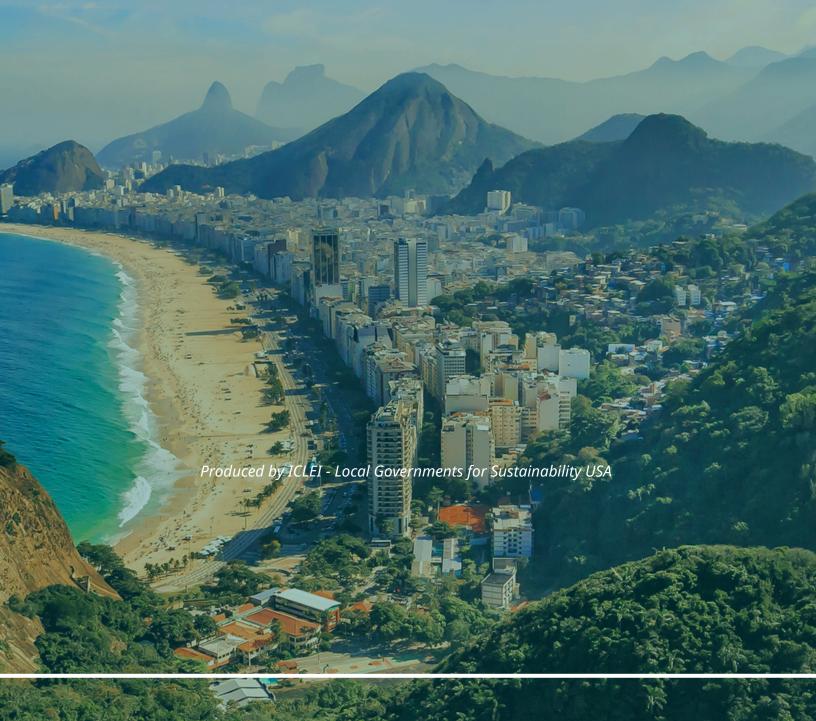


U.S. Local Leaders Paving Climate Action Ahead of Global Climate Summit

C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 & COP30 Local Leaders Forum



U.S. Leaders in Action

U.S. Local Leadership at the C40 World Mayors Summit and COP30 Local Leaders Forum As the UN Climate Conference in Belém (COP30) approaches, thirty U.S. local leaders are stepping into the global spotlight as part of the ICLEI USA delegation to the C40 World Mayors Summit and COP30 Local Leaders Forum. Taking place November 3–5, 2025, in Rio de Janeiro, these convenings bring together mayors and municipal officials from around the world to demonstrate how cities are driving measurable progress on climate and sustainability.

Held just days before COP30, the summit and forum provide a platform for local leaders to exchange priorities, share solutions, and highlight city-scale action that delivers global impact. The Forum is co-hosted by C40 Cities, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the COP30 Presidency, with ICLEI serving as a key partner. Mayor Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh of Malmö, Sweden—President of ICLEI—serves as co-chair alongside a diverse group of global leaders committed to ensuring local and regional voices shape the outcomes of COP30.

Demonstrating U.S. Leadership

Across the country, ICLEI USA members are showing how local implementation drives global change. From advancing resilient infrastructure and equitable energy systems to expanding clean transportation and community-based adaptation projects, these leaders are transforming commitments into tangible results. Together, their participation underscores that local action is the foundation of global climate progress.

A Collaborative Effort

ICLEI USA works alongside C40 Cities, Climate Mayors, and the National League of Cities to strengthen the influence of local leadership on the global stage. These coalitions reflect the diversity, innovation, and resolve of U.S. communities delivering climate and sustainability solutions.

Inside This Packet

- Profiles of participating U.S. elected officials
- Reflections and quotes on local climate action
- Highlights of community projects advancing equity and resilience

Looking Ahead

The C40 World Mayors Summit and COP30 Local Leaders Forum provide an opportunity for U.S. local leaders to share insights, exchange strategies, and help define the path forward. Together, these moments demonstrate that cities are not only implementing solutions but also shaping the global agenda for a sustainable future.

Beaverton, OR

Mayor Lacey Beaty



Mayor Lacey Beaty is the first female mayor of Beaverton, Oregon, and a U.S. Army veteran dedicated to building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient city. Her leadership focuses on affordable housing, active transportation, and equitable climate action that benefits families and future generations. Under her guidance, Beaverton is advancing local solutions to global challenges through collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

Beaverton Charts a New Course for Sustainable Water Systems

The City of Beaverton is leading with innovation by advancing climate-smart water infrastructure as part of its broader Climate Action Plan. Recognizing the essential role of water systems in both reducing emissions and adapting to a changing climate, Beaverton became one of the first cities in Oregon to integrate hydropower into its drinking water system.

