



INTRODUCING ICLEI USA'S COP28 DELEGATION

*MEET THE LEADERS ATTENDING UNFCCC'S 28TH
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP28)*

Meet
ICLEI USA's
COP28 Delegation



 / ICLEI_USA  / ICLEI USA  / ICLEI USA

<https://icleiusa.org/>





Table of Contents

Background	3
Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines, IA, and ICLEI President	4
Mayor Brad Cavanagh, Dubuque, IA	5
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Columbus, OH	6
Mayor Keith James, West Palm Beach, FL	7
Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County, TX, ICLEI USA Board Chair	8
Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC	9
Mayor Jeni Arndt, Fort Collins, CO	10
Mayor Ravi Bhalla, Hoboken, NJ, and ICLEI USA Board Member	11
Mayor Lily Mei, Fremont, CA	12
Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison, WI	13
Commissioner Beam Furr, Broward County, FL	14
Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise, ID	15
Mayor Niki Armacost, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY	16
Mayor Aftab Pureva, Cincinnati, OH	17
Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, City of Mount Vernon, NY	18



Background

With COP28 — the 28th session of the United Nations' annual "Conference of the Parties" climate conference, this year hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from November 30th to December 12th — fast approaching, we are preparing for what is becoming one of **the most prominent local government-focused COPs in history**.

At COP28, these leaders will speak as the voice of communities around the world, demanding more ambitious climate goals from countries, active collaboration in the design and implementation of these goals, and funding to translate those ambitions into projects on the ground.

Today, only 10-15% of global climate finance reaches local governments. Local and regional leaders hope to make real gains, getting national leaders to commit to collaboration and financing for our cities, towns and regions.

How are cities and regions being seen as central to the event?

- For the first time, the COP Presidency has designated a "Multilevel Action, Urbanization, and Built Environment" Day (aka "**Cities Day**") for December 6th.
- A **Local Climate Action Summit** has been announced for the first two days, hosted by Special Envoy Michael Bloomberg with the COP28 Presidency in coordination with ICLEI and partners.
- The [ICLEI-managed LGMA Multilevel Action Pavilion](#) will continue as the "home for cities and regions at COP28," hosting nearly 100 sessions.
- A **second Climate & Urbanization Ministerial** will bring nations and local governments together on December 6th.

Because ICLEI is the focal organization to the UN's "[local governments and municipal authorities](#)" (LGMA) constituency group, our role in the COPs has always been to represent the voice of cities, towns, and counties. As we show in [our COP28 position paper](#), collaboration across levels of government is the best chance to meet the Paris Agreement's goals.

We know there are many reasons to be pessimistic, even fearful, of where climate change is taking us. But our cities and towns are writing a different story – one of empowerment and hope. Join [our global advocacy-specific mailing list](#) to keep up to date.



Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines, IA, and ICLEI President



T.M. Franklin “Frank” Cownie has served five terms as Mayor of Des Moines. He’s currently the Global President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Global Vice President representing the U.S. for Mayors for Peace and as a Trustee with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Cownie has dedicated his servant leadership to combatting climate change, continuously bringing a local voice to domestic and international stages. He’s aided the City of Des Moines in passing 24/7 clean electricity standards, investing in energy efficient vehicle fleets and facilities, and requiring all new city buildings to be certified LEED silver or greater. Mayor Cownie remains committed to facilitating multi-level action, moving ideas to practice and to mitigate further global damage caused by climate change.

Des Moines proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Approving bold, historic climate change goals that include 24/7 carbon-free electricity citywide by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
2. Drafting a robust climate action plan which outlines over 100 short and long-term actions to meet the City’s climate goals.
3. Implementation of electrification policies, such as an e-vehicle fleet, solar arrays on municipal buildings, and development incentives for energy efficient residential and commercial properties.
4. Working with area organizations on projects to expand outdoor recreation opportunities, while providing clean up of the City’s natural resources.

“I commend the municipalities from around the globe who have come together to exchange information and ideas on the local impacts of climate change and potential solutions. However, we can no longer continue only to discuss – we must leave COP 28 with the mindset to immediately act on solutions and bring our planet back from the brink.”

Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines, IA

Mayor Brad Cavanagh, Dubuque, IA



Mayor Cavanagh is a social worker with over 20 years of experience working in a variety of practice settings with diverse populations. He holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in social work from Saint Louis University. Brad is a Dubuque native and has served his hometown in several ways. Prior to his election to City Council, he was a member of the Dubuque Housing Commission, served as vice chairperson of the Dubuque County Food Policy Council, was a board member for the Fountain of Youth, served as chair of the Guiding Coalition for the City's Circles Initiative, and is a co-founder of Resources Unite. As Mayor, Brad serves on the boards of Dubuque Initiatives, the Dubuque Racing Association, the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Travel Dubuque, and the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce. Brad also serves as president-elect of the Iowa League of Cities and is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Brad and his wife, Jennifer, have two sons.

Dubuque proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project - This project provided much needed urban flash flooding mitigation to affected communities while also increasing greenspace and tree canopy.
2. Renewable Natural Gas Capture - The City, in partnership with the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency and private sector partners, captures methane release from the landfill. The gas is then cleaned and sold, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill.
3. Renew DBQ - A low- to moderate-income household solar program (using a flexible Solar Renewable Energy Certificate program) through which the City helps offset the initial cost barrier to installing residential solar technology.
4. City Fleet Electrification - The City has implemented a plan to convert its fleet to electric vehicles, including transit, by 2045.
5. Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Challenge - The City is working with downtown, historic commercial properties to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

“Municipal governments are key to addressing climate change and emissions reduction. Dubuque has long focused on building sustainable and resilient communities and we look forward to sharing what we’ve learned and learning where we can continue to grow from climate leaders from around the world at COP28.”

Mayor Cavanagh, Dubuque, IA

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Columbus, OH



Mayor Andrew J. Ginther is serving his second term as the 53rd mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio. Mayor Ginther is uniquely committed to working with community, business, and faith and labour leaders to promote equitable opportunities for every Columbus resident. Signature initiatives include launching the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy to reduce violent crime while realising the most significant policing reforms in city history, reducing infant mortality; expanding universal pre-kindergarten; creating the city's first-ever Office of Diversity and Inclusion and forming the Columbus Women's Commission to advance the well-being of women in the workplace; and establishing the Department of Neighbourhoods to lead community-driven investments for revitalization.

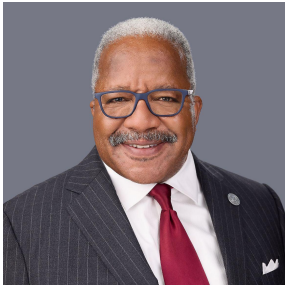
Columbus proudly highlights four climate successes achieved recently:

1. The City of Columbus along with key community partners created the City's first ever Climate Action Plan, a collective roadmap to achieving a carbon neutral Columbus by 2050 with a minimum 45% emissions reduction goal by 2030 – and pursuing a broad range of sustainability solutions that are firmly rooted in equity and environmental justice.
2. Implemented Clean Energy Columbus, the largest clean-energy aggregation program in Ohio, providing residents with 100% clean energy and \$19 million in savings this year.
3. The City of Columbus is actively constructing two solar projects totaling 45 megawatts of clean energy at Jackson Pike and Parsons, two city-owned locations of which one is a former landfill.
4. The City of Columbus has invested nearly \$3 million to partner with IMPACT Community Action to create and implement Empowered! – a clean energy and construction jobs training program for Columbus residents 18+ focused on communities of color, women and low-income neighborhoods.

“Climate change is happening now and our city is feeling the effects, especially communities of color and residents within our city’s disadvantaged neighborhoods. By focusing on change in terms of climate and resilience, we can positively impact many issues critical to the success and growth of our great City including racial equity and wealth, affordable housing, and workforce development.”

Mayor Ginther, Columbus, OH

Mayor Keith James, West Palm Beach, FL



Keith James was elected Mayor of the City of West Palm Beach on March 12, 2019. Focused on creating a community of opportunity for all, Mayor James has a vision for West Palm Beach that is resident-driven. Mayor James is committed to creating a customer friendly culture in City Hall that focuses on neighborhood initiatives, regional collaboration, and community partnerships. Mayor James is the City's first African-American "strong mayor," whereby the Mayor is the City's Chief Executive Officer directing the administrative structure, and the City's fourth African-American Mayor. Mayor James has been a part of the leadership that has led West Palm Beach from the depths of the recession to the booming metropolis we have today.

