

# 30 YEARS OF CLIMATE ALLIANCE

A JOURNEY FOR THE CLIMATE – REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

1990 | 2020 | 2050



Climate Alliance



# IMPRINT

Published May 2020

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Photo credits

P. 6	Climate Alliance / Siegmund Thies
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P. 16	Diputació de Barcelona / Judith Contreras Momo Produccions
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P. 31	Covenant of Mayors
P. 50	2009 Climate Star: Climate Alliance Austria / Plutsch

Printed on 100% recycled, Blue Angel certified paper

Klima-Bündnis der europäischen Städte mit indigenen Völkern der Regenwälder |  
Alianza del Clima e.V. District court of Frankfurt am Main | Registry No: VR10149 | VAT ID:  
DE244331692 | Presidents of the Board: Andreas Wolter & Tine Heyse

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# FOREWORD



**Thirty years ago**, representatives from Austria, Germany and Switzerland met with delegates of indigenous organisations from across Amazonia to discuss the idea of a **“Climate alliance to preserve the atmosphere”**. Even then, responsibility was seen at both the local and the global level. Today, the resulting alliance for the climate counts more than **1,800 members from 27 countries**, each having set themselves ambitious climate action targets.

**“GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE HAS TWO MAIN CAUSES: EMISSIONS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRES OF THE NORTH AND THE DESTRUCTION OF TROPICAL RAINFORESTS.”**

- Excerpt from a working paper of the first meeting in August 1990

We would therefore like to take advantage of **2020** to examine **Climate Alliance's journey** over the past 30 years and consider where the path towards 2050 must lead. What milestones have been achieved? How has climate action developed at the local level? How can the experience gained in the last 30 years help us tackle the challenges of the coming years?

When Climate Alliance was founded, the scientific foundations on global warming and thus the public's perception of it was very far from what it is today. Globally and especially in Europe, climate change was not yet visible or tangible. This has changed dramatically. The reality of **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** and **rainforest destruction** is currently surpassing forecasts as the pressure to act increases. Nevertheless, the political resolve of the national and EU levels still falls far short of what is needed.

The **local level** with its towns, cities, and regions will therefore remain essential to **solving** both the local and global challenges ahead.

2020 will thus be another **important milestone** in the development of this alliance with its indigenous partners.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Brose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

- Thomas Brose, Climate Alliance, Executive Director



# 30 YEARS OF

## CLIMATE ALLIANCE

European municipalities in partnership with indigenous peoples **taking local action on global climate change**

**30 years** after first Climate Alliance working meeting, numerous **European municipalities** representing several million citizens have committed themselves to global climate protection within this vibrant network.

Climate Alliance is the **world's largest** network of cities for climate action and climate justice. Our members throughout Europe and beyond have set themselves concrete emissions reduction targets, linking local action with **global responsibility**.

# 1990 – 2020 | AN ALLIANCE FOR THE CLIMATE

The cornerstone for Climate Alliance is laid in **1990**.

Six delegates from Amazonia, representatives of ten cities and numerous organisations from Germany, Austria and Switzerland meet in Frankfurt am Main.

Climate Alliance Italy is founded in **1991**.

Member cities elaborate a guide on alternatives to tropical timber.



16 cities (AT, DE, IT, NL) sign the founding declaration of the Climate Alliance association in **1992**.

Municipal and indigenous representatives from within the membership form Climate Alliance's first board.

Climate Alliance receives official recognition as a non-profit organisation in **1993**.

An organisation consisting of a European office in Germany and national coordination offices in Italy, the Netherlands and Austria is established. The members set up the first working group on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction strategies.

Climate Alliance begins work on its first EU project in **1994**.

One result is a catalogue of measures meant as a checklist for members. Climate Alliance Austria is founded.

A study on the rights of indigenous peoples in Amazonia is carried out in **1995**.

Climate Alliance National Coordination Offices are founded in Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Climate Alliance presents a status report at the UN Climate Conference in Kyoto in **1997**.

For the first time, the scope and range of municipal climate commitment is thus presented to an international public.

Member municipalities adopt the Bolzano Declaration as a supplementary principle document in **2000**.

In addition to halving CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a medium-term goal, a sustainable per capita greenhouse gas emissions sum is also defined as a long-term goal.

Climate Alliance again uses campaigns to draw attention to climate protection in **2002**.

Some 30,000 children collect green footprints within the framework of the Green Footprint campaign, first in Germany and later throughout Europe. For the first time, Climate Alliance awards the Climate Star prize for outstanding climate action.

A delegation of German and Austrian municipal representatives travels to Peru in **2004**.

The solar lamp project is then established in Iquitos via a partnership with the FORMABIAP programme for the training of indigenous teachers. In cooperation with the teachers, this new technology is made known in the indigenous communities.



# 1990 – 2020 | AN ALLIANCE FOR THE CLIMATE

Climate Alliance makes its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goal even more concrete in **2006.**

Emissions are to be reduced by ten percent every five years.

Climate Alliance opens a Brussels office, initially staffed by a single employee, in **2007.**

A first draft of the Covenant of Mayors is presented at the Climate Alliance International Conference in **2008.**

In the same year, the CITY CYCLING campaign is launched in Germany, later carried out in Luxembourg (TOUR du DUERF) and other European countries.

Climate Alliance Hungary is founded in **2009.**

The exchange on financing is encouraged with the launch of the Climate Alliance Working Group on Financing in **2012.**



The Mayor's Adapt initiative brings new attention to the issue of climate change adaptation in **2014.**

Just over a year later, it is integrated into the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

The network establishes the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change in **2015.**

The A Good Life Is Simple campaign is launched with the aim of raising public awareness of the global impact of our everyday decisions.

The association expands its range of services to include an accounting instrument for members in Germany with the Climate Protection Planner in **2016.**

A new IPCC report provides the occasion for the Climate Alliance Barcelona Declaration in **2018.**

Its main message: global heating must be limited to 1.5°C.

Climate Alliance celebrates its 30th anniversary in **2020.**

The year will serve to reflect on the past 30 years and pave the way for the next 30.



## GOALS

Each Climate Alliance municipality adopts a local resolution to...

- ▶ **reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** by ten percent every five years (equivalent to a halving of per capita emissions by 2030 as compared to 1990)
- ▶ reduce emissions to 2.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per person via **energy savings, energy efficiency** and the use of **renewable energy**
- ▶ promote **climate justice** in partnership with indigenous peoples by supporting their initiatives, raising awareness, and abstaining from the use of unsustainably managed tropical timber

## PRINCIPLES

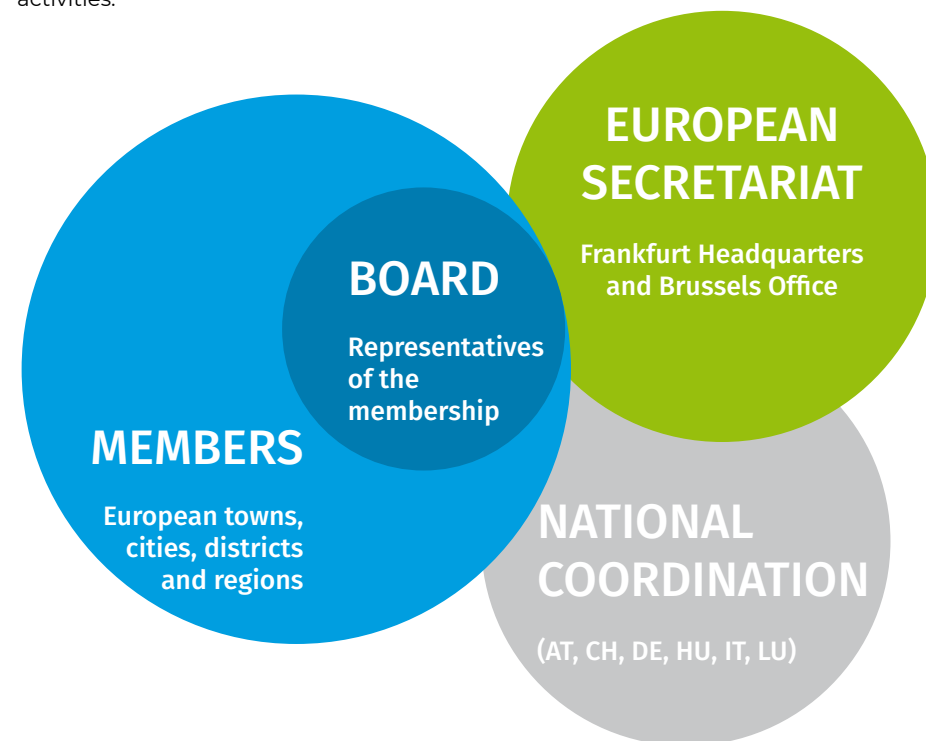
Climate Alliance members have always stood for climate action that respects the following principles.