In partnership with the Energy Trust of Oregon, the City installed a hydropower turbine at its Sexton Mountain Pump Station, generating approximately 426 megawatt-hours of clean energy annually. This offset more than 25 percent of the station's energy use, while lowering emissions and operational costs. Complementary upgrades, including variable frequency drive pumps and Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells, improve energy efficiency and enhance long-term water resilience. Together, these investments reflect Beaverton's systems-level approach to sustainable infrastructure and its commitment to building a climate-ready future.



As mayors, we're closest to the people—we see climate change affecting our communities in real time. For me, this isn't abstract policy; it's about my two young daughters and the world they'll inherit. The time to act is now, and cities like Beaverton are leading that charge.

— Mayor Lacey Beaty

Beverly Hills, MO

Mayor Brian K Jackson



Mayor Brian K. Jackson has lived in his community for thirty-five years and has served as an elected official since 2002, beginning as an alderperson, then as Board President, and now as Mayor of Beverly Hills, Missouri. His leadership is rooted in collaboration and service across the 24:1 Municipal Partnership, a coalition of twenty-two small cities that share one school district. Through this partnership, Mayor Jackson continues to champion initiatives that strengthen education, infrastructure, public safety, and economic development while ensuring that local governments work together to address shared challenges.

Cool Cities STL

Beverly Hills, Missouri, is expanding its focus on tree canopy growth and plant resiliency to promote a healthier, more sustainable future for the next generation. This initiative is part of the city's broader Cool Cities STL Climate Initiative, which brings together residents, local leaders, and community partners to advance climate awareness and local action. A recent Cool Cities STL Pop-Up Event drew strong participation from community members eager to learn how green infrastructure and resilient landscapes can help reduce heat, improve air quality, and create a more livable environment for families.



I believe it is extremely important that we who are like minded commit to staying connected globally. What we do must reach beyond borders and beyond governments. United we stand, divided we fall. We must convince our governments that we are one people with one planet and we need to take care of the one planet we have. Together we win, divided we all fail. We fail for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

Mayor Brian K Jackson



Mayor Joseph P. Ganim



Mayor Joseph P. Ganim leads the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, known as "The Park City"- through one of the most ambitious sustainability transformations in the Northeast. His administration has prioritized clean energy, green infrastructure, and equitable growth, advancing policies that restore the city's natural assets while fostering economic opportunity. A champion of community-driven progress, Mayor Ganim has emphasized environmental justice, local empowerment, and long-term resilience as core pillars of Bridgeport's future, positioning the city as a national model for sustainable urban revitalization.

Bridgeport Transforms Harbor Station into a Sustainable Waterfront

Bridgeport is transforming its former Harbor Station, a decommissioned coal-fired power plant, into a model of sustainable redevelopment. Once a symbol of industrial growth and environmental inequity, the site is now undergoing demolition and cleanup supported by \$22.5 million in state remediation funding. Under Mayor Joseph P. Ganim's leadership, the city is planning a community-informed reuse of the 33-acre waterfront that prioritizes public access, mixed-use housing, job creation, and green infrastructure. The project marks the end of coal power in Connecticut and the beginning of a cleaner, more equitable future for Bridgeport's residents and coastline.

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Bridgeport shows what's possible when cities lead on sustainability. By transforming former industrial land, we are strategically creating clean, resilient waterfront, while creating housing, jobs, and renewable energy that protect our city and its coastlines. This summit exemplifies how local action drives global impact and sustainability fuels opportunity for every community.

— Mayor Joseph P. Ganim



Mayor Beam Furr



Mayor Beam Furr serves as the elected Commissioner for Broward County District 6, representing portions of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, Dania Beach, West Park, Pembroke Park, and Fort Lauderdale. He is currently serving his second term as Mayor of Broward County, having been selected by his fellow Commissioners. Since the beginning of his public service, Mayor Furr has made protecting and preserving South Florida's natural environment a central priority. He serves as Co-Chair of both the Broward County Climate Change Task Force and the Broward County Solid Waste Authority. Through these roles, he works to advance Broward County's Climate Change Action Plan, strengthen regional resilience to rising sea levels, expand electric vehicle adoption, preserve coral reefs, enhance recycling and waste reduction, and safeguard the Everglades from oil drilling and fracking.

