

ICLEI USA | Annual Report

Raising Ambition





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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear ICLEI Community:

At the conclusion of a year that brought continued signs of and warnings about the effects of carbon buildup in our atmosphere, we pause to celebrate the work of ICLEI USA cities and counties and the supporters in those communities who made local policies and programs a success.

Our thanks to Jennifer Ewing, the City of Bellevue, Cascadia Consulting, Roel Hammerschlag, WSP USA, and all of the nearly 20 participating cities, counties, and regions who contributed to the Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and planning (C-LEAP) Drivers of Change project (Page 14). This U.S. Department of Energy-funded project helped us to collectively advance the state of local climate action planning through a new methodology to better understand and communicate the impact of local programs and external factors on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory results.

We're also grateful for our continued partnership with New York City, which took the bold step of exploring fossil fuels divestment to improve the health of its retirees' pension portfolios in alignment with longtime local GHG reduction commitments. We were happy to release the NYC Divestment Case Study as an outcome of the Global Climate Action Summit (Page 8).

We know there is still much to do to accomplish a just transition to a carbon-neutral economy. As California Governor Jerry Brown and many senior staff members move on, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your climate leadership and support over the past eight years to keep us moving ahead on that path.

Finally, thank you to each and every ICLEI member, small, medium, and large. As Governor Brown told me when I had the opportunity to thank him for his work: We all have a role to play – so let's get to work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie".

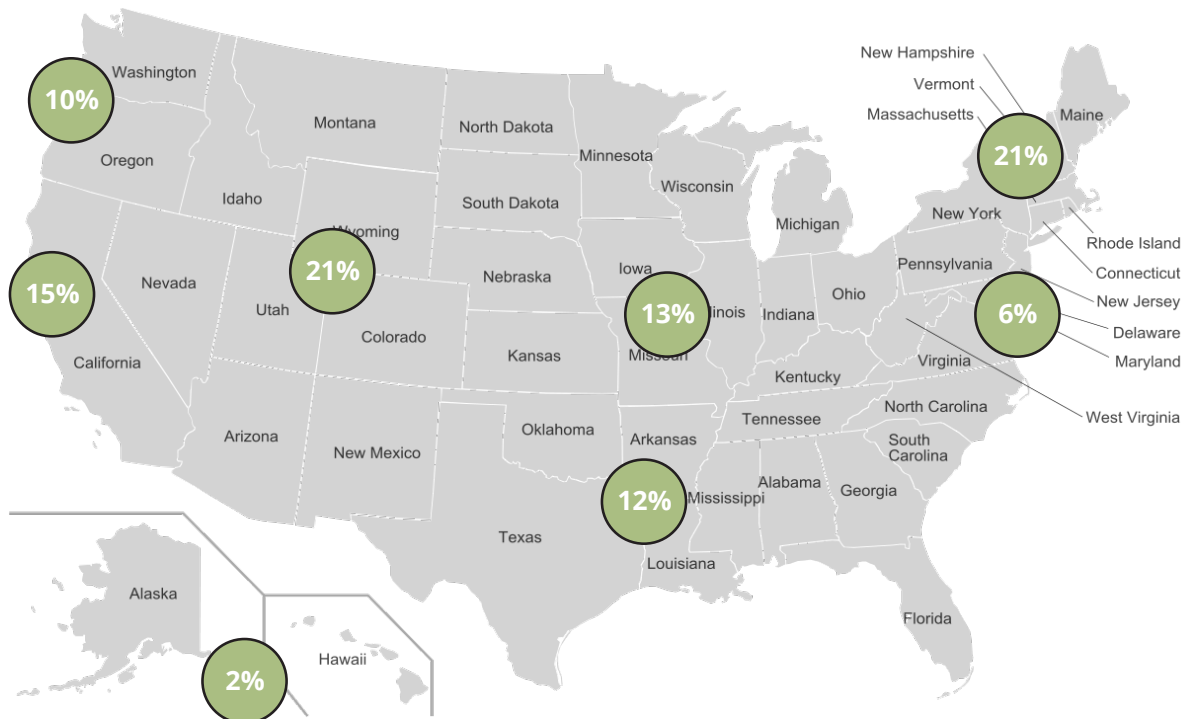


**ICLEI'S TOOLS
FOR COLLECTING
INFORMATION
HELPED KIRKWOOD
MOVE FORWARD
WITH PROJECTS FROM
ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ECONOMIC
PERSPECTIVES — AND
WITH BIPARTISAN
CONSENSUS. WE'RE
NOT JUST TALKING,
WE'RE DOING! WE
CAN SHOW DATA
THAT GOES ALONG
WITH PROJECTS, AND
WE HAVE RESEARCH
NEEDS TO GO
FORWARD.**

