Moving from Commitments to Action
Letter from our Executive Director

Dear ICLEI Community:

Thank you for your overwhelming response to the announcement that the U.S. would “renegotiate” the Paris Agreement. The response was swift and amplified by governors, investors, businesses and universities who declare #WeAreStillIn! Local governments globally solidified this position by adopting the Bonn-Fiji Commitment at the Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders at COP23.

We, therefore, accelerate our advocacy and technical implementation offerings, knowing that with or without national support, our actions represent just one-third of the reductions needed to achieve global targets.

We closed 2017 with hopeful highlights:

• ClearPath is used by 476 jurisdictions and contains 1,630 inventories
• The Drivers of Emissions Change Toolkit provides a better understanding of city progress
• ICLEI USA affiliate network now includes universities, key to advance science and evidence-based policies
• COP23 U.S. People’s Delegation brought the voices of tribes, migrants, and youth to an international stage
• The American Resilience Roadtrip amplified the stories of communities racked by extreme weather
• Our Localizing the Paris Agreement Guide offers many opportunities to turn commitments into action

We look forward to seeing you at the ICLEI World Congress June 19-22 in Montreal. Moving forward together.

[Signature]
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Local leaders from the U.S. and around the world joined forces at the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders at COP23 in Bonn, November 12, 2017. The ICLEI-led event created momentum for a major milestone: the signing of the Bonn-Fiji commitment, which solidifies local leadership in the international negotiating space. See Page 13.
Assessing local action

Our member cities, towns, and counties — listed in the background of this page — are sustainability leaders in every region of the country.

60 million
U.S. population living in ICLEI cities, towns and counties

37% ICLEI members with populations under 50,000

56% ICLEI members with populations under 100,000

13% ICLEI members with populations greater than 500,000

10% Northwest

15% Midwest

16% Northeast

22% South and Southeast

Released at COP23, Localizing the Paris Agreement guides our local government members toward action to implement the goals of Paris.
Sources & Solutions

475 U.S. local governments have used the GHG Inventory Module in ClearPath to produce **33,052 inventory records**. The stacked graphs on the left and right of this page show the proportion of total records by sector, **community-wide** and for **local government operations**.

ClearPath’s Planning Module allows users to create strategies to reduce their emissions. The donut charts represent the proportion of more than **1,600 reduction measures** by sector, for community-scale strategies (left) and municipal operations (top).
Drivers of emissions change in cities

The Energy’s Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (Cities-LEAP) Program, equips cities to better understand the drivers of GHG emissions changes over time, allowing for better, more cost-effective policy decisions — using visualizations like the waterfall chart below.

Adapt the project outcomes to your own community emissions analysis with our help.
The Regional Indicators Initiative in Minnesota provides annual tracking of water and energy use, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions for 22 participating local governments, mostly in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro area. ICLEI USA provided peer review of the data sources and methods, offering recommendations that improve normalizing energy use for weather and on data sources for transportation and waste. We aim to help expand the project to all cities in Minnesota.
In 2017, we hosted the first California Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) GHG Emissions Inventory Cohort Session, a structured technical assistance program to guide 20 local governments through the steps of creating a community greenhouse gas inventory in real time.

"The SEEC Cohort Training program was really useful, and we wouldn’t have been able to complete the inventory without it. Anytime we had a question, we were able to call up the ICLEI USA staff. The personal, one-on-one assistance was greatly helpful in walking through different problems and calculations."

Noe Diaz, CivicSpark Fellow, Gateway Cities Council of Governments

City of Norwalk’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory work compiles data across multiple community sectors to produce a composite look at emissions activity in the city boundary. Graph produced using ClearPath.
Mayor of Des Moines and ICLEI USA Board Member Frank Cownie provided intervention on behalf of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments at the UN High Level Meeting on the UN-Habitat Independent Assessment Report in New York City September 6, 2017. As one of the lead networks in the process, ICLEI considers the report and the meeting important steps towards strengthening and supporting multilevel governance for a sustainable urban world.
One of the organizations that has been fundamentally responsible for the growing recognition that national climate goals cannot be achieved without local and regional leadership is ICLEI. ICLEI organized and flawlessly ran the local leaders meeting in Bonn, which was the first such meeting to be held and recognized as part of the official business of a COP event. There were over 300 local and regional elected officials at the meeting, and a total of over 1,000 representatives of local and regional governments from all over the world.”
—Sam Weaver, Council Member, Boulder, CO
Local government welcomes a new era of local leadership at COP23