Broward County Prepares for Future Flood and Heat Risks

In March 2025, Broward County marked the completion of a comprehensive countywide Resilience Plan that serves as a blueprint for phased infrastructure upgrades and redevelopment strategies designed to address flooding and heat risks through 2070. Developed through collaboration among municipal and business leaders, water managers, planners, and community stakeholders, the Plan incorporates diverse economic metrics to evaluate the return on investment for both action and inaction. Its online platform enhances transparency and coordination by featuring a scenario viewer that compares pre- and post-adaptation conditions, a project tracker, implementation tools, and policy recommendations that guide accountable, long-term resilience action across the county.



Participation in the Local Leaders Forum as part of COP30 provides an invaluable opportunity to elevate the commitment of local leaders as participants in global climate action and the urgent need for all levels of leadership to firmly deliver on the shared climate obligations vital to the fate of our communities, nations, and the planet.

— Mayor Beam Furr



Mayor Katrina Y. Evans



Mayor Katrina Evans, a lifelong resident of Campti, Louisiana, has dedicated her life to public service and community advancement. Known for her unwavering commitment to civic engagement and advocacy, Mayor Evans has been recognized as a passionate community leader focused on equity, sustainability, and opportunity. Since taking office in 2023, she has led efforts to strengthen Campti through innovative initiatives that preserve the town's rich heritage while laying a foundation of hope and progress for future generations.

Campti Builds a Resilient Water Future

The community's leading sustainability initiative focuses on upgrading and modernizing water infrastructure to ensure consistent, safe, and sustainable access to clean water for all residents. Aging systems and increasing climate pressures have led to recurring low-pressure events and service disruptions, posing risks to public health and economic stability. To address these challenges, the town is implementing advanced water management technologies, exploring renewable energy integration for pumping systems, and developing a long-term resilience plan that separates vulnerable lines to prevent widespread outages. This initiative not only protects one of the community's most essential resources but also positions the town as a model for equitable and sustainable rural infrastructure transformation.



Attending the Summit in Rio is an opportunity to exchange bold ideas and proven strategies for a sustainable future. Climate action demands leadership, collaboration, and courage—and I'm committed to ensuring that our community is part of the global solution



Councilmember Emmett Pepper



Emmett has been an energy and environmental advocate for 20 years before being appointed in 2021, and later elected, to City Council in his hometown of Charleston, WV. Emmett has helped build a culture of sustainability through creating a Green Team of citizen advisors. In addition to his part-time work on the City Council, he has a law practice that includes advocacy for clean energy and customers in utility cases.

Charleston Leads on Energy Efficiency and Solar Progress

Charleston, West Virginia, is focused on implementing a commitment to 25% energy savings for city operations and building solar on city-owned buildings. Successful implementation will require staffing and increasing understanding. Because there are no other cities taking these initiatives in the state, it requires a shift in perspective and additional knowledge beyond "the way it has been done." The project is about ensuring that we meet our goals and ensure their continued long-term success, so that we are able to continue to progress in this way.

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Going to Rio is an opportunity for me to learn from people committed to building better, more sustainable urban spaces. I am especially looking forward to hearing ways to save money and create a safer, more livable Charleston.

— Councilmember Emmett Pepper



Mayor Barbara Buffaloe



Barbara Buffaloe is the Mayor of Columbia, Missouri, the state's fourth-largest city. She serves as Chair of the Environment Committee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as a member of ICLEI's North American Regional Executive Committee. Before being elected Mayor, she was Columbia's first Sustainability Manager, where she led the creation of the city's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. Mayor Buffaloe believes in the power of regional collaboration and that strong local partnerships can make a global impact in achieving climate and environmental goals

Columbia's "Show Me the Relief" Initiative Brings Climate Resilience to Life

Columbia's Show Me the Relief initiative demonstrates how data and community partnership drive climate resilience. Building on our Show Me the Heat campaign, we mapped the city's heat-vulnerable neighborhoods and co-designed solutions with residents. Through partnerships with the Missouri Conservation Corps, local faith communities, and the Arbor Day Foundation, Columbia launched the Community Canopy pilot, planting trees and native vegetation in identifed neighborhoods. These trees will shade homes, lower utility costs, and improve public health—turning research into action and environmental justice into everyday implementation. The program reflects Columbia's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan goal: building a city where sustainability is achieved through equity, collaboration, and shared resilience.

