

United Nations Conference of the Parties

COP 25, Madrid Spain, December 9 – 13, 2019



March 12, 2020

Metropolitan Council – TAC Planning Committee

Eric Wojchik, Metropolitan Council, Local Planning Assistance



What will We Discuss Today?

- What is COP – History, Purpose, Milestones
- COP25 – Purpose
- Climate Generation – Accreditation and Panel
- A Day in the Life of COP
- What did COP25 achieve?
- Reflections & takeaways for Met Council & Climate Generation
- Question & Answer

What is the UN Conference of the Parties (COP)?

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change formed in 1988
- Started in 1992 with UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) creation at the Rio Earth Summit
- COP1 in 1995 in Berlin, Germany
- COP3 in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan. Kyoto Protocol adopted
 - Binding agreement
- COP15 in 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark
 - Nonbinding, voluntary agreement
 - Recognition to limit warming to 2°C
- COP21 in 2015 in Paris, France
 - Nonbinding “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDC)
 - Limit warming to 2°C

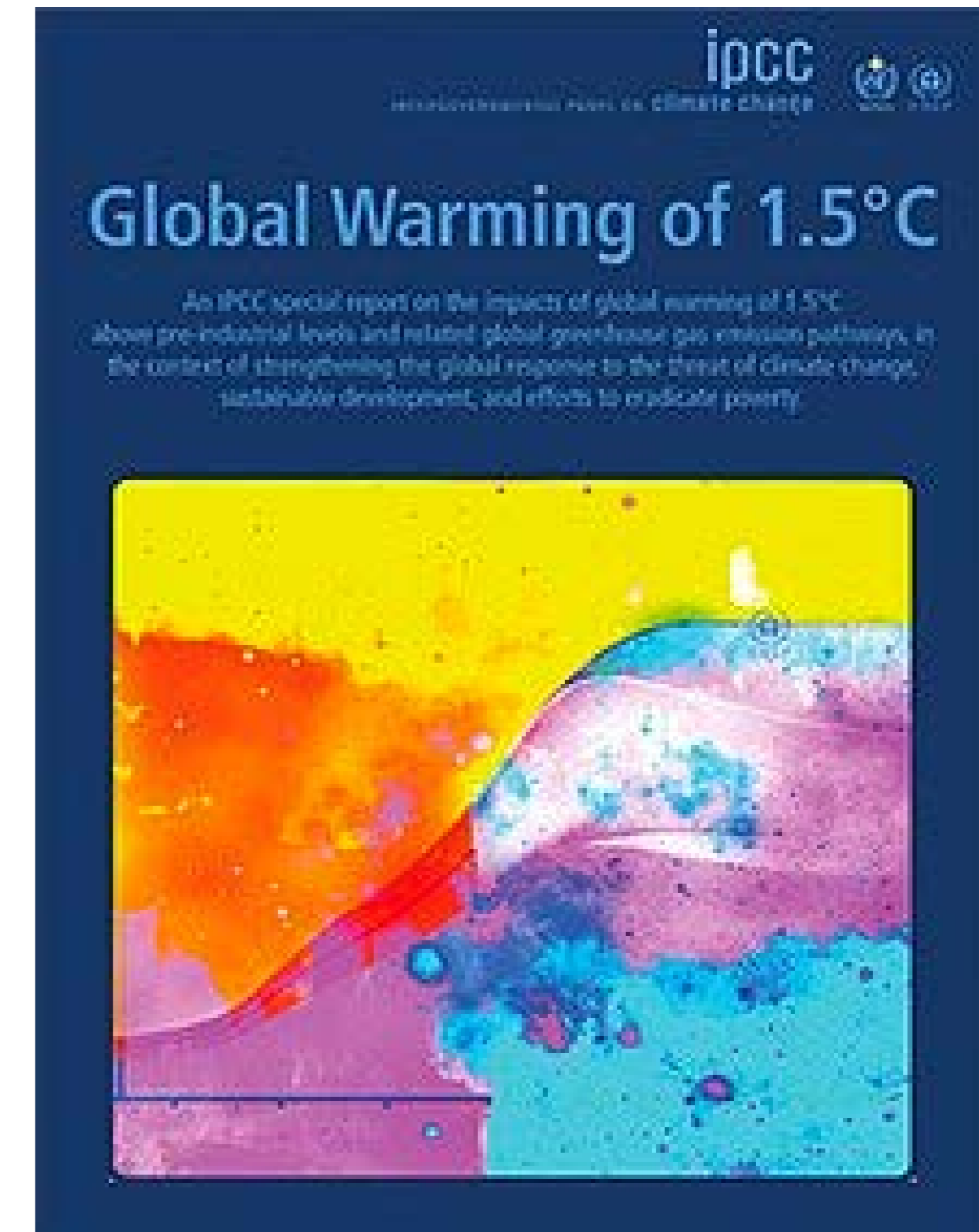
Urgent action needed for mitigation

Global climate crisis

To keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world will need to cut emissions by 50% within 10 years.