America’s Pledge to the Paris Agreement and its commitment to see it through was a top storyline at COP23. ICLEI USA was proud to bring a delegation of 10 elected officials and seven city staff members, along with six individuals who participated in a broad coalition known as the U.S. People’s Delegation. The ICLEI-championed Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders to Deliver the Paris Agreement at All Levels of Government was a major outcome.

“I ask the climate deniers: shouldn’t the county protect people who are being harmed and shouldn’t the people who are responsible for the harm pay for it?”

Commissioner of Travis County, TX, and ICLEI USA Board Member Brigid Shea
Advocating for local action

ICLEI USA and 350.org host U.S. Peoples Delegation at COP23

In response to fears about the future of the Paris Agreement and global climate commitments, ICLEI USA and 350.org convened a U.S. People’s Delegation at COP23 in Bonn as a way to showcase that despite the rhetoric in federal politics, citizens across the country are concerned about climate impacts and are taking action at the ground level to address them. We joined a broader U.S. People’s Delegation that included youth, Indigenous peoples, frontline communities, advocates, and policymakers who went to Germany to assure the world that true climate leadership in the U.S. comes from the people.
“It’s challenging to remain positive with the imminent and looming threat of climate change and the seeming inaction of our federal government. But I see our local governments across the nation enacting climate action policy. I see people of my generation innovating renewable energy technologies, advocating for climate justice, and organizing their communities to be resilient, and this gives me hope that I hold onto.”
—Justin Marquez, ICLEI-350.org U.S. People’s Delegate to COP23
Attendees to the Resilient Cities Congress 2017 envisioned a better world — sometimes with a little technological help. The 8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation brought more than 440 participants from 55 countries.
San Diego Regional Coastal Sea Level Rise Assessments

From 2016 to 2017, ICLEI USA convened local government staff from cities of San Diego, Oceanside, and Encinitas to assess the region’s vulnerability to sea level rise. With funding from the San Diego Foundation, we hosted a series of workshops where planners and coastal science experts paired city staff knowledge with the latest climate and ocean modeling technology to produce a series of maps. These maps will help the cities address risks to their coastal assets, buildings, wetland ecosystems, and vulnerable communities.
The Resilience Dialogues

A wealth of data and tools exists to manage climate risks and integrate climate variability into planning, engagement, and decision-making activities. To help connect cities to experts, we joined 21 on The Resilience Dialogues, coordinated by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and the American Geophysical Union’s Thriving Earth Exchange to lay the groundwork for long-term resilience.
The rhetoric surrounding national politics would suggest that our country is more divided than ever. At the ground level, a very different narrative can be found. To showcase this local-level wisdom, we hit the road!

A concerned citizen, Ben Colombo, contacted ICLEI shortly after the 2016 elections with an idea to embark on a two-year-long, 50-state tour to find out how city governments, citizen groups, and others are making their communities more sustainable, more resilient, and better served. We loved his idea because ICLEI serves to empower—not overpower—people, and we are happy to team with Ben to tell the story of local action.

Ride along with us!
Resilient communities are connected communities. Cities and county officials can sponsor or organize creative placemaking programs to bring arts and culture to neighborhoods, fostering community cohesion in the process.
ICLEI USA Program Officer Hoi-Fei Mok greets political commentator and social justice activist Van Jones at the 2017 VERGE conference, where Mok was recognized as a VERGE Emerging Leader. The conference gathers the brightest minds in the corporate, tech, government, nonprofit and art sectors to accelerate sustainability solutions.
Outside the official COP23 campus in Bonn, Germany, citizen activists from across Europe gathered to lend their support to aggressive climate action. Photo by 350.org and Survival Media.
ICLEI launched the Urban Transitions Alliance in 2017 so that industrial legacy cities can come together to identify common challenges, share knowledge and co-create by forging lasting working relationships. ICLEI USA network cities Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Buffalo are founding members of the alliance.