<b>FAIR</b>	Promoting the wellbeing of all the world's peoples in harmony with the natural world
<b>NATURE-BASED</b>	Supporting closed-loop systems that replenish and regenerate instead of extract and deplete
<b>LOCAL</b>	Thinking globally but acting locally, concentrating on the regional sourcing of goods and energy
<b>RESOURCE-SAVING</b>	Using fewer resources by doing more with less and using less to begin with
<b>DIVERSE</b>	Recognising strength in diversity. There is no one-size-fits-all answer

## STRUCTURE

The Climate Alliance **Board** helps guide the strategic orientation of the network and is elected both by the membership and from within the membership. The **European Secretariat** leads day-to-day management internationally and carries out a wide variety of activities.

As the network has grown over the years, national coordination offices have been established in countries with high membership densities. Today the network is happy to count a total of six **National Coordination Offices** supporting Climate Alliance members at a national level.





## THE BOARD 2019 | 2020



**Andreas Wolter** | President  
Mayor of the City of Cologne, Germany  
Board member **since 2018**



**Tine Heyse** | President  
Mayor for Environment, Climate, Energy and North-South,  
City of Ghent, Belgium  
Board member **since 2014**



**Roland van Meygaarden** | Member of the Board  
Deputy Mayor of the City of Geldermalsen,  
Netherlands  
Board member **since 2016**



**Julie Laernoës** | Member of the Board  
Vice President of Nantes Métropole, France  
Board member **since 2014**



**Robinson Lopéz Descanse** | Vice-President  
Coordinator for Climate Change and Biodiversity  
of the COICA  
Board member **since 2018**



**Eva Schobesberger** | Member of the Board  
City Councillor of Linz, Austria  
Board member **since 2010**



**John Tanner** | Member of the Board  
Councillor at Oxford City Council, United Kingdom  
Board member **since 2016**



**Robert Leven** | Board Secretary  
Councillor for the City of Hesperange, Luxembourg  
Board member **since 2016**



**Rainer Handfinger** | Board Treasurer  
Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf, Austria  
Board member **since 2013**



**Xesco Gomar Martín** | Member of the Board  
Delegate for Environmental Issues, Province  
of Barcelona, Spain  
Board member **since 2019**



**Alessandra Filippi** | Member of the Board  
Executive for Environment, Agriculture and  
Sustainable Mobility, City of Modena, Italy  
Board member **since 2019**



**Simone Raskob** | Member of the Board  
Councillor and Head of the Department for Building  
and Environment, City of Essen, Germany  
Board member **since 2015**



**Karin Hungerbühler** | Member of the Board  
Deputy Head of Department of Environment and Energy,  
City of St.Gallen, Switzerland  
Board member **since 2014**

## FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

**Evaristo Nugkuag Ikanan** | COICA

**Tom Koenigs** | Frankfurt am Main,  
Germany

**Josef Ackert** | Linz, Austria

**J.G.H. Hoijtink** | Ede, Netherlands

**Edmundo Vargas** | COICA

**Karl-Ludwig Schibel** | Città di Castello,  
Italy



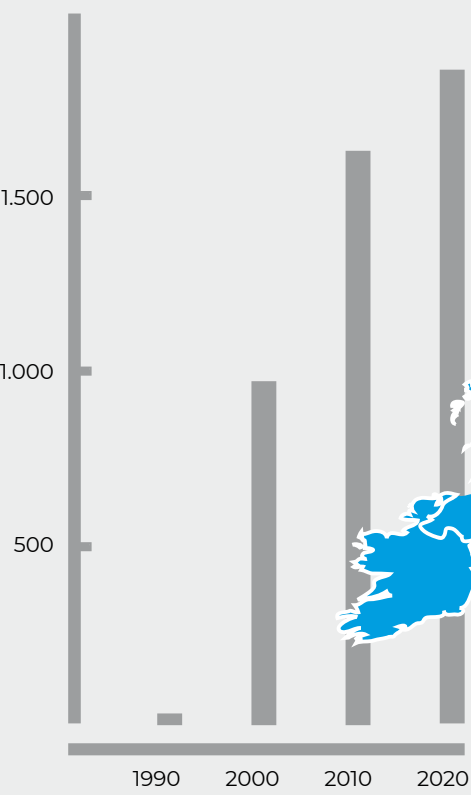
# 30 YEARS OF

## CONNECTIONS


We are now happy to count more than 1,800 municipalities from 27 countries as members, making Climate Alliance the world's largest city network dedicated to climate action. Pan-European coordination and a continuous **exchange** between members have helped foster **three decades** of municipal climate action throughout Europe. Regular events such as our International Conference and General Assembly and several working groups provide **platforms to discuss** current issues, positions and approaches.



# MEMBERS OVER THE YEARS



In 2019 we welcomed 36 new members to our network as well as an impressive 90 more in the first half of 2020. These include the German State of Rhineland Palatinate, our first member from Belarus and prospectively our first members from Ireland!

 Members as of 2020

Learn more at [climatealliance.org/municipalities](https://climatealliance.org/municipalities)

# THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



## LOOKING BACK

A working meeting in 1990 laid the foundation for Climate Alliance. Since then, the **exchange** between indigenous partners, member municipalities and member organisations has been a cornerstone of the association's work. The **Climate Alliance International Conference (CAIC)** has been held annually for almost 30 years – every year

at a different venue and featuring new topics, but always with the aim of creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience.



Group photo during the CAIC in Rostock (2019) | Photo: Karolin Köhn

## TODAY

### **Climate emergency, climate justice, climate policy.**

How can we turn words into actions? These were among the main themes of CAIC19, which brought 175 municipalities, NGOs and governmental organisations from 18 countries together to discuss key topics in local level climate action. 88 cities also declared their solidarity with our partners in Amazonia, calling for the ratification of **ILO Convention No. 169**.



## 30 Years of CAIC

Frankfurt a. M. (DE) Graz (AT)  
Freiburg im Breisgau (DE) Enschede (NL)  
Trento (IT) Berlin (DE) Linz (AT) Bonn (DE)  
Lucern (CH) Apeldoorn (NL) Bolzano (IT) Hamburg (DE)  
Brussels (BE) Luxembourg (LU) Vienna (AT) Zurich (CH)  
Aachen (DE) Heerlen (NL) Perugia (IT) Munich (DE)  
St.Gallen (CH) The Haag (NL) Dresden (DE)  
Krems (AT) Essen (DE) Barcelona (ES)  
Rostock (DE) Wels (AT)

### GOING FORWARD

The next annual conference and general assembly in 2020 symbolise a milestone – **30 years** of Climate Alliance and another 30 years to achieve global climate goals for **2050**. On this journey, our conferences and events will

continue to play an important role, facilitating exchange between local level representatives and other key stakeholders. They foster the discussion of **central challenges** and their potential solutions year after year. And they support **local climate action** with a **global perspective**.

