LEADING WITH LOCAL ACTION

2019
Annual Report

Pioneer City to the CitiesWithNature platform, City of Fort Collins' Nature in the City program ensures residents have easy access to outdoor experiences.

page 18

LETTER FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANGIE FYFE

Executive Director
ICLEI USA

I have been experiencing climate change denial.

I wasn't fully aware of this before reading the remarkable profile of Greta Thunberg, TIME magazine's 2019 Person of the Year.

No, I'm not a "climate denier"—a person who does not accept the evidence of climate change. But I lack Greta's capacity to truly grasp the alarming trajectory we are on.

Fifteen years ago, I was involved in the development of a climate action plan for the first time. Among my colleagues, there were two schools of thought: One, that we should acknowledge the need to adapt to climate change while continuing to mitigate GHG emissions. The other was that we should focus on mitigation only —to do otherwise was signaling a lack of confidence in our proposed solutions. It was "giving up."

Greta was a toddler then. Would things be different now had we been willing to communicate the concern we knew was real, rather than relying solely on the optimism of the clean energy revolution?

Of course, we don't get a redo. What we do now is what matters. And, there is much that is and can be done. As Jonathan Safran Foer reminds us in *We Are The Weather*, ***none of us*** will solve climate change and ***all of us*** will solve climate change.

Greta is doing her part-as are the many towns, cities, counties, regions, and partners that ICLEI has the great honor to serve and collaborate with.

The sincerity of their purpose, love, and humanity cannot be denied.

TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT
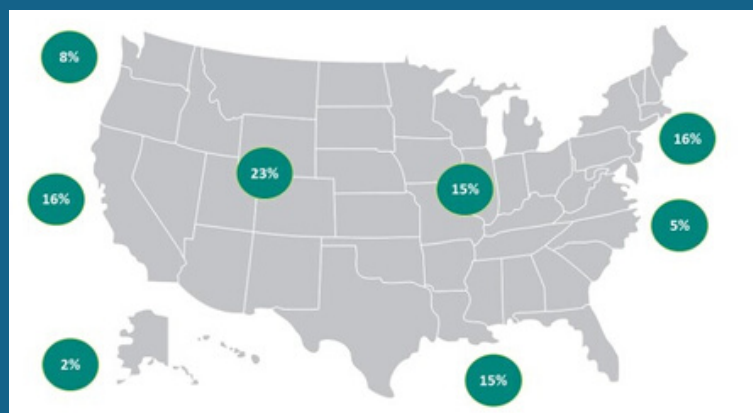
As the oldest and largest network of local governments working to build a just, resilient, and sustainable future, ICLEI USA is committed to meeting our member governments where they are with industry-leading tools, protocols, and technical assistance.

ICLEi member communities are located in all regions of the country. During 2019, the Northeast, Southeast, and Mountain West all were particularly active, bolstered by regional collaborations—including one between Hawai'i's four large counties (see Page 12).

2,112
hours of direct technical support to our members in 2019

423
ICLEI Community platform users

53
new ICLEI members in 2019

REMAINING RESPONSIVE

Our support responds to our members' (sometimes shifting) interests. We track trends in a number of ways, including in the online ICLEI Community platform's Neighborhood discussion groups. While GHG management and climate action planning remain central interests for ICLEI members, thematic areas such as equity, resilience, biodiversity and circular economy saw significant growth this year.
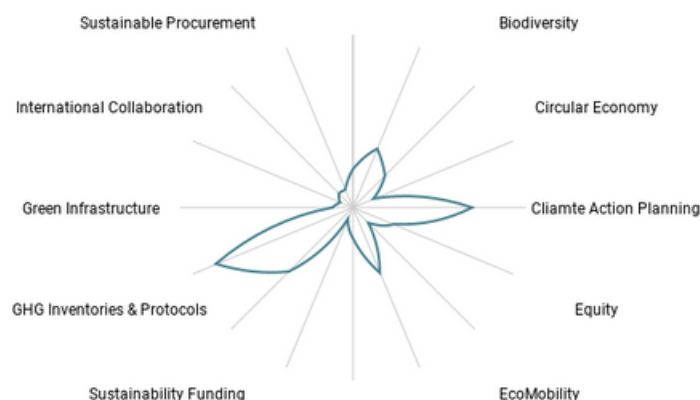
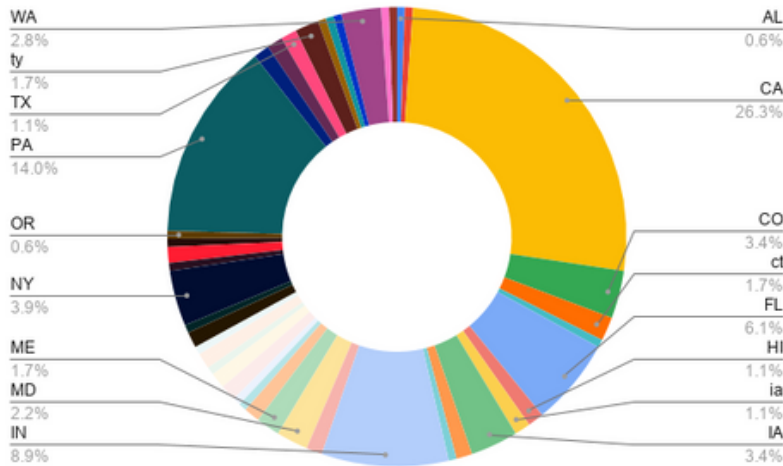## MILESTONE AWARDS FOCUS NEED ON IMPLEMENTATION
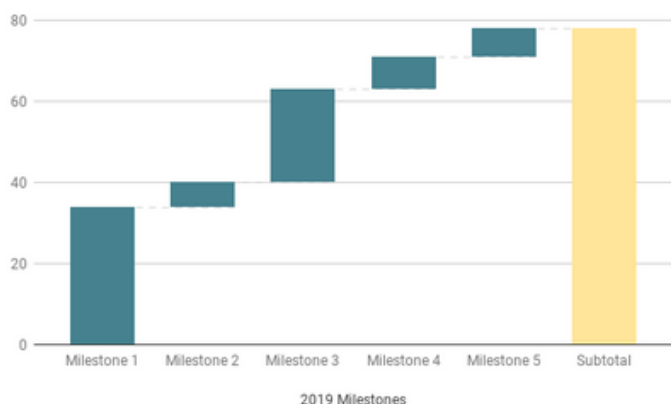
Over the decades, hundreds of communities have followed the ICLEI Five Milestones framework, and been awarded for their efforts. Of the 80 Milestone Awards achieved this year, most were earned for setting baselines (Milestone 1) or planning (Milestone 3), suggesting communities can use more support to implement sustainability and climate actions.
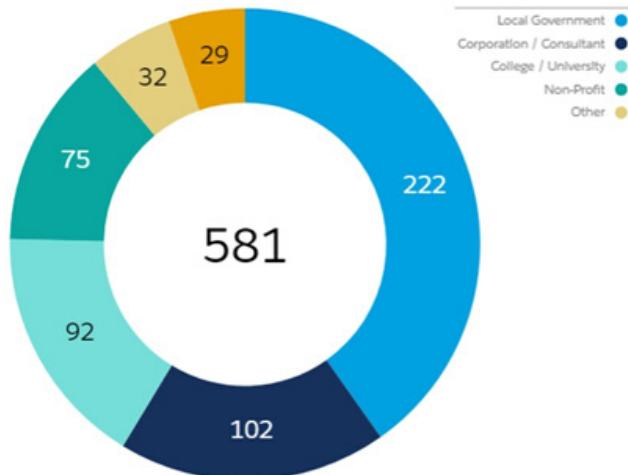

