



The Covenant of Mayors at a glance

Initiative launched in 2008 by the European Commission – DG Energy to endorse and support the efforts of local decision-makers in the development and implementation of sustainable energy policies;

First movement directly mobilising local and regional authorities and officially recognising their role in the fight against climate change – the Covenant is the result of intensive lobbying by networks such as Climate Alliance;

Based on a voluntary commitment by signatories to meet and even exceed the EU 20% CO₂ emissions reduction target through increased energy efficiency and renewable energies;

Portrayed by the European institutions as an exceptional model of multi-governance and ‘subsidiarity’ in action, the Covenant of Mayors develops or strengthens existing partnerships between local and regional/national/European authorities.

The Covenant in figures – an unprecedented success story

Following an initial period of unprecedented mobilisation and political commitments, the initiative has become a highly visible and widely recognised movement of local authorities in Europe and worldwide. As at October 2011, more than 3,000 signatories from small towns to big cities had already joined the initiative. They can benefit from assistance in their respective countries from their province, region and national energy agency – known as ‘Covenant Coordinators’ – or local authority associations – also called ‘Covenant Supporters’.

Over 130 million European citizens live in municipalities that have joined the Covenant and are affected on a daily basis by the actions that are being undertaken within the initiative.



02

Covenant step-by-step

02

Reasons to join

04

Climate Alliance within the Covenant of Mayors Office

05

Climate Alliance – a ‘Covenant Supporter’

08

Climate Alliance – a treasure chest of information, tools, methods & ideas for action

Besides the global impact resulting from implementation of the actions in terms of a reduction in CO₂ emissions, there is also a considerable local impact in terms of improved air quality, increased thermal comfort in buildings, lower energy bills and new jobs.

From an analysis of a sample of SEAPs (425), we can expect that the Covenant Signatories will reduce their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from 5.5 t CO₂ eq./capita by 1.6 t CO₂ eq./capita in 2020 with full implementation of the SEAPs. This represents an overall GHG emissions reduction of 28% by 2020.

Step-by-step – from political commitment to concrete actions

Step 1: Signature of the Covenant of Mayors

The adhesion to the Covenant requires a formal decision by the Municipal Council to ensure sufficient empowerment and support at the highest political level.

Step 2: Development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan, in collaboration with local stakeholders and citizens

Covenant Signatories have to submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) one year after their official adhesion, defining their target and listing the actions set up to achieve them. The first step is the calculation of the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), which is followed by the definition of concrete actions to achieve the CO₂ emissions reduction target. Covenant signatories are also strongly encouraged to mobilise local stakeholders and citizens throughout the process.

Step 3: Regular monitoring and reporting

Every two years after the approval of their SEAP, signatories have to submit a progress report showing the results achieved, both in terms of actions implemented and CO₂ emissions reduced.

Key elements of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan:

- The SEAP should make clear reference to the 2020 CO₂ emissions reduction target – of at least 20%, in line with the Covenant commitments signed;
- The results of the BEI shall be provided in 3 out of 4 key sectors: Municipal, Residential, Tertiary Buildings/Equipment/Facilities, and Transport;
- The SEAP should include a set of actions covering at least 2 of the above-mentioned key sectors of activity;
- The SEAP template, summarising the key elements of the BEI and SEAP, must be filled in correctly online via the Covenant website restricted area and be consistent with the full action plan.

Why should your municipality become a Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors? – Reasons to join

Multifaceted assistance

Signatories can benefit from extensive support and networking opportunities provided by the Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and other involved actors (e.g. territorial coordinators and supporters).

High-quality support – scientifically sound and flexible

Based on the practical experiences of local authorities and developed in close cooperation with the



Member spotlight: Beckerich (LU) – on the way to energy autonomy

“After 15 years of active climate protection in our municipality, signing of the Covenant of Mayors was a good opportunity to examine where we stand. We have achieved a lot: today we generate 90% of our low-voltage electricity and 25% of our heat demand ourselves. In 2010, we raised 400,000 euros by selling heat. This money stayed in the municipality, benefiting our local economy instead of flowing to Saudi Arabia. I am pleased to see that we are on the right track. Development of our SEAP has shown that we can always improve our work, and that energy saving has to become the highest priority in order to achieve our objective: energy autonomy. We hope that we can use the Covenant of Mayors and our Sustainable Energy Action Plan

(SEAP) as a passport to additional funds.”

Camille Gira, Mayor of Beckerich (2,229 inhabitants)



JRC, a support package has been prepared to provide Covenant signatories with key principles and step-by-step guidance.

