

## CoM – Europe FAQs

In the frequently asked question section (FAQs), you will find answers to the most common questions about the Covenant of Mayors - Europe. The FAQs are updated on a regular basis to reflect the most relevant questions coming from the Covenant Europe Community.

If your question is not answered, you are welcome to get directly in touch with the [Covenant Helpdesk](#).

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## THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY - EUROPE

### What is the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - Europe?

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy - Europe brings together local authorities voluntarily committing to supporting the implementation of the EU climate and energy objectives.

Since its launch in 2008, the initiative has mobilised over 10.000 local authorities in Europe, covering roughly one third of the EU population.

The Covenant of Mayors – Europe is now part of the Global Covenant of Mayors.

Read more in the section:

[What is the Global Covenant of Mayors?](#)

### Who supports the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Community?

Local authorities signing up to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe are supported by [Covenant Coordinators](#) (ministries, regions, provinces, etc.), [Covenant Supporters](#) (energy agencies, association of local authorities, NGOs, etc.), the Covenant of Mayors - Europe [Office](#) and the European Commission.

- **Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office**

The Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office offers many opportunities for networking, cooperation, and knowledge exchange, such as tailored trainings and peer-learning programmes; as well as capacity building activities on various themes (e.g. mitigation, adaptation, energy poverty, multi-level governance, funding and financing instruments) - all listed on the online [calendar of events](#) - and so much more. The office also offers tailored assistance through its Helpdesk.

Read more in the section:

[What is the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office?](#)

- **Joint Research Centre**

Covenant signatories benefit from the highest level of technical support by the [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) of the European Commission, which provides an evaluation of their action plans and tailored recommendations for improvements. The JRC offers a Helpdesk dedicated to technical inquiries and elaborates technical guidance documents for Covenant signatories. The information collected by the JRC through signatories' action plans is also useful to inform and support the definition of European policies on climate and energy.

- **European Commission**

The European Commission has committed to mobilize financial resources through programmes as well as political support at European level, and has created extra [financial opportunities](#) for the Covenant Community.

- **Covenant Coordinators, Supporters and other partners**

Covenant signatories are supported by various authorities and organisations that are in a position to provide strategic guidance, technical and/or financial assistance to accelerate the climate and energy transition.

Read more in the following sections:

[What is a Covenant Coordinator?](#)

[What is a Covenant Supporter?](#)

## What are the benefits of joining the Covenant of Mayors - Europe initiative?

### High international recognition and visibility

Covenant signatories enjoy high visibility at the international level with a dedicated profile on both the Covenant of Mayors - Europe [website](#) and the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) website. Furthermore, Covenant signatories are offered the possibility to showcase their best practices both in the CoM-Europe good practices section and during CoM-Europe events.

### Strengthened credibility of your commitments, and facilitated self-assessment

Covenant signatories can benefit from a common monitoring and reporting framework. This framework allows signatories to collect and analyse data in a structured and systematic manner, and serves as a basis for good climate and energy management as well as for tracking progress in implementation.

Signatories can keep track of their progresses through a dedicated platform ([MyCovenant](#)), which is free of charge and accessible at any time. The platform allows to compile emission inventories, risk and vulnerability assessments and respective actions which makes it easy to keep track of the progress made. The platform also serves as a learning tool with a wide range of resources including technical e-learning modules (available in 5 languages) and a library with the latest available resources.

Find out more in the section:

[What is MyCovenant?](#)

### Tailored guidance

Signatories are supported by the [Covenant of Mayors – Europe Helpdesk](#), as well as Covenant Coordinators and Supporters, providing local and tailored technical assistance in their territories. Signatories also benefit from international networking opportunities and capacity-building events.

Find out more in the [10 Reasons to Join](#) brochure.

## What do local authorities commit to when joining the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – Europe initiative?

Local authorities joining the Covenant of Mayors – Europe commit to delivering action at the pace that science dictates, in a joint effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C - the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement.

In short, Covenant Signatories commit to (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions on their territory, (2) increase resilience and prepare for the adverse impacts of climate change, and (3) tackle energy poverty as one key action to ensure a just transition.

## How are Covenant of Mayors - Europe commitments translated into actions?



Covenant - Europe signatories commit to develop, implement and report - within the established deadlines, an action plan to reach their targets. More specifically, signatories commit to submit the following:

- A strategy with a long-term vision including mitigation targets and climate adaptation goals (within 2 years after their official adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe).
- A Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), quantifying the energy consumed and therefore the emissions emitted on the signatory's territory (within 2 years).
- A Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA), identifying and assessing the climate hazards and vulnerable sectors (within 2 years).
- Actions undertaken on mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty.
- Monitoring reports on the implementation of actions (every 2 years) and on emissions (every 4 years).



## RENEWING COVENANT COMMITMENTS AND STEPPING UP ACTION FOR A FAIRER, CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPE

### Why raise the ambition and renew the commitments?

Five years on from the Paris Agreement, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe continues increasing its ambition to ensure that its three pillars (mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty) are turned into an overarching priority and that ambitious action follows.

In early 2021, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe renewed its commitments to reflect the latest evolutions of the EU policies (mainly the [EU Green Deal](#), EU [Climate Pact](#), [2030 Climate Target Plan](#) and the [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)) and positions itself within a new global context, thus strengthening its position as the movement of local authorities leading for change.

The revised commitment text calls Mayors and local leaders to jointly and inclusively a) renew their climate ambitions, and b) step up their actions in a mid- and longer-term perspective in a joint effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C, considering climate change as a global emergency of our times.

### How were these renewed commitments developed?

The raised ambition and renewed commitments are the results of a broad consultation process, which started during the summer of 2020 with the launch of an online survey (see the main outcomes [here](#)) and continued through various consultation sessions, involving relevant national and regional partners. The resulting [Covenant Commitment Document](#) was formally endorsed by the [Political board](#) and the EU Commissioner for Energy Ms. Simson in February 2021, and was officially launched on April, 21<sup>st</sup>.

