



CITIES & REGIONS  
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



GLOBAL  
TASKFORCE  
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS



DARING  
CITIES  
2022



# #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency

Paris Agreement Local Stocktake

## Participation Guide and Toolkit



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## The next phase of the Paris Agreement should be marked by collaboration across all levels of government.

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the United Nations, coordinated by ICLEI on behalf of The Global Taskforce, has reached a series of advocacy milestones over the past year. On the road to COP26 in Glasgow, more than 60 countries submitted stepped-up Paris Agreement plans that attributed their ability to raise ambition to the fact that local and regional governments are doing much of the work to rapidly decrease emissions while adapting to climate impacts. This new generation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) show that climate action in cities, towns, and counties is essential if countries will meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Speaking to this recognition, the LGMA group secured a key phrase as part of the Glasgow Climate Pact: “collaborations across levels of government” is now part of the preamble of the Paris Agreement, with additional references to multilevel action featured throughout the text.

By June 2022, the UNFCCC made further recognition that local governments are key partners to not only achieve success in limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees, but also for understanding where we are at today — and for setting the vision going forward. As an important outcome of the Bonn Climate Conference, cities and regions are now recognized as official contributors to the “Global Stocktake” process occurring during 2022 - 2023. Until this year, only nations contributed to this process in an official way. The announcement opens the door for cities to make a direct contribution to the UNFCCC.

Under the banner of #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency, the LGMA and ICLEI, along with partners in the Global Taskforce, are facilitating a yearlong process to collect and collate local contributions to the Global Stocktake. This Guide and Toolkit can enable hundreds of cities, towns, and regions around the world to successfully host their own local stocktake event ahead of the 2023 UN climate conference COP28. Collectively, our direct submissions to the UNFCCC serve to “ground-truth” the stocktaking process with the felt reality of the climate emergency in communities — and usher in the next phase of the Paris Agreement, where multilevel action is standard practice.



## What is the Global Stocktake?

As a mandate of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the Global Stocktake (GST) calls on ratifying countries to assess the progress they have made in implementing their Paris plans, referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs. Recurring every 5 years, the GST allows for a collective understanding of how far the world has come in meeting long-term goals and reduction targets, what is still needed to achieve these goals, and what implementation actions will best position the country for success. The process evaluates mitigation, adaptation, implementation finances, and climate justice. Ultimately, the GST provides insight into best practices, lessons learned, new and missed opportunities, and implementation gaps to learn, reflect, and act on for the next five years.

## What is a Local Stocktake?

During the 2022 Summer Bonn Climate Conference, in recognition that climate action happens at the ground level in communities, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) announced that the stocktake should be a [local-level process](#). This recognition follows years of advocacy by the LGMA constituency group, who showed a successful model during the Talanoa Dialogues of 2018.

The spirit of *talanoa* — from the Fijian word and concept of “open and inclusive dialogue” — inspired more than 60 cities in more than 40 countries to host their own climate dialogues in collaboration with state, provincial and national governments. Building on this precedent, the #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency localizes the GST by way of answering three important questions:

### 1. Where are we?

This question should be answered in relation to both a community’s contribution to its country’s Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as for its own local climate plan implementation.

Guiding questions include: What plans or actions are underway to implement your community’s climate plan? Is this progress sufficient to achieve the goals of the



Paris Agreement? What mechanisms exist to create linkup with your country's current NDC?

## **2. Where do we want to go?**

Answering this question should aim to achieve both national-level and local-level alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Guiding questions might include: Define a climate vision toward 2030 for your community: What does ambitious climate action look like? What avenues do you have that can move your state, provincial, territorial and/or national government to engage in collaboration across all levels of government?

## **3. How do we get there by following a climate-just path?**

Ensuring that no one is left behind as your community seizes the many climate opportunities is central to the stocktake process. Climate justice will look different for every community, but unify elements including opening access for all members of society to contribute, ensuring the most vulnerable to climate impacts are at the table, and unlocking the economic and social benefits of climate action in ways that promote equity.

Guiding questions include: What measures are needed to develop immediate, mid-term, and long-term transformation that would achieve your community vision? What considerations for climate justice are most important for your community? Define the safeguards for climate action that ensure climate justice will be met. How can your national government collaborate with local and regional governments to accelerate progress?

# **Why host a stocktake event for your community?**

Every community in the world is invited to host its own #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency event. The local stocktake allows your community to understand its current progress towards achieving its own climate change goals — and center that progress in relation to national goals. The process assesses where your community currently stands, gives space



for all-of-society voices to declare where your community wants to make further progress, and collectively determine what is needed in order to achieve a vision for climate justice as you progress on your climate journey. By taking part in the effort, you open a direct link to both your national government's climate plans and the UNFCCC, while moving the world into the emergency mode the climate crisis calls for.

## What are the outcomes of a local stocktake?

The ultimate aim for hosting your community's [s#Stocktake4ClimateEmergency](#) event is twofold: Locally, the stocktake exercise provides a community assessment of progress — including a local-to-national consideration — and climate vision for the future. Globally, the event concludes with a report submitted to the UNFCCC by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability on behalf of the LGMA constituency group. A reporting form and matrix are included in this toolkit to guide you in the formatting outcomes from your stocktake event.

## Why report on your community's local stocktake?

Reporting your community's local stocktake provides transparency and positions the city or region as a leader in climate action globally, ready to create an official contribution to an international process. The event invites residents to participate in the action being taken. The process allows the municipality to understand the needs of the community and the report formalizes these actions. By reporting your local stocktake, your municipality aligns itself with the Paris Agreement and shows its commitment to climate action.

## What is included in this toolkit?

This [#Stocktake4ClimateEmergency](#) Toolkit provides all the necessary tools and guidance to complete a stocktake on your community's climate goals and progress. Below are the descriptions of each toolkit item:



## **Instructions for Facilitators and Sample Meeting Agendas**

This document outlines guidelines for facilitators when preparing for a local stocktake as well as a sample agenda to use. This document highlights key points, recommendations, and next steps for the local stocktake process.

## **'Meeting in a Box' Slide Deck**

Modify this presentation deck, which provides background on the stocktake process, for your unique use.

## **Local Stocktake Report Template**

This document will be used to record the responses and main discussions of the local stocktake. It is divided based on the This report will be the report submitted to the UNFCCC by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability once completed.

## **Best Practices for Stakeholder Engagement**

Here are some best practices when conducting community focused events.

## **Sign-in Sheet**

A document to keep track of who has participated in the local stocktake.