Town of York, ME, celebrates its Milestone Award for creating a GHG inventory. "I'm proud of the commitment of the Town of York leadership for taking this first important step toward being a zero-emissions community," said Steve Burns, York Town Manager (right).

DATA FOR SUSTAINABILITY

WA 2.8%
ty 1.7%
TX 1.1%
PA 14.0%
OR 0.6%
NY 3.9%
ME 1.7%
MD 2.2%
IN 8.9%
AL 0.6%
CA 26.3%
CO 3.4%
ct 1.7%
FL 6.1%
HI 1.1%
ia 1.1%
IA 3.4%

ClearPath Users

Of the local governments actively using ClearPath, a significant portion are located in states where ICLEI led local climate action cohorts: California, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Having hosted two dozen of these cohorts, we are beginning to see the impact of scaling action regionally (see Pages 12-14).

581

Local Government ●
Corporation / Consultant ●
College / University ●
Non-Profit ●
Other ●

222
102
92
75
32
29

Contribution Analysis Downloads

Allowing for a community to control for factors including population change, weather and economic growth, the Contribution Analysis tool offers more refined insights into the impact of local actions.

336
community-scale GHG inventories created in ClearPath in 2019

196
local government operations GHG inventories created in ClearPath in 2019

24
Climate action plan scenarios developed in ClearPath in 2019

70
Communities created emissions forecasts in ClearPath in 2019

171
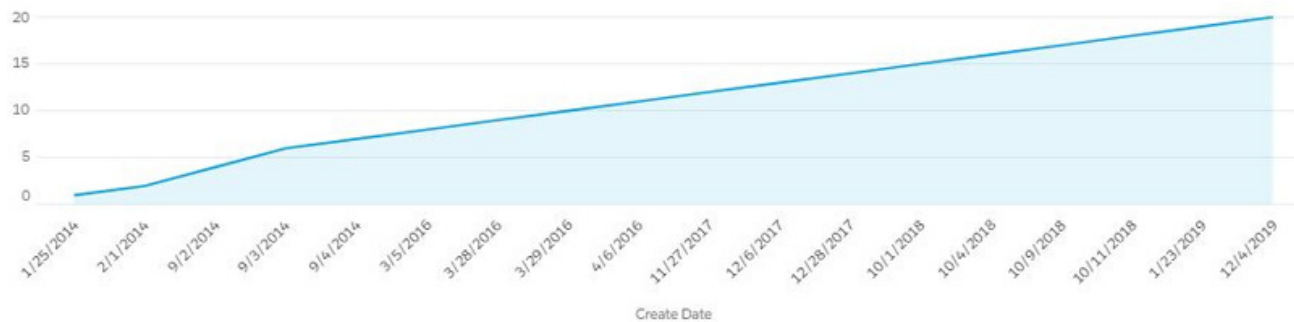U.S. local governments reporting their climate actions to global platforms in 2019

108
communities citing ICLEI as a reporting authority they utilize

887
downloads of the U.S Community Protocol in 2019

DATA FOR SUSTAINABILITY

U.S. Community Protocol Downloads Grow

Since its 2016 publication, the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions has served as the standard for local GHG emissions accounting. Of the nearly 5,000 times the document has been downloaded, 887 instances occurred in 2019, in part driven by the release of Appendix J to the protocol, which covers forests and trees (see Page 9)
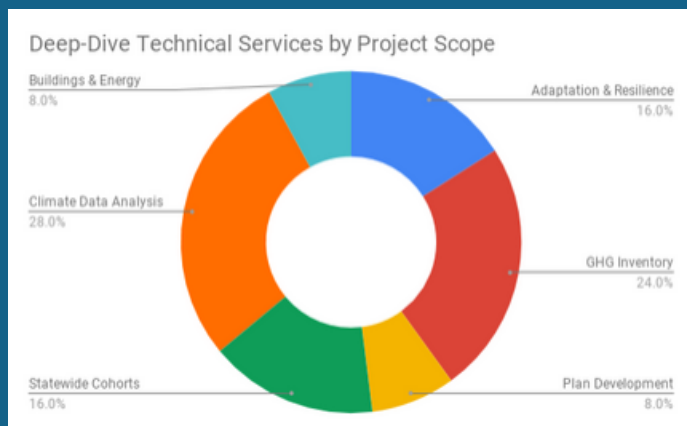
Deep-Dive Technical Services

For years, ICLEI has offered fee-based service to both members and nonmembers, with several of those contracts producing industry-leading emissions analysis and first-of-kind climate and sustainability plans. In 2019, we significantly enhanced these offerings, completing or kicking off 25 deep-dive technical services that played to our strength as data-driven analyzer (see Pages 10 and 18) while showcasing emerging trends in integrated planning—an approach that addresses climate mitigation, adaptation, and equity in a comprehensive way (Pages 17 and 19).