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/events/international-conference](https://climatealliance.org/events/international-conference)

## WORKING GROUPS

### LOOKING BACK

**Working groups** are a vital tool for the elaboration of strategic issues within Climate Alliance. Through these groups, the association offers its members the opportunity for in-depth **exchange on specific topics**.

As a result of the Climate Alliance commitment to concrete emissions reductions, **CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring** proved central from the start. Members were in exchange on the topic of emissions and municipal emissions inventories as early as 1993. Tools such as ECOSPEED Region (2008) and the Climate Protection Planner (2016) have resulted from this work. The Austrian “Klimabilanztool” (2014) was also developed with the help of this working group.

Over the years, several other working groups have sprung up. Members have been exchanging on **financing** for local climate action since 2012 and the Working Group on **Adaptation** has given municipal politicians and experts a platform to

discuss questions of resilience since 2015. Further working groups exist on the national level, such as Climate Alliance Germany’s Working Group on **Energy Supply**.





Meeting of the Working Group on Adaptation in Rostock (2019)

## TODAY

### Working Group on CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring

ECOSPEED Region is now being used for CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring throughout Switzerland and by more than 140 municipalities in Italy and Luxembourg. The Climate Protection Planner was made the official CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring tool of the German States of Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia in 2019 and the "Klimabilanztool" is currently used throughout Austria.

### Working Group on Financing

Some 45 members take part in this working group, which has become an established network and forum for discussion on the topic of financing. In 2019, innovative financing for municipal climate action projects was a main focus including citizen participation in energy projects via co-ownership and carbon pricing policy.

### Working Group on Adaptation

Through this working group, more than 50 members now regularly exchange views on all issues related to adapting to climate change and its impacts. They develop local level solutions, which Climate Alliance also shares at the EU level. In 2019, the working group focussed on civic engagement and ways to make more effective use of it.

## GOING FORWARD

In the coming years, Climate Alliance will continue to expand its expertise in topics important for climate action.

In the field of **CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring**, the development of comprehensive models that do not only focus on carbon will be of the essence. Taking a broader approach is the only way to truly show both climate change's progression locally and our progress in fighting it.

Much will also need to happen by 2050 when it comes to **financing**. Private and public investments must **close the current financing gap**. The Working Group on Financing will continue to be fundamental to shaping local level solutions, especially with regard to the European Green New Deal.

The more time that passes, the more relevant topics relating to **climate change adaptation** become. Climate-proof development, resilience and prevention are becoming increasingly valuable. The Working Group on Adaptation will thus continue to play a central role in Climate Alliance's overall work.

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/working-groups](https://climatealliance.org/activities/working-groups)





# 30 YEARS OF

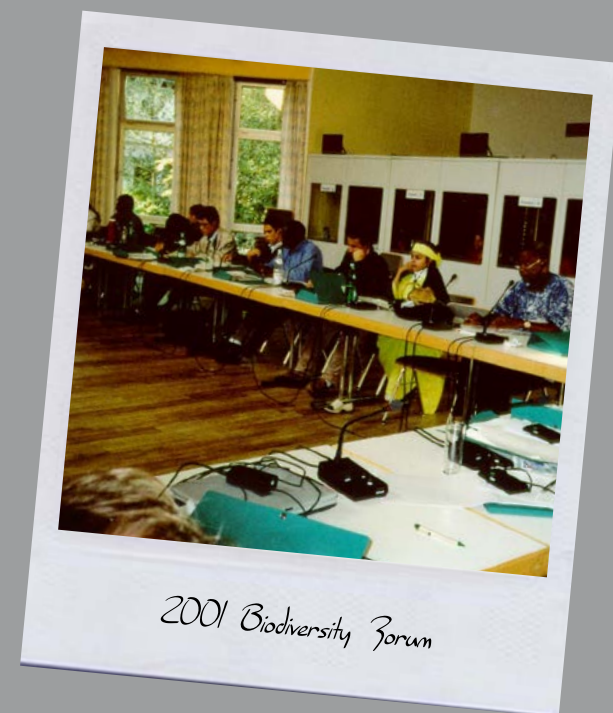
## ADVOCACY

Since the association's foundation, advocating **municipal interests** at the national, European and international levels has been a significant part of Climate Alliance's work. As a participant at international events such as the UN Climate Summit or as a **co-architect** of European initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, the association acts as a driving force in communicating local needs.

# INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

## LOOKING BACK

Climate Alliance has been active in an international context since its founding, highlighting the **role of municipalities** in climate action and supporting the participation of **indigenous organisations**. The association has been an **official observer** of the annual UN Climate Summits (COP) since the first such event held in Berlin in 1995. The role has enabled network representatives to participate and to exchange with international actors. Climate Alliance is also an official member of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency of the UN Climate Secretariat. As early as 1997, we presented a first status report on the scope of municipal involvement in climate protection at the COP in Kyoto. Through events, presentations, position papers and informational stands, Climate Alliance takes advantage of every COP to call attention to the role of the local level both here in Europe and in the forests of Amazonia.



The **UN Conferences on Biological Diversity** have also been important for our advocacy work internationally, especially with regard to the support of our indigenous partners. In 2008, the network took part with more than 100 indigenous representatives from across the globe to negotiate guidelines on the **access to and use** of biodiversity. Climate Alliance has also worked hard to emphasise the fundamental role of the local level in the Millennium Development Goals throughout the early 2000s as well as the subsequent Agenda 2030 with its **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

## TODAY

The 2015 **Paris Agreement** is the main document shaping today's international climate process. Its objective of limiting climate change to 1.5°C is now a guiding principle for many local authorities. Climate Alliance members highlighted the relevance of towns, cities and regions in achieving the goals of this international accord with their 2018 **Barcelona Declaration**. The 2019 UN Climate Summit (**COP25**) in **Madrid** showed just how essential this local commitment is, as nations around the world **failed to achieve any real progress**. Climate Alliance also used the opportunity in Madrid to stress the **importance of both the local level** and of **strong global partnerships** at a variety of events.

Side event at COP25 in Madrid (2019)





Cities and towns are also a key element of the Agenda 2030 and its sustainability goals. In 2019, Climate Alliance was invited by the **European Committee of the Regions** Commission for Environment, Climate and Energy to comment on the opinion “Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030”. At various events and seminars last year, we again emphasised the cross-cutting nature of the Agenda 2030 and the **local level's role** therein.

## GOING FORWARD

When it comes to the international climate process, all eyes are now on the next **UN Climate Conference**. The success of this conference as well as of the international climate process as a whole depends on **participation of the local and regional levels** in the preparation of new national climate strategies. The involvement of these levels is equally crucial to the **success of the Agenda 2030**. We can only achieve the Sustainable Development Goals if the EU and national governments work together with municipal and regional governments. Our partners of the Global South will also play an important role in this undertaking: only together can we overcome the global challenges of the future. Climate Alliance has always stood for local **action to global climate change**. Standing with our indigenous partners, we remain committed to climate justice and will continue to act as a driving force at the international, national and local levels.

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/international-advocacy](https://climatealliance.org/activities/international-advocacy)

# THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

## LOOKING BACK

The Covenant of Mayors was launched by the European Commission in **2008**. Its declared aim: to **support mayors** in their climate action measures to achieve **European climate goals**. Climate has helped shape and support the initiative from its birth, playing an especially crucial role in the development of the initiative's reporting methodology. Through the Covenant of Mayors, we have been able to influence the areas of European climate and energy policy that affect local authorities most.