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COP30 is about implementation—showing how cities are delivering real results. In Columbia, our climate work is grounded in partnership. When residents, local organizations, and governments work together, we not only meet our goals, we build communities that are more connected, equitable, and resilient for generations to come.

—— Mayor Barbara Buffaloe

Coral Springs, FL

Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen



Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen is an Environmental Scientist who has led efforts for environmental justice and climate resilience throughout Florida, responding to major natural disasters including Hurricanes Irma, Michael, and Dorian. She serves on the Board of Directors for ICLEI USA and the Broward County Climate Change Task Force, bringing expertise in water crisis management, environmental conditions, and public health. Her leadership has been recognized with the United Nations Clean Water Advocacy Award and induction into the CLEO Institute Leadership Circle, as she works to make Coral Springs a leader in sustainability and resilience.

Sustainability and Resilience Priorities in Coral Springs

The City of Coral Springs' top sustainability and resilience project is to implement the Sustainability Action Plan, adopted in 2022. The first goal within the plan is to ensure financial, operational, and environmental sustainability throughout government operations. The second goal is to enhance resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Priorities in the plan include making data-driven decisions, encouraging energy-efficient and green design, and fostering a resilient, safe, and healthy community and region.



Attending the C40 World Mayors Summit and COP30 Local Leaders Forum is about centering equity while driving green innovation. Local governments and businesses must lead together, advancing sustainable infrastructure that creates jobs, strengthens our economy, and ensures every community shares in the opportunities of a cleaner, more resilient future.

Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen



Mayor Derrick R. Wood



Mayor Derrick R. Wood has served as Mayor of Dumfries, Virginia since 2018, leading the transformation of Virginia's oldest chartered town into a national model for sustainable growth and local leadership. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and entrepreneur, he has championed environmental restoration, economic mobility, and inclusive redevelopment. Under his leadership, Dumfries closed its landfill early, launched the Overlook Park and Waterfront District revitalizations, and secured major federal grants to advance resilience and community-driven progress.

Restoration and Revitalization in Dumfries

The Town of Dumfries is advancing two landmark sustainability initiatives that turn environmental challenges into opportunities for renewal. Overlook Park, a 65-acre landfill-to-green-space transformation, is restoring native ecosystems, introducing renewable energy features, and creating public recreation areas atop a reclaimed site. Meanwhile, the Waterfront District Redevelopment is reconnecting residents and visitors to Quantico Creek through wetland restoration, eco-tourism amenities, and resilient infrastructure design. Together, these projects embody Dumfries' vision of pairing environmental restoration with economic revitalization.



Local leadership is where climate progress takes root. Attending in Rio is an opportunity to show how small towns like Dumfries can lead in big ways—by transforming environmental liabilities into assets that restore, reconnect, and reimagine our future.

— Mayor Derrick R. Wood



Mayor Jeni Arndt



Mayor Jeni Arndt serves as the elected leader of Fort Collins, Colorado, where she champions climate action, innovation, and community well-being. She represents the City as part of the U.S. delegation of elected officials at the 2025 C40 World Mayors Summit and COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro, joining peers from across the globe to accelerate local climate action and build resilient, equitable communities. During her tenure, Mayor Arndt has also chaired the Platte River Power Authority Board of Directors, where she oversaw the launch of the Black Hollow Sun solar project, a zero-emissions renewable energy source generating power for approximately 43,000 homes each year.

Building a Sustainable and Affordable Future in Fort Collins

Fort Collins continues to advance ambitious climate goals through implementation of its voter-approved 2050 Tax, which supports key sustainability initiatives citywide. In 2024, the City allocated \$3.8 million to fund 16 projects, including energy-efficiency upgrades for mobile home residents, fare-free public transit, and the expansion of the electric bus fleet. These investments not only reduce emissions and operational costs but also ensure that climate action remains equitable and affordable for all residents—reflecting Fort Collins' ongoing commitment to community-centered sustainability.

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When communities of local governments gather to share experiences and learn from each other, it helps promote and advance the work we are all implementing.

—— Mayor Jeni Arndt



Mayor Roderick D. Hampton



Roderick D. Hampton serves as Mayor of the Town of Haynesville, Louisiana, where he is leading a bold transformation in rural sustainability. His administration has prioritized expanding green space, implementing gray water reuse, and turning stormwater management into an ecosystem-driven model. Mayor Hampton is passionate about amplifying the voice of small communities in global climate discussions and proving that leadership isn't defined by population size but by vision and impact.