California SEEC Program Scales Climate Action Statewide

The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) is an alliance between three statewide nonprofit organizations, including ICLEI USA, and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. Funded by California utility ratepayers, SEEC meets the evolving local government needs to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerate climate action.

344
California local governments utilizing the SEEC ClearPath tool

896
California community-scale GHG Inventories created by end of 2019

447
California local government-operations GHG inventories created by end of 2019

5 PATHWAYS

COMMITMENTS

SCALE UP AND EXPAND **SUSTAINABLE** CITIES AND REGIONS

MAKE SUSTAINABILITY A **FUNDAMENTAL** PART OF ALL LOCAL AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

TACKLE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES OF OUR TIME TO PROTECT THE **LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF CITIZENS**

UNDERTAKE A **COLLECTIVE EFFORT** FOR GLOBAL CHANGE ACROSS ALL SECTORS AND LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

PATHWAYS

LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT

RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT

EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

POLICY

OUR POLICY APPROACHES **TO DRIVE GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION**

SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT: SUSTAINABLE **DEVELOPMENT IS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT**

INNOVATION & SCIENCE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **MUST WORK WITH AND FOR ALL**

FINANCE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS **INNOVATIVE** MODELS OF FINANCE

ICLEI's Five Milestones framework has been used by hundreds of U.S. cities to manage greenhouse-gas emissions, plan for community resilience, and develop a comprehensive sustainability plan. The approach is sequential and direct: Assess where your community is, set a goal, develop your plan or strategy, implement, and monitor your metrics of success.

We recognize that while each milestone matters, some are easier to tackle than others. To help communities advance in the planning, implementation, and monitoring milestones, ICLEI released the Five Pathways framework as part of our action-oriented Montreal Commitment. In 2019, ICLEI USA aligned our time-tested Five Milestones with the Five Pathways, offering our members a holistic, thematic approach to sustainability — one that puts people and equity at its core while ensuring practices are low-emissions and circular in design and promote nature-based resilience wherever possible.

OUR IMPACT

"Our ICLEI memberships have paid dividends far greater than the modest fees required. Beyond the rich library of research and tools to advance climate action, and the networking opportunities with like-minded counterparts in other municipalities; the technical assistance and expert guidance that we received from ICLEI allowed us to leverage internal resources to develop our first GHG inventories under the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories. With our baseline inventories archived in ClearPath, we are now using it to crunch our data and identify the most impactful strategies to reduce and eliminate carbon emissions. I look forward to increasing our utilization of ICLEI's expanding capabilities."

ROCKY MOULD
ENERGY PROGRAM MANAGER, OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Photo by Flickr/Matthew Straubmuller

COMMUNITIES NOW EQUIPPED TO INCLUDE FORESTS & TREES IN CLIMATE ACTION

U.S. cities and counties now can include forests and trees in their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting, a key activity to ensure representation of local forestry and land use considerations in climate action planning. Appendix J of the U.S. Community Protocol—or, "The Forestry Protocol"—was piloted in Montgomery County, MD; Los Angeles County, CA; and Whatcom County, WA; representing the dramatic spectrum of climate and land cover across the country. For the first time, The Forestry Protocol provides guidance to U.S. communities for estimating the carbon emissions and removals from forests and "trees outside of forests," including urban trees and trees in croplands.

"Montgomery County jumped at the opportunity to explore the sequestration benefits associated with trees and forests. Given our aggressive GHG reduction goals of 80 percent by 2027 and carbon neutrality by 2035, increased sequestration must be in the mix of strategies we employ.

The new protocol also has prompted us to think more deeply about natural climate solutions ranging from reducing the heat-island effect to increasing sequestration in the agricultural sector."

Marc Elrich
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD

Photo by Flickr/Keith Ewing

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS TUNE-UP

County governments often have unique potential to advance sustainability. Their influence (and data) on transportation systems, transit fleets, solid waste management, and other resource flows can be of great value to their states municipalities. To spur sustainability action by starting within county operations, ICLEI hosted a yearlong "tune-up" training series to walk 8 participating counties and their partners through the steps to address employee engagement, building benchmarking, lighting, water use, fleet management and more in a facilitated group setting. Each county tackled a project as part of the engagement, with several choosing to create an operational GHG inventory while others developed a fleet fuel-switching initiative or crafted a sustainable procurement strategy.

