

# ICLEI USA's Opportunities for Elected Officials



*Mayor Jeni Arndt, City of Fort Collins, Colorado, advocates to put local communities at the heart of international agreements during the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.*

At ICLEI USA, we empower mayors, county commissioners, council members, and other elected officials to take a strong and proactive stance on sustainability and resilience-building. Through ICLEI's role as the United Nations' focal point organization on local governments — and initiatives like Race to Resilience Culture and Cities Forward — we provide a leadership platform that drives meaningful local and global impact throughout the year.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

### Advocate at annual events, including Climate, Nature, & Land Use COPs

ICLEI leaders share their community's story by attending United Nations' international conferences, where participation entails speaking on

panels, attending Summits, and exchanging knowledge with local elected leaders from around the world. Regular events include the:

- Climate COPs (annually around November/December)
- Biodiversity COPs and land use COPs (every 2 years)
- High-Level Political Forum (every year in July in NYC)
- UN Oceans Conference
- Plastics Treaty Negotiations
- Semi-annual United Nations Environment Assembly
- G7 or G20 bloc of countries meetings
- Climate Week NYC (each year in September)
- More

## Pass impactful policies at home

ICLEI USA supports data-driven policies to advance decarbonization and resilience at the local level.

Demonstrate your government's leadership with our policy guidance.

Recent initiatives include:

- passing a Climate Emergency Declaration with ICLEI's template
- setting science-based GHG reduction targets with calculation support, or
- leveraging state-local connections through the Capital Cities Clean Energy Collaborative.



*Caption: Mayor Ravi Bhalla, City of Hoboken, New Jersey and ICLEI USA Board of Directors member (left), shared coastal storm resilience lessons learned with Councilor Everses Coke, St. James Municipality, Jamaica, following Hurricane Beryl devastation through the Cities Forward program.*

**"As local elected officials, we have to do more to prepare our residents for the devastating impacts of climate change. 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, Precinct 2, Travis County, Texas**



*Caption: Mayor Barbara Buffaloe, City of Columbia, Missouri (right), tells COP28 about city leadership within the Urban7 engagement group the G7 bloc of countries. ICLEI serves as co-secretariat for the Urban7.*

## Engage in Local Diplomacy

In partnership with ICLEI offices around the world, we foster international exchange and local-to-local connections through programs such as:

- Cities Forward
- Race to Resilience Culture
- U.S.-China Urban Climate Collaborative
- U.S.-South Asia Mayoral Renewable Energy Platform

These programs match community leaders facing similar challenges and guide them through a technical assistance cohort, providing opportunity for staff to share innovative technical solutions and for elected leaders to drive cross-cultural collaboration.

## LEAD ON ICLEI GLOBAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS

ICLEI's North American Regional Executive Committee is a powerful force for sustainability action for the U.S. and Canada. Comprised of local elected officials from the ICLEI network, RexCom is responsible for guiding ICLEI in response to the pressing biodiversity, pollution, and climate crises. Committee elections are held every 3 years, with votes submitted by ICLEI Members. Meet the current RexCom at <https://icleiusa.org/iclei-regional-executive-committee/>.

"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, Idaho**

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you're interested, schedule a meeting with ICLEI USA to scope out your advocacy goals and upcoming opportunities. Following this conversation, ICLEI USA's Advocacy team will coordinate with your office for upcoming local, national and international opportunities, as they arise.

**Contact your member advisor or reach out to [iclei-usa@iclei.org](mailto:iclei-usa@iclei.org)**