We exported people like we exported steel. We don’t have to be wedded to the past. Let’s have a Marshall Plan to bring others along.”

Pittsburgh Mayor and ICLEI USA Board Member Bill Peduto

Join the Alliance to gain access to knowledge sharing, valuable contacts, work results and events, and set an agenda to meet the most pressing shared challenges of cities with an industrial legacy.

Contact urban.transitions@iclei.org
Shared Mobility Principles for Liveable Cities

The future of mobility in cities is multimodal and integrated. When vehicles are used, they will be right-sized, shared*, and zero emission. These principles guide urban decision-makers and stakeholders toward the best outcomes for all.

Check out our 10 Shared Mobility Principles for Livable Cities, designed with transportation partners.
Achieving Sustainability Goals with EPEAT and ICLEI ClearPath in Durango, CO

Using the tools EPEAT and ICLEI ClearPath, the City of Durango achieved 179,000 kWh in electricity savings and a 31.6-metric-ton decrease in GHG emissions while avoiding 434kg of hazardous waste.

This project is highlighted as part of our ICLEI Case Study Series.
Opportunities for local action

It’s not an investment to pay your energy bill. It is an investment to invest in energy efficiency, because when you lower that bill, you’re achieving savings for your business and your customers.

Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, WI

Milwaukee pursues ambitious energy efficiency for better buildings with PACE financing

City of Milwaukee is on a path to retrofit 200 commercial and industrial buildings with energy-efficient retrofits to meet its goal of 20% building energy reduction over a decade utilizing ICLEI support via the Building Efficiency Accelerator Program.

This project is highlighted as part of our ICLEI Case Study Series.
Missoula, MT
Leads on multi-stakeholder climate action planning

When Mayor John Engen and Energy Conservation Coordinator Chase Jones saw climate change as an opportunity to align and unite multiple groups. A citizen advisory committee on climate change now works with City Council toward a shared goal: reaching carbon neutrality by 2025.

Missoula’s Climate Action Plan breaks down actions by sector and cost, utilizing ICLEI resources.

This project is highlighted as part of our ICLEI City Climate Action Series.
Hundreds of communities in the U.S. have utilized the Five Milestones framework as a standardized, stepwise means of tackling sustainability goals. Whether your goal is particular to climate action, resilience or cross-cutting, ICLEI pioneered the framework to be an action-oriented approach that begins with leadership and assessing a baseline to build from — and offer recognition to our members each step of the way.
More and more, cities and towns are actively shaping regional food systems toward resilience. Facilitate development of retail and markets for local production and utilize city-peer networks such as CITYFOOD to access training and policy guidance.
Local action

in the year ahead

Connect
The ICLEI online Community is your all-in-one resource. Find answers, explore and share city sustainability actions, test your knowledge through self-guided learning. Join conversation.

Analyze
The Drivers of Change Toolkit allows advanced GHG practitioners to dive deeper into their emissions work. Use the toolkit.

Plan
Work with ICLEI to deploy Temperate, a new climate adaptation tool. Access powerful climate data sets, identify community hazards, assess your vulnerability, and create your action plan with our consultative services.

Transform
We continue to innovate with our members to accelerate climate action: divestment, inclusion, sustainable insurance, and living GHG protocols to name a few. Come along.
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of local governments dedicated to sustainability, resilience, and climate action, with more than 1,500 cities, towns, and counties around the globe. ICLEI provides cutting-edge resources and technical guidance to help local governments, regional authorities and higher-education affiliates reach their goals, and connects leaders to share solutions and accelerate progress. Want help implementing your local-level climate action efforts? Join ICLEI USA and access our full suite of resources and expert technical assistance to create or update your GHG inventory, develop a climate action plan, and implement reduction measures as well as access our climate equity and resiliency tools and programs.

About ICLEI USA
Meet the ICLEI USA Team

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Moving from Commitments to Action
ICLEI USA
represents you in a global network.

Join ICLEI USA

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