The success of the Covenant of Mayors became apparent soon after its launch and the voices calling for a geographical expansion of the initiative soon grew louder. The **Covenant of Mayors East** Office was established in **2011** with Climate Alliance's help, now serving Belarus, Ukraine, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Our efforts in the field of climate change adaptation received recognition in 2014 with the founding of the Coven-

ant sister initiative, **Mayors Adapt**. Just over a year later, these two initiatives merged to form the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and in **2016**, the Covenant **went global** with regional initiatives in North and South America, Japan, sub-Saharan Africa and China.





Covenant of Mayors workshop at EUSEW in Brussels (2019)

## TODAY

Climate Alliance was also very active in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy throughout 2019. We continued to act as a **link between EU policy and the local level**, playing a leading role on issues such as climate change **mitigation and adaption, energy poverty, financing strategies**, and **reporting**. Central elements of our work in 2019 included improved instruments such as the **Urban Adaptation Support Tool** as well as thematic guidelines, the continued development of the reporting framework and informational offerings such as case studies and webinars. **National level activities** were also coordinated even more intensively.

## GOING FORWARD

The Covenant of Mayors will continue to grow – at the beginning of 2020, the initiative celebrated over **10,000 signatories**. Yet this is not the only reason this year will be a milestone in the initiative's history. 2020 is also the first deadline on the way to achieving the **EU's climate and energy targets** as set in 2008.

Especially in Europe, the further development of this influential initiative would be unthinkable without Climate Alliance's work. In the near future, the movement's focus will shift towards the expansion of **activities at a national level**. Here the Climate Alliance European Secretariat as well as our **National Coordinators** in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Luxembourg will play a key role.

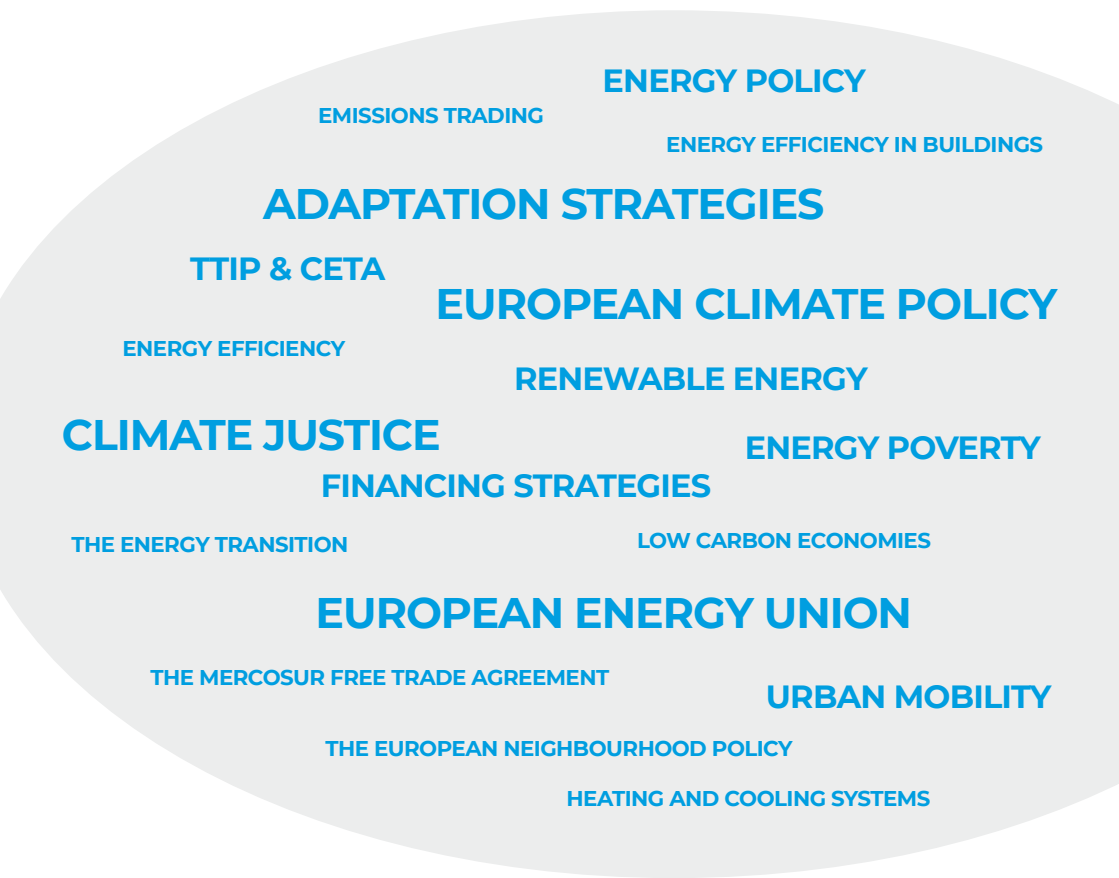
Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/covenant-of-mayors](https://climatealliance.org/activities/covenant-of-mayors)



# ADVOCATING FOR MUNICIPALITIES

The opening of the Brussels Office in 2007 and the launch of the EU's Covenant of Mayors initiative in 2008 gave the network's policy work a significant boost. The Brussels Office has since become a pillar of Climate Alliance's pan-European work.

Here are some of the issues we have been working on at an EU level over the years...



Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/european-policy](https://climatealliance.org/activities/european-policy)

30 YEARS OF

# INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIP

For 30 years now, Climate Alliance and its **indigenous partners** in Amazonia have been building **bridges across** the Atlantic to tackle climate change together. This partnership forms the second pillar of Climate Alliance's work alongside local climate activities in Europe. We stand united for more **climate justice**, more climate action and more **global solidarity**.



## LOOKING BACK

Climate Alliance was founded 30 years ago against the backdrop of the dramatically intensifying **deforestation of the Amazon Basin**. Not long before this, the murder of Chico Mendes (1988), a Brazilian rubber worker in Amazonia and winner of the UN Global 500 Award, caused an international outcry. These developments and the emerging awareness that climate change would become a major threat convinced some European cities of the importance of **global partnerships for joint action**.

## TODAY

**30 years later**, there is still much to be done to curb rainforest destruction and protect indigenous communities. Environmental activists are still in danger. The survival of the Amazon rainforest is still dependant on the work of courageous and dedicated advocates for its protection.

In 2019, Climate Alliance again emphasised **Europe's complicity in rainforest destruction**, for example during an event in Brussels called "Brazil and the EU: Indigenous Rights, Imported Deforestation and Climate".

We also supported the **Forest Pledge** during 2019's EU Parliament elections. In so doing, we called on future MEPs to promote guidelines for forest protection and regeneration worldwide while **protecting the rights and territories** of rainforest inhabitants.

Marivelton Barroso (FOIRN) and Adriana Ramos (ISA) at the "Brazil and the EU" event (2019)





## GOING FORWARD

**Strong partnerships** with indigenous peoples will continue to be a pillar of Climate Alliance's work. Communication and cooperation between European municipalities and indigenous peoples will continue to be intensified through **joint projects** like solar lamps in Peru and solar-powered boats in Ecuador, as well through **visiting delegations** of municipal and indigenous representatives in Europe and Amazonia.

Climate Alliance is convinced

that indigenous peoples have a **key role** to play in **tackling climate change**. We will continue to support our partners in Amazonia in finding their own solutions, for example through the Renewable Energy Fund we initiated in 2019. Through the exchange of knowledge in both directions, we can together contribute to the protection of the rainforest and its indigenous peoples.

Climate Alliance will also continue efforts to lobby national governments to sign the **ILO Convention No. 169** on indigenous rights and thus to follow the excellent example set by Luxembourg in 2018.