"The report shows that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees can have many benefits, including those for human health and natural habitats. We can still choose the kind of future we want, but we have to act now."

(Heleen de Coninck, Climate Scientist and Lead Author of IPCC Report "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius", 2018)



UN Conference of Parties 25 (COP 25)



Window into COP at Climate Generation

- Follow MN delegates
- Follow the negotiations
- Sign up for updates through Climate Generation
- Opportunity allows Met Council to connect with other global efforts

What was the main goal of COP25?

- Continue to operationalize 2015 Paris Agreement
 - Raise overall ambition for enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
 - Complete work on Article 6 of the Agreement
 - International climate markets
 - Other areas of focus
 - Adaptation, loss and damage, transparency, finance, capacity-building, indigenous issues, oceans, forestry, gender, and more
- Set the stage for COP26 in 2020 in Glasgow, Scotland
 - Article 6 work needed
 - Higher ambition needed

Part of the COP25 MN Delegation



MN Climate Change Planning Panel

- Climate Generation
- Metropolitan Council
- MN House of Representatives
- UMN
- Fresh Energy
- Science Museum



A Day in the Life of COP

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Enhancing NDCs and Raising Ambition:...

Side event
Dec 11, 11:30 - 13:00
Side Event Room 5

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♥ Add note Add session

Description

Theme:
The session will discuss successful examples of renewable energy strategies that meet climate objectives aligned with the 1.5°C pathway.

Speakers:
Combination of governments and private and public sectors.

Location:





Green Zone, Blue Zone



Observers, Parties



A Day in the Life of COP

Dozens of 'Side Events' to choose from



Plenaries are where negotiators can call for more action or name & shame one another

A Day in the Life of COP

Visiting the many pavilions



Country pavilions and science/industry pavilions



u.s. Climate Action Center 
#WEARESTILLIN



A Day in the Life of COP

US Climate Action Network meeting with Chief US Negotiator



A Day in the Life of COP



US Climate Action Network meeting with Chief US Negotiator



METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL

A Day in the Life of COP

Press Conference with Rachel Cleetus of the Union of Concerned Scientists & US Climate Action Network



Greta Thunberg at COP25

A Day in the Life of COP

Press Conference indigenous youth climate activists, including Rose Whipple, member of the Santee Dakota and Ho-chunk & youth delegate with SustainUs



Civil society (Observer Delegates) protest

A Day in the Life of COP



Fossil of the Day

A Day in the Life of COP



What did COP25 achieve?

- Continue to operationalize 2015 Paris Agreement
 - Raise overall ambition for enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – 80 countries committed to this
 - Complete work on Article 6 of the Agreement – Vital & not done
 - International climate markets
 - Other areas of focus
 - Adaptation, loss and damage, transparency, finance, capacity-building, indigenous issues, oceans, forestry, gender, and more – Some work done on gender, but no dedicated fund agreed on loss and damage, which is important now.
- Set the stage for COP26 in 2020 in Glasgow, Scotland