Participating Communities

Broward County, FL
Miami-Dade County, FL
Missoula County, MT
Eagle County, CO
Kaua'i County, HI
Palm Beach County, FL
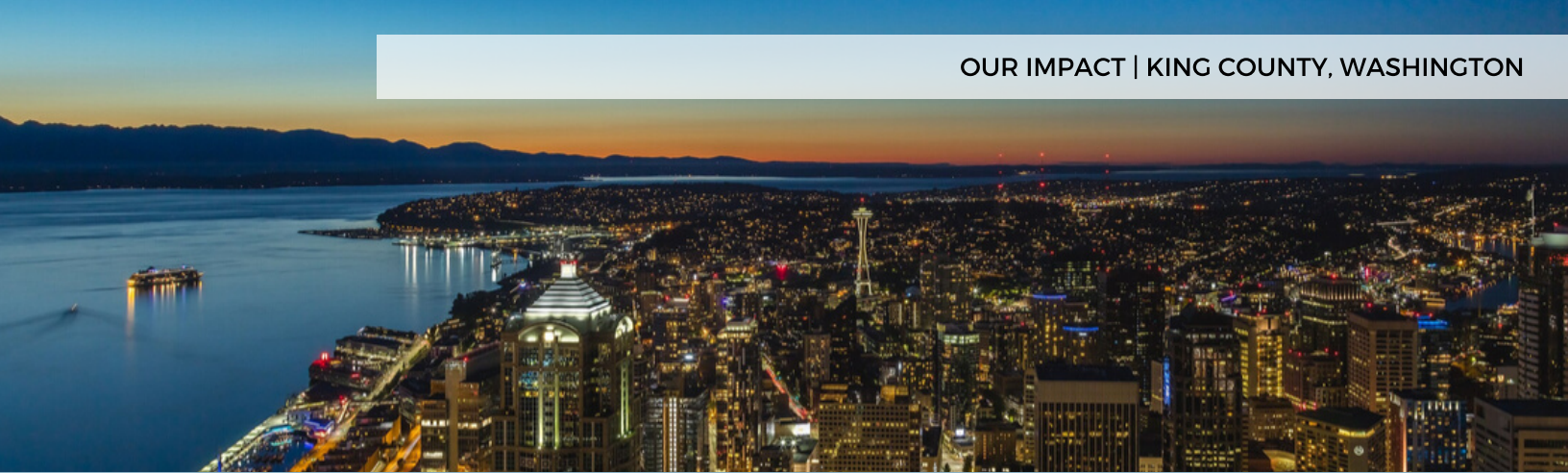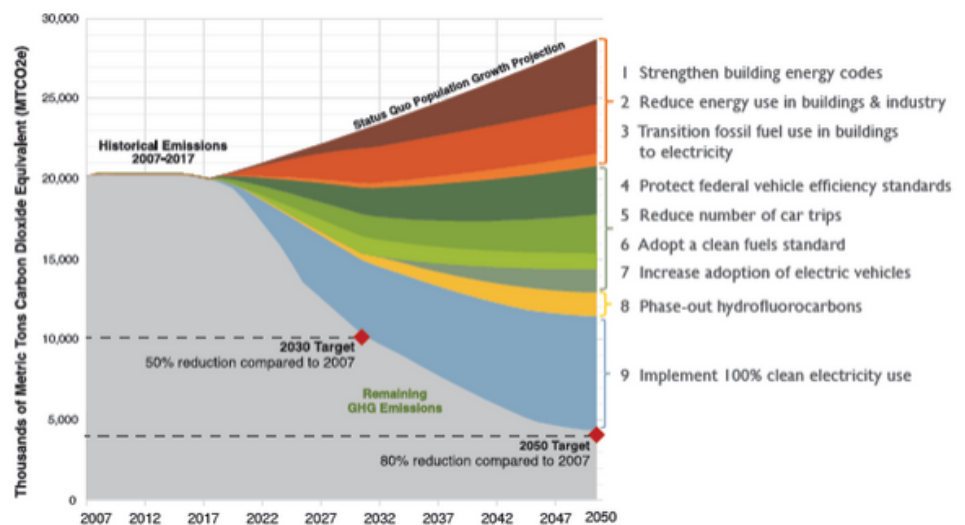Summit County, UT
Travis County, TX

Photo by: Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64783510

KING COUNTY WEDGE ANALYSIS

Offering some of the highest leadership on local climate action and regional coordination, King County and its 39 cities have established the collective goal to reduce county-wide GHG emissions 80 percent by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. To understand what it would take to achieve the goal partners of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) established specific, quantifiable pathways nicknamed the "wedge analysis". K4C worked with ICLEI USA to look at recent trends and projected future changes based on: population growth; impacts of regulatory standards and codes, cleaner fuels, fewer vehicle miles, improved building energy efficiency, and increased renewable energy use. Adding an additional layer of investigation, ICLEI's Contribution Analysis quantified causes for the change in emissions over the past decade.

K4C's final report contains three pieces of analysis supported by ICLEI: an updated GHG inventory for King County for 2017, a contribution analysis of the drivers of emissions change between 2008 and 2017, and a wedge analysis of actions that can be implemented out to 2050.

King County Wedge Analysis to Achieve Shared Countywide GHG Targets

1 Strengthen building energy codes
2 Reduce energy use in buildings & industry
3 Transition fossil fuel use in buildings to electricity
4 Protect federal vehicle efficiency standards
5 Reduce number of car trips
6 Adopt a clean fuels standard
7 Increase adoption of electric vehicles
8 Phase-out hydrofluorocarbons
9 Implement 100% clean electricity use

"In the last decade, the population in King County has grown by more than 10%, but emissions have remained flat. 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
Senior Climate Change Specialist, Department of Natural Resources, King County, WA

Better Environmental Insights

Google's Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) uses the company's unique data sources to produce GHG inventory estimates for building and transportation sectors — a process that pairs actual emissions measurements with advanced machine learning techniques. ICLEI USA provided technical expertise to review city-level GHG inventory data provided by EIE, determining that the novel method would be useful to "upscale" locally sourced building performance data.

"While the City of Boulder has collected robust vehicle count data for many years, we are excited by the possibilities offered by EIE to supplement our existing data sources and make the data collection process more streamlined and efficient."

