

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
GLOBAL COVENANT BY CLIMATE ALLIANCE MEMBERS
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Global Covenant of Mayors

Frequently Asked Questions by Climate Alliance members

Recent developments to the Covenant of Mayors have resulted in a number of questions from Climate Alliance members – regarding both the global roll out and the 2030 European Covenant of Mayors commitment. The most frequently asked questions regarding the Global Covenant can be found below.

Want to learn more? Contact Jeppe Jensen at j.jensen@climatealliance.org for more information.

What is the Global Covenant of Mayors and how did it come to be?

- The Covenant of Mayors initiative was born in Europe. It was created in an unprecedented partnership between the European Commission and leading city networks in 2008 with the objective of engaging and supporting local authorities to commit to reaching the EU climate and energy targets. This commitment is backed by concrete climate action plans, the progress of which is tracked on a regular basis.
- The Covenant of Mayors initiative has progressively grown into a worldwide city movement, extending first to Europe's neighbours in the East and South and now also covering sub-Saharan Africa, North America, Latin America & the Caribbean, China & South-East Asia, India and Japan with dedicated Covenant offices. These Regional and National Covenants operate as "local chapters" of the global alliance – allowing for adjustments to regional contexts and local realities, while enhancing global significance.
- In parallel, the Covenant of Mayors entered a major new phase of its history when merging with the Compact of Mayors initiative in 2017. The Global Covenant therefore incorporates the commitments of individual local governments originally put forth either through the already-existing Regional and National Covenants, or the through the Compact of Mayors. In this way, it is building upon the experience of both city movements.
- The resulting Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy has become the largest movement of local governments committed to accelerating the transition to low-emission and climate resilient societies, while also addressing access to sustainable energy.

See a [detailed overview](#) of the main Covenant of Mayors milestones since its launch.

My municipality is already a signatory of the European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Do I need to sign up to the new Global Covenant of Mayors or is my city already part of this global movement?

- If you are a Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, you do not need to make an additional commitment as you are automatically part of the Global Covenant. This initially European movement has just now been expanded globally.

Does the global extension of the Covenant come with any changes for current Covenant signatories?

- For existing signatories, nothing will change. The political commitment made in your local council still stands and your efforts within the Covenant of Mayors should be continued as usual.

My municipality is not a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors but would like to join. How do we sign on? Should I sign onto the Global Covenant, the European Covenant or any of them?

- Any European local authority interested in joining the Covenant of Mayors movement is invited to follow the procedure described on [the official EU website under 'Join'](#). The process has remained the same since the launch of the Covenant in 2008.
- For other regions and countries outside of Europe, more information can be found on the respective regional Covenant websites. You can also contact the Regional Covenant offices for more information and guidance throughout the process. Links and contact information can be found on [eumayors.eu](#)

What are the benefits of being part of the Global Covenant of Mayors?

- The Global Covenant brings [new possibilities for city-to-city cooperation](#). Global Covenant signatories connect and exchange knowledge and ideas, supported by relevant regional and national stakeholders. By being part of a community, they strengthen their ability to implement ambitious climate action.
- The Global Covenant also offers an even stronger voice for cities in international climate processes. Together, the Global Covenant movement showcases the collective impacts of cities from around the globe, thus helping advocate both better multilevel governance on climate and energy issues with national and international decision makers as well as improved technical and financial support.

How can I connect with other signatories in other parts of the world?

- You can participate in the official **city pairings**, which connect local authorities in Europe with their counterparts in other regions of the world. Calls supported by the European Commission are issued on a regular basis via the International Urban Cooperation programme. More information can be found at iuc.eu.
- Climate Alliance also directly supports member cities in collaborating with already existing or new partner cities in other continents on the Covenant objectives. As an example, our **member city of Zoersel in Belgium signed the Covenant with its partner city Bohicon in Benin**. Both are supporting one another in the process.

What are the reporting requirements for the Global Covenant of Mayors?

- The reporting requirements for existing and new European signatories have not changed despite the Covenant having become a global movement. As a signatory, you are still invited to use the **My Covenant** signatory area to update your signatory profile and fill in the online reporting template to track progress. Support and tools are available to guide you through the process and allow you to interact with other members of the Covenant Community. Do not hesitate to contact the Climate Alliance team to get further assistance and benefit from additional tools, methods, campaigns, working groups and more.

What has changed for existing Covenant Territorial Coordinators or Covenant Supporters?

- Existing Covenant Coordinators and Supporters remain the same as prior to the launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors. There is no specific effect on the highly appreciated support they provide to signatories in Europe.
- In other regions, similar stakeholder groups (institutional and non-governmental but also private) are being mobilised to support the initiative with knowledge and technical expertise. These Coordinator and Supporter roles will therefore be adapted to the regional context.
- If a supporter would like to re-confirm commitments to support signatories, it is possible to do so by signing the new commitment text for Covenant Coordinators or Supporters. This text simply emphasises support for signatories that have signed up to the 2030 targets, which now also include an adaptation pillar. Further information for **Coordinators** and for **Supporters** is available online.