI Global Procurement Center
Institute for Local Government
Institute for Market Transformation
Local Government Commission
Lotus Sustainability
Meister Consulting Group
National Association of Regional Councils
National League of Cities

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Natural Capitalism
North Carolina State University
Sustainable Energy for All - United Nations HQ
Sustainable Energy Power Association
OECD
Pacific Gas and Electric and the California Investor-Owned Utilities under to auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission
Renewable Cities
San Diego Foundation
Sierra Club, USA
The Stanley Foundation
STAR Communities
Stopwaste.org
Sustainable Production and Consumption
UN Environment
Urban Sustainability Directors Network
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Green Building Council
Vermonster
World Resources Institute
World Wildlife Fund
YR&G

Meet the
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Pam O'Connor
*Councilmember Santa
Monica, CA*

Harvey Ruvin
*Clerk of the County Courts,
Miami-Dade County, FL*

Join Us in 2017!

ICLEI 2017 Overview

·I·C·L·E·I·
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

2017
Overview

This year, we work harder than ever to bring local matters to the global stage with an exciting lineup of events. Watch this video address to members for ICLEI Secretary-General Gino Van Begin's call to action and outline of ICLEI events worldwide in the year ahead.

Report Credits

Data Visualization Tools
RAW by Density Design
SVG Crowbar by New York Times
Codebeautify.org
Convertio

Further and Faster Together

ICLEI USA represents you in a global network.

We are a country office of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, the leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns, and regions across more than 100 countries that are committed to building a sustainable future.

Through our work, we impact over 25 percent of the global urban population, working in several sustainability arenas: leading methods, protocols, and software tools for local climate action planning, urban sustainability, adaptation, and resilience planning, sustainable public procurement, urban biodiversity management, sustainable transportation (ecomobility), green economies, and healthy, happy communities.

Join ICLEI USA

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