Kathleen Bracke
Deputy Director-Transportation Planning, Boulder County, CO and Former GO Boulder Manager
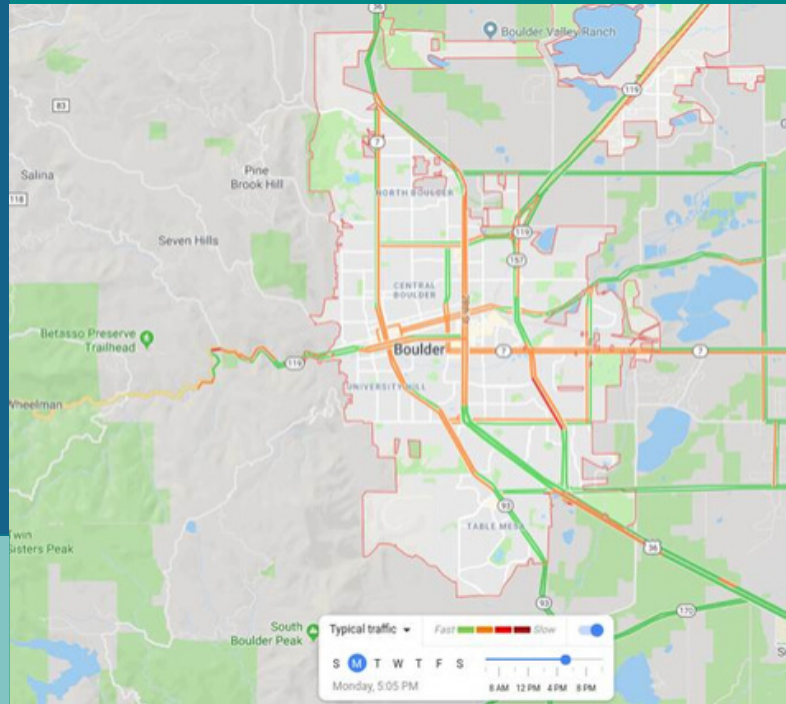
The City of Boulder, Colorado, helped refine the EIE tool, gaining insights through Google data presented here for on-road vehicle traffic patterns.

Hawai'i and ICLEI Model Local-to-State Action

Participating Communities

Hawai'i County
Honolulu County
Maui County
Kaua'i County

Hawai'i has emerged as a leader on climate action. But the State also serves as a model for state-to-local coordination, and each of the four large counties bring equal leadership to this multilevel collaboration. The four city-county governments joined ICLEI USA for a unique yearlong statewide initiative to develop their GHG inventories and move into comprehensive climate planning. Rocky Mould, Energy Program Manager for the City and County of Honolulu, points to the cost savings this cohort model provides as one benefit: "Our ICLEI memberships have paid dividends far greater than the modest fees required."

INDIANA GHG INVENTORY COHORT KICKSTARTS STATEWIDE RESILIENCE

Facing increasingly frequent heat waves, seasonal shifts, and flood events, the State of Indiana is already feeling the impacts of climate change.

In response, Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute partnered with ICLEI USA to host the 2019 Resilience Cohort to provide 14 Indiana communities with a sequenced capacity-building program to kickstart their climate action beginning by creating community-scale GHG inventories. Eleven communities will now move into a Climate Action Planning phase during 2020.

Participating Communities

Bloomington
Carmel
Columbus
Delaware County
Evansville
Fishers
Fort Wayne
Gary
Goshen
Greencastle
Michigan City
Oldenburg
Richmond
West Lafayette

Indiana Sustainability Development Program Extern Reena Azlan presents to her community during the cohort kick-off meeting.

City of Goshen Forester Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley (right) discusses GHG inventory data collection with the City's extern, Bronson Bast (second from right) and Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute program staff.


"I am so thankful for having ICLEI as a partner in the Resilience Cohort program. Their technical expertise and the platform they have for providing support exponentially increased our ability to guide Indiana communities on their path towards climate resilience and greenhouse gas mitigation."

Andrea Webster
Implementation Manager
Environmental Resilience Institute, Indiana University

Downtown San Jose
Photo by Scott Stewart-Johnson

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES MOVE ON ZERO-NET ENERGY BUILDINGS

Through California's Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC)—an alliance between three statewide nonprofit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission—ICLEI USA supported 21 local governments to advance high-efficiency, climate-friendly buildings as part of a facilitated 3-month training series. Drawing inspiration from examples out of Palo Alto, Santa Monica and Culver City, participants developed their ZNE roadmaps by incorporating cohort themes spanning state and utility programs, microgrids, barriers, and building codes.
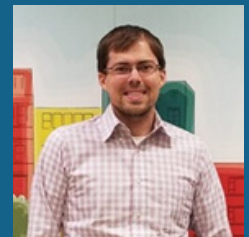
Robbie Barton
Sustainability Assistant
City of Fremont, CA

"The cohort provided me with valuable and detailed expertise and case studies from professionals in the field that advanced our approach to zero-net energy at the City of Fremont. This added knowledge will inform the Sustainability Team's development of policy measures, local sustainability projects, and local building reach codes as the City continues to push towards its ambitious climate and sustainability goals."

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

Colton	Indio	Pomona	Sierra Nevada regional
Culver City	Long Beach	Sacramento	South Lake Tahoe
Chula Vista	Los Angeles	San Carlos	Ventura
Davis	Los Angeles County	San Jose	
Fremont	Pico Rivera	San Mateo County	
Fresno	Piedmont	Santa Cruz	

Bringing Nature-Based Solutions to U.S. Communities

Case Stories

Hear the stories at
icleusa.org/webinars

Fort Collins
Milwaukee Portland
San Francisco
Washington, DC

Recognizing the crucial role that local governments play in biodiversity and ecosystem management, we teamed with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center and Biophilic Cities Network to host a training series to ground global nature-based solutions in U.S. case stories. Each session featured the work of 1 to 3 cities leading the way. This series coincided with the launch of the CitiesWithNature platform and began a year-long effort to engage U.S. communities with their global counterparts in the leadup to Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The European Commission's International Urban Cooperation program gathered partners to the Global Covenant of Mayors during November 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, for a regional workshop. ICLEI USA joined participants to discuss how GCoM can best support cities to raise their climate ambitions through better data insights and leadership over the next year.