Haynesville Blooms with Sustainable Innovation

The Town of Haynesville is redefining what sustainability looks like in small-town America. The community is investing in green infrastructure that addresses climate challenges while building local pride and connection. Each year, Haynesville celebrates its annual Butterfly Festival by planting gardens that transform public spaces into vibrant pollinator habitats and hands-on environmental classrooms. The town is also advancing a gray water reuse program to provide irrigation for beautification and municipal projects, reducing waste and conserving valuable water resources. Through its stormwater initiative, Haynesville is creating a self-sustaining ecosystem that filters runoff, reduces flooding, and restores native vegetation. Together, these efforts demonstrate how small towns can lead with innovation, resilience, and a deep commitment to sustainability.



Haynesville is showing that you don't need to be a big city to make a global impact. In Rio, I want to share how small communities can turn sustainability into action — from green spaces to gray water reuse — and lead with creativity, courage, and purpose.

— Mayor Roderick D. Hampton



Mayor Nicola Armacost



Nicola Armacost has served as Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York since 2019 and as Trustee since 2009. A champion of local climate leadership, she has guided Hastings to become the highest-ranking Climate Smart Community in New York State. Under her leadership, the Village has adopted advanced energy and building codes, joined Community Choice Aggregation, and expanded financing for energy efficiency. Mayor Armacost has also prioritized renewable energy investments, including geothermal and solar systems for municipal facilities, and the expansion of EV charging infrastructure. She serves on the ICLEI RexCom, the ICLEI USA Board, and as an ICLEI USA Race to Zero Leader, as well as President of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association.

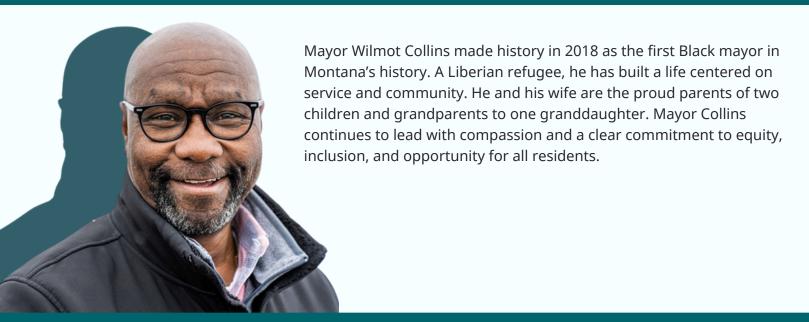
Leading with Nature in Hastings-on-Hudson

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is demonstrating how youth leadership can shape community sustainability. Through the Mayor's Climate Youth Council and a youth-led COP, local students are turning ideas into action and inspiring climate engagement across generations. Supported by a \$100,000 Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund grant, the Village awarded 31 microgrants to young residents leading hands-on projects that strengthen environmental stewardship. Their work includes creating pollinator gardens on unused municipal land, installing solar-powered irrigation in community gardens, and developing public awareness campaigns that bring climate action to life. Together, these projects show how empowering youth can build community pride, creativity, and resilience for the future.





Mayor Wilmot Collins



Strengthening Community and Climate Resilience in Helena

The City of Helena is integrating sustainability and resilience into every aspect of its community planning. Through new policies and investments, Helena is advancing projects that expand affordable housing, strengthen public safety, and modernize essential services while reducing environmental impact. The city is aligning its infrastructure upgrades and land-use strategies with climate goals, ensuring that growth supports both community well-being and long-term environmental stewardship. Together, these efforts reflect Helena's commitment to building a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable future for all residents.

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Helena's Participation in the C40 World Mayors Summit is important because we will be able to exchange bold ideas with other cities, which could be beneficial for all.

— Mayor Wilmot Collins



Mayor Ora Barnes Stevens



Ora Barnes Stevens, Mayor of Marianna, Arkansas, is known for her dedication and significant contributions to this small rural community. Over the years she has gained respect for her professionalism and unwavering commitment to advancing her community. Her work reflects a passion for excellence and a lasting impact on those around her.

Turning the Tide on Flooding in Marianna

Marianna's top sustainability/climate project is working through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mitigate the serious flooding issues that are affecting our communities. The city received a 25-million-dollar grant to work towards remedying those affected areas.