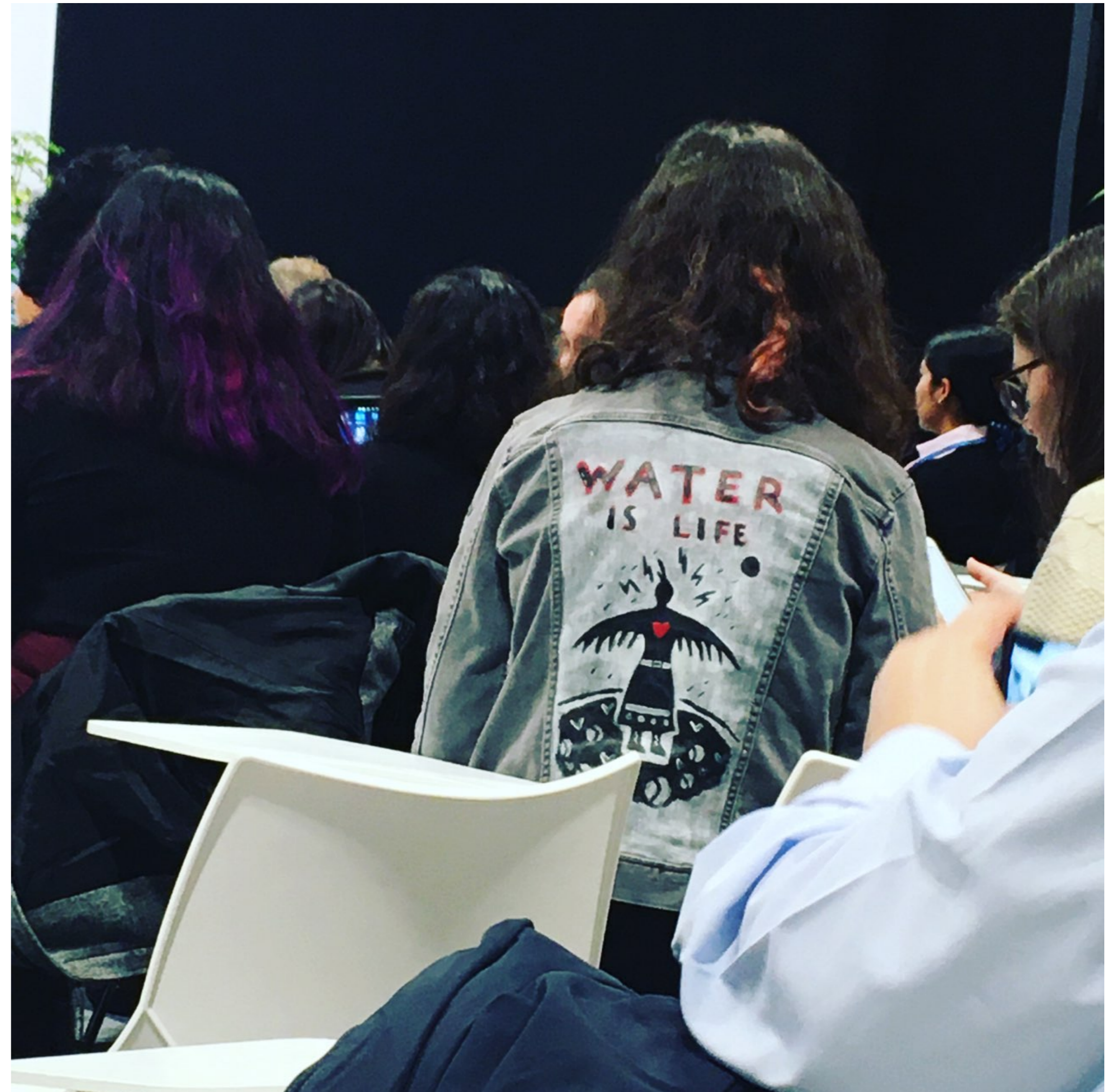
Metropolitan Council Professional Opportunities

- Learn how our regional efforts nest within the global efforts
- Make connections with other regions and institutions, non-profits doing cutting edge climate work.
- Learn about the most up-to-date issues and the most rigorous science
- Learn about climate justice issues and mechanisms for a clean energy transition
- Tell our story to the wider world



Metropolitan Council Reflections from COP25

- Negotiations will need to include civil society
- Ability to meet in small group areas as well as plenaries
- Access to high level officials is somewhat refreshing
- Realize that efforts in Minnesota make a big difference in the global south
- If island nations and developing nations can do this, so can we
- Powerful experience, both personally & professionally



Climate Generation's Window into COP25



CLIMATEGENERATION
A WILL STEGER LEGACY



Sabrina Patlan
Intern and Youth Delegate, Climate Generation

[READ SABRINA'S BLOG](#)

I am excited to represent Climate Generation at COP25 because it will offer me the opportunity of seeing firsthand the extent of NGOs ability to influence international climate governance.



Eric Wojchik
Senior Planner, Metropolitan Council

[READ ERIC'S BLOG](#)

Though the Metropolitan Council is engaged in a vast array of climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, our region does not have a Climate Action Plan to provide a roadmap for organizational and regional goals. COP25 provides a unique opportunity to benchmark with other regional governments and organizations on approaches to the economic and resilience planning work so vital to our region's sustainable future.

<https://www.climategen.org/our-core-programs/window-into-cop/window-into-cop25/>





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Thanks! Any questions?