Mark Petty
Kirkwood Electric Director
City of Kirkwood, MO

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE BY REGION



U.S. POPULATION IN ICLEI MEMBER CITIES AND COUNTIES

60,436,272

POPULATION UNDER 100,000

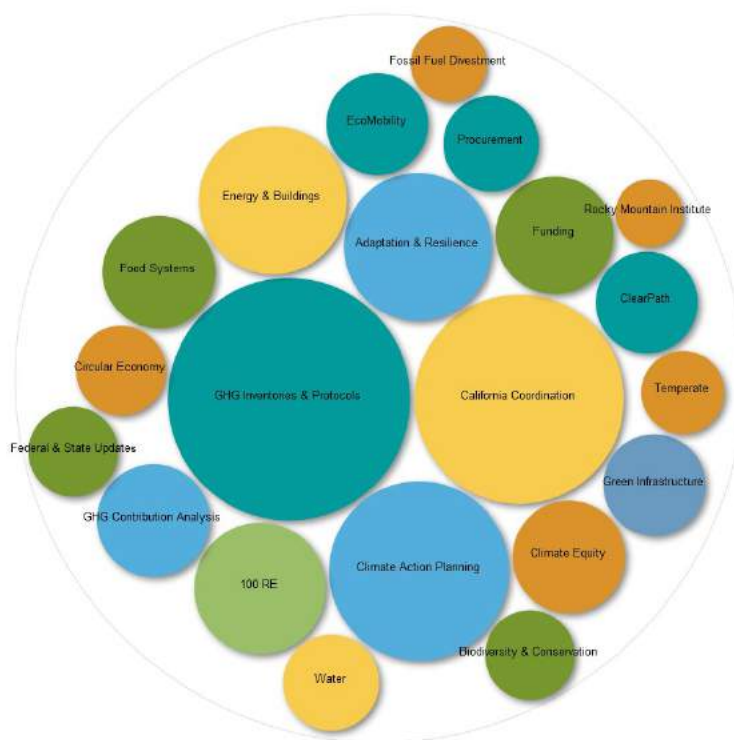
62%

NEW MEMBERS IN 2018

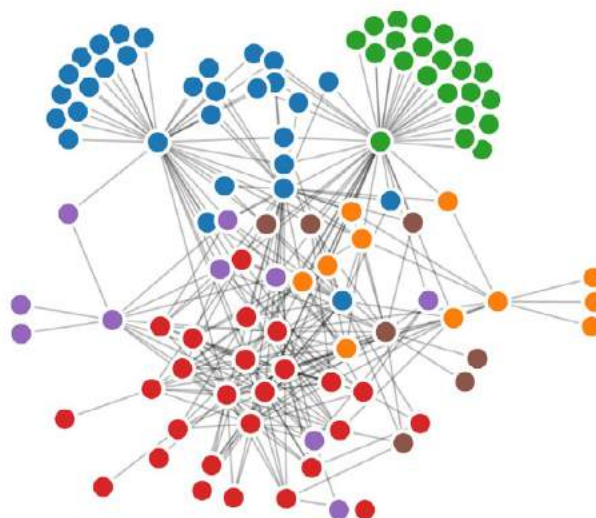
41

ICLEI USA TOOLS DATA SNAPSHOTS

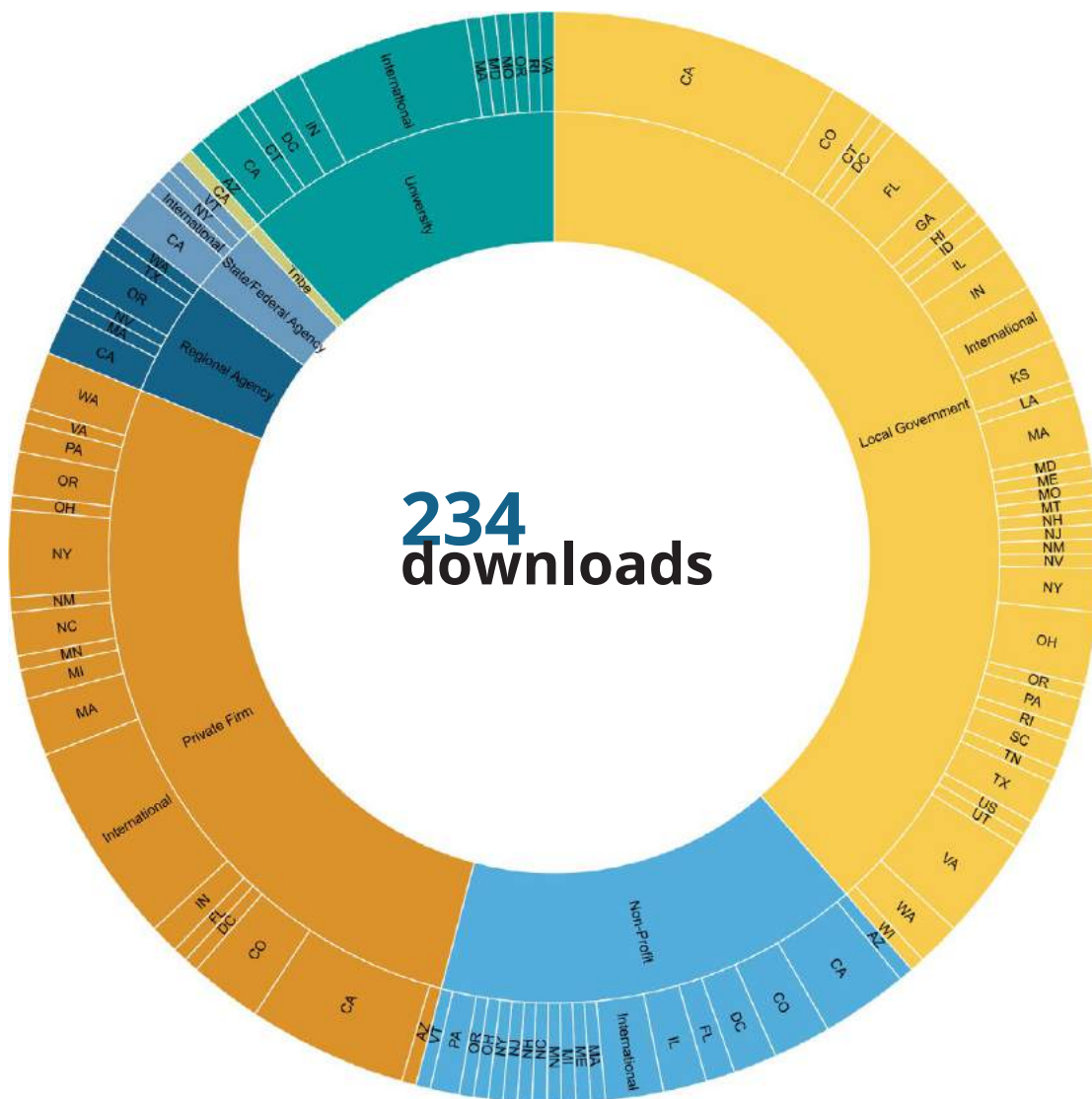
ICLEI's online peer-city networking platform, the ICLEI Community, is a growing space for our members' staff to connect with their peers around topics of mutual interest. This chart illustrates the size of each of the discussion groups (we call them "Neighborhoods") in the ICLEI Community.