***"DEFENDING OUT HABITAT, OUR MOTHER EARTH, HAS COST ME 15 YEARS OF EXILE."***

- José Francisco Cali Tzay, Guatemalan Ambassador to Germany during CAIC19 in Rostock

Learn more at

[climatealliance.org/activities/indigenous-cooperation](https://climatealliance.org/activities/indigenous-cooperation)

30 YEARS OF

## LOCAL ACTION

Taking local action on global climate change – this has been Climate Alliance's philosophy for 30 years now. The local action needed is evident in our intensive project work, which illustrates the wide **variety of possible solutions**. The Climate Alliance European Secretariat and National Coordination Offices collaborate with municipalities and expert organisations throughout Europe on numerous projects in order to support members in achieving their climate goals.



2006 Climate Compass training  
in Italy



2013 Naviki Stars for sustainable  
mobility and cycling

## LOOKING BACK

An EU research project in **1994** marked the beginning of Climate Alliance's ongoing project work. In "Climate Protection Strategies of Local Authorities in Europe", Climate Alliance developed strategic **recommendations for municipalities** and governments. As project work got off the ground, the focus was limited to general approaches to municipal climate action. With growing experience and expertise, however, the projects got both more diverse and more precise with **new topics** coming into focus. Be it climate change adaptation, energy savings, green procurement or sustainable mobility – Climate Alliance has always strived to foster an **integrated and local** approach to climate protection.



Climate Alliance CAN project receives the EU Regiostar Award (2019) | Photo: Simon Pugh

## TODAY

From social platforms on the topic of water and related challenges to awareness raising for climate justice and strengthening investments in energy efficiency at the national level, Climate Alliance has continued to foster **local climate action** throughout the past year. In 2019, our Climate Active Neighbourhoods (CAN) project on bottom-up approaches to energy savings even received an **EU Regiostar award**.

What follows are a few examples reflecting the range of the European Secretariat's project work in 2019:



## Change the Power – (Em)Power to change

Through this project, 20 partners from 11 countries are committing themselves to sustainable development and climate justice in European cities and towns. In 2019, the **Climate Compass**, a tool supporting small and medium-sized municipalities in their sustainability strategies, was updated. Efforts in the fields of energy, procurement, transport, climate justice and public relations are now linked to the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals**. This helps give municipalities an overview of their local commitment – in English, German and Italian!

## SaMBA – Sustainable Mobility Behaviours in the Alpine Region

Sustainable mobility has always been a traditional Climate Alliance focus area. Through SaMBA in 2019, we helped develop a **catalogue of incentives** to changing mobility behaviour. Many of these incentives are now being tested in pilot regions for their success in changing **long-term mobility behaviour**.



Climate Alliance SaMBA project pilot city Salzburg (2019) | Photo: City of Salzburg



Connecting Nature project event in Cyprus (2019) | Photo: Eleni Malekkidou

## Connecting Nature – bringing cities to life, bringing life into cities

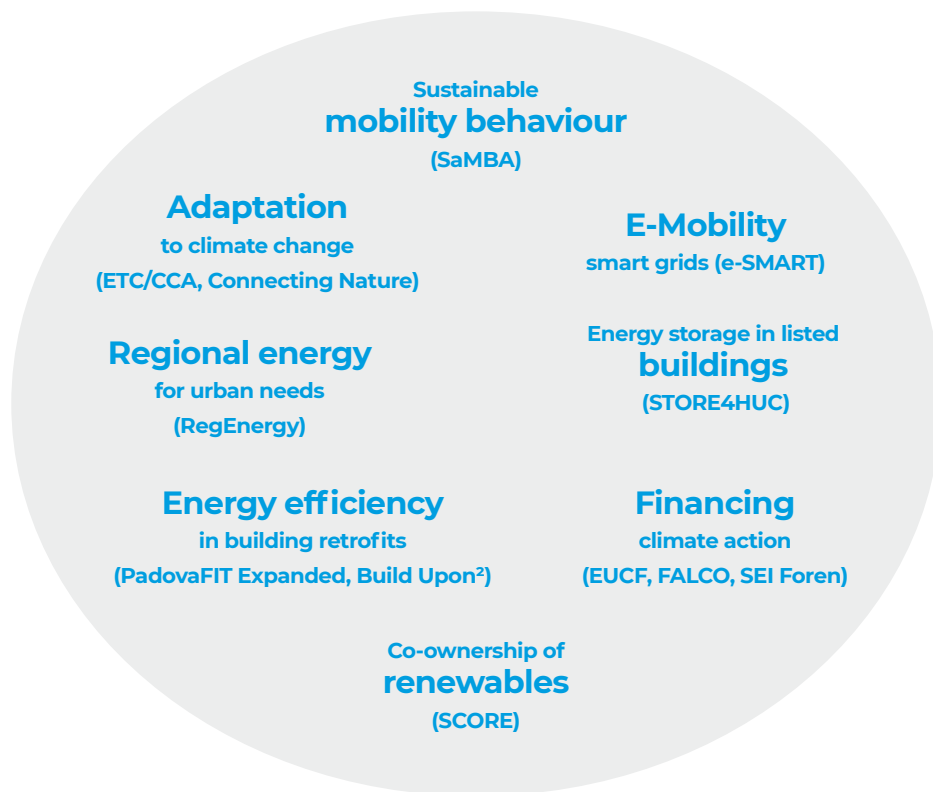
In Connecting Nature, eleven cities are carrying out large-scale model projects employing nature-based solutions. The impact of such solutions on health, social cohesion and economic development as well as their potential to help cities adapt to climate change is being examined. In 2019, a Business Model Canvas for **nature-based solutions** was created to assess the benefits of such solutions for business models.

## RegEnergy – Renewable Energy Regions

In this project, Climate Alliance is working with eight partners to match the **urban demand** for renewable energy with the **production potential** in surrounding areas. This is to be achieved through so-called supply and demand partnerships. Strategies and models developed in the project will show how these partnerships can be formed and successfully established. Through RegEnergy, Climate Alliance is also establishing a network in support of a decentralised energy supply and is further developing CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring strategies for municipalities.

## GOING FORWARD

Project work will remain an essential area of action through which the European Secretariat will continue to involve and support Climate Alliance members. Current projects will be **intensified** and **new projects** will continuously be launched. In 2020, there are already a number of projects getting off the ground and being carried out. The topics are diverse:



Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/projects](https://climatealliance.org/activities/projects)

# A CALL TO ACTION – CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Three decades years ago, climate change may have been seen as a challenge by many, but it was certainly not considered an emergency. The international community had recognised a global problem and the idea of **coming together** to fight it was gaining momentum. The Montreal Protocol saved us from ozone depletion – surely the Kyoto Protocol would tackle greenhouse gases. There was a **naïve hope** in the air that we were well on our way to overcoming this next big challenge.

Today there is also hope arising from the growing awareness and increasingly **mainstream realisation** that the climate challenge has become an climate emergency, or at the very least, **a real threat to our life** as we currently know it.

The climate emergency movement has seen cities and towns as well as nations, regions and even the European Union take up the call to action. The actions of groups like Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion have given the topic added visibility, buoying long-standing **local level climate commitments** like those made by Climate Alliance members across Europe. In 2019 alone, over 80 Climate Alliance members passed climate emergency or similar declarations, making Climate Alliance the city network with the most **cumulated experience** on the topic.

Whether entitled climate emergency, climate manifesto, climate crisis or otherwise, these declarations go **far beyond symbolism**. Most prioritise climate in all future municipal decisions. Many also involve the public in some way and set aside much needed resources for climate action. The **positive impacts** of these resolutions are already being felt. Climate Alliance members have reported a boost in climate change awareness within their local administrations and a mainstreaming of the topic across departments.

In 2020, the climate emergency movement is not showing any signs of slowing down. Its effect will likely also be positive for the numerous Climate Alliance members who have no emergency declaration of their own, but that have all this time nonetheless been **tirelessly working** to combat climate change on the local level.

