

How many local governments are taking action to prevent global warming?

More than 600 local governments worldwide participate in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign. In addition, more than a thousand local authorities participate in similar programs run by the Climate Alliance, Energie-Cités, The Climate Group and others.

What does local government have to do with climate protection?

"Think Global, Act Local" is a motto that suits greenhouse action; climate change is a global issue that requires a local response. While the effects of climate change will be felt worldwide, it is the cumulative impacts of local actions that will lead to effective emission reductions. National and state governments play an important role in providing funding and proactive legislation, but local government has the critical role in creating and sustaining local solutions to greenhouse problems. Local governments can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions they produce from their own activities. Their planning powers, spending policies and community and business links can influence households and businesses and reduce emissions from waste disposal, land use change, energy use and transport.

Why are local governments interested in protecting the climate?

Preventing global warming is not the only reason why so many councils have joined the CCP™. They are also pursuing climate protection measures because of local environmental, economic and social benefits that also accrue. Examples of these 'other' benefits include:

- Saving money - stopping energy waste and lowering energy bills.
- Developing new markets and industries, providing local employment and business opportunities.
- Demonstrating local leadership: Councils have a legitimate and vital role in articulating their communities' views and acting upon their concerns.
- Creating opportunities for partnerships with industry, residents and other governments at a regional, national and international level.
- Generate additional revenue for your Council through the initiatives and expertise you develop.

What impact are local governments

The 600 local authorities that participate in the CCP™ represent about 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Together these cities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by hundreds of millions of tonnes since 1990. As a group, each year, the cities implement new policies and measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5-10 million tonnes.

How does ICLEI help the cities that participate in the CCP?

ICLEI has more than 30 professional staff around the world assisting the cities that participate in the CCP. A five-milestone process guides our work with the cities. The five milestones and ICLEI's specialized software provide a simple, standardised means of calculating greenhouse gas emissions, of developing plans to reduce emissions and of monitoring, measuring and reporting performance. The five milestones are:

- Milestone 1. Conduct an Inventory and Forecast* – a compilation of community and municipal energy use and waste generation.
- Milestone 2. Set a Reduction/Avoidance Goal* – usually expressed as a percentage reduction below the quantity of emissions released in the baseline year (for a reduction goal) or the forecast year (for an avoidance goal).
- Milestone 3. Develop a Local Action Plan* – a strategy document that outlines how the municipality will achieve its reduction goal.
- Milestone 4. Implement the Local Action Plan* – focuses on the effective implementation of the measures identified in the Local Action Plan.
- Milestone 5. Monitor Progress and Report Results* – routinely monitor emissions reduction/avoidance measures through tracking and measuring.

Who can I contact for more information?

If, during the course of COP10, you have questions about ICLEI, the CCP or the activities of the cities with which we work, please contact Bob Price on 15-5413-6212. After COP10, you can reach Mr. Price at bprice@iclei.org.