Mayor James has served in numerous leadership positions to address a range of issues in the community. Mayor James is a former Board Member of the Florida League of Cities and Palm Beach County League of Cities. A trailblazer in his own right, Mayor James was the first African American Chair of Leadership Florida and the Quantum Foundation.

It is where he raised his two children and has dedicated his life to public service. Mayor James and his wife Lorna are proud to call West Palm Beach home.

West Palm Beach proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. A' Rating on CDP
2. LEED for Cities and Communities Gold Certification
3. Net Zero by 2050 GHG Target
4. Rethink Paradise Sustainability/Resilience Action Plan
5. Updating the City's Vulnerability Assessment

"As Mayor of West Palm Beach, I bring a message of urgency and collaborative action to the 2023 COP28 Conference, emphasizing the critical need for global solidarity and innovative solutions to combat climate change and secure a sustainable future for generations to come."

Mayor Keith James, West Palm Beach, FL

Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County, TX, ICLEI USA Board Chair



Brigid Shea is currently a Travis County, Texas Commissioner, whose work to reverse climate change and better prepare residents for climate impacts has won 3 national awards; one for creating a neighborhood wildfire drill, the second for dramatically improving the reach of emergency warning systems, and the third for creating the most ambitious remote-work policy for any local government in the nation.

Brigid is former award-winning reporter at NPR stations who proved her grit by fighting climate change in Texas since 1988; as a former Austin City Council member she helped create the first wind project in Texas.

Travis County proudly highlights climate successes achieved recently:

1. National Award-winning Programs:
 - a. Travis County’s GHG reduction through ambitious remote work policy;
 - b. Neighborhood Wildfire Evacuation Drill, increasing community resilience;
 - c. Dramatic improvements and reach in Early Warning Systems;
2. Other Successes:
 - a. Significant water conservation through the use of Purple Pipe;
 - b. Impacts of climate migration on local communities;

“As a local elected official, we have to do more to prepare our residents for the devastating impacts of climate change. We also have an important role to play in reducing local GHG emissions. The nations of the world can’t do this by themselves- they need to meaningfully partner with us at the local level.”

Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County, TX

Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC



Muriel Bowser is the seventh elected mayor of Washington, DC. She has a strong record of creating a bold urban policy agenda, making tough decisions in a high stakes environment, and shaping a diverse economy. Mayor Bowser has served her hometown in elected office since 2004 and as Mayor since 2015. She is the first African American woman to be elected to three, four-year terms as mayor of an American city. Since taking office, Mayor Bowser has boldly reset DC's global and national competitiveness, sped up affordable housing production, diversified the DC economy, and invested in programs that allow more families to live and thrive across the city. Mayor Bowser is committed to an equity agenda and has kept bold promises on the creation of affordable housing a hallmark of her service. She has been at the forefront of national thought leadership on affordable housing in committing an all-time high \$1 billion of city resources to tackle affordable housing and leading the National League of Cities task force to craft a federal call to action. Mayor Bowser serves on the Advisory Boards of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the African American Mayors Association.

Washington, DC proudly highlights four climate successes achieved recently:

1. The District adopted the nation's first Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) to drive energy performance in our existing buildings. To advance equity in implementing this program, the District launched the Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator which provides direct funding and technical assistance to affordable housing properties to make the necessary upgrades to not just meet our BEPS requirements, but create healthier, more livable buildings for our low-income District residents.
2. The District is advancing local solar, with a goal to reach 15% of citywide consumption by 2041. The Solar for All program aims to deliver the benefits of solar energy to 100,000 low- and moderate-income households by 2032, by partnering with organizations citywide to install solar on single-family homes and developing community solar projects that benefit renters and residents in multi-family buildings.
3. The District is harnessing its purchasing power to reduce carbon emissions from our food system. A Coolfood pledge signatory, the District's Green Food Purchasing Program aims to reduce food-related emissions at District agencies by 25% by 2030.
4. The District is investing in the health and resilience of our residents and natural environment to climate change impacts from extreme heat to flooding. By restoring degraded streams and wetlands, prioritizing tree planting in communities with high vulnerability to urban heat, and supporting the launch of community resilience hubs that support neighborhood needs, everyday and in extreme events, the District is building a resilient DC.