### What has been renewed?

- **The vision**

The Covenant of Mayors – Europe is a movement of Mayors and local leaders stepping up their climate ambitions and committing to delivering action at the pace that science dictates, in a joint effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C - the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement.

The Covenant – Europe envisions that by 2050 all European citizens will be living in climate-neutral, decarbonized and resilient cities with access to affordable, secure and clean energy. It calls for a transition that is fair, inclusive and respectful of us citizens of the world, and of our planet's resources.

- **The commitments**

To turn this vision into reality, the [Commitment Document](#) prompts Mayors and local leaders to:

- 1) **Commit** to set mid- and long-term targets (consistent with the EU objectives, and at least as ambitious as national targets), with the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050;
- 2) **Engage** with citizens, business and government at all levels to implement this vision;
- 3) **Act** now to get on track and accelerate the necessary transition;
- 4) **Network** with fellow Mayors and local leaders to get inspiration from each other.



## Why should my municipality step up its actions?

To implement the goals of the Paris Agreement and reach climate neutrality, action at all levels is necessary. Your actions can make a difference, and by stepping up your actions, you are part of the change. In addition, you would:

- Take part in the world's largest movement of cities leading for change
- Set a more ambitious path, and act at the pace that science dictates
- Help shape and further strengthen the EU & national policy frameworks that will accelerate the transition Get a stronger voice on the international scene
- Join forces with peers, inspire and learn from them

Download the [10 reasons to join](#) brochure.

Learn more on the section:

[My local authority is already a signatory. Why and when can we raise our ambition and renew the commitments?](#)

## What are the mid-term targets on the road to climate neutrality by 2050?

EU Member States, regions and cities are at different stages in their transition, and each have their own resources to respond to the ambitions set out in the Paris Agreement. This is why the Covenant – Europe is open to a differentiated approach. It is up to the Covenant - Europe signatories to define their intermediate milestones on the road to climate neutrality by 2050. However, signatory cities shall set mid- and long-term targets, “*consistent with the EU objectives, and at least as ambitious as our national targets*”, as stated in the last version of the [Covenant Commitment Document](#).

### • EU targets

The European Union has renewed its ambition through the adoption of the [EU Green Deal](#). Within this framework, a target is set of at least 55% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a long-term vision to reaching climate neutrality in Europe in 2050. These objectives - as enshrined in the [2030 Climate Target Plan](#) and the [European Climate Law](#) - are to be achieved through a transformational change happening in all sectors of our society.

### • National targets

National targets are yet to be published. EU Member States are expected to finalise their climate and energy strategies in 2022.

### • Covenant – Europe’s Targets

The Covenant – Europe calls for the highest possible ambition in setting the mid- and long-term targets. Covenant signatories are strongly encouraged to reduce their GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030 to be consistent with the EU objective.

In line with Covenant principles of inclusiveness and of a focus on action, signatories can adjust their mid-term targets as local circumstances require, following a municipal council decision. However, once the national targets are released in 2022, they will be seen as the minimum possible commitment.

In the long-term, signatories commit to climate neutrality by 2050, with a minimum GHG reduction target of 80%. The later will be aligned with the EU-wide target once it is available.

## What are the implications of these new targets on the current reporting requirements?

Aside from the new minimum mid-/long-term GHG emission reduction targets, the overall methodological framework and the minimum reporting requirements of the Covenant-Europe have not changed.

The reporting platform may be slightly adjusted in the end of 2021 / beginning of 2022 in order to best cover the new aspects introduced by the latest [Covenant Commitment Document](#) related to “climate neutrality”, “just transition”, stakeholder engagement” & “local climate plans”, and possibly also enlarge the scope of action.

## How has EU climate and energy policy evolved towards 2030 and 2050?

In December 2019, the European Commission published the [European Green Deal](#), which is the 2030 sustainable growth strategy for Europe and sets a vision for 2050. This strategy foresees a transformational change of European society aimed at abating GHG emissions by at least 55% in 2030 and making Europe the first climate neutral continent in 2050.

In order for such transformation to take place on the ground, all European sectors are called to contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as to tackle energy poverty - from buildings to transport, from agriculture to forestry, and from renewable energy to circular economy.

Instrumental in this process are:

1. The [EU Climate Law](#), which sets in EU legislation the objective to reach climate neutrality in Europe by 2050;
2. The [EU Climate Pact](#), which is a societal agreement where each individual, organisation and Community can participate in climate action across Europe;
3. The [Just Transition Mechanism](#), which is both a supporting tool and a financial mechanism to ensure that the transition to climate neutrality is fair and leaves no one behind;
4. The [Next Generation EU](#) aid package aimed at supporting Member States in the recovery from the COVID-pandemic.

More information is available [here](#).

## BE PART OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS - EUROPE COMMUNITY!

### Who can become a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe?

Any European local authority can become a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe, whatever its size and whatever the stage of implementation of its energy and climate policies., as long as it is represented by an elected local council or an equivalent decision-making body with elected members.

Learn how in the section:

[How to join as an individual signatory?](#)

Local authorities sharing territorial boundaries can also join the Covenant of Mayors - Europe as a group of signatories for the preparation of a joint action plan.

Learn how in the section:

[How to join as a group of signatories?](#)

### When can a local authority join the Covenant of Mayors – Europe initiative?

Local authorities can join the initiative at any time, there is no deadline!

There is no need to have an action plan already developed before joining the initiative.

Covenant of Mayors - Europe Ceremonies offer all mayors an opportunity for a symbolic signature of the Covenant commitments and for networking with the Covenant Community.

Learn more in the section:

[What is the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Ceremony?](#)

### Is there any fee associated with the Covenant of Mayors - Europe initiative?

No. The Covenant of Mayors - Europe is a bottom-up and voluntary initiative and there is no fee associated with your participation.

### How to join as an individual signatory?

There are only two steps for joining the initiative:

1. Your municipal council (or equivalent decision-making body) adopts and signs the [Covenant Commitment Document](#)
2. You [register](#) your local authority in MyCovenant.

After verification of your registration and uploaded document, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office confirms your participation. Credentials for logging into MyCovenant are received after the approval of your application.