Global Covenant of Mayors Helpdesk Support U.S. Communities

Signatory Stories

Hear the stories at
icleusa.org/gcom-usa-helpdesk-webinar-series

CDP
Colorado Clean Energy Fund
City of Columbia, MO
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
City of Orlando
Path to Positive Communities

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) USA Helpdesk provides administrative, logistical, and technical support to signatory cities and regions. Running throughout 2019 with support from the European Commission and International Urban Cooperation Program, ICLEI USA managed the Helpdesk to provide a series of webinars that supported U.S. communities aiming to satisfy their GCoM commitments, for setting emissions-reduction goals, engaging their community members, developing strong adaptation plans, and more.

"The workshop opened our eyes to how important stakeholder ownership is for achieving engagement in climate resiliency activities within our city government. It helped us address the paralysis caused from the perceived enormity of mitigation actions; we now recognize that the steps we can take will not be as hard as people imagine, and will ultimately save money. Over the next 12 to 18 months, we are planning to use the ICLEI workshop as a catalyst for additional dialogue-inducing workshops."
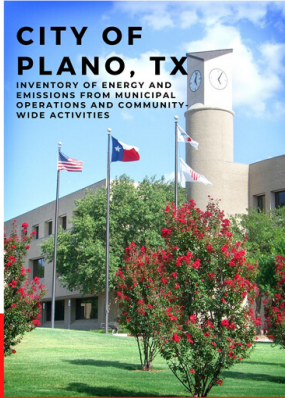
Photo by Flickr/Doc Searls

Jeremy Pathmanabhan
Program Manager Climate Change
City of Los Angeles

Community-Driven Planning for Equitable Outcomes

Not wanting to miss the immense opportunity climate equity offers to right the wrongs of past injustice as part of its climate programs, City of Los Angeles' Regulatory Affairs Division contracted ICLEI to convene a department-wide equity workshop for 12 staff. The curriculum focused on root causes, social factors and biological conditions that underpin climate sensitivity before offering procedural, distributional and structural objectives that the Department can take to insert equitable decision-making into planning processes.

CITY OF PLANO, TX
INVENTORY OF ENERGY AND EMISSIONS FROM MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2019
PREPARED BY ICLEI-LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY USA

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

Taking Action on Air Quality through Emissions Management

With a strong rail history and a landscape made famous on the TV series Dallas, Plano, TX, is striving to make sure its quarter-million residents do not suffer health impacts from sources of particulates and GHG emissions. To get started on monitoring air quality while taking a look at traffic congestion, the City contracted ICLEI to conduct an actionable GHG emissions inventory that could pave the way for data-driven community and government goals. Insights from the inventory advance water conservation in the commercial sector, transit and fleet greening, and will help ensure that public health is central to environmental considerations.

MEMBER STORIES
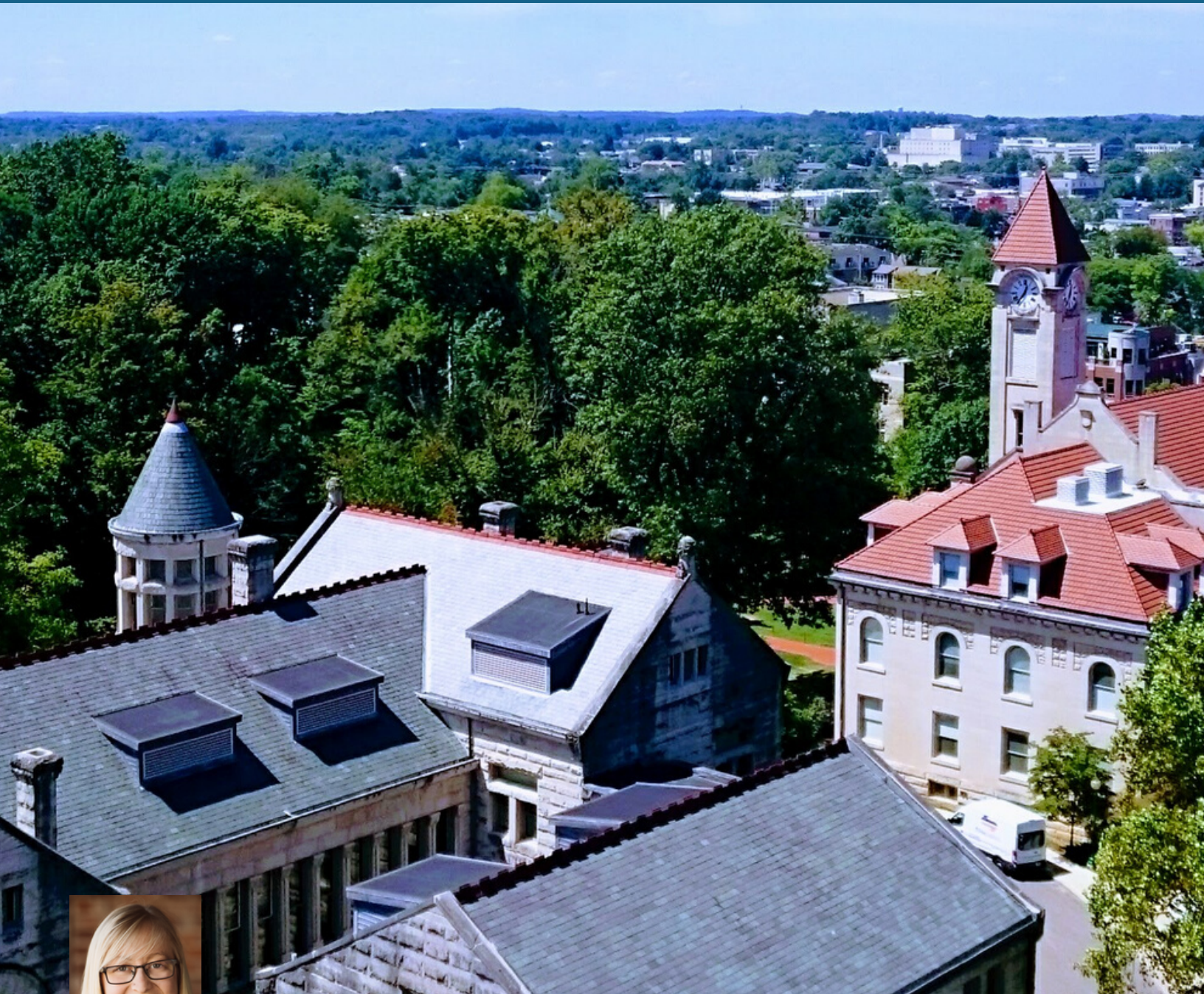
"[Without the ICLEI-Indiana University training], we would not have otherwise had the internal capacity to complete a greenhouse-gas inventory based on current staffing levels."