Mayor Jeni Arndt, Fort Collins, CO



I am honored to be the mayor of the town where I grew up - Fort Collins, CO. I believe in education, having earned degrees in Sociology, Geography, and Special Education, and a PhD in Literacy & Language. I developed an international lens as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco (1990-92) and living and working in education in Mozambique (2002-08). Before being elected Mayor (2021), I served four terms as a Colorado State Representative beginning in 2015, focusing on climate-related issues including water and agriculture. At the local level, Fort Collins has set leading-edge targets that drive policy and investment in a sustainable future. A few highlights as Mayor include: recognized by the Climate Reality Project with a leadership award; presented at the ICLEI World Congress in Malmö, Sweden; presented at ICLEI's Zero Carbon Cities Forum in Tokyo, Japan; and gave two presentations at the U.S. State Department's Cities Summit of the Americas in Denver, Colorado. As a committed leader for sustainability I have a proven record of bridging divides to help communities implement practical solutions.

Fort Collins proudly highlights four climate successes achieved over the year:

1. As a municipal utility provider, Fort Collins uses a portion of revenue collected to fund community efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy production. Without efficiency and renewable programs, community electricity use would be 22% higher. Despite a growing population of approximately 30% since 2005, overall energy use in Fort Collins has only increased 14%.
2. The City of Fort Collins supports a Community Climate Consultant program that matches a dozen community members each year with project managers to provide their expertise and lived experience. And a Climate Equity Committee reviews projects/programs and makes recommendations to staff for further embedding equity. Together these compensated advisors help staff better design and deliver projects that serve many parts of the community.
3. Fort Collins voters recently approved a ballot measure for a new climate-focused sales tax and the City Council has signaled its intention to increase the methane (natural) gas Franchise Fee. Together these initiatives are estimated to generate approximately \$6M/year for climate action in Fort Collins.
4. Recent projects that advance community resilience include an innovative battery storage system at an existing community center and the award of a \$2M state grant for equipping a planned community center as a resilience hub.

“While climate policy and funding conversations are crucial at the national and international level, the Local Climate Action Summit recognizes that climate action is also a local issue. Our communities are where the work gets done and where we can begin to see the positive impact of living out our climate action policies and values.”

Mayor Arndt, Fort Collins, CO

Mayor Ravi Bhalla, Hoboken, NJ, and ICLEI USA Board Member



Mayor Ravi S. Bhalla, a 22-year Hoboken resident of the City of Hoboken, began his public service with eight years on the City Council before his mayoral election in November 2017. Initially rooted in Hoboken at 26, he built a career as a civil rights lawyer, nationally recognized by The New York Times for legal advocacy following a constitutional rights violation during a jail visit. His City Council tenure saw significant fiscal reforms, improving Hoboken's bond rating, and establishing a responsible cash surplus. As Mayor, Ravi prioritized climate resilience, signing a Climate Action Plan for net-zero energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. Under his leadership, Hoboken became a national model for safe streets and multi modal transportation through implementation of the Vision Zero initiative to eliminate all traffic related fatalities and injuries by 2030. Ravi's first term featured a citywide special improvement district and a Business Recovery Plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. Educated at UC Berkeley, L.S.E., and Tulane Law School, Ravi, and his wife Bindya reside in Hoboken with their two children.

Hoboken proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Established the City's Climate Action Plan with the goal of net-zero energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.
2. Opened the largest resiliency park in the State of New Jersey capable of detaining up to 2 million gallons of stormwater caused by heavy rainfall to mitigate flooding.
3. Created alternative waste disposal in Hoboken including resident drop-off compost program, textile recycling program, and dual stream recycling.
4. Prioritized electrification of vehicles through a phased replacement of the city's fleet and investments in EV charging infrastructure so that every resident will be within a 5-minute walk of a public, on-street charging station by 2030
5. Launched alternative energy programs for residents so they can get up to 100% of their energy from renewable sources and low- and moderate-income residents have access to a community solar program

“Climate change is the largest threat to the City of Hoboken and communities across the world. We must do all we can now to minimize our impacts on the environment while simultaneously adapting to the changing landscape it presents to ensure our communities are better off after we are long gone.”