### My local authority is already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe. How and when can we raise our ambition and renew our commitments?

As an existing signatory, you are strongly encouraged to raise your ambition and renew your Covenant commitments – in line with the latest version of the [Covenant Commitment Document](#) - at your earliest convenience, according to your own municipal planning cycles. To do so,

- Present the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Commitment document to the municipal council (or equivalent decision-making body) and get it signed by your Mayor (or other relevant political representative).

- Once officially adopted, there is no need to register again. Simply go to your online signatory's profile in [MyCovenant](#), update your data, upload the signed Commitment document, save and click on the dedicated 'renew' button.

Note: If you would like to change the type of adhesion from individual to a group of signatories or vice versa, please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

### **My local authority joined the Covenant of Mayors - Europe before October 2015 (with a 2020 target). What shall we do?**

Your initial mitigation target expired in 2020. It is time for renewing and extending further your commitments!

Find out how to renew your commitments in the section:

[My local authority is already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. How and when can we raise our ambition and renew our commitments?](#)

### **My local authority was a signatory of the Mayors Adapt initiative. What shall we do?**

The Mayors Adapt initiative no longer exists. Former Mayors Adapt signatories automatically joined the Covenant of Mayors – Europe when the two initiatives merged back in 2015.

You are highly encouraged to renew and extend further your Covenant commitments.

Find out how to renew your commitments in the section:

[My local authority is already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. How and when can we raise our ambition and renew our commitments?](#)

### **My local authority joined the Covenant of Mayors – Europe between October 2015 and April 2021 (with a GHG reduction target of at least 40% by 2030, and an adaptation goal). What shall we do?**

You are the best placed to assess whether you are on track for reaching climate neutrality by 2050, or whether you need to renew the mid-term/2030 target(s) you previously set. In any case, you are strongly encouraged – as any other signatory – to scale up your ambition, renew your commitments and step up your action!

Find out how to renew your commitments in the section:

[My local authority is already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. How and when can we raise our ambition and renew our commitments?](#)

### **How to join as a group of signatories?**

We designed the Joint Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan approach specifically for the case of small-sized municipalities within the same territorial area, i.e. ensuring territorial continuity.

There are two options to develop a joint action plan:

- **Committing separately - 'individual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction commitment' (Option 1):** each signatory in the group individually commits to a set joint target, e.g. carbon neutrality by 2050. Each signatory is required to report the action plan in the individual profile of [MyCovenant](#) platform. Each member of the group has to upload the action plan onto their individual profile and each municipal council has to approve the document.



- **Committing collectively - ‘shared CO<sub>2</sub> reduction commitment’ (Option 2):** the group of signatories collectively commits to a set joint target, e.g. carbon neutrality by 2050. The group is required to provide only one action plan for the whole group in [MyCovenant](#) platform. The action plan document to upload is a common one and includes all the members of the group, thus, each municipal council has to approve it.

	Individual SECAP	Joint SECAP option 1	Joint SECAP option 2
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduction Target	↑	↑	↑↑
Emission Inventory	↑	↑	↑↑
SECAP Actions	↑	↑↑	↑↑
SECAP Municipal Council Approval	↑	↑	↑
SECAP Template Submission	↑	↑	↑↑
SECAP Document Submission	↑	↑↑	↑↑
Signatory Profile on the Website	↑	↑	↑

↑ individual | ↑↑ shared

In both cases, the ‘group of signatories’ is strongly encouraged to appoint a contact person responsible for coordinating the work throughout the action plan development and implementation process. It could be a staff member from one of the municipalities of the group or the province / region acting as an official Covenant Coordinator ([see the list of Covenant Coordinators here](#)).

- For groups committing separately, each local authority adopts and signs the [Covenant Commitment Document for groups “committing separately”](#).
  - For groups committing collectively, each local authority adopts and signs the [Covenant Commitment Document for groups “committing collectively”](#).
  - The leading signatory (the one with the oldest date in the commitment document) registers through MyCovenant, it will be requested to create the group by choosing its name and its type (committing collectively or committing separately) and adding the details of the main contact person for such group.
- Once that the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office approves the registration, the other signatories can register as well, selecting the group from a drop-down menu.

### How do I renew the commitments for a group of signatories?

If your group of signatories wishes to renew their Covenant commitments without changing the members of the groups nor the type of commitment (i.e. Committing separately or Committing collectively), please follow the steps detailed in:

[My local authority is already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. How and when can we raise our ambition and renew our commitments?](#)

Once every signatory in the group has renewed its commitments, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office will update the commitments of the group’s profile as well.

If your group of signatories wish to renew their Covenant commitments and some of the members of the groups have changed, please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

## SUPPORTING THE COVENANT OF MAYORS - EUROPE COMMUNITY

### What is the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office?

Funded by the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office (CoM - Europe) is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the initiative. [The CoM – Europe Helpdesk](#) assists the Covenant - Europe Community in all aspects related to their participation in the initiative - from the registration process to the development and reporting of the action plan. The CoM - Europe is managed by a consortium of European networks and associations who represent local and regional entities, composed of [Energy Cities](#), [CEMR](#), [Climate Alliance](#), [Eurocities](#), [FEDARENE](#) and [ICLEI Europe](#) and of the ICT company [Akaryon](#). The CoM-Europe closely works with the European Commission's Directorates General for Climate Action and Energy and the Joint Research Centre for the implementation of the initiative.

The Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office is the primary interface for the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Community. Its role is to:

- Assist local authorities in joining the initiative through the adhesion and registration process.
- Build capacities of signatories through guidance documents, webinars and workshops.
- Answer administrative and technical inquiries.
- Support communication and promotional activities.
- Connect Covenant Coordinators and Covenant Supporters with signatories.
- Liaise with the Joint Research Centre for the evaluation of the action plans.
- Facilitate networking activities within the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Community.

### How to reach the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Helpdesk?

Our Helpdesk supports signatories in all the steps of the Covenant of Mayors - Europe process, from registration and renewal of commitments to inputting data in [MyCovenant](#) for action plans and monitoring. You can reach the Helpdesk via email ([info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu)) and telephone (+32 2 646 84 24).

