

The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream initiative launched by the European Union uniting local and regional authorities in a common voluntary commitment to green economic growth and a higher quality of life.

Covenant signatories voluntarily commit to implement actions in energy efficiency and renewable energy leading to at least 20% CO₂ emissions reductions by 2020.

Since its launch in 2008, the Covenant of Mayors has become a leading initiative in encouraging and supporting local authorities in Europe and beyond to develop and implement sustainable energy policies. By doing so the Covenant contributes to green economic growth and an increased quality of life in the cities. How? By enhancing energy affordability, job creation, improving social and economic well-being and tackling climate change. The Covenant of Mayors East Office is located in Lviv (Ukraine) and key experts based in Kyiv (Ukraine), Yerevan (Armenia), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan) provide administrative, technical and promotional assistance to eleven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Local authorities as key players

The local administration is the closest government level to engage citizens and reconcile public and private interests. Local authorities' decisions can significantly and positively influence the quality of life (e.g. affordable energy services, clean air) and the economic dynamics in a city. Cities, towns and other urban areas have a crucial role to play in mitigating climate change, as they are responsible for over 70% of current global CO₂ emissions.

Commitment

The Covenant of Mayors is not “just another campaign” but a serious commitment by local authorities based on reliable and quantifiable objectives in the field of energy and climate mitigation. The cities' obligations and progress towards the objectives are strictly monitored by the Joint Research Centre – the European Commission's in-house science service. This makes the Covenant of Mayors a unique initiative, encouraging local action in line with national priorities.

As part of their voluntary commitment, cities develop the political and administrative skills needed to implement a local sustainable energy policy and submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) to the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels. This comprehensive overview of key sustainable energy actions is submitted within the year following the signature of the Covenant. SEAPs serve as roadmaps towards achieving the energy and climate ambitions at local level. On February 2014 **more than 3,300 SEAPs were submitted and over 1,800 of them accepted.**

Growth

The initiative comprises local authorities from around 50 countries with over 5 200 signatories - of which over 80 Mayors from Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Furthermore, through the commitment of their local authorities, over 10 million citizens living in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries are involved in the Covenant of Mayors.

Support

The Covenant of Mayors is a growing international community of leading local and regional authorities which benefits from a strong support from political (European Commission, national governments, national chambers etc.) and financial institutions (European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank, private banks, etc.).

The Covenant Signatories benefit from an extensive support, trainings and networking opportunities provided by the Covenant of Mayors Offices, Covenant National and Territorial Coordinators, Covenant Supporters and other involved actors. Moreover, good practices from different countries can help local authorities convince their governments and partners to join the Covenant of Mayors.

A range of methodologies and tools has been developed to assist signatories in Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia in the development of their action plans. . Moreover, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre provides expertise in English and Russian to address technical questions signatories might have. By doing so it complements assistance from the Covenant of Mayors Offices.

Impact

The success of the Covenant stems from the concrete steps and measures taken by its signatories. By implementing the actions outlined in their SEAPs, local communities benefit from better access to energy services, lower energy bills, investments in energy efficient measures, job creation and savings in the municipal energy budgets.

Covenant actors share a common goal: to provide a stable environmental, social and economic environment to their citizens and to contribute to resolving global challenges related to exhausting resources and climate change.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Web

www.soglasheniemerov.eu

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_of_Mayors

All publications are available in Russian and further languages:

Publications > www.soglasheniemerov.eu/media/communication-materials_ru.html

Pictures > www.soglasheniemerov.eu/media/videos_ru.html

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The [Covenant of Mayors East Office \(CoMO East\)](#) is managed by a consortium led by [Energy Cities](#) and composed of [Climate Alliance](#), [Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine](#), and the [Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia \(CAREC\)](#).