- Sarah Mekjian, Communications Director, Climate Alliance

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/municipalities/climateemergency](https://climatealliance.org/municipalities/climateemergency)







# 30 YEARS OF

## AWARENESS RAISING

**Raising awareness on climate action and climate justice** is a central focus of Climate Alliance's work. For 30 years now, the European Secretariat and National Coordination Offices have been supporting members in drawing the **attention of their citizens** to the myriad **connections** between the decisions we make and resulting climate consequences. Campaigns, educational materials, events and many more offers supporting work on the ground are available to member municipalities.



2009  
Climate Star ceremony



2001 In Town - Without My Car  
campaign day

## LOOKING BACK

The cornerstone for future Climate Alliance climate action campaigns was laid as early as **1996** with the establishment of a coordination office for the **Car-Free Mobility Day**. As early as 1999, the **Climate Protection with Profits** campaign highlighted opportunities for municipal energy management. In the early 2000s, efforts to raise awareness of climate protection efforts intensified. With campaigns and events like the **ECO Relay for Climate Protection and Sustainability** in Austria, participation in the international **In Town – Without My Car** day or the awarding of the first **Climate Star** in 2002, Climate Alliance drew public attention to climate commitment on the local level.

## TODAY

The campaigns have become more extensive over the years, the visibility greater. Today Climate Alliance offers its members a number of successful ready-made climate action campaigns.

Since 2002, over **2.5 million children** have taken part in the **Green Footprints** campaign, which sees children collect footprints for sustainable mobility and lifestyle choices. At the 25th Climate Summit in 2019, a record of over 2 million green footprints was handed over to the UN Climate Secretariat.

The **A Good Life Is Simple** campaign, launched in 2015, was used by more and more local authorities across Europe in 2019 to raise awareness of the global impact of our everyday decisions. The **Change the Future** online tool picks up on these campaign themes, inviting citizens, whether alone or in a team, to get involved.

A Good Life Is Simple campaign motif (2018)





Climate Alliance has been providing local authorities with the **CITY CYCLING** campaign for **12 years** now. The campaign helps municipalities actively communicate on sustainable mobility and make a concrete contribution to climate protection. CITY CYCLING invites the public to get on their bikes for the climate and is now the world's largest cycling campaign with some 4000,000 cyclists in 1,100 municipalities participating annually. Thanks to a dedicated app and the RADar! reporting platform, which has been linked to the campaign since 2014, CITY CYCLING helps participating cities and towns improve their cycling infrastructure in cooperation with their citizens.

#### GOING FORWARD

Climate Alliance will continue to support the local level with campaigns and events to raise awareness on climate and sustainability, thereby helping anchor these topics in the public's thoughts and actions. Existing campaigns will be continued

and expanded. CITY CYCLING in particular has much potential and is going from a competition that was purely communication-based to a tool that triggers citizen participation and supports municipal planning. In 2021, the Climate Star will once again provide incentive to foster municipal activities on the topics of energy, mobility, consumption and urban and regional development.

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns-and-more](https://climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns-and-more)

# 30 YEARS OF

## PAN-EUROPEAN WORK

By acting together on climate protection and climate justice, a strong, pan-European cooperation developed within our network from the outset. **In the beginning**, coordination of the then small alliance by the European Secretariat in Frankfurt alone was sufficient. As the network grew, so did the need for more **country specific support**. Soon **National Coordination Offices** were established in countries with high member densities, for example, Climate Alliance Austria in 1994 and Climate Alliance Luxembourg in 1995. Since then, these National Coordinators have been organising national exchange and facilitating international cooperation. They represent a particular strength of this multifaceted city network – each with its **own priorities**, each with its **own structures**, and each with its **own projects** both for and with member municipalities.



## LOOKING BACK

A Climate Alliance European Secretariat was established directly after the association's founding. To this day, it also remains the seat of Climate Alliance's Coordination Office for Germany. **Climate Alliance Germany** has been thus supporting municipalities throughout the country in their climate protection activities from the start – be it with guidelines, informational material, campaigns, tools or networking offers. The National Coordination Office also shares the experiences of members in other countries, making relevant templates available.

In Germany, the monitoring of greenhouse gases has always played a major role – first with the development of a methodology for municipal emissions inventories and, as of 2014, with Climate Alliance Germany's own official emission inventory tool, the Climate Protection Planner (**Klimaschutz-Planer**). As activities on the ground are least as important as emissions inventories, Climate Alliance Germany works to share the successes of ambitious municipalities with practical examples. For example, the National Coordination Office helped develop the Practical Guide for Local Climate Protection (**Praxisleitfaden Kommunal-er Klimaschutz**) and has since helped keep it up to date. A database of good practice municipal examples, the **Klimaschutz-Praxis**, was also launched in 2018.



With projects such as AMICA (2005), Climate Alliance as a network was **among the first** organisations to dedicate significant efforts to climate change adaptation. Climate Alliance Germany's work very much formed the basis of these efforts over the years, for example by creating the Climate Scout Wiki (2011), which provided support on adaptation measures, and by developing an adaptation strategy for the City of Worms (2013). The network thus gained expertise on adaptation for its members very early on.

**Forging connections** with like-minded stakeholders is another focal activity in Germany. Climate Alliance Germany has supported the development of the **100% Renewable Energy Regions** network since 2011, promoting regionalised and decentralised energy supplies. This principal led to the formation of the **Working Group on Energy Supply for 2050** in the same year and later to a stronger focus on matching urban energy needs with regional energy production capacities. A further working group was founded by the German membership in 2018 in order to discuss **topics of policy relevance**, such as whether or not the State should deem climate protection a basic municipal function.



## TODAY

Climate Alliance Germany intensified its activities with member municipalities in 2019. In a project on climate-friendly investments, German cities and towns were given support on divestment and sustainable re-investment. In 2019, the reactivation of the **100% Renewable Energy Regions network** was an important endeavour and the Transform-R research project now delivers the scientific basis for this work. Through the KÖP project on climate action in municipal projects, Climate Alliance Germany is helping city administrations **integrate climate** considerations in general **project management** – whether for comprehensive urban development concepts, the retrofitting of industrial complexes, traffic planning or measures following from a **climate emergency declaration**.

Civil dialogue on municipal divestment and re-investment in Bonn (2019) | Photo: Adelphi



In the past year, Climate Alliance Germany also continued its work in various alliances and committees to **fight for member interests**, for example via participation in the Federal Environmental Ministry's Climate Action Alliance (Aktionsbündnis Klimaschutz) or via involvement on the Energy Transition Future Forum (Zukunftsforums Energiewende) programme committee.

## GOING FORWARD

Climate Alliance Germany will continue its work on climate action with and for municipalities across the country, especially as current social and political developments further buoy Climate Alliance's goals. The **climate emergency movement** in Germany is calling for greater consideration of climate impacts in municipal action – a call very much supported by KÖP project results including a soon-to-be-released Excel-based **climate-check for municipal decision-making**. Energy supply, a main topic of the Transform-R and Region-N projects, will also remain relevant, as our climate goals can only be achieved with help **renewable energies** – preferably decentrally generated and regionally sourced. The topic of adaptation will also continue to gain significance, especially in the form of **nature-based solutions**. Existing tools such as the Climate Protection Planner will be further developed and municipal good practice continuously communicated in order to support local authorities in their climate ambition and motivate action.

## LOOKING BACK

In 1990, climate change was not really on the Italian political agenda. It was not until Alexander Langer, then an Italian member of European Parliament, called attention to the topic and presented the newly founded Climate Alliance that climate action really gained momentum. **Climate Alliance Italy** was founded soon thereafter in **1991**. In the beginning, the region of South Tyrol was at the forefront of the fight against climate change and in the year **2000**, it was in the South Tyrolian City of **Bolzano** that the General Assembly adopted revised **Climate Alliance targets**.