Please note that the Helpdesk does not provide pre-evaluation of your action plan. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre conducts analysis of submitted action plans.

A national Helpdesk for Italian-speaking signatories can be reached via email ([info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu)) and telephone (+39 075 852 04 29).

The Coordinators' Helpdesk is reserved for Covenant Coordinators and is reachable via email ([coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu)).

The Supporters' Helpdesk is reserved for Covenant Supporters and is reachable via email ([supporters@eumayors.eu](mailto:supporters@eumayors.eu)).

For more specific questions around the methodological requirements or questions related to the JRC's feedback reports, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre has established two technical Helpdesks:

- on mitigation-related queries reachable via email ([jrc-com-technical-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jrc-com-technical-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu))
- on adaptation-related queries reachable via email ([jrc-com-adapt@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jrc-com-adapt@ec.europa.eu)).



## How does the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office protect my data and personal information?

The CoM – Europe Data Policy sets the rules that the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office applies for collecting, processing, sharing and publishing data of local and regional authorities and organizations, member of the CoM-Europe Community.

Further information on how CoM – Europe protects and collects personal data is available [here](#).

## What is a Covenant Coordinator?

Covenant Coordinators are public authorities that are in a position to provide strategic guidance, technical and financial support to Covenant of Mayors - Europe signatories who wish to be part of the initiative.

- Covenant Territorial Coordinators are decentralised authorities, such as regions, provinces or grouping of local authorities.
- Covenant National Coordinators are national public bodies such as ministries or national energy agencies.

The list of Covenant Coordinators is available [here](#).

## What is the role of Covenant Coordinators?

The European Commission recognises Covenant Coordinators as important allies to support Covenant of Mayors - Europe signatories in meeting their commitments and increasing the impact of the initiative.

Typical tasks of the Covenant Coordinators include:

- Promoting accession to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe.
- Providing technical and strategic assistance to signatory municipalities for the development, implementation and monitoring of their action plans.
- Providing financial support to signatories, possibly in the form of direct support (grants, subsidies, etc.), and technical support via allocating for instance human resources or dedicated offices or conducting a CO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory and/or a climate risk assessment, as well as in preparing and implementing the action plan.
- Supporting experience and knowledge-sharing between (existing and potential) signatories.
- Working in partnership with other Covenant National/Territorial Coordinators and Supporters to foster joint approaches.
- Participating in the Covenant of Mayors - Europe activities and organize relevant events to promote the initiative.
- Regularly reporting to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office, and minimum once a year, the activities carried out to support signatories and participate in the strategic implementation of the Covenant.

In case of non-compliance with the above-mentioned commitments, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office reserves the right to temporarily suspend the Covenant Coordinators' participation in the initiative.

Find out how to apply as Covenant Coordinator in the following section:

[How to apply as a Coordinator?](#)



## How are the Covenant Coordinators involved in the initiative? What are the benefits?

The advantages of becoming a Covenant Coordinator are manifold:

- Endorsement and recognition from the European Commission.
- Large visibility on an international scale, notably through promotion of their actions on the Covenant - Europe website.
- Networking, experience- and knowledge-sharing with European counterparts.
- Scientific and technical feedback on tools and methodologies developed.
- Participation in dedicated discussion groups, workshops and other experience-sharing platforms.
- Consolidation of territorial development and strengthening of local and multilevel governance.

As a Covenant Coordinator, you have access to the password-protected area in “[MyCovenant](#)” to share information and key data and exchange experiences.

Through [MyCovenant](#), a Coordinator can:

- Keep its profile but also the signatories’ associated profiles always up-to-date.
- Keep track on signatories’ progress (e.g. action plan, monitoring).
- Request an 18-months extension of deadline for signatories’ action plans.

Learn more in the section:

### [How to request an extension of the deadline to submit an action plan/monitoring report?](#)

- Request an 18-month extension of the deadline for signatories to submit their monitoring reports.
- Publicise its Good Practices (i.e. its key implemented actions) towards the Covenant - Europe Community and beyond.
- [Upload and share useful resources in the Capacity-sharing Corner.](#)
- Promote own events in the Covenant – Europe website.
- Network with the Covenant - Europe Community and get inspired by their actions.

## How to apply as a Coordinator?

If your administration is interested in becoming an official Covenant Coordinator, please follow these steps:

- Fill in the [registration form](#).
- After confirmation of eligibility, the Coordinators Helpdesk will send you the [commitment statement](#).
- Fill it in, get it signed by your President or other high relevant political representative, and send it back to [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu).
- Upon reception of the duly filled-in and signed commitment statement, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office will create an online profile for your administration that will allow you to actively participate in the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Community and help you better support your associated signatories.

For any question, please contact the Coordinators Helpdesk at [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu).

### How to associate signatories to your Coordinator's profile?

Signatories can associate a Coordinator to their own profile during the registration process. Signatories can also add Coordinators directly through the platform, in the MyCovenant Community section.

For further assistance please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu) if you are a signatory, or at [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu) if you are a coordinator.

### I am a Covenant Coordinator with 2020/2030 targets, shall I renew my commitments?

No, you are not requested to renew your commitments, as they are considered automatically renewed.

However, you are kindly invited to let the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office know about your intention to continue being part of the initiative, by participating in the yearly survey or being in contact with the CoM - Europe Helpdesk for Coordinators.

### What is a Covenant Supporter?

Covenant Supporters are thematic local and regional agencies, associations of local and regional authorities, networks and not-for-profit organisations with the capacity to promote the Covenant of Mayors – Europe and to mobilise and support signatories in reaching the Covenant of Mayors – Europe objectives. They leverage on their advocacy, communication and networking activities to promote the Covenant of Mayors - Europe initiative and support the commitments of their signatories.

The list of Covenant Supporters can be found [here](#).

### What is the role of Covenant Supporters?

Being knowledgeable about the regulatory, legislative and financial framework under which they operate, Covenant Supporters are ideally placed to provide tailored advice to signatories and identify synergies with other initiatives. They can also provide technical expertise to Covenant - Europe signatories.

