Mayor Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San Jose, California

Mayor Sam Liccardo is currently serving in his second term as Mayor of the 10th largest city in the United States. During his tenure as Mayor, Sam led efforts to fund the construction of thousands of units of affordable housing, provided jobs to more than 4,000 teens living in gang-impacted neighborhoods, and coalesced multi-billion-dollar investments in new transit.

Last year, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo pledged to make the city carbon neutral by the end of the decade, becoming one of the largest cities in the United States to have set the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Under Mayor Liccardo’s leadership, the City launched a community choice energy program, San Jose Clean Energy, that offers all San José residents cleaner power, with the option to upgrade to 100% renewable energy. The program reduces GHG emissions by more than 30%.

Under his climate leadership, Mayor Liccardo also championed the elimination of natural gas in all new construction, adopting ambitious building reach codes, launching energy rebates and incentives for low-income communities, and investing in climate focused natural and working lands by preserving nearly 1000 acres of open space in Coyote Valley in San Jose.

Prior to his elected offices, Sam served as a criminal prosecutor at the federal and local level, prosecuting cases of sexual assault and child exploitation. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, Harvard Law School, and Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Climate & Resilience Affiliations
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA
- Climate Mayors
- Co-Chair of the Climate and Energy Independence Taskforce through the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Quote
“San Jose continues to be a global leader for climate action, through innovative solutions that green the grid, and electrify buildings and transit, as our residents and businesses move aggressively towards our carbon neutral by 2030 goal. I am honored to join ICLEI and speak at this year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt where the global community works to create a sustainable future for generations to come.”