The **Covenant of Mayors**, launched by the EU in 2008, gave municipal climate action further momentum across Italy. Today, no other country is home to more Covenant signatory municipalities than Italy. Climate Alliance Italy runs the **help desk for Italian signatories** of the Covenant. Since its foundation, the Italian National Coordination Office has also been working with Climate Alliance members and NGOs on **national climate policy** such as the Italian energy and climate plan. A main focal point is also that of highlighting the benefits of emissions reductions for a sustainable future. Through **events on local climate action**, Climate Alliance Italy shares **success stories** and **feasible financing strategies** with Italian members.



A Good Life Is Simple campaign material in German and Italian (2019)

## TODAY

Via newsletters and articles in national magazines throughout 2019, the Italian National Coordination Office continued to **highlight success stories** such as the German City of Osnabrück's implementation of its climate emergency declaration. Last year Climate Alliance Italy was again a committed partner in European Secretariat projects such as **Change the Power – (Em)Power to Change**. The We Are All Witnesses and A Good Life Is Simple exhibitions were made accessible to a board public through readings, guided tours and other interactive events. **Energy efficiency in public buildings** was another important topic for Climate Alliance Italy in 2019. In a series of events organised with the Rome Metropolitan Region, Climate Alliance Italy promoted the implementation of inter-municipal climate measures and innovative financing strategies for climate action.



## GOING FORWARD

For Climate Alliance Italy, one of the biggest challenges of the future will be that of **mainstreaming climate action**, both in the work of municipal administrations and in the daily actions of the public. To help tackle this challenge, Climate Alliance is providing an Italian version of the online **Climate Compass** tool. **Emissions reductions** in all aspects of life must be intensified if we are to achieve a carbon-free society by 2050.

**WE ARE PROUD OF MODENA'S PROGRESSIVE CLIMATE POLICY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE INTEGRATION OF URBAN GREEN SPACES INTO THE STRUCTURE OF THE CITY. WE ARE ALSO GLAD TO HAVE CLIMATE ALLIANCE AT OUR SIDE, PROVIDING US WITH IDEAS AND ADVICE IN VIEW OF THE ENORMOUS CHANGES THAT LIE AHEAD.**

- Alessandra Filippi, Executive for Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Mobility, City of Modena.

Learn more at  
[climatealliance.it](https://climatealliance.it)

## CLIMATE ALLIANCE AUSTRIA since 1994



## LOOKING BACK

Austrian municipalities and regions have been part of Climate Alliance from the very beginning. Salzburg was the first federal state in Austria to join the association in 1990. The towns of Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz, Wiener Neustadt, St. Pölten, Salzburg, Schwaz und Götzis followed not long thereafter and in **1994**, the **Austrian National Coordination Office** began activities. Climate Alliance Austria soon broadened its sphere of action to also accept businesses as members. Member schools followed in 1998 and kindergartens in 2006.

The **Climate Star**, awarded in Austria, has been an important date in the Climate Alliance calendar since 2002 – not just for Climate Alliance Austria, but for the network as a whole. The award goes to outstanding local level projects by cities, towns and regional networks throughout Europe. Climate Alliance's **training courses for municipal representatives** are another highlight in Austria. The first course in municipal climate protection was carried out in 2007, followed by numerous others on sustainable mobility, spatial planning and soil and urban climate action. Today, these courses count over **600 graduates** from all nine federal states.

Complementing national developments, Climate Alliance Austria's **partnership with FORIN**, the umbrella organisation for the indigenous peoples of the Rio Negro in Brazil, has formed a cornerstone of the association's work. A visit by Marcinda Miranda da Silva and Bráz Franca in 1993 kicked off this long-standing cooperation. These representatives of Amazonia explained how indigenous peoples live with and from the rainforest. Five years later, in **1998**, the Brazilian government recognised the **rights of indigenous peoples** to over 114,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the area of the upper Rio Negro. Further territories have been added since 2013, making for one of the world's **largest contiguous rainforest** reserves at 135,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size – 1.6 times the area of Austria.



## TODAY

In 2019, Climate Alliance Austria comprised 900 municipalities, 1,200 businesses and 600 educational institutions. **Climate protection**, **climate justice** and **climate change adaptation** form the pillars of Climate Alliance's work in Austria, framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Austria's first SDG Tour**, 17 and Us, showed just how relevant these goals are for Austrian municipalities. In 2019, Climate Alliance Austria organised the **Sustainability Days** with 391 events throughout the country and 519 municipalities, 98 educational institutions. Almost 40 regions also took part in the **European Mobility Week**. Climate Alliance Tyrol offered municipalities a soil check, providing ideas for soil protection measures. In Vienna, four districts became members in 2019 and in two of them, a climate action award was launched. Climate Alliance Upper Austria placed

Indigenous protests in Brazil (2019) | Photo: Juliana Radler (ISA)



a focus on **awareness raising**, awarding points to all who travelled and shopped in a climate-conscious manner through a special campaign. The St. Johann im Pongau grammar school in Salzburg also got some attention with the “Schön GEHmalt” **street painting competition**. Children gave their creativity free reign in Carinthia with the **Kids Make Movies** initiative – from the idea to the final product, they mastered it all. Climate Alliance Styria worked on an EU project for spatial energy planning – a key to success in municipal climate action.

COP25 in Madrid (2019) | Photo: Lechner



## GOING FORWARD

**Austria is set to go climate neutral by 2040** – ten years before the EU as laid out in the Green New Deal. This ambitious goal was set in the Austrian Government's 2020 Climate Protection Package. Climate Alliance Austria is convinced that success will require a nation-wide coalition of stakeholders in which **municipalities play a key role**. Proximity is of the essence here. That is why the regional offices established in each federal state over the years are so important. The dissemination of information, awareness raising, networking, training, project work and campaigns will remain at the core of Climate Alliance's efforts in Austria. Thanks to the successful partnership with FORIN, the global aspects will also stay at the top of the agenda.

**“THE IDEA OF CLIMATE ALLIANCE – THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY – IS MORE TIMELY AND IMPORTANT TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. ONLY WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT VARIOUS LEVELS CAN WE ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY CLIMATE TRANSITION. I AM PLEASED THAT, IN AUSTRIA, WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. MORE THAN ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO MUNICIPALITIES IS A CLIMATE ALLIANCE MEMBER.”**

- Rainer Handlfinger, Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf, President of the Climate Alliance Austria Executive Board and Treasurer of the Climate Alliance Executive Board

Learn more at  
[klimabuendnis.at](https://klimabuendnis.at)





2005 Study tour in Ecuador

## LOOKING BACK

The international movement of the early 1990s to protect the world's climate and rainforests and the foundation of Climate Alliance inspired two NGOs to establish Climate Alliance in Luxembourg. In **1995**, Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM) and Mouvement Ecologique founded **Climate Alliance Luxembourg** together with five municipalities. One of the most prominent champions of the newly minted Climate Alliance Luxembourg was Camille Gira, then Mayor of Beckerich and later a long-standing member of the Climate Alliance executive board.

For Climate Alliance Luxembourg, ASTM offers events and training courses on matters of **human rights and global climate justice**. The organisation also advocates on these issues at the political level. Mouvement Ecologique, for its part, works primarily on **emissions reductions strategies** for members and provides both the administrative and financial coordination. Over the years, Climate Alliance Luxembourg has increasingly become the **voice for municipalities** on climate, development, and energy policy at both the national and European levels. The National Coordination Office has also organised several study trips, for example to Ecuador, Peru, Togo and India. The participating municipal representatives take their experiences back to their communities.

Politically, **2018** was probably one of the most success years for the Luxembourg National Coordination. After six long years of campaigning, they succeeded in getting the country to **ratify ILO Convention No. 169** on the protection of indigenous peoples.