As our online community grows, we look for patterns in how individuals are connected by topic area and their support needs to drive our work. Already emerging is a distinct intersection between ICLEI member governments interested in GHG protocols and happenings in California. *Read more on Page 11.*



We knew we were on to something when we started testing the new Contribution Analysis toolkit, giving cities and counties deeper ways of understanding and communicating their performance in GHG mitigation. As depicted in the donut chart, in the six months following its release in 2018, the Contribution Analysis Toolkit was downloaded 234 times by a wide variety of practitioners from across the U.S. and globally. ICLEI USA is proud to see that so many were eager to put this new resource to work right away. *Read more on Page 14.*



ICLEI USA PUBLICATIONS



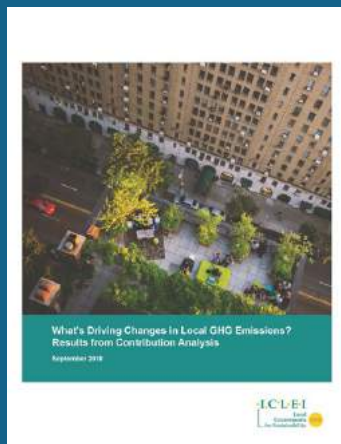
NEW YORK CITY DIVESTMENT

When NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, Comptroller Scott Stringer, and several trustees of the city's pension funds announced the city would divest from fossil fuel reserve owners by 2022, the move positioned NYC at the center of the divestment movement. Over the past few years, many cities, from Berlin to Berkeley and Melbourne to Dunedin, have announced similar intentions — but none at the scale of New York City.



Released at the Global Climate Action Summit 2018 in San Francisco by ICLEI USA and the New York City Mayor's Office, this case study provides the first in-depth look at why and how New York City has begun to divest billions of pension fund dollars from fossil fuels since Mayor de Blasio made the announcement in January. NYC's retirement system is the largest municipal pension system in the United States, controlling a total of USD 194 billion in investments.

WHAT'S DRIVING CHANGES IN LOCAL GHG EMISSIONS? RESULTS FROM CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS



Part of a collaborative series from over 30 organizations released in support of the Global Climate Action Summit 2018, this publication illustrates the dynamic and counteracting forces at work in cities that lead to overall reductions, or increases, in local GHG emissions. We focus on GHG inventories of 138 communities with multiple benchmark years to observe these trends on a much wider scale. Key findings include that many cities have managed to outpace growth with improved efficiency to create some reductions in emissions. Coupled with the impacts of state and national policies that reduce the carbon intensity of energy and transportation, reductions are even more evident.

ICLEI USA CASE STUDIES

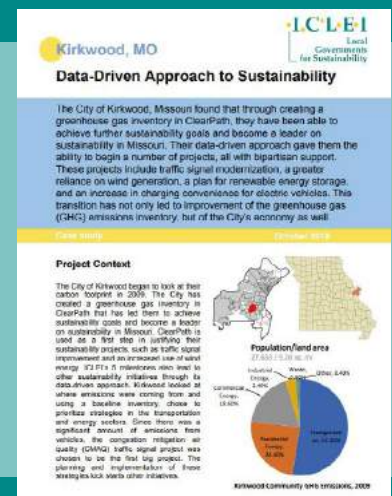


Durango, CO, Greens Electronics Purchasing with ICLEI Tools

Using established frameworks and programs, such as ICLEI's ClearPath tool and Green Electronics Council's EPEAT, City of Durango demystified sustainable purchasing for electronics. ICLEI's case study shows why Durango will save an average \$55 on each electronics purchase and the decision-making framework necessary the City to put a Sustainable Purchasing Policy in place for the future.

Kirkwoods, MO, Builds Data-Driven Bi-Partisan Support for Sustainability

The City of Kirkwood, Missouri, found surprising side effect of creating a greenhouse gas inventory in ClearPath: Their data-driven approach gave them the ability to begin a number of projects, all with bipartisan support. ICLEI USA's case study shows that City action led not only to reduced GHG emissions, but improvements for Kirkwood's economy as well.