LAUREN TRAVIS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY
BLOOMINGTON, IN

Indiana University in Bloomington, IN
Photo by Flickr/Poren Chiang

Tackle Food Waste

The U.S. ranks second worst in the world on food waste, pitching about 40 percent of the food we grow, process, and distribute. The figure is particularly shameful, because we know that 41 million Americans are grappling with food insecurity. Two ICLEI CITYFOOD Network cities are working in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council's Food Matters initiative to tackle the problem. City of Denver, CO, and City of Baltimore, MD, used a structured analysis of citywide food systems to launch data-driven food-rescue programs, resilient supply chains, and compost programs—and took their lessons to the ICLEI Resilient Cities conference in Bonn, Germany.

MEMBER STORIES
CITIES OF WILTON MANORS AND OAKLAND PARK

"The Wilton Manors-Oakland Park Joint Climate Action Plan will serve as our road map to achieve three primary goals: reduction of carbons emissions by at least 1% per year over a period of 10 years, making our municipal infrastructure more resilient, and encouraging residents and businesses to prepare for higher sea levels and more severe weather events. But make no mistake, the City Commission must invest in these goals, in order to prepare for the coming changes, and to ensure that our quality of life will be preserved for generations to come."

Florida's First Joint Climate Action Plan

Justin Flippen
Mayor of the City of Wilton Manors

Believed to be an innovative first for the United States as well as Florida, the City of Oakland Park and City of Wilton Manors have pioneered a joint climate action plan in recognition that climate impacts do not respect political borders. The plan calls for mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1 percent each year through 2028 while increasing community resilience in ways that are cost-effective and minimizes impacts to business operations. Both cities received the ICLEI Milestone Award for achieving Milestone 4 of the Five Milestones Framework.

CitiesWithNature Pioneer

Longtime leader on climate and sustainability action, Colorado's "Choice City" has cemented its role as a global biodiversity showcase city by becoming the first U.S. city to join the CitiesWithNature platform, jointly managed by ICLEI, Nature Conservancy and IUCN. Officially endorsed by the United Nations Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the platform serves as a community of practice for international cities working to prioritize nature-based solutions in their planning and ensure safe havens for biodiversity exist in their boundaries. Fort Collins' Nature in the City program exemplifies these values by making sure that residents—humans and wildlife—can "permeate throughout the urban context" by providing access to a variety of natural experiences close to where they live and work.

"Nature in the City emerged in response to development patterns and trends that we were witnessing both locally and nationally. We're seeing a preference for residents to live in a more urban context, and given that trend, we want our residents to have immediate access to nature — rather than needing to travel to more rural or exurban areas to have that same access to nature."

Kelly Smith
Senior Environmental Planner
Planning & Development Services

ICLEI, The Solar Foundation, and SUNY Sullivan celebrated Sullivan County's SolSmart designation with surrounding communities at an event in October, "Local Governments Leading the Clean Energy Transition."

Open for Solar Business

New York's gateway to the Catskill Mountains has taken big strides to open up the region for solar business, becoming one of the first to establish an office of renewable energy (during the Recession). Sullivan County's first solar installation in 2009 was a 15-kilowatt system on a government transportation facility and seven years later, it adopted the Solar Uniform Tax Exempt Policy, which offers a 15-year tax break on solar projects to provide more certainty for developers. The efforts are paying off: In 2019, the County achieved SolSmart Silver designation for its efforts as part of a seven-community ICLEI SolSmart Advisory Cohort. Today, the County has invested in 2 megawatts in solar capacity.

SolSmart Advisory Cohort

Auburn, WA
Columbia, SC
Douglas County, KS
East Lansing, MI
Oberlin, OH
Santa Fe County, NM
Sullivan County, NY

"Working with ICLEI to achieve SolSmart designation showed us we are on the right track and that we should continue to work through the SolSmart roadmap. As a designated Silver community, we can strive to meet gold designation. SolSmart incentivizes the County to go further."