***“THE STUDY TRIPS OF ASTM / CLIMATE ALLIANCE HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED MY VIEW OF THINGS. THEY HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE AND I WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO REPEAT THIS EXPERIENCE. IT MOTIVATES ME TO ACT ON GLOBAL INJUSTICES AND CLIMATE CHANGE.”***

- Gérard Schoos, former municipal councillor of Weiler-la-Tour.



Launch of the Green Footprints campaign in Hesperingen (2019) | Photo: Municipality of Hesperingen

## TODAY

Today, Climate Alliance Luxembourg supports **40 member municipalities**. Two thirds of Luxembourg's population live in Climate Alliance towns.

**Cooperation with the European Secretariat** and the other **National Coordination Offices** is becoming increasingly important – especially as a partner in EU projects. In 2019 as part of the ongoing EU project, Change the Power – (Em)power to Change, Climate Alliance Luxembourg helped organise a tri-national workshop on European elections and a joint side event at **COP25** in Madrid. Last autumn, the Luxembourg General Assembly adopted the **Climate Crisis Action Plan**. This prompted four member municipalities to adopt their own local resolutions on the climate crisis by the end of last year. The “Op Kannerféiss

duerch d'Welt” and “TOUR du DUERF” campaigns, Luxembourg's counterparts to Green Footprints and CITY CYCLING, as well as a series of **training courses** on soil and climate protection were again great successes in 2019 with record numbers of participants.

The demand for training is on the rise, as is interest in the experiences of our partners in the Global South, who report authentically from the front line of climate change. During a visit of MASIPAG, a partner organisation from the Philippines, the idea for an activist training course with a focus on Luxembourg's growing youth climate movement was made a reality for the first time. The course conveyed approaches to campaigning for global climate justice, taken from the work of these partners.

## GOING FORWARD

In 2020, Climate Alliance Luxembourg is celebrating its 25th birthday. Looking into the future, it is essential to strengthen the local level in order to achieve global and national climate targets. The Climate Crisis Action Plan adopted in November 2019 thus envisages a **future without man-made greenhouse gasses**. Climate impacts should be taken into account in municipal decisions, efforts to adapt to climate change must be actively pursued and municipal budgets should allow for urgent climate action measures.

Learn more at  
[klimabuendnis.lu](https://klimabuendnis.lu)

## LOOKING BACK

The Swiss National Coordination was founded on 7 December 1995 as the **Swiss Association of Climate Alliance Member Cities**. Since then, Climate Alliance Switzerland has continuously promoted municipal climate action in Switzerland. The Swiss National Coordination took on a variety of topics from the very beginning. In 1999, the City of Winterthur launched a campaign for **environmentally-friendly driving** with the aim of reducing fuel consumption by 10%. In the early 2000s, Climate Alliance Switzerland called for the introduction of a **CO<sub>2</sub> tax** at the national level. In 2008, Basel set an example by setting its **municipal administration** a goal to go **climate neutral**. In the following years, Swiss Climate Alliance cities funnelled considerable **financial resources** towards climate protection measures. The geothermal combined heat and power plant St.Gallen construct-

ed and Zug's heat supply project are cases in point. In the course of two to four meetings per year, Swiss members discuss the aforementioned projects and topics, exchanging views in order to jointly make their cities **pioneers in climate action**.



*2009 Meeting of Swiss members  
in Zurich*

## TODAY

Since the agreement of the Paris Accord, Climate Alliance Switzerland has intensified its role of **coordinating exchange** between committed cities and towns. In a 2019 workshop involving cities, towns and the **Swiss Federal Office for the Environment**, participants came to an agreement on **common objectives**, respective roles and fields of action as well as cooperation between the federal and municipal levels. The importance of exchange among members on numerous climate policy initiatives also grew in 2019. Last year, Climate Alliance Switzerland decided that it was essential to clearly communicate and clarify the position of committed cities and towns on climate policy. A **Climate and Energy Charter** for Swiss municipalities has been elaborated to this end.

## GOING FORWARD

The parliamentary debate on the implementation of the Paris Agreement will enter its decisive phase in 2020, paving the way for Switzerland's future climate protection measures. The publication of the **Climate and Energy Charter of Swiss Cities and Towns** will create a platform to clearly position municipalities in the political debate with a call for dedicated and effective climate action. **Swiss climate policy** will continue to be the focus of attention.

Learn more at  
[klimabuendnis.ch](https://klimabuendnis.ch)



# CLIMATE ALLIANCE HUNGARY since 2009

## LOOKING BACK

The Hungarian National Coordination Office was instituted in **2009** under the leadership of the **Reflex Environmental Association**. In contrast with other national coordination offices, a number of very active NGOs make up a large part of the membership in Hungary and are also involved in campaigns at the regional level. In recent years, climate action has also become increasingly important for Hungarian municipalities, which has given Climate Alliance Hungary a central role. The Hungarian National Coordination has carried out this role through a **range of activities**, including participation in national projects, cooperation and networking, organisation of the Hungarian **Climate Star**, awareness raising campaigns such as **Green Footprints** and climate protection consultations. Climate Alliance additionally coordinates the Hungarian environmental NGOs and the regional platform for climate action while also having developed a round table for NGOs on global sustainability goals.



## TODAY

In the past year, Climate Alliance Hungary has promoted issues related to **nature-based solutions** and climate change **adaptation** in urban centres including protecting municipal forests, rethinking urban landscapes and improving strategies for dealing with storm water. The main goal has been to **raise awareness** of ecological solutions and provide advice to municipalities. In 2019, Climate Alliance Hungary also actively supported the **Covenant of Mayors** by organising an **informational forum**. In autumn of last year, the National Coordination awarded the fifth **Hungarian Climate Star**, this time with a focus on **municipal forests and urban landscapes**. Through national projects,

Climate Alliance Hungary is involved in a variety of workshops, study groups and campaigns on **renewable energies** as well as the **climate emergency**. The Hungarian team also supported the development of the micro-region near Pápateszér and was involved in the EU project Change the Power – (Em)power to Change on climate justice and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Festival in Cifrásd (A Good Life Is Simple campaign, 2019)



## GOING FORWARD

For Climate Alliance Hungary, the key to future climate protection lies with the **youth**. The Hungarian National Coordination Office will thus concentrate on further **education for environmental and climate protection** in the future. With innovative learning methods such as plays, interactive exhibitions or escape rooms, the team will **intensify awareness raising activities**.

The dissemination of **practical examples** among member municipalities will stimulate exchange and raise awareness of potential measures on the municipal level. For Climate Alliance Hungary, climate protection must be more than just a mandatory task to cross off a list. Going into the future, a **large part of society** will have to be involved **at the local level**.

***“WISDOM IS BETTER THAN A CHAINSAW!”***

- Mihály Buzás of the “Kajárpécsi Vízirevű” theatre group  
as part of the campaign “May the forest be with you!”

Learn more at  
[eghajlatvedelmiszovetseg.hu](http://eghajlatvedelmiszovetseg.hu)

**THE JOURNEY  
CONTINUES...**

2020



Over the last three decades, a small group of municipal and indigenous representatives has grown into a **powerful city network** almost 1800 members strong. Their conviction that both the **local level** and **global solidarity** are essential to fighting climate change has since gained international recognition and the alliance for the climate that resulted from their determination has become more relevant than ever before.

To follow Climate Alliance's journey over the last 30 years is to travel down a **challenging yet colourful road** paved by stakeholders across Europe and Amazonia. Lined with a dizzying variety of **ideas and examples** set by communities large and small, this road provides essential answers to the mounting task that climate change continues to pose.

Reaching the climate goals set out by the Paris Agreement will require dedicated **commitment on every level**. In this regard, 2050 stands as a landmark for climate targets worldwide. Over **these next 30 years**, the members of Climate Alliance and their tireless work will continue to show the way towards a **just and climate-friendly future**.





# NOT YET A MEMBER?

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