Mayor Ravi Bhalla, Hoboken, NJ

Mayor Lily Mei, Fremont, CA



Lily Mei, is an ardent advocate for climate action and sustainable development. As a 30 year Fremont resident, Mei's deep connection to her community and unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship have shaped her transformative journey. As Mayor, Mei spearheaded a comprehensive climate action plan that has set Fremont on a path towards carbon neutrality. Recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis, she championed initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, and enhance energy efficiency in municipal operations and private sectors alike. Mayor Mei has prioritized the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraged the use of public transit, and implemented innovative bike-friendly policies, fostering a culture of eco-friendly mobility. In addition, Mei has been a staunch advocate for preserving and expanding green spaces within the city. She has tirelessly worked to protect Fremont's natural habitats, promote urban forestry, and establish community gardens to enhance local food production and foster a sense of environmental stewardship among residents.

Fremont proudly highlights four climate successes achieved recently:

1. Fremont has demonstrated a commitment to carbon neutrality through the Carbon Neutrality Resolution in 2019 and the updated Climate Action Plan in 2023. These policies provide a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainability.
2. Fremont collaborated regionally with other local government agencies to establish Ava, a community-based electricity provider, which has expedited the transition to carbon-free electricity.
3. Sustainable infrastructure projects include the installation of solar carports at city facilities, a citywide efficiency project involving the replacement of streetlights with LEDs, the implementation of microgrids in fire stations, and the adoption of all-electric police patrol vehicles. Upcoming projects include EV fast-charging hubs and additional solar and energy storage installations at city facilities.
4. Fremont's sustainability efforts have been recognized with the California Institute for Local Government Vanguard Platinum Level Beacon Award in 2021. Fremont has also been awarded SolSmart "Gold" designation for solar permit streamlining, has been on the CDP Cities "A List" for multiple years for climate reporting, is an EPA Green Power Partner, and is committed to the Cities Race to Zero and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

"Fremont's achievements serve as proof that the clean energy transition can have positive impacts on both the environment and local economies. By adopting strong policies, implementing sustainable infrastructure projects, fostering cleantech and autotech industries, and receiving recognition for its efforts, Fremont demonstrates the potential for other communities to follow suit and reap the benefits of a cleaner and more sustainable future."

Mayor Lily Mei, Fremont, CA

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison, WI



Satya Rhodes-Conway is the 58th Mayor of Madison. Her administration is focused on affordable housing, rapid transit, climate change and racial equity. Elected in 2019, she is the city's second female mayor and the first out LGBTQ person to serve as Mayor of Madison. Mayor Rhodes-Conway is a co-chair of Climate Mayors, an appointed member of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, a founding member of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and a member of Mayors Against Gun Violence. She serves on various committees and task forces for the US Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Before being elected Mayor, Rhodes-Conway served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and was the Managing Director of the Mayors Innovation Project and a senior associate at the COWS (Center on Wisconsin Strategy) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 13 years. She worked with cities across the country to implement innovative policy and researched and wrote extensively about local policy that promotes sustainability, equity and democracy.

Madison proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Constructing an all-electric bus rapid transit system through the City of Madison and neighboring jurisdictions.
2. Adopted a Building Energy Savings Program requiring all large commercial buildings to track energy use and tune-up energy systems regularly.
3. Have invested in over 20 megawatts of on-site and off-site solar energy for City facilities while also supporting solar in the private sector through the MadiSUN program.
4. Recently received our 100th electric vehicle in the City's vehicle fleet, and planning for all vehicles to be electric or using biofuels by 2030.
5. Creating affordable, efficient housing by funding energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in affordable apartment buildings to saving residents money while reducing climate pollution.

“On behalf of both the City of Madison and Climate Mayors, I want to emphasize that we need to act now, and through all levels of government. Cities and local governments play a critical role in climate action, and they know what solutions are needed on the ground. With strong partnership with and support from national governments, cities are ready to help make the critical climate gains that we need.”