Various technical and methodological support materials (e.g. a guidebook, reports on existing methodologies and tools, SEAP template and instructions, etc.) already offer practical guidance and clear recommendations on the entire SEAP development process. The proposed methodology is flexible, which allows local authorities to choose their own approach, making it easier to join the Covenant of Mayors.

Reliable and quantifiable results

More than 800 signatories have already submitted their SEAP, translating their political statement into concrete, reliable and measurable actions. The JRC reviews the SEAPs and ensures their overall quality through an assessment procedure which involves:

- An eligibility check, which essentially guarantees that the BEI and the SEAP comply with the Covenant requirements;
- A data coherence check, which compares the reported results of the BEI against other relevant data sources – mainly from national statistics – in order to detect any inconsistencies.

After analysis, the JRC provides feedback to all signatories and suggests readjustments where and when needed.

Highly visible and fully transparent achievements

All key aspects of the BEI & SEAP are publicly visible at www.eumayors.eu under the online

signatory profiles. The catalogue of SEAPs shows at a glance by means of graphical elements the highlights of their valuable work and enables the sharing of data.

Fair & credible initiative

The European Commission respects the efforts of signatories who are complying with the commitments, and therefore enforces the termination clause if a signatory:

- Fails to submit the SEAP;
- Is not complying with the CO₂ emissions reduction target (set in the SEAP), due to failure to implement or insufficient implementation of the SEAP;
- Fails to submit the implementation report in two successive periods.

Local authorities failing to honour their commitments are suspended from the initiative. However, their status in the Covenant of Mayors can be re-activated when they fulfil the above-mentioned clauses.

New possibilities to unlock financial schemes

The European Commission has already contributed to the development of new financial facilities, among which are the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility and the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF). The more local authorities join the movement, the better chances of obtaining financial and legislative support from the institutions at the regional, national and European levels!



Climate Alliance within the CoMO – leading the Helpdesk and monitoring operations

Climate Alliance manages the Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO) in partnership with several other local government networks (Energy Cities as consortium leader, Eurocities, CEMR and Fedarene).

Established and funded by the European Commission, the CoMO is responsible for coordination and daily management of the initiative. It provides signatories with administrative support and technical guidance, facilitates networking between Covenant stakeholders, and ensures promotion of their activities.

As a leader of the Helpdesk and Monitoring work, Climate Alliance works in close cooperation with the JRC to equip signatories with clear technical guidelines and templates to assist them in the delivery of their Covenant commitments. The Covenant Helpdesk deals with thousands of technical questions from signatories – mostly related to emissions inventories and action plans.

Climate Alliance also collaborates with a group of practitioners (i.e. advanced municipalities) and liaises with local and national experts for the design of methodological materials.

Synopsis: Covenant of Mayors and Climate Alliance



STEP 1: Signature of the Covenant of Mayors	
Elaboration of your Baseline Emission Inventory	CO₂ monitoring method & internet-based tool – Practical recommendations on CO ₂ accounting, monitoring and reporting – ECORegion software for the compilation of energy and CO ₂ emission inventories
SEAP development with stakeholders and citizens	Roadmap for the development of your action plan including a 5-step approach and a catalogue of measures” in the key sectors of activities.
STEP 2: Submission of your SEAP (one year after signature)	
Implementation of the SEAP	Campaigns to engage local players and citizens e.g. ‘ZOOM – Kids on the Move’ campaign for children, ‘Cycling City Councillors’ (with politicians acting as models for citizens)...
Organisation of local energy days	
Monitoring and reporting	Benchmarking System A systematic approach for visualisation of your local actions and comparison with similar municipalities (activity profiles & key indicators at a glance)
STEP 3: Regular submission of implementation reports (every 2 years)	
Covenant of Mayors target: – 20 % CO ₂ by 2020	Climate Alliance target: – 10 % CO ₂ every 5 years



Member spotlight: Città di Castello (IT) – The SEAP is an evolving document

“As an incoming commissioner of the environment, I gave immediate priority to having a CO₂ inventory and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan in place. They are vital strategic instruments for the administration and the community to orient, guide and monitor our evolution towards sustainable energy in a low carbon territory.”

Luca Secondi, Head of Department Environment and Transport, Città di Castello (40,510 inhabitants)

Collecting the data for our CO₂ inventory has been a consistent effort that has proven well worthwhile. We realised to be among the many cities that have the crucial energy data registered in numerous different places and the process of data collection was also the opportunity to reorganise the accounting of our energy consumption. Monitoring energy consumption and CO₂ emissions with ECORegion will be a much easier task in the future. Our SEAP was approved unanimously by the City Council, a rare event! It is a working paper that compiles a fair number of projects that will contribute, in the short term, to lower emissions and give a framework

to formulate, with the support of Climate Alliance Italy, the next generation of ambitious measures. For a medium-sized town like Città di Castello, the Covenant of Mayors is a precious and encouraging European movement, and we are determined to move into its forefront in the coming years.



Climate Alliance – a ‘Covenant Supporter’

Climate Alliance has committed to supporting its members and maximising the impact of the initiative. As an official ‘Covenant Supporter’ since October 2009, we organise promotional activities, develop tailored supporting tools and methods, and offer experience-sharing platforms. Reinforcing the assistance provided and consolidating the results on the ground are some of our key commitments. Capitalising on 20 years of know-how – and the experience in managing the CoMO – Climate Alliance can support you!!

Focus on the Climate Alliance tools and methods

Climate Alliance has developed a comprehensive methodology to support its members in implementing local energy and climate policies. The methodology includes tools on how to elaborate a GHG emissions inventory, or how to set up an action plan and implement it.

Climate Alliance helps you to prepare your GHG emissions inventory

The Climate Alliance CO₂ monitoring methodology is the result of an extensive dialogue with local

authorities and other relevant experts or stakeholders. It provides standards and step-by-step guidance for municipalities preparing their GHG emissions inventory.

The proposed methodology includes a set of key principles on GHG accounting and reporting processes. It also provides municipalities with reliable emission factors for the different approaches (territorial approach vs ‘Life Cycle Assessment’).

Climate Alliance members can implement the methodology by using the internet-based GHG monitoring tool ECORegion – developed in collaboration with Ecospeed – to calculate their CO₂ emissions, perform an energy inventory and estimate potential reductions. The CO₂ monitoring tool is available in six countries (Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, France, Ukraine and Switzerland) with over 1,300 users providing an indication of the high demand for CO₂ monitoring and the tool’s success.

The tool has been officially recognised by the European Commission as efficient and suitable software for the compilation of energy and CO₂ emission inventories within the framework of the



Covenant of Mayors. It helps local authorities to follow up on progress in terms of CO₂ emissions, and therefore monitor whether they fulfil their commitments. By means of an automatic function, relevant data can be directly exported to fill in the requirements for the BEI in the 'SEAP template'.

Climate Alliance helps you to prepare and implement your SEAP

Climate Alliance has developed a series of supporting documents and guidelines for the elaboration of local climate action plans (e.g. Climate Menu, Climate Compass) and has undertaken two research projects to analyse local climate policies, identifying main barriers and replicable successes (Optimizing Local Climate Protection Strategies in Europe, Local Governments Climate Partnership).

All the materials resulting from these initiatives support the development and implementation of a more holistic, integrated and effective SEAP:

- A comprehensive step-by-step approach, guiding local authorities from initialisation to implementation of the action plan, from monitoring to reporting;
- Checklists, helping local authorities to review their existing energy-related initiatives/actions and define appropriate short and medium-term objectives;
- A catalogue of measures, allowing local authorities to identify tangible measures in all relevant fields of action (energy, transport, urban development, waste, procurement).

Other recommendations on specialised topics are also available as a result of various European projects. For instance, the pro-EE project (www.pro-ee.eu) has identified tools to support sustainable public procurement.

Moreover, Climate Alliance promotes success stories and good practices of its members, which can



serve as a source of inspiration for signatories in order to develop and implement their SEAP.

Climate Alliance helps you to monitor your achievements

Climate Alliance provides its members with the 'Climate Cities Benchmark'. The benchmarking system was developed by Climate Alliance and IFEU Institute within the framework of a research project of the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA).

With the help of the activity profiles, indicators and CO₂ monitoring data, the benchmarking system helps municipalities to select the most successful and efficient measures. It enables the comparison of achievements in similar cities at a glance, allowing the cities to easily identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to define their priority actions.

The benchmarking system follows a set of 17 indicators, which enable municipalities to assess the impact of their climate protection activities. These indicators help identifying actions where significant progress has been achieved and which actions should be reinforced. An assessment of the municipal situation is possible by comparing the municipal value with the average national value, the average value of all municipalities and the best value of a municipality within the size category.

The benchmarking system has already been tested in an international context. It is currently available in Germany, with 220 local authorities already applying it to monitor and further develop their climate change activities. Climate Alliance has applied for EU funding to extend the benchmark to 18 EU countries.

Climate Alliance helps you to involve local stakeholders & citizens in planning and decision-making

"Mobilise the civil society in [y]our geographical areas to take part in the development and implementation of your action plan" is a formal commitment made by the Covenant signatory municipalities.

Climate Alliance proposes awareness-raising campaigns and communication materials that aim at extremely high involvement of all relevant stakeholders: political decision-makers, civil society – including children, relevant associations or organisations.

– During the European Mobility Week (EMW), municipalities are invited to organise creative activities which aim to inform all citizens about sustainable mobility and to involve them in this issue. The



Member spotlight: Worms (DE) – innovative action plan based on solid energy and CO₂ emission data

The city of Worms, which is both a member of Climate Alliance and a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, submitted its SEAP in 2011. The extensive information needed for the BEI and the SEAP was collected from the CO₂ inventories for the years 2004 to 2008. Climate Alliance was involved in the development of the BEI as well as in the elaboration of Worms' climate protection and energy efficiency plan. This concept was elaborated jointly with approximately 100 actors such as citizens and local stakeholders.

One of the key measures implemented by the city of Worms is a solar energy plant on the car park at the hospital. The biggest solar energy system on a public building in Worms was installed on the new hospital car park at the beginning of 2011. It generates 620,000 kWh of energy per year, enough energy to supply 160 households.

"Worms wants to meet the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors and to reduce its CO₂ emissions



by at least 20% by 2020. In the process of achieving this, Climate Alliance has turned out to be a reliable and competent partner. The exchange of information with other Covenant signatories is of great significance as well."

*Michael Kissel, Mayor, City of Worms
(82,040 inhabitants)*

general objective is to reduce individual motorised city traffic and to support sustainable modes of transport.

– The 'Cycling City Councillors' campaign shows how to lead by example and gets local leaders and citizens to team up on two wheels in an effort to promote cycling in place of driving.

– The 'ZOOM – Kids on the Move' campaign encourages children to make their daily journeys in a more environmental-friendly way. Children learn through play how endangered the planet is and what they can do to protect it.

Climate Alliance offers training and networking opportunities

Climate Alliance helps signatories to fulfil all their commitments not only by providing the above-mentioned tools, expertise and campaigns but also by offering workshops and conferences where signatories have the possibility to acquire know-how, to exchange their experiences and to network.

Capacity-building workshops are regularly organised to help members use the energy and CO₂ monitoring software (e.g. in Germany but also in Luxembourg and the Ukraine). Furthermore, Climate Alliance regularly offers workshops and conferences on preparation and implementation of the SEAP, such as within the framework of its annual conference.

European Projects like 'NETworking the Covenant of Mayors' (NETCoM) support local authorities in achieving the Covenant goals. NETCoM aims to boost implementation of the Covenant of Mayors by facilitating networking and the exchange of experience. Several national/regional Covenant networking platforms are being set up in the partner countries (e.g. France, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Romania, etc.). These 'Covenant clubs' will ensure better communication, exchanges and coherence of the actions carried out by local authorities – current and potential Covenant signatories – and other key actors.





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Climate Alliance – a treasure chest of information, tools, methods & ideas for action

Based on its long-standing experience in local climate and energy policies, Climate Alliance helps local authorities to become active by providing the basis for development and implementation of their SEAPs. Municipalities, which are both members of Climate Alliance and signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, benefit from more opportunities to network, receive support and acquire know-how.

As a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors initiative you will benefit from:

- European endorsement, recognition and support to your local efforts;
- Closeness to the EU institutions and European decision making;
- New financial instruments that are being developed around the initiative.

Climate Alliance offers you:

- Personalised guidance to build your strategy;
- Ready to use tools that support the development of your base-line emission inventory and the sustainable energy action plan;
- Visibility to your success stories;
- Platforms to exchange between committed cities and to influence national and EU energy and climate policy.



Climate Alliance

The “Climate Alliance of European Cities with the Indigenous Rainforest Peoples” is the largest city network committed to climate protection and preservation of the tropical rainforests. Since 1990, Climate Alliance has supported a total of now over 1,600 members from 18 European countries in attainment of their voluntary commitments to reduce CO₂ emissions by ten percent every five years and to halve per capita emissions by 2030 at the latest (base year 1990). Climate Alliance advises municipalities on the implementation of climate protection strategies and develops recognised tools for standardised recording of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. To preserve the tropical rainforests, Climate Alliance cooperates with Indigenous rainforest peoples. Their partner in this endeavour is COICA, the umbrella organisation of the nine national Indigenous associations of the Amazon region.