Tasks to be performed by a Covenant Supporter include:

- Promoting the Covenant of Mayors - Europe initiative, mobilising existing and potential signatories (for example by adapting Covenant – Europe promotional materials to their national or regional contexts and disseminating those through newsletters, website, workshops, events).
- Supporting and advising Covenant of Mayors - Europe signatories.
- Facilitating exchanges and sharing knowledge, experiences, best practices, tools or resources relevant to Covenant - Europe signatories.
- Partnering with other Covenant Supporters and Coordinators, signatories and stakeholders involved in the Covenant of Mayors - Europe -related policies to foster joint action and promote a coordinated approach.
- Accompanying the activities of their supported signatories on sustainable energy and climate adaptation.
- Participating in Covenant of Mayors - Europe activities, and identifying relevant events where the Covenant of Mayors - Europe could be promoted.
- Regularly reporting to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office, and minimum once a year, on the activities carried out as part of the initiative, and participating in the strategic implementation of the Covenant – Europe initiative.

In case of non-compliance with the above-mentioned commitments, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office reserves the right to temporarily suspend the Covenant Supporters' participation in the initiative.

Find out how to apply as Covenant Supporter in the following section:

[How to apply as a Supporter?](#)

### **How are Covenant Supporters involved in the initiative? What are the benefits?**

The advantages of becoming Covenant Supporter are manifold:

- Endorsement and recognition from the European Commission.
- Large visibility on an international scale, notably through promotion of their actions on the Covenant website.
- Networking and experience- and knowledge-sharing with European counterparts.
- Participation in dedicated discussion groups, workshops and other experience-sharing platforms.
- Last but not least, consolidation of territorial development and strengthening of local governance.

As a Covenant Supporter your organisation has access to the password-protected platform in [MyCovenant](#), to share information and key data with the whole Covenant – Europe Community, and increase the visibility of your organisation.

Through MyCovenant, a Supporter can:

- Keep its profile always up-to-date.
- Publicise its Good Practices (i.e. key implemented actions) towards the Covenant - Europe Community and beyond.
- Upload and share useful resources in the Capacity-sharing Corner.
- Promote own events on the CoM - Europe website.
- Network with the Covenant – Europe Community (through forums, webinars, events) and get inspired by their actions.

### **How to apply as a Supporter?**

If your organisation is interested in becoming an official Covenant Supporter, please follow these steps:

- Fill in the registration [here](#).
- After confirmation of eligibility, you will receive a [commitment statement](#).
- Fill it in, get it signed by your President or other relevant legal representative and send it back to the Supporters Helpdesk ([supporters@eumayors.eu](mailto:supporters@eumayors.eu)).
- Upon reception of the duly filled-in and signed commitment statement, the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office will create an online profile for your organisation that will allow you to actively participate in the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Community and help you better support your associated signatories.

For any question, please contact the Supporters Helpdesk at [supporters@eumayors.eu](mailto:supporters@eumayors.eu).

### **I am a Covenant Supporter with 2020/2030 targets, shall I renew my commitments?**

No, you are not requested to renew your commitments, as they are considered automatically renewed.

However, you are kindly invited to let the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office know about your intention to continue being part of the initiative, by participating in the yearly survey or being in contact with the CoM - Europe Helpdesk for Supporters.

### **How to associate signatories to your Supporter's profile?**

Signatories can associate a Supporter to their own profile during the registration process.

Signatories can also add Supporters directly through the platform, in the MyCovenant Community.

For further assistance please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu) if you are a signatory, or at [supporters@eumayors.eu](mailto:supporters@eumayors.eu) if you are a supporter.

## MYCOVENANT

### What is MyCovenant?

MyCovenant is the private virtual space of the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Community. Once signed in, Signatories, Coordinators and Supporters are able to: update their contact information as well as access both the “reporting corner” and the “capacity-sharing corner”.

Its Reporting Corner is the main tool for European Covenant signatories to report and monitor the data of their action plan. Reported data allows signatories to demonstrate the concrete impact of their actions and their climate ambitions. The Covenant - Europe framework allows signatories to collect and analyse data in a structured and systematic manner, and serves as a basis for good climate and energy management and for tracking progress in implementation. For more information on how to use MyCovenant for reporting purposes, please consult the [reporting guidelines](#).

MyCovenant also includes a Capacity Sharing Corner that allows signatories to gain and share knowledge and exchange experience on climate adaptation and mitigation with the whole Covenant - Europe Community.

Finally, MyCovenant also includes the organization’s profile, allowing Signatories, Coordinators and Supporters to modify- their information publicly shared on the CoM – Europe website.

Learn more on the Covenant of Mayors – Europe data policy in the following section:

[How does the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office protect my data and personal information?](#)

### How to recover my username?

Please submit a request through the dedicated section on the MyCovenant login page: “if you forgot your user email, please contact the Helpdesk”.

### How to reset my password?

Please reset your password using the following link:

<https://mycovenant.eumayors.eu/user/sign-in/password-reset>

Do not send your personal password to the Helpdesk and do not reply to the message received by the platform with the credentials. Credentials messages should not be shared with the Helpdesk. In case of any doubts or question, please contact the Helpdesk at:

- [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu) if you are a Signatory;
- [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu) if you are a Coordinator;
- [supporters@eumayors.eu](mailto:supporters@eumayors.eu) if you are a Supporter.

### Why can't I register the name of my local authority in MyCovenant?

Most probably because your local authority is already registered in MyCovenant. Please contact the Helpdesk ([info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu)) to retrieve your credentials, indicating the name of your local authority and your country.

### **How to subscribe to or unsubscribe from the newsletter?**

To manage your subscription, please enter MyCovenant, go to your Contact Profile and deselect the subscription to the newsletter(s).

## THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (SECAP)

### What is a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)?

Local authorities joining the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - Europe initiative commit to submitting an action plan within two years after formally signing up to the initiative. This action plan is a key implementation tool for the Covenant signatories. It defines mitigation target(s) and adaptation goal(s) and is based on a [Baseline Emission Inventory](#) and a [Risk & Vulnerability Assessment](#), which provide an analysis of the current situation at a given moment. They serve as a basis for defining a comprehensive set of actions that signatories plan to undertake to reach their targets, as well as to alleviate [energy poverty](#).

