

Pledging to deliver inclusive climate action that benefits all citizens equitably

FAQ

1. What is the language for the pledge?

Mayors pledge to increase action on community-led development, inclusive climate action and infrastructure projects that achieve major environmental, health, social and economic benefits especially in low-income and vulnerable communities.

2. Why?

Climate change is unfair, it was created by the few and will hit the many hardest and strongest. Conversely, taking climate action does not always benefit people equitably. Climate change is such an all-encompassing threat to humanity that strategies to build a climate safe future will not succeed unless all voices are heard and people are engaged. If communities are not able to access the benefits of a low-carbon transition, mayors will lose their permission to act.

Thus, to be effective and supported, the response to climate change needs to be inclusive, fair and equitable, increasing action on community-led projects that achieve major benefits for all. The pledge is an opportunity for mayors, by clearly demonstrating that bold climate action is not detached from other key priorities of the city and that if done in an inclusive way it can have a range of positive impacts for citizens.

3. What should a city do if its mayor wants to make the pledge?

Step 1: Get in touch with GCAS@c40.org

Step 2: Provide statement of support from your mayor's office

Step 3: Be featured in GCAS announcements & communications.

C40 is working on different communication opportunities that will recognize mayors taking commitments, but of course the mayor is welcome to do its own local communication on it as well.

4. Does a declaration or longer text exist?

No, there is no declaration or longer text to sign. The pledge is conceived to be an opportunity for mayors and a way of making a political statement on equity and climate at the Summit, rather than a technical commitment to fulfil. For this reason, there is no formal declaration that needs to be signed or adopted.

5. Is there a formal way of tracking or reporting against the pledge?

As inclusivity is very much related to specific geographical, cultural, social and economic contexts, it varies per city and within the city. Hence, there is no “inclusivity” equivalent for “carbon neutral” and what is considered “inclusive climate action” will be different in different cities and regions. There will be common themes, as advancing an ambitious agenda on climate in an equitable and inclusive way will inevitably address similar issues: increasing access to low carbon transportation in low-income neighbourhoods, empowering communities to enact transformational change, recognising informality in climate planning, etc., but standardization of outcomes is unlikely to be possible.

6. Is there a link between this pledge and C40's Deadline2020 commitment?

Yes, C40's Deadline2020 strategy aims to enable cities to radically mitigate climate change by keeping global warming to safe levels, adapt to its impacts and deliver positive outcomes for all segments of the city's population. If a city commits to Deadline2020 it commits to developing an inclusive and equitable climate action plan and as part of the Climate Action Planning Programme, C40 will provide technical assistance to several member cities to support them in achieving this goal.

Together with member cities, C40 is developing guidance resources (tools, indicators, etc.) to support cities in their assessment of the inclusivity of their climate strategies and their wider benefits. The resources are conceived as a support for those cities that are interested and committed to develop equitable and inclusive climate policies.