

Metro-Scale Climate Leader: Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

June 15, 2020

Community Development Committee



What is this the Global Covenant of Mayors?

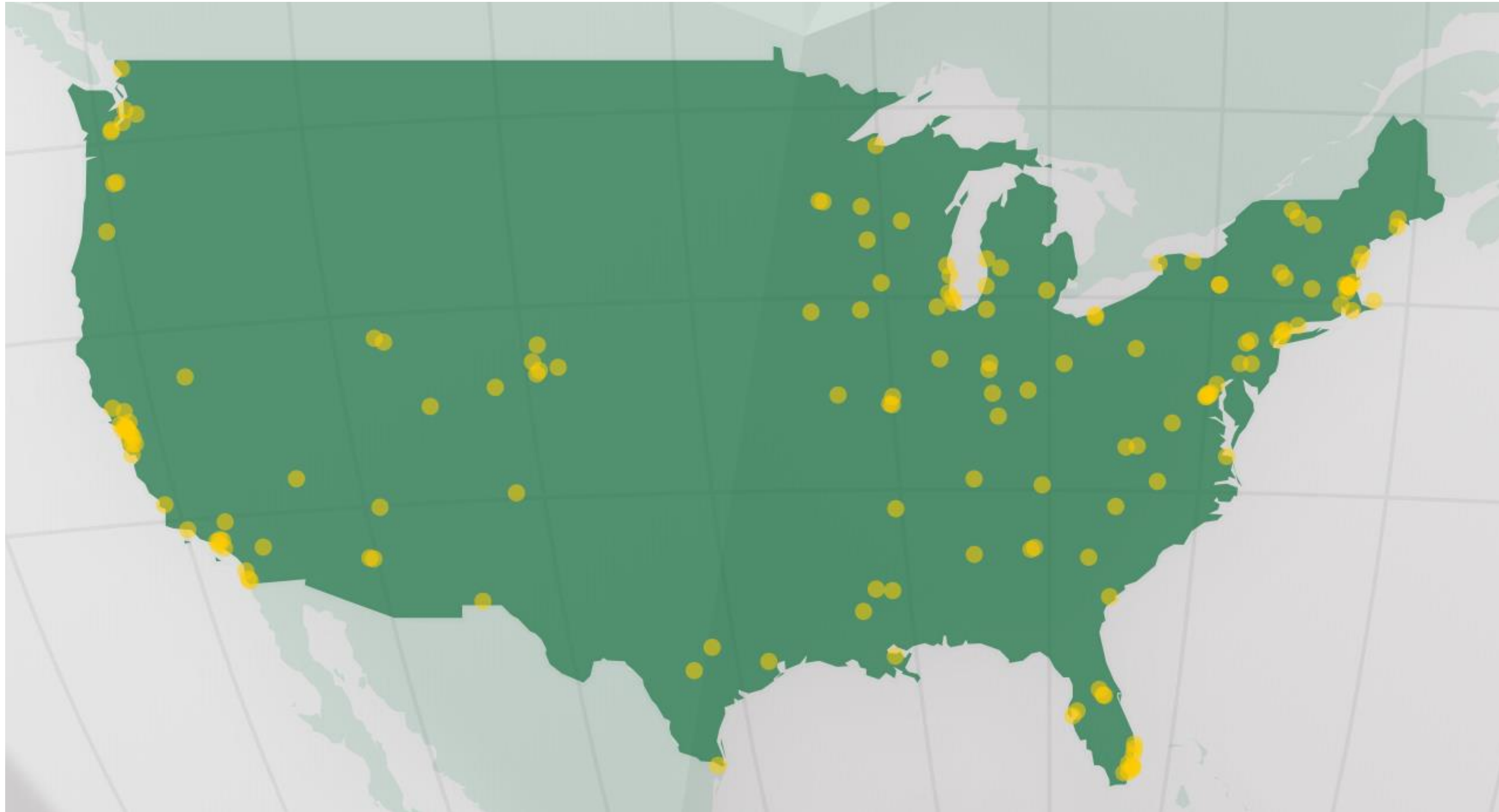
- International alliance of cities and local governments
- Shared long-term vision of a world where committed mayors and local governments –in alliance with partners – accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives
- Goal of an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.



Background

- Mayors and local leaders committed to the Global Covenant commit to taking concrete measures with long-term impact to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.
- In 2019, the Council applied for this opportunity, but was not selected.
- Recently, GCoM has approached the Council to offer the same opportunity due to programmatic changes.
- **Council has been invited to join GCoM as a member of a pilot regional program called The Metro-Scale Climate Leaders.**

Who are the members of GCoM?



U.S.

- 170 US Cities
- 3 regions
- 65,288,785 residents
- St. Paul & Minneapolis

Worldwide

- 10,000 Cities
- 6 Continents
- 138 Counties

Why join the GCoM - Metro-Scale Climate Leaders program?

- ✓ No additional funding is required of the Council outside of the staff time and budget already committed to current climate change and resilience planning projects
- ✓ Acknowledges the Council's existing climate change planning and resilience work
- ✓ Supports the Council's work through technical assistance
- ✓ Connects that work to a wider network of US and international partners
- ✓ Assists the Council's efforts toward meeting the goals identified in the Next Generation Energy Act and put Minnesota back on track to meeting those goals, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 19-37

What does this commitment look like?

Commitment	Council Project / Activity	Status
A community-scale greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory	Metro Climate Stats	Under development
An assessment of climate hazards and vulnerabilities	Climate Vulnerability Assessment	Complete
Ambitious, measurable, and time-bound target(s) to reduce/limit greenhouse gas emissions	Climate Action and Resilience Plan	Underway
Ambitious adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change	Climate Action and Resilience Plan	Underway
Ambitious and just goal to improve access to sustainable energy	Xcel Energy Green Energy Partnership CSG Subscriptions SolSmart	Underway Underway Underway
Plan(s) to address climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy, including provisions for regular (annual or biennial) progress reports	Implement through Climate Action and Resilience Plan 2050 Regional Development Framework	Underway Underway

Proposed Action

1. Commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, joining thousands of other cities and local governments around the world currently engaged in climate leadership.
2. Specifically, within no more than three years of this commitment, the Council pledges to develop, formally adopt, and report on the following:
 - a) A community-scale greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory,
 - b) An assessment of climate hazards and vulnerabilities,
 - c) Ambitious, measurable, and time-bound target(s) to reduce/limit greenhouse gas emissions,
 - d) Ambitious adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change,
 - e) Ambitious and just goal to improve access to sustainable energy, and
 - f) Plan(s) to address climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy, including provisions for regular (annual or biennial) progress reports.

Proposed Action (continued)

3. Council targets and action plans for mitigation / low emission development will be quantified and consistent with or exceed relevant national commitments defined through the [United States' Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#).
4. The Council acknowledges that there may be additional region- or country-specific commitments to adhere to, agreed through local membership networks or through direct engagement with local Global Covenant of Mayors partners.
5. The Council acknowledges that continued membership in the Global Covenant of Mayors and associated local chapters or “Regional Covenants” as established, is contingent on complying with the above requirements within established timeframes.

Questions