### What are the minimum reporting requirements?

The minimum reporting requirements refer to the mandatory data from the action plan and monitoring reports that signatories need to provide through [MyCovenant](#) platform. Please consult the [Covenant reporting guidelines](#) to get more details or watch our [video tutorials](#).

### Where to find technical support to develop the action plan?

If a signatory lacks technical and financial resources to prepare its action plan, we recommend them to reach out to the [Covenant Coordinators](#) or [Supporters](#) in their region/country. For technical guidance on the action plan, please consult the guidebook for Covenant signatories developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre:  
[Part 1 - The SECAP process, step-by-step towards low carbon and climate resilient cities by 2030](#)  
[Part 2 - Baseline Emission Inventory \(BEI\) and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment \(RVA\)](#)  
[Part 3 - Policies, key actions, good practices for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and Financing SECAP\(s\)](#)

The Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office has also developed a number of supporting tools, such as video tutorials, guidelines for reporting, info-packs, etc. A dedicated section of both the Covenant of Mayors – Europe website and the MyCovenant platform is dedicated to these [supporting tools](#).

### Where to find financial support to develop the action plan?

Numerous sources of financing are available at local, regional, and European levels, including local authorities' own resources, local partners' resources, public-private partnerships, municipal, regional and national subsidies. To find out more about European funding opportunities, please visit the [Funding opportunities page of our website](#).

In particular, the European Commission has committed to mobilize financial resources through dedicated programmes as well as political support at European level.

### Can pre-existing local climate and energy strategies and plans satisfy the requirements of the Covenant of Mayors- Europe?

Yes, if the existing strategies, policies and plans fulfil the minimal requirements set in the context of the Covenant of Mayors - Europe. They need to include the signatory's commitments and be in line with the Covenant of Mayors – Europe targets and requirements: i.e. support the EU in reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 and be at least as high as own national targets.



Plans should include goals and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the given territory, increase resilience and prepare for the adverse impacts of climate change and tackle energy poverty to ensure a just transition towards climate neutrality. A compilation of several documents is also accepted. The signatory would still need to report a set of minimal data -in [MyCovenant](#).

For further information on what data are required, please consult the [Covenant reporting guidelines](#).

### **Where do I find guidance for the development of the action plan?**

Please consult the Guidebook 'How to develop a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)'.

[Part 1 - The SECAP process, step-by-step towards low carbon and climate resilient cities by 2030](#)

[Part 2 - Baseline Emission Inventory \(BEI\) and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment \(RVA\)](#)

[Part 3 - Policies, key actions, good practices for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and Financing SECAP\(s\)](#)

Browse and use the e-learning section available in the Capacity-sharing Corner of [MyCovenant](#) in 5 languages and watch the recordings of the Covenant webinars in our online [Library](#).

### **How to submit the action plan?**

You should submit your action plan online via the reporting platform [MyCovenant](#). In addition to the actual action plan document, we ask you to report a minimal set of information in MyCovenant in English.

For the submission to be valid, all mandatory fields in MyCovenant must be filled in (indicated in green in the platform) and at least one action plan document (e.g. mitigation action plan/adaptation action plan/integrated mitigation and adaptation action plan) should be uploaded. This plan needs to be approved by the municipal council or an equivalent decision-making body. The uploading of additional documents is optional. All documents should be uploaded in a **PDF format**, in the **national language**, unless an English translation is available. Moreover, you can decide to make these documents public.

If you encounter problems during the submission of your action plan, please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

For further information on the reporting and submission processes, please consult the [Covenant reporting guidelines](#).

### **Why does my Reporting Corner have incomplete sections?**

In the Reporting Corner, the Reporting template menu indicates the status of completion of each reporting section using the following indicators: complete, incomplete and not applicable. If the system detects incomplete sections, it displays error notifications at the bottom of each section. Please carefully revise the reported information according to the [Covenant reporting guidelines](#), complete the online template, save all information and click on "submit".

If the problem persists, please contact our Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

### **Can I upload the Excel file of the action plan?**

No submission of the action plan is possible only via MyCovenant. A MS [Excel file](#) is available offline and can be used as a working document only, if you decide so. In this case, you should transfer the data and information contained in this file to the online Reporting Corner sections in order to submit your action plan.

### **What if a signatory fails to submit its action plan?**

The commitment of signatories to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe is reflected in the submission of an action plan two years after the political decision to join the initiative.

In the event of failure to submit an action plan, the signatory's profile will be greyed out and the signatory's participation in the initiative will be suspended until the action plan is submitted.

### **How to request an extension of the deadline to submit the action plan/ monitoring report?**

You can request an extension of your deadline of up to 9 months.

To request an extension of the deadline, fill in the online delay request in [MyCovenant](#) – My Overview section. A pop-up message will confirm the submission of the request.

The request is usually granted immediately, you will simply need to refresh your page.

An extension of 18 months can be granted to signatories supported by an official Covenant Territorial Coordinator (CTC). In this case, it's the Covenant Coordinator who shall request an extension for the signatory via its profile in [MyCovenant – MyCovenant Community section](#).

If the online delay request function is not available, the signatory or the coordinator has already requested an extension and it is not possible to ask for additional one.

For further information or assistance, please contact the Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

### **My local authority has been suspended, what do I need to do?**

If your local authority has been suspended due to failing to submit the action plan / monitoring emission inventory (MEI) within the deadline, it is necessary to submit related templates to end the suspension.

### **When will my action plan be evaluated?**

Your action plan will be evaluated\_ indicatively between 6-9 months following the submission date. You will receive a feedback report elaborated by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

### **What is a grouped evaluation of action plans?**

If a Covenant Coordinator is coordinating the action plans of its associated signatories, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) can carry out a grouped analysis to provide faster feedback. If your province/region has developed a common approach to assist signatories with their action plans, we kindly invite you to contact the JRC at [jrc-com-technical-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jrc-com-technical-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu) and the CoM – Europe Helpdesk at [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu). Please consult our [Quick Reference guide on grouped SECAP analysis](#).