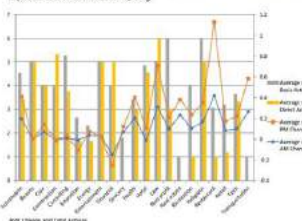


Program Evaluation

Activities for the City of Santa Monica were aimed at reviewing available data generated by reporting through the TOMC for its applicability in demonstrating program-attribute reductions in vehicle type and related emission rates that could be applied in the broader analysis. Co-benefits of the investigation provide some insight into how TOMC can drive might be best targeted to achieve their intended result and thereby advancing the overall goals of CLEAR program to encourage more data-driven decision making.

As part of the CLEAR project, ICLEI did an in-depth program evaluation for City of Santa Monica, one of the steering committee cities. This program evaluation focused on the employee commute ordinance and possible impacts of different employee commute programs. The EITF team recommended that Transportation and Sustainability departments work with the City of Santa Monica to develop a comprehensive program to address the issue.

The original scope of the larger project was to evaluate changes between the 2011 and 2012 inventories. As data has improved in more recent years, the analysis was extended to 2014 in order to provide recommendations on how the approach to analysis could be applied to understanding program results going forward. Therefore, the program evaluation only analyzed reports within the data set of employee commute data from businesses in 2011, 2014, and 2016. Changes in total strategies, average vehicle mileage (VMT), and trip differences were examined. The 2015 dataset was selected in particular to examine the impact of the new Metro rail station opening.



Santa Monica, CA, Discovers Drivers of Emissions Change

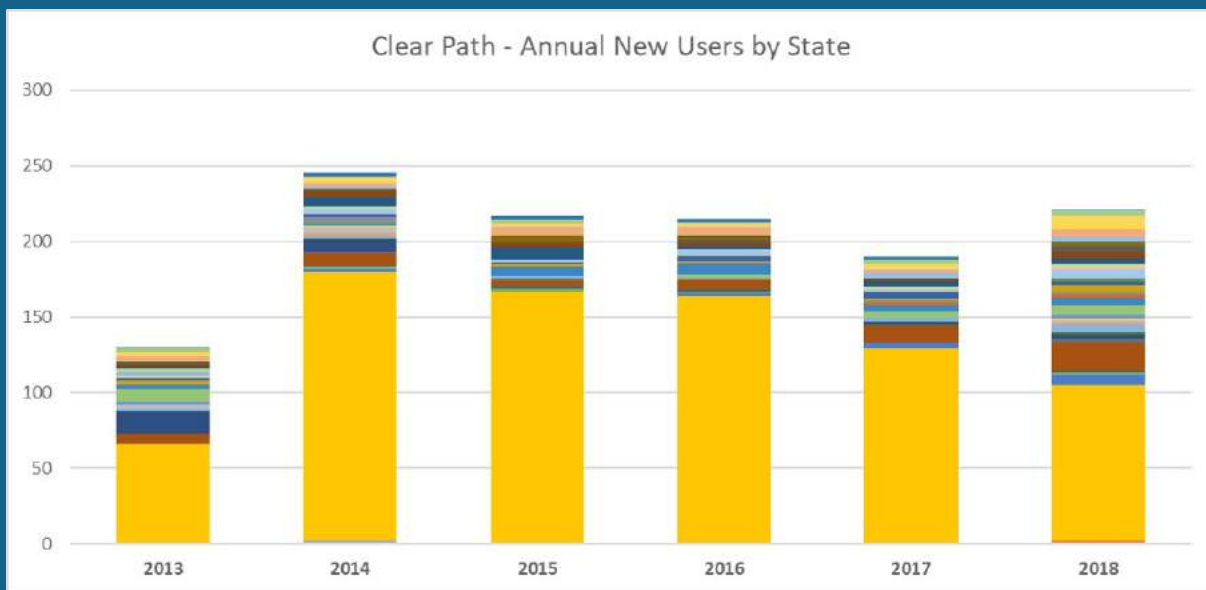
Through its role as Steering Committee City for ICLEI's U.S. Department of Energy-funded Contribution Analysis research project—a new tool to help local governments understand their GHG inventory trends—City of Santa Monica discovered its major drivers for emissions reductions. City employee commute program trends were analyzed as part of the project, with surprising findings detailed in the case study.

ICLEI USA PROJECTS

WHILE WE'VE SEEN AN IMPORTANT DECOUPLING OF EMISSIONS AND POPULATION GROWTH, ICLEI'S CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT WE NEED TO DO MUCH MORE TO PHASE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, DEVELOP CLEAN TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, AND MAKE OUR HOMES AND BUILDINGS MORE EFFICIENT.