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison, WI

Commissioner Beam Furr, Broward County, FL



Commissioner Beam Furr is the elected Commissioner for Broward County Commission District 6, representing parts of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, Dania Beach, West Park, Pembroke Park, and Fort Lauderdale. He also served as Broward County Mayor for the 2018 term. Working to protect and preserve South Florida’s environment has been a top priority for Commissioner Furr. This includes serving as the Co-Chair of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force, helping to enact Broward County’s Climate Change Action Plan, developing regional approaches to resiliency and rising sea levels, increasing sustainability, and reducing emissions through electric vehicles, the creation of the Kristen Jacobs Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, and protecting our Everglades from oil drilling and fracking. He currently serves as the County representative on the Broward County Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority. Commissioner Furr is the recipient of the Environmental Service award from the national Sierra Club, which is awarded to those with a strong commitment to environmental causes. Commissioner Furr has strong roots in this community and works to make it a better place to live.

Broward County proudly highlights five climate successes achieved over the year:

1. Broward County has made a Net-Zero commitment, aiming to eliminate all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
2. Solar installations on county buildings and parking lots have been implemented to harness renewable energy. The County’s current solar capacity is 3.13 MW with an additional 3.83 MW of new project capacity pending installation, achieving an average 30% solar energy offset to on-site energy consumption. This equates to a current average annual savings of 3,267 tons of CO2 emissions.
3. The county fleet is undergoing an Electronic Vehicle transformation, with a pledge to exclusively purchase electric and low-carbon vehicles by 2030 and already has over 70 EVs in service.
4. Adoption of a County-Wide Resilience Plan, focusing on extreme heat and flood mitigation.
5. Broward County has adopted a new Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority, fostering the development of a comprehensive disposal and recycling system.

“The effects of climate change transcend borders, posing a worldwide existential crisis. Florida stands on frontlines of this global challenge and through prioritizing resilient policies, Broward County aims to serve as a catalyst for change, demonstrating that collective efforts at the local level can have a meaningful global influence.”

Commissioner Furr, Broward County, FL

Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise, ID



Boise Mayor Lauren McLean is committed to creating a city for everyone and has worked tirelessly toward that goal, advocating for open space conservation, tackling housing and homelessness side by side with the community, and leading nationally acclaimed climate action efforts. Mayor McLean was sworn in on January 7, 2020. She is the 56th mayor of Boise and the first woman elected to that position in the city’s 150-year history. She is passionate about public service, leading boldly with the community at the forefront of every decision. McLean’s service to the people of Boise began as a volunteer in 2001. She led the historic Boise Foothills Open Space Levy campaign and, along with hundreds of other dedicated people, secured protection of thousands of acres in the foothills for future generations. Lauren served on Boise City Council from 2011-2019 and served as Council President from 2017-2019. During her time on City Council, she led the effort to pass Boise’s 100% Clean Energy Plan.

Boise proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Renewable Electricity – Collaborating with our electric utility so city facilities, residents and businesses throughout Boise can purchase clean energy.
2. Electrification – Converting city buildings and vehicles to electric.
3. Water Resilience – Preparing for a water constrained future with innovative approaches to water renewal and water supply.
4. Transportation – Ensuring alternative transportation options, and the infrastructure to support them, are available to all Boiseans.
5. Natural Environment – Preserving our open space and keeping our air and water clean.

“Boiseans value bold climate action and challenge us to invest in projects and prioritize work that keeps our air and water clean, makes clean energy available to all, protects natural spaces, and prepares us for the effects of climate change. It’s the partnership we have with the folks who live, work and play in our community that makes this possible. Everyone has a role to play and it will take all of us – individually and at all levels of government – to prepare for a climate ready future for our kids and grandkids.”

Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise, ID

Mayor Niki Armacost, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY



Niki Armacost has served as Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY since 2019, and before that as Trustee since 2009. Niki is an ICLEI-USA Race to Zero Leader. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association (WMOA) where she Co-Chairs the Sustainability and Housing Sub-Committees. She is a member of the Environment, Energy and Technology Policy Committee and the Women’s Advisory Committee of the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM). Her prior work experience has focused on expanding microfinance opportunities for women entrepreneurs and on financing clean energy for low-income households around the world. Niki holds a BA in international relations from the University of Toronto (Canada), an LLB from Queen’s University (Canada), and an LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School (Canada).