Small towns may seem insignificant when compared with sprawling metropolitan cities, but collectively, we constitute a substantial portion of our nation's population and geography. When a small town mayor takes decisive action on climate change, the effects ripple far beyond municipal boundaries. I believe that local initiatives can inspire neighboring towns, create regional momentum, and even influence state, national, and international policy which is why I chose to attend this summit.

— Mayor Ora Barnes Stevens





Mayor Alix Desulme



Alix Desulme serves as Mayor of North Miami, Florida, where he champions innovative policies centered on climate resilience, economic mobility, and equitable community development. A lifelong public servant and educator, he has led transformational initiatives that strengthen infrastructure, expand opportunities for youth and working families, and advance environmental preparedness. Mayor Desulme represents one of the most culturally diverse cities in South Florida, committed to uplifting immigrant communities and fostering international partnerships. His vision prioritizes inclusive growth, sustainability, and a strong future for North Miami residents.

North Miami Advances Its Resilient NoMi Initiative

The City of North Miami is advancing a comprehensive Resilient NoMi Initiative focused on protecting vulnerable neighborhoods from flooding, strengthening green infrastructure, and expanding clean energy access. Key efforts include improving stormwater drainage, planting climate-resilient trees, expanding solar-ready municipal facilities, and developing environmentally focused workforce programs to ensure residents benefit from a more sustainable and equitable future.



North Miami is committed to building a resilient and sustainable future for every resident. Attending the C40 and COP30 forums reinforces that local leadership drives global progress. Our community stands ready to innovate, collaborate, and ensure our city is prepared for the environmental challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

— Mayor Alix Desulme



Commissioner Ashira Mohammed



Ashira Mohammed is a dedicated public servant, attorney, and Commissioner (and former Mayor) of the Town of Pembroke Park, Florida. She is the first minority and youngest woman elected to serve her community. With degrees in International Business and Law, she brings expertise in governance, sustainability, and community empowerment. Commissioner Mohammed is passionate about creating equitable pathways for climate resilience, economic mobility, and civic engagement across South Florida's diverse communities.

Pembroke Park Resilience & Community Sustainability Initiative

The Town of Pembroke Park is addressing local climate and equity challenges through a multifaceted approach focused on flooding, recycling, and food access. Situated in one of South Florida's most flood-prone areas and designated food deserts, Pembroke Park is working to strengthen stormwater infrastructure, increase the percentage of recyclables processed through its local transfer station beyond county standards, and develop a community garden that provides residents with access to fresh produce while promoting environmental education. These collective efforts empower residents to take part in climate awareness, reduce waste, and strengthen local resilience—demonstrating how small communities can drive meaningful environmental and social impact.



Attending C40 and COP30 is about learning, collaboration, and action. Pembroke Park faces real challenges — flooding, recycling, and access to fresh food — and I want to bring home practical solutions from cities worldwide. When local leaders share knowledge, small towns like ours can help shape big global change.

— Commissioner Ashira Mohammed



Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson



Patricia Lock Dawson is a proud Riverside native currently serving her second term as Mayor of the City of Riverside. A lifelong public servant and advocate for environmental sustainability, Mayor Lock Dawson brings decades of experience in every level of government. Lock Dawson is a member of several boards and coalitions such as the California Air Resource Board (CARB), League of California Cities (LCC), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), U.S. Conference of Mayors, Riverside Conservation Authority, and South Coast Air Quality Management District. The Mayor notably chairs the California Big City Mayors, the Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee for the Southern California Association of Governments, and is the Vice Chair of the Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities.

Amplifying Local Voices in Riverside

The City of Riverside's Office of Sustainability hosted the first local Climate Action Town Hall COP in North America in partnership with ICLEI and the University of California, Riverside. This Town Hall COP brought together youth, business, academia, and more to discuss and learn about local climate action. During the event, participants learned the basic principles of global climate policy to understand how state and local efforts have a global impact. Participants examined pressing questions such as: How do we ensure that climate policies and strategies are just and accessible? How do we strengthen local, regional, national, and international exchanges? And how do we best prepare for current and future impacts on our community? The outcomes of these discussions were compiled and shared with national governments and the UNFCCC, ensuring Riverside's voice contributes to global climate dialogue.



In Riverside, extreme heat and poor air quality aren't an inconvenience, they're public health crises. Our children, seniors, and most vulnerable feel it most. Local climate action means acting today, not tomorrow, to build a more resilient, healthy, and equitable future for our community.

— Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson

