

Cities Race to Zero and Covenant of Mayors - Europe

A quick guide for European Cities



Covenant of Mayors - Europe

Since its launch in 2008, the EU Covenant has brought together thousands of local governments committed to implementing, achieving and exceeding EU climate and energy targets. The Covenant Commitments have been revised in 2021 to step-up ambition in line with the goal of the EU and its Member States make Europe climate neutral by 2050.

10,500+ Signatories **226** Coordinators
207 Supporters **330+** Million people




Cities Race to Zero

The Cities Race to Zero is a global campaign launched and supported by the UN Climate Champion for COP26 with the aim to enhance science-based targets in sub-national action. The campaigns aim at mobilising at least 1,000 cities ahead of COP26 to pledge for at least one mitigation action in line with the Paris Agreement.

450+ Cities already committed

Goal of **1,000** cities committed to RtZ on the road to COP26


 A European initiative that supports the 2050 EU Target for a decarbonized and resilient Europe, encouraging cities to commit to a transition that is fair, inclusive and respectful of the citizens and our planet's resources.

 A global campaign launched in the lead-up to the upcoming UNFCCC COP26, which mobilises local authorities, businesses, universities and investors all with the aim of accelerating science-based climate action to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040, or 2050 at the latest.


 Renewed Covenant ambitions mean signatories: commit to setting mid- and long-term targets to achieve climate neutrality by 2050; engage all level of society in the implementation of actions; act now; and network with peers within and beyond Europe.


 Focuses on supporting cities in ambitious climate action towards reaching net-zero via the adoption of science-based targets.


 Cities commit to developing a Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plan within two years of becoming signatories to the EU Covenant, and with EU Covenant support.

 Cities plan at least one inclusive and equitable climate action ("action pledge"), to be implemented no later than 2022, as listed in www.citiesracetozero.org. The action should be in line with the Paris Agreement objectives and based on science.

 Support EU targets, with signatories committing to deliver action at the pace that science dictates, and to set mid- and long-term targets that are consistent with EU objectives.

 Cities can join Race to Zero by November 2021. Mayors, council leaders or equivalent can sign the pledge and no council decision is required. RtZ cities must then develop science-based midterm targets.

 The Covenant of Mayors - Europe requires a monitoring report at least every second year to evaluate progress made towards objectives.

 Cities pledging to Race to Zero need to report yearly on their progress, starting from 2022. Yearly reporting ensures that the city is on track with to meet its climate ambitions and showcases efforts made.