Matt Kuharic
Climate Change Program Coordinator
King County, WA





ClearPath UPDATES

601 U.S. Community Protocol Downloads 2018 (highest ever)

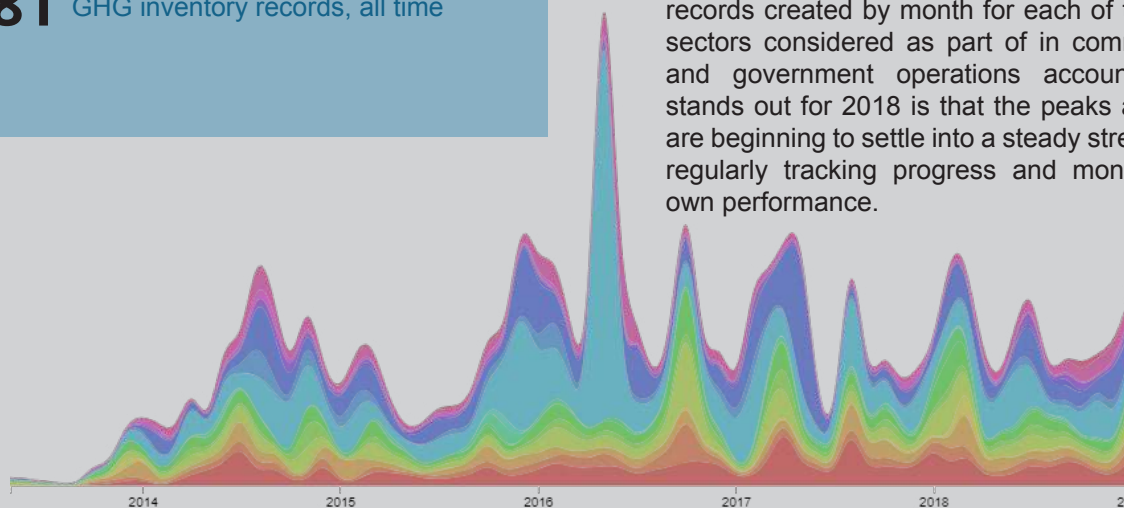
198 Climate Action Planning scenarios, all time

38,581 GHG inventory records, all time

ICLEI USA's flagship resource, ClearPath, saw its second-highest year of growth in new users during 2018, with 221 newly budding greenhouse gas-management specialists using the tool.

The bar graph shows that these new users drew from 26 different States, whereas all previous years averaged only 14.

The histogram depicts the number of GHG inventory records created by month for each of the different sectors considered as part of in community-wide and government operations accounting. What stands out for 2018 is that the peaks and troughs are beginning to settle into a steady stream of cities regularly tracking progress and monitoring their own performance.



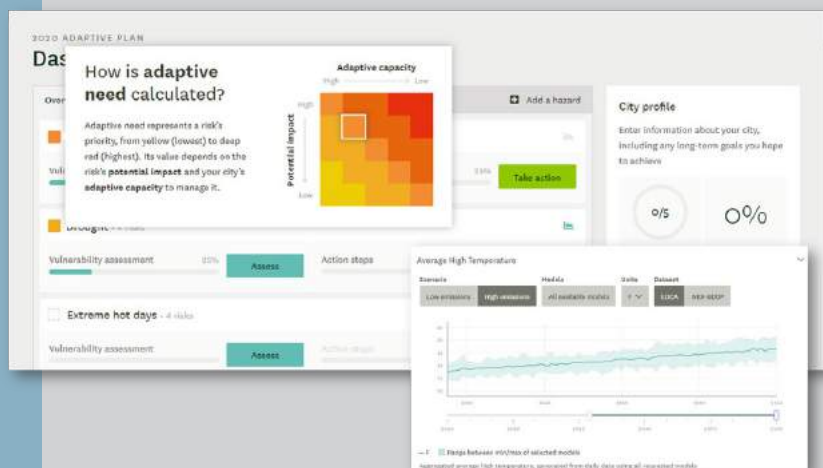


ADAPTION SERVICES + TEMPERATE

22 Temperature and precipitation climate change indicators inform Temperate outputs

1,000 Cities with historical climate data in Temperate's Climate API

30 Climate models used in ICLEI's adaptation planning



In 2018, ICLEI USA updated our custom services to provide capacity building and technical assistance to local governments in climate adaptation and resiliency planning. These fee-for-service packages can include expert guidance for developing a climate adaptation plan, providing preliminary climate impact analysis, and new tools to conduct a comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessment. We partnered with the firm Azavea to create

Temperate, an online tool for rapid threat analysis of climate hazards. Inspired by ICLEI's previous tools in this space and backed with downscaled climate projection data for 23 temperature and precipitation indicators, Temperate is poised to dramatically scale up the number of communities able to address climate adaptation in their planning.