**I have already submitted a SECAP with 40% targets by 2030 and I renewed my commitments to the initiative committing to higher targets. Shall I submit a new SECAP?**

Covenant of Mayors – Europe signatories that have already submitted a SECAP with 40% targets and have renewed their commitments to higher targets are invited to adjust or resubmit the action plan within 2 years from the renewal of commitment.

It is up to the signatory to decide whether an update of the existing plan is sufficient or whether a new action plan should be developed for reaching their (re)new(ed) target(s). The Covenant - Europe framework will remain flexible enough to be adjustable to the local context and municipal procedures.

## MY INVENTORIES

### What is the Baseline Emission Inventory?

The Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) focuses on the activity sectors under the direct influence of the local authority to quantify the amount of GHG emitted due to energy consumption. The BEI is not meant to be exhaustive. It mainly focuses on the emissions from final energy consumption in the Covenant – Europe [key sectors of activity](#). The BEI shows the emissions in the baseline year (the reference year for setting your target and plan development) in order to identify the actions necessary to reach the emission reduction target.

The Baseline Emission Inventory serves, along with the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, as the starting point for the development of the action plan.

For detailed information on how to develop a Baseline Emission Inventory, consult [Part 2 of the SECAP guidebook 'Part II - Baseline Emission Inventory'](#).

For guidance on how to fill in the Baseline Emission Inventory section in [MyCovenant](#), please refer to our [Reporting guidelines](#).

### What is the baseline year?

The baseline year is the year against which the emissions reduction target is compared. We invite signatories who would like to compare their emission reduction with the EU target to take 1990 as a baseline year. However, due to the difficulties to obtain sufficiently reliable data, signatories are able to choose the closest subsequent year for which comprehensive and reliable data exist. If possible, this baseline year should not be later than 2005, which is the year signatories most commonly use.

You will find the baseline years adopted by Covenant signatories [here](#).

### Can signatories joining a group “Committing separately” develop SECAPs with different baseline emission inventories?

Yes, signatories joining in a group “Committing separately” can have different baseline emission inventories, i.e. different baseline years.

### How many sectors do I need to cover by my Baseline Emission Inventory?

The Covenant key mitigation sectors are:

1. Municipal buildings, equipment/facilities;
2. Tertiary (non-municipal) buildings, equipment/facilities
3. Residential buildings
4. Transport.

A signatory should report data for at least three out of these four key sectors in the Baseline Emission Inventory. Data for additional sectors can be reported optionally.

### Where can I find data for the Baseline Emission Inventory?

To prepare their Baseline Emission Inventory, signatories can get support and find relevant data from Regional Emission Observatories or from their national authorities. They can also collect data using a bottom-up approach including data from energy bills, reaching out to energy providers, and by conducting surveys aimed to inhabitants and businesses, and calculating the amount of fuel sold for the transport sector. Signatories can also reach out to

Covenant Coordinators and Local and Regional Energy Agencies that collect useful data for the local emissions inventories.

More details on how to collect data can be found in [Part 2 - Baseline Emission Inventory \(BEI\) and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment \(RVA\)](#).

### **What is a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment?**

A Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) determines the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and assessing vulnerability that could pose a potential threat or harm to people, property, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

The Risk and Vulnerability Assessment serves, along with the Baseline Emission Inventory, as a starting point for the development of the action plan. It is an integral part of your action plan in [MyCovenant](#). It needs to be submitted in the same stage as the action plan (i.e. within 2 years of joining the initiative), while updated information shall be reported at the monitoring stage (i.e. using the monitoring template in [MyCovenant](#)).

The RVA in the Covenant - Europe framework focuses on identifying and assessing the most relevant climate hazards and vulnerable sectors. Optionally, adaptive capacity and vulnerable population groups could also be identified and assessed in this analysis.

For guidance on how to complete the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in MyCovenant, please refer to the Covenant [Reporting guidelines](#).

### **How many sectors do I need to report in the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment?**

You should select at least one sector per each climate hazards identified.

The pre-defined sectors within MyCovenant are buildings, transport, energy, water, waste, land use, agriculture, biodiversity, health, civil protection, tourism, education, ICT.

Please see Annex V of the [Covenant Reporting guidelines](#) for a detailed definition of each sector.

### **Which tool supports the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment?**

The Urban Adaptation Support Tool developed by the European Environment Agency and the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office provides local authorities guidance on the entire adaptation cycle, including assessing risks and vulnerabilities. It includes references to useful resources, such as reports, tools, case studies.

You can find the Urban Adaptation Support Tool [here](#).

### **What is the EU Open Data Portal?**

The [EU Open Data Portal](#) is an open database managed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, including a number of resources and data developed by the EU institutions.

Data available on the portal are free of charge and without any copyright restriction.

### **What kind of data can I find in the EU Open Data Portal?**

The data published in the portal are continuously updated thanks to the efforts of the EU institutions and bodies involved.

In particular, the portal hosts dedicated datasets on [energy](#) and [environment](#) that can help Covenant – Europe signatories in collecting data useful for the development of their SECAPs.

A specific [CoM collection](#) is dedicated to the CoM initiative, including data on GHG emissions and mitigation policies at local level.

## JOINT ACTION PLANS

### What is a joint action plan?

A joint action plan is a plan carried out by a group of adjoining local authorities. The group defines a common long-term vision, prepares a Baseline Emission Inventory and a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, and identifies a set of actions to be undertaken on the territories of the members of the group. Please note that each member of the group has to approve the action plan.

### How to submit a joint action plan?

With “Committing separately – individual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction commitment”, each signatory of the group individually commits to achieve a set joint target. Each member of the group is requested to complete the action plan and report it through My Covenant.

Joint action plans in “Committing separately” can contain both individual and shared measures. The impacts on energy savings, renewable energy production and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction corresponding to the joint measures is divided among each municipality adopting shared actions in their individual action plan templates.