Heather Brown
Sustainability Coordinator
Sullivan County, NY

2019 EVENTS

JANUARY - AUGUST

United Nations Environment
Assembly Consultations (UNEA-4)
Denver and Des Moines

● Climate Leadership Conference

NRDC Food Matters Cities Summit
New York City

● UNC Clean Energy Summit

● National Adaptation Forum
Madison

ICLEI Resilient Cities
Bonn, Germany

Post-Carbon Cities of Tomorrow
Germany Study Tour

● JuSEEC Forum, Long Beach

Climate Mayors Summit
Honolulu

United Nations High-Level
Political Forum, **New York City**

Clean Cities Renewable Energy
Procurement, **Denver**

ICLEI Milestone Award Ceremony
New Paltz, NY

● California Climate Action
Planning Conference

2019 EVENTS

Financing the Future Divest-Invest Global Summit
Cape Town, South Africa

United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit

California Central Coast Sustainability Summit
Santa Barbara, CA

Beacon Awards
Long Beach, CA

Getting to Zero National Forum

Mountain Towns 2030
Park City, UT

Schenectady Municipal Forum
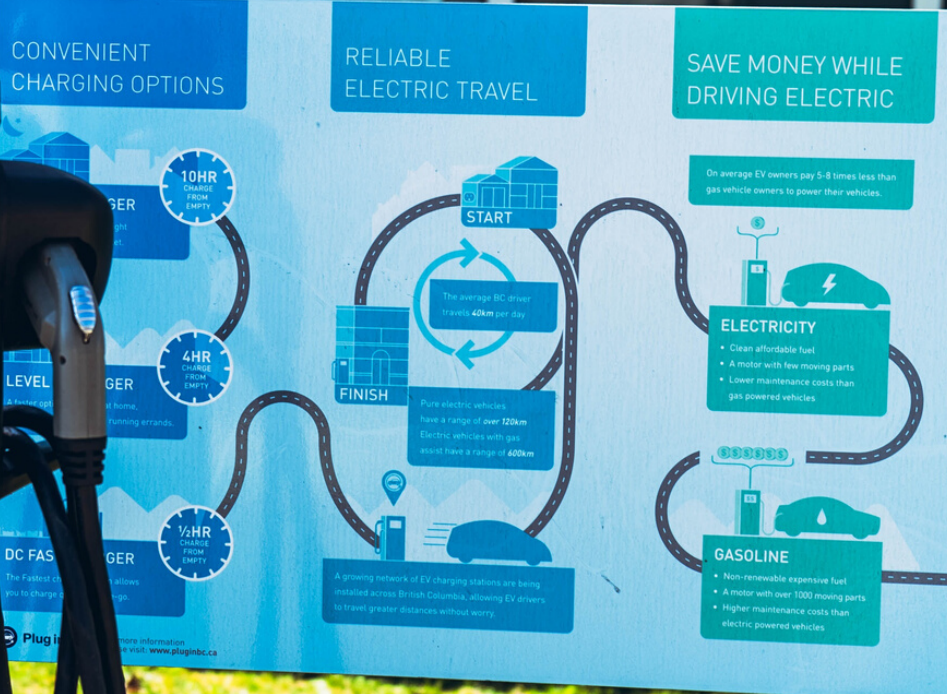
COP25
Madrid, Spain

The Future of Work
Washington, D.C.

NRDC Food Matters Workshop
Denver, CO

European Union Delegation to the U.S., **Washington, D.C.**

Resilient Connecticut Summit
Stamford, CT

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

"We as public servants have a mandate to create a resilient community, because sea level rise is here and we are feeling the impacts of climate change now. Resources are finite, and our need to use them smarter is central to our interest in collaborating with our neighbors."

PAMELA LANDI
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY OF WILTON MANORS, FL

THE YEAR AHEAD
DECADE OF LOCAL ACTION

Raise ambition even further.
ICLEI shares a few birthdays in 2020: While the organization turns 30 — our founding built on the City of Irvine's commitment to protect the ozone layer in 1990— Earth Day celebrates 50 years and the United Nations is 75. In a banner year, local governments are called to increase climate emergency declarations, set climate neutrality targets, and transition to 100% renewables, divest from fossil fuels.

Equity and community-driven planning are central to achieving our goals.
Evidence tells us that frontline communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change. ICLEI will ensure that the technical support we provide our members recognizes that: Historical inequities result in an increased sensitivity to climate change; Meaningful participation of frontline communities in climate action planning is required for successful implementation; and Distribution of resources, benefits, and burdens must be fair and community-determined.

Regional climate action scales solutions.
Regional collaborations are forming around the country to address the climate crises. In Colorado, Missouri, Illinois, Florida and elsewhere, cities, counties, councils of governments, and their partners are joining forces to create collaborative, regional climate action plans.

Main Street—in the ICLEI member Town of Breckenridge, CO— is an inviting place to walk thanks to the Town's commitment to resource efficiency.

THE YEAR AHEAD
DECADE OF LOCAL ACTION

The climate emergency can be an economic opportunity for local governments— but they need state and national support.
The Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity report identified a bundle of low-carbon measures representing a $23.9 trillion global opportunity — one that could support 87 million jobs by 2030. But innovative finance mechanisms that localize climate finance will be key to unlock any cash flow.

Integrated climate action brings mitigation and adaptation together.
ICLEI's Five Milestones framework for emissions management has been used by hundreds of U.S. communities over three decades. Our updated approach is integrated and coordinated, reflecting the fact that communities must prepare for climate impacts while they work to lower emissions.

Nature-based solutions and biodiversity are a part of effective climate action.
2020 is a "Super Year for Nature." The United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity is set to expire and a new framework adopted in October 2020. While leaders call for the "Paris moment for biodiversity", the CitiesWithNature platform gives local governments a voice in the process.

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Andrea Webster, Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institution
Ben Polly, National Renewable Energy Lab
Carlos Gamarra, Houston Advanced Research Center, CHP Technical Assistance Partnerships
Chris Kuch, Southern California Edison
Christine Tam, City of Palo Alto, CA
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Natasha Adler
Sam Ruderman, Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sarah Booth, Sawatch Labs
Sarah Church, Alameda County, CA
Sarah Edwards, PEW Charitable Trusts
Shanti Pless, National Renewable Energy Lab
Shari Welsh, Marketing Communications and Design
Stacey Hobart, New Buildings Institute
Steven Clarke, Willden Consulting
Timothy Blatch, ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center
Toyah Barigye, The Solar Foundation
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ICLEI USA Wins Beacon Partner of the Year Award

Sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the California Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC), the Beacon Program provides a framework for California local governments to share best practices that create healthier, more vibrant and sustainable communities. ICLEI USA was honored in October 2019 to be the program's Partner of the Year.

2019
Leading with Local Action

ICLEI USA
1536 Wynkoop St #901
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: +1 (510) 844-0699
Email: iclei-usa@iclei.org

in ICLEI USA 🐦 @ICLEI_USA