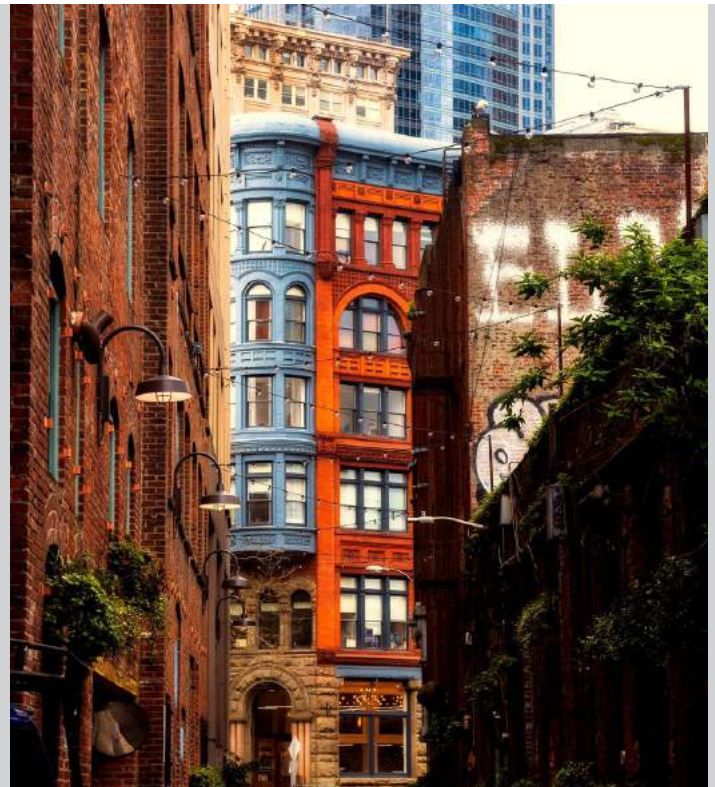
234 Toolkit downloads

18 Steering Committee and Second Round Cities

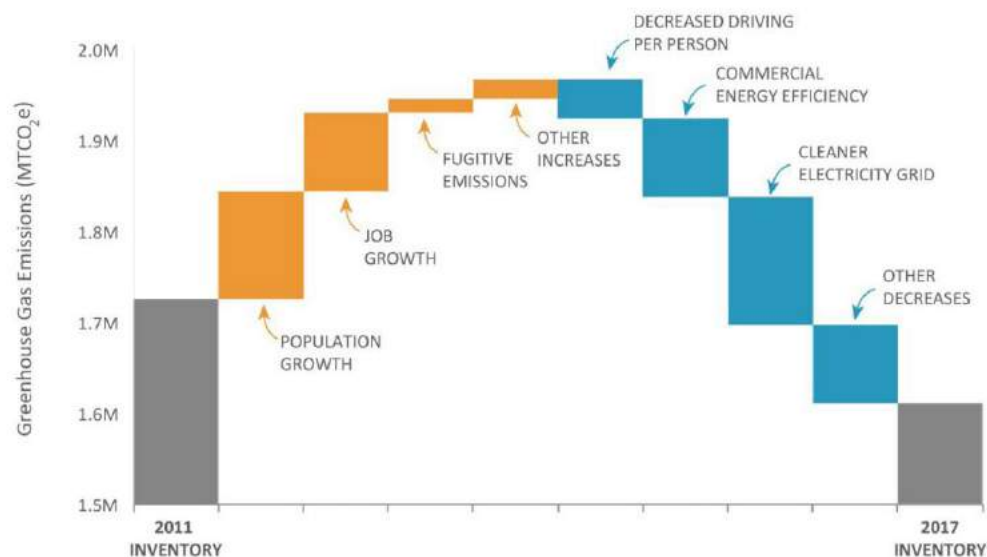
138 Local governments with multi-year data initially analyzed

CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Through a funding award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (Cities-LEAP) Program, ICLEI USA and the City of Bellevue, WA, advanced the state of the GHG mitigation practice. By equipping cities to perform their own GHG Contribution Analysis —producing year-over-year GHG inventory comparison outputs like this waterfall chart— communities can now analyze the biggest drivers



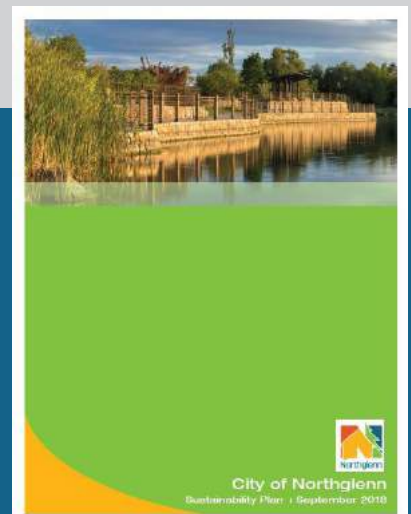
influencing GHG performance by accounting for significant sources of noise in the data. Going forward, communities using this approach will have a better signal to evaluate overall progress and plan with a better understanding of the nature of the problem they are trying to solve.





CLIMATE SERVICE PACKAGES

Because we understand that many local governments, even those that are well staffed, still sometimes lack the capacity to complete important tasks—submitting to reporting platforms, creating GHG emissions inventories, producing climate scenarios, and other data analyses among them—we revamped our energy and climate services for 2018. These services go beyond what is offered through standard ICLEI membership. Already, we’re finding that member benefits paired with fee-for-service add-ons can combine to create a winning package for many communities to advance their sustainability faster.











GHG INVENTORY COHORT

- 19** Local governments participating in the national cohort outputs
- 19** Local governments participating in SEEC California cohort
- 18** Learning modules cover data collection, reporting and visualization

We know that local action is best informed by good practices happening around the country. And city and county energy, transportation and sustainability staff do not need to be working in silos. ICLEI USA believes in our cohort training sessions, which bring localities together to tackle a sustainability challenge in a facilitated group setting. We've convened GHG inventory cohort sessions for years but saw our largest group in 2018, with 37 communities participating in either of two 20-week sessions.