Hastings-on-Hudson proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. Highest-ranked Climate Smart Community (CSC) in New York State. Key actions completed under the CSC program include: adopting the New York Stretch Energy Code, signing up for Community Choice Aggregation (100% renewable option), expanding financing for energy efficiency, passing a Low-Embodied Carbon Concrete Resolution, investing in electric vehicles and alternative fuel infrastructure, implementing a complete streets policy, promoting “buy local” initiatives, supporting volunteer-run community repair and reuse programs, dedicating over 89% of municipal-owned open space as parkland, and commissioning studies that assess our climate vulnerabilities, improve our resiliency and reduce our waste.
2. Adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration to draw attention locally to the importance of the global climate crisis.
3. Created a Mayor’s Climate Youth Council to ensure youth can partner with the municipality and play a meaningful role in addressing climate change.
4. Committed to installing geothermal and solar in municipal buildings and partnered with local schools to create a community solar program to reduce energy costs for participating residents.
5. Received an A- rating from CDP in 2023.

“Climate change is the single most important issue we face as a global community and the burden of addressing it falls most heavily on local governments. By sharing knowledge, innovative ideas and best practices we can support one another in making a demonstrable difference.”

Mayor Niki Armacost, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Mayor Aftab Pureva, Cincinnati, OH



Mayor Aftab Pureva is the 70th Mayor of Cincinnati. He was raised in Southwest, Ohio, the son of first-generation Americans. He is making history as Cincinnati's first Asian American Mayor. As Mayor, he has made equitable economic growth a top priority of his administration, as well as a comprehensive approach to public safety, affordable housing, and investment in the green economy. Mayor Aftab graduated from The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati for law school. He resides in Clifton with his wife, Whitney, and their sons, Bodhi and Rami.

Cincinnati proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. The Green Cincinnati Plan commits to 50% citywide emissions reductions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. The City has achieved approximately 38% emissions reduction since 2006.
2. A 100MW solar energy array helps power City government operations.
3. The City's aggregation program delivers 100% renewable energy to over 80,000 households.
4. The Lick Run Greenway green infrastructure project diverts more than 800 million gallons of stormwater from the sewer system each year.
5. The City has cultivated 43% tree canopy coverage by planting more than 85,000 street trees through the urban core.

“As cities around the world move forward, we have to continue reaching higher to achieve a resilient, innovative, and sustainable global ecosystem. COP28 is a critical juncture for local leaders from all over to convene, learn, and work toward a brighter future for the next generations.”

Mayor Aftab Pureva, Cincinnati, OH

Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, City of Mount Vernon, NY



Shawyn Patterson-Howard was born and raised in the city of Mount Vernon and became the city's first female mayor in 2020. She emerged as a trailblazer in the early days of the HIV-AIDS epidemic, national drug addiction and housing crises leveraging a pragmatic style developed as a social worker, non-profit CEO, and three decades in public service. A Howard University alumna, she continued her education while raising a family, earning a master's in public administration and urban planning. She secured national recognition for her advocacy, addressing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic to gun violence prevention, equitable economic development and environmental justice. Notable achievements include preserving the city's only hospital and obtaining over \$400 million in grant funding for crucial infrastructure projects, environmental justice and economic development. Beyond politics, she actively engages in volunteerism and holds key positions on local and national boards, ensuring her legacy is one of collaboration, service, and empowerment. She has focused on empowerment, collaboration, equity, justice, the care economy and service to her community to set Mount Vernon on a path of growth, resilience, equity and sustainability for all its stakeholders.

City of Mount Vernon proudly highlights five climate successes achieved recently:

1. In 2020, CMVNY partnered with graduate students from Columbia University, co-sponsored by the Earth Institute and the School of Professional Studies to research and create a plan to provide a comprehensive roadmap outlining initiatives that the City of Mount Vernon, NY can take to be more sustainable and equitable while reducing overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. To increase CMVNY's recycle rate, DPW created a recycle bin program that has the potential to divert approximately 500,000 pounds (250 tons) of recyclables by purchasing and distributing 2,000 32 gallon recycle bins and lids.
3. In 2021, CMVNY created the first municipal composting partnership with Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (WCDEF).
4. CMVNY regained our "Tree City" USA designation in 2021. In order to become a Tree City USA a community must meet the four standards: an achieve tree board and/or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and a Arbor Day observance and proclamation.
5. In 2023, CMVNY received a \$1M Urban Forestry grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. These funds will assist CMVNY in enhancing their already existing Urban Forestry program as well as working to increase equitable access to trees and nature, and the benefits they provide for cooling city streets, improving air quality, and promoting food security, public health and safety.