With “Committing collectively – shared CO<sub>2</sub> reduction commitment”, the group of signatories collectively commits to a set given target. It is therefore necessary to complete one action plan submission for the entire group in the latter’s profile. The action plan document to upload in MyCovenant is common to all signatories in the group. The document must clearly indicate the names of the local authorities and has to be approved by each municipal council.

In this case, the emission reduction target is shared between the members of the group. The action plan can contain both individual and shared actions, and at least one shared action should be included.

The names of each local authority as well as their contribution to the plan must be clearly indicated in the action plan document.

	Individual SECAP	Joint SECAP option 1	Joint SECAP option 2
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduction Target	↑	↑	↑↑
Emission Inventory	↑	↑	↑↑
SECAP Actions	↑	↑↑	↑↑
SECAP Municipal Council Approval	↑	↑	↑
SECAP Template Submission	↑	↑	↑↑
SECAP Document Submission	↑	↑↑	↑↑
Signatory Profile on the Website	↑	↑	↑

↑ individual | ↑↑ shared

Please consult our [Quick Reference Guide on Joint Action Plans for further information](#).



## MONITORING REPORT

### What is a monitoring report? What are the deadlines?

Monitoring is a crucial part of any planning process. It aims to collect and report the progress achieved by the signatory according to its targets of mitigation and adaptation and to plan corrective actions if necessary.

Covenant - Europe signatories regularly monitor their action plan by submitting:

- every two years after the submission of their action plan, a monitoring report on the implementation status of their actions (light monitoring)
- and, at least every four years, a Monitoring Emissions Inventory (MEI). Elaborating reference emissions inventories is of critical importance as they are the instruments to measure the impacts of the action plan.

We encourage signatories to upload MEIs with smaller intervals, for example each year, if data is available.

Please note that in the second monitoring report (4 years after the submission of the action plan), it is necessary to indicate at least 3 key adaptation actions and 1 energy poverty action. You have the possibility to upload supporting documents. However, you should report the relevant information contained in these documents in a concise way in [MyCovenant](#).

Please consult our [Quick Reference Guide on Monitoring the Action Plan Implementation](#). For further information, please consult the Covenant [Reporting guidelines](#).

### How to submit a monitoring report?

After logging into [MyCovenant](#), go to the Reporting Corner. Enter one of the 3 main sections, ideally My Strategy (the first section) and select the Monitoring Report template row in the list of Reporting Templates (the blue background of the row indicates that the row has been correctly selected and it is now active). It is necessary to complete and, if applicable, adjust the content of the 3 main sections (fields in green are mandatory). Click on “submit” to officially submit your monitoring template. A preliminary checking system of the template will allow the detection of errors.

Please note that the monitoring report template has additional fields of information compared to the action plan template. Consult the Covenant [Reporting guidelines](#) to learn more.

You will not be able to submit a monitoring report without having submitted an action plan first.

### Is it possible to submit a monitoring report for the 2020 Sustainable Energy Action Plan?

Yes, but only if you have not submitted your 2030 action plan yet. In case you have already submitted a new action plan (e.g. SECAP), the monitoring report cycle follows the new action plan and new deadlines are calculated.

For further information and assistance, please contact the Helpdesk at [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu).

### **How often do I need to submit a Monitoring Emission Inventory (MEI)?**

The minimum interval for the Monitor Emission Inventory is every 4 years. We invite signatories to report as many MEIs as they wish.

## **NETWORKING AND PEER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

### **What is the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Ceremony?**

The Covenant of Mayors – Europe Ceremony is the biggest political event bringing together the Covenant – Europe Community. Since the launch of the initiative in 2009, Covenant Ceremonies have brought together hundreds of cities of all sizes, mayors, local leaders, coordinators and supporters to celebrate the achievements of local governments and look at the future of the climate and energy transition. Traditionally the event has been hosted by the President of the European Parliament, and European Commissioners, MEPs, representatives of the Committee of the Regions and other institutions have come together for this high-level event. Since 2021, the Covenant Ceremony also announces the winners of the Covenant City in the Spotlight Award.

For further information, please visit our [events page](#) or contact our events Helpdesk at [events@eumayors.eu](mailto:events@eumayors.eu).

### **What type of networking and peer learning opportunities does the Covenant of Mayors – Europe offer to its Community?**

The Covenant – Europe Office provides different kind of peer learning opportunities to the European Community through:

- Online and offline capacity-building activities both at the European and national level. These workshops and webinars offer opportunities to learn from peers, get inspired by successful actions, and brainstorm solutions to common challenges;
- Online resources and publications with the latest relevant information to support cities, including on funding and financing opportunities;
- Facilitate knowledge transfer and achievement of the Covenant - Europe targets at local level via a series of peer learning exchanges with other cities and regions (Covenant – Europe peer learning programme).

## THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

### What is the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy?

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is the largest world alliance for cities climate leadership, built over the huge success of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe and the Compact of Mayors – the world's two primary initiatives of cities and local governments for climate action. The Global Covenant of Mayors formally brings together these two initiatives to advance city-level transition to a low emission and climate-resilient economy, and to demonstrate the global impact of local action.

Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe are also signatories of the Global Covenant of Mayors.

The Global Covenant of Mayors is managed by a dedicated Secretariat supporting the networking of cities all over the world on climate and energy.

Further information on the Global Covenant of Mayors is available [here](#).

The Global Covenant of Mayors recognizes two official platforms for reporting on climate and energy measures: the [MyCovenant Platform](#) and the Unified Reporting System of CDP/ICLEI. While both reporting systems are fully adapted for European signatory cities to report on their climate action commitments, there are several differences between these platforms. Cities that have been reporting through either system prior to 2020 are encouraged to continue using that system.

Learn more on the differences between MyCovenant and the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System in this [guide](#).

### What is the Cities Race to Zero Campaign (RtZ)?

The Race to Zero Campaign addresses local authorities, businesses, universities and investors with the aim of accelerating science-based climate action to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040, or 2050 at the latest. It is especially designed to help cities meet the Race's criteria and access the best available expertise along the way.

Read more on the Race to Zero Campaign and its linkage with the Covenant of Mayors – Europe [here](#).