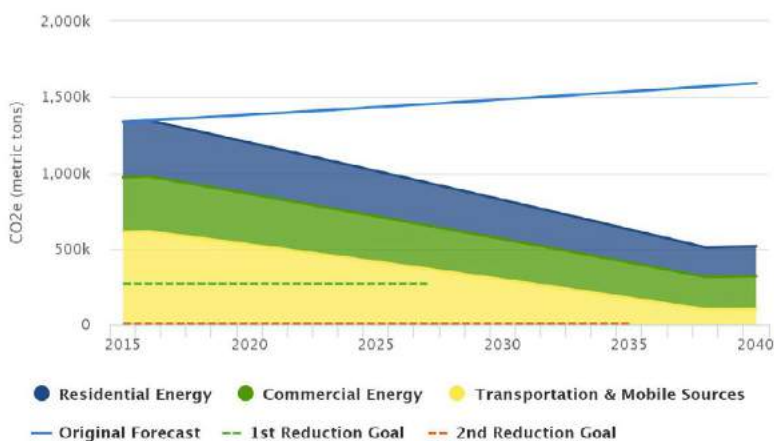
Learning Plans 24

 <p>NOT REGISTERED</p> <p>Intermediate Monitoring</p>	 <p>NOT REGISTERED</p> <p>Intermediate Forecasting</p>
<p>Intermediate: Monit...</p> <p>🕒 1 hr 📊 0%</p>	<p>Intermediate: Forec...</p> <p>🕒 1 hr 30 mins 📊 0%</p>
 <p>NOT REGISTERED</p> <p>Contribution Analysis: Interpretation</p>	 <p>NOT REGISTERED</p> <p>Beginner Monitoring</p>
<p>Contribution Analy...</p> <p>🕒 15 mins 📊 0%</p>	<p>Beginner: Monitoring</p> <p>🕒 2 hrs 25 mins 📊 0%</p>
 <p>NOT STARTED</p> <p>Inventory Tools & Resources</p>	 <p>NOT REGISTERED</p> <p>Intermediate Reporting</p>
<p>Inventory Module To...</p> <p>🕒 13 hrs 30 mins 📊 0%</p>	<p>Intermediate: Repor...</p> <p>🕒 1 hr 30 mins 📊 0%</p>



CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING COHORT

Projected CO₂e Values With Reductions Applied




23 local governments participating

9 training modules, including for goal-setting, community engagement and equity, and CEQA compliance.

42 planning scenario calculators in ClearPath for CAP development

ICLEI USA's 2018 Climate Action Planning Cohort Session provided structured technical assistance to guide local governments to scope out and be well-prepared to develop a local climate action plan (CAP). Some of the participants had already begun developing a CAP and used what they learned in the sessions to refine that process. Others used the information to prepare to develop plans

in 2019 — producing outputs like this planning scenario analysis from ClearPath. Participants learned how to use the forecasting, planning and monitoring features of the ClearPath tool, as well as approaches for evaluating climate vulnerabilities, community engagement, and partnerships for implementation of climate actions.



**WHEN WE ACTUALIZE A FUTURE AMONGST
OURSELVES—WITH OUR SELVES—IN
TALANOA, OUR WORDS BECOME SPELLS,
INCANTATIONS FOR SURVIVAL.**

Morgynne D’Sulueti Tora, Poet
recited during Talanoa Dialogue Denver at the Alliance Center, Oct. 18, 2018



ICLEI USA LOCAL PROJECTS



Emma Ruffin of Desert Raven Designs used a visual storytelling technique called graphic scribing to capture the discussion. elected officials, community leaders and engaged citizens

TALANOIA DIALOGUES DENVER, COLORADO

On October 18, 2018, ICLEI USA and The Alliance Center hosted Talanoa Dialogues Denver, an historic event for international climate negotiation that brought together local elected officials, community leaders and engaged citizens from cities of Denver, Boulder, Lafayette, and other Colorado Front Range constituents to demonstrate local support for the Paris Agreement and the future of regional climate action. The nation of Fiji introduced the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues during its Presidency to COP23 to bring its process of talanoa — a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue — to the negotiations. Talanoa Dialogue Denver highlights were sent to ICLEI World Secretariat for inclusion in a final outcomes report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

CHULA VISTA, CA



Launches ICLEI Solar Marketplace

Working in partnership with EnergySage, ICLEI USA offers our members an online marketplace platform to engage residents on solar, often as part of a wider Solarize campaign. City of Chula Vista launched its ICLEI Solar Marketplace in 2018 with great success: 21 residents registered during Solarize events. Seventeen of these households received an average six solar quotes leading to six having chosen an installer by the end of the year, resulting in an estimated total environmental benefit over 20 years equivalent to: avoiding 626 metric tons of carbon, which is like planting over 16,000 trees or removing 132 cars from the road.

VILLAGE OF LARCHMONT, NY



Earns ICLEI Five Milestones Award

A 2017 GHG inventory update performed by the Village of Larchmont's Environmental Committee with support from ICLEI USA staff, and using the ICLEI ClearPath tool, showed that emissions in 2013 already were 25% lower than 2005 levels. This action signaled Larchmont's achievement of all five of ICLEI's Five Milestones of Emissions Management. The Village joined ICLEI in 2008, and achieved the first three milestones in 2009. "We owe our success in reaching the GHG reduction target to this persistent base of volunteer residents," Mayor Lorraine Walsh said of the achievement.

NORTHGLENN, CO, SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

Colorado's Front Range region already is experiencing heat waves, wind, droughts, rainstorms, floods, and wildfires, and all climate impacts are expected to increase in the future. Recognizing that action is required at all levels, and local governments have a unique role to play in building sustainable communities, the City of Northglenn, CO, engaged ICLEI USA to work alongside an internal sustainability team consisting of staff from each City department to develop the City's first Sustainability Plan. Together, we found that the City already was engaged in a 97 existing sustainability activities and suggested 80 new or improved initiatives.

By meeting regularly with the Sustainability Team between November 2017 and August 2018, we were able to help the City develop cross-departmental understanding and collaboration that would identify "nexus" opportunities, some of which were evaluated via a benefit-cost analysis. By supporting an inclusive and collaborative approach which allowed Northglenn City Council to join the Youth Commission and residents to shape the City's sustainability vision, Northglenn is determined to seize an opportunity to make changes that will create jobs and benefit all residents. Following plan adoptions, Northglenn joins ICLEI as a member city to continue its work toward the plan implementation Milestone going forward.





UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Collaborates with regional governments

Since opening ICLEI affiliation to higher education institutions in 2017, universities use ICLEI tools to support “town-gown” efforts with their home and area towns. University of Northern Iowa exemplified this approach during 2018, training student researchers to begin GHG inventories for 16 Iowa communities. By joining ICLEI as an affiliate, UNI was able to advance regional action while training the next generation of sustainability professionals.

Photo Courtesy University of Northern Iowa



PHILIPSTOWN, NY

Accounts for consumption

The river town of Philipstown in New York's Hudson Valley region began work with ICLEI USA to launch its ambitious GHG emissions inventory work, a goal set as part of its statewide Climate Smart Communities program commitments. Over the next year, we'll work together to innovate beyond the geographic inventory to incorporate surveyed resident and business consumptions metrics and, with data from area's wealth of land trusts and agriculture researchers who have captured decades of tree carbon storage data, better include land use and forestry's potential to mitigate climate change in the Town.

Photo by Joe Dawson

LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBE

Finds building energy savings

In 2018, ICLEI USA worked on the energy analysis for the Lac du Flambeau Tribe in Wisconsin in order to quantify any improvements in energy usage and emissions from tribal facilities following several equipment upgrades. We determined savings from electricity and propane usage for several buildings and offered recommendations for future upgrades and data tracking software, along with green building and energy efficiency standards that will work well for the tribe's operations.

SANTA MONICA, CA

Plans 'EPIC' microgrid

Throughout 2018, ICLEI was part of the project team assessing the feasibility for a community-scale microgrid at the City of Santa Monica's City Yards location. The microgrid is initially expected to be a state-of-the-art electric power generating, storage, and management system that will be scaled to provide low-carbon electrical energy and emergency power for the new City Yards. With help from ICLEI's research and knowledge-production role, the project's benefits are many: ratepayers stand to benefit from the potential of increased resilience, lower electricity costs, reliable electricity distribution, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and local clean energy generation from microgrids.



Photo Courtesy City of Santa Monica

2018 EVENTS IN REVIEW



ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2018

Every three years, ICLEI holds its World Congress to showcase how local and regional governments across our network are advancing sustainability. At ICLEI World Congress in Montréal in June, local and regional leaders rallied behind the ICLEI Montréal Commitment and Strategic Vision 2018 - 2024—calling for carbon neutrality in government operations by mid-century. We're already moving at a rapid pace, and at a global scale. This was demonstrated in the release of the ICLEI Montréal Action Plan 2018 - 2021, our compendium of worldwide efforts already underway to reach this Commitment.



NEXUS 2018
Chapel Hill, NC

Photo by Flickr/Melinda Young



Resilient Cities 2018
Bonn, Germany



CA Adaptation Forum
Sacramento, CA



Climate Week NYC
New York City, NY

Photo Courtesy the Climate Group



VERGE 18
Oakland, CA

JANUARY



Climate Leadership Conference
Denver, CO

Photo courtesy C2ES



SEEC Forum
Sacramento, CA



Australia GPC Training
Melbourne, Australia



Talanoa Dialogues
Denver, CO



SolSmart Advisers
Washington, DC

Photo Courtesy the Solar Foundation

DECEMBER

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2019



Photo by Cities IPCC Conference

Cities IPCC

At March's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change co-sponsored Cities and Climate Change Science conference, ICLEI joined cities and partners from around the world in Edmonton, Alberta, to engage the scientific community in the next frontier of research focused on cities and climate change. ICLEI data on urban planning and emissions management allows us to shape the research agenda on cities and climate change for the coming years.

UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

ICLEI USA ensures U.S. representation at international events like the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), where we can help track local progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At July's HLPF, we supported New York City representation on a panels to discuss regional food systems and the role civil servants play in stakeholder engagement while amplifying NYC's groundbreaking Voluntary Local Review, mapping its OneNYC plan to SDG action.



Photo by Oxfam International

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Hosted by California Governor's Office, September's Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) galvanized action by bringing together elected leaders at the state and local level. ICLEI supported numerous events, including for the release of our case study on NYC's fossil fuel divestment decision, the 3rd Annual North American Dialogue on 100%RE in Cities, and ½-day tools and technical workshop for local governments aiming to go fossil-free.

THE YEAR AHEAD 2019



In 2019, we aspire to do the following to support the growing number of towns, cities, counties, and regions active in sustainability, climate, and resilience:

Advance the state of practice via an update to the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting GHG emissions to reflect forestry impacts, circular economy, and carbon-neutral cities.

Scale results through thematic and geographic cohort learning, including an Indiana-specific GHG inventory cohort, and member-only cohorts focused on Local Government Operations; Climate Action Plan development, and creating a hazards inventory and vulnerability assessment to feed into a Resilience Plan.

Support vulnerable communities through GHG inventory support and development of health indicators in ClearPath.

Increase understanding through dashboards and other storytelling strategies that engage and inspire local stakeholders while highlighting local climate champions.

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Climate Programs



HOI-FEI MOK
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KALE ROBERTS
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Network Relations



BRIGID SHEA
County Commissioner,
Precinct 2, Travis
County, TX



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Project



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Seattle, WA



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