12 mega-cities
100 super-cities and urban regions
450 large cities
450 small and medium-sized cities and towns
84 countries
Who we are

ICLEI is the world’s largest association of local and metropolitan governments dedicated to sustainable development.

ICLEI is an energetic and flexible movement working together with national, regional and international networks, participating in performance-based programs, advancing through an international exchange of experiences and solutions.

ICLEI is an effective sustainable and environmental agency, strengthening local governments’ capacities, providing advanced knowledge and serving as the gateway to solutions for the future.
“The road to sustainability runs through the world‘s towns and cities.”

Ban Ki-Moon
UN Secretary General
Cities have what it takes to inspire and empower the innovations and changes that are required in today’s world.

- Cities are the home to universities, government power centers, corporate headquarters and over 50% of the global population
- Cities are the pillars on which the prosperity and sustainability of our collective global future depend on
- Cities are the engines of economic growth and job creation
- Cities are platforms for building partnerships with businesses and residents, designing incentives and enforcing regulations
ICLEI connects leaders
- We connect cities to promote mutual learning and generate synergies
- We connect city leaders to UN leaders, business leaders, scientific leaders and NGO leaders

ICLEI accelerates action
- We advocate better framework conditions for cities to perform
- We run programs and campaigns to help cities go for more radical solutions and to advance rapidly
- We provide cities with trainings and tools

ICLEI serves as gateway to solutions
- We have a knowledge base of solutions, maintains partnerships with businesses, researchers and expert organizations, and connects cities with solutions providers
- We support cities to become sustainable through our 8 Urban Agendas
ICLEI offers:

- Leadership in the Local Agenda 21 movement for participatory governance
- Capacity building in sustainability management
- Systems and tools for sustainability management, e.g. **ecoBudget®**
- Advocacy on behalf of local governments towards the UN and its agencies
- ICLEI triennial World Congress and regional conventions

**Sustainable City**

- one of ICLEI’s 8 Urban Agendas

The performance of cities will impact the living conditions of over six billion city dwellers, the global economy and the viability of global ecosystems
Ecosystem-based local planning and management is increasingly essential in a sustainable city

ICLEI offers:

- The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, regional secretariats and country offices enable cities, local and sub-national governments worldwide to commit to biodiversity action.
- The Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Pioneer Project, a partnership initiative with IUCN and others - is an entry level of choice for cities to join over 50 leading cities and local governments on all continents.
- URBIS Network and various BiodiverCities projects run at the country and regional levels.
Cities must be low-risk and resilient if they want to be sustainable: resilient to disaster, climate change, unforeseen events and economic shocks.

ICLEI offers:

- Cities are invited to sign the Durban Adaptation Charter expressing their commitment to climate change adaptation action.
- A range of Resilient Cities/Communities or climate adaptation programs tailored to regional conditions.
- The annual Resilient Cities global forum on urban resilience and adaptation in Bonn.
- The Mayors Adaptation Forum in Bonn convened by the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.
- Cities may also join UNISDR’s “Making cities resilient: My city is getting ready” campaign with other ICLEI partners.
Low-carbon City
- one of ICLEI’s 8 Urban Agendas

Low-carbon, low-emission or even carbon-neutral cities will be the signposts to sustainability

ICLEI offers:

- Cities are invited to sign the Global Cities Covenant on Climate (Mexico City Pact)
- Cities could join the World Mayors Council for Climate Change, the secretariat of which is hosted by ICLEI
- The Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting (carbonn®) which operates the carbonn Cities Climate Registry
- The GreenClimateCities program guides cities through a process of analysis, target-setting, programming, identifying finance, implementation, monitoring and reporting
- The HEAT+ online tool is available for cities to account for their greenhouse gas emissions
- ICLEI actively advocates local climate action, local governments as partners in global climate governance, bottom-up finance mechanisms and local government access to climate finance
Smart Urban Infrastructure
- one of ICLEI’s 8 Urban Agendas

Eco-efficient, resilient and low-carbon city development requires smart urban infrastructure which in turn depends on smart systems design

ICLEI offers:

- ICLEI’s Local Renewables Center, regional secretariats and country offices inform Members about regionally specific Local Renewables programs
- The annual international Local Renewables conference in Freiburg
- In partnership with the Green Building Councils and UNEP, ICLEI offers cities technical advice on green buildings and sustainable construction
- An annual Resilient Building & Construction Forum in Bonn, Germany
- The EcoMobility Alliance
- The Biennial EcoMobility Congress
- The annual Resilient Urban Logistics Forum in Bonn, Germany
The way we produce, distribute and consume determines the stability of ecosystems and the sustainability of human civilization.

ICLEI offers:

- A Green Urban Economy strategy
- The EcoProcura© Conferences for exchange and learning
- The Sustainable Procurement program through ICLEI’s Sustainable Procurement Center, regional secretariats and country offices
- The Local Action for Employment processes, engaging stakeholders in the development of job creation and green job strategies
- Guidance and technical advice on hosting green events
- ICLEI triennial World Congress and regional conventions
Resource-efficient cities will gain competitive advantage in an era of shrinking resources and growing global and urban populations

ICLEI offers:

- Programs such as Integrated Urban Water Management, Green Growth Cities and networks such as Food Smart Cities
- Capacity building and systems, especially the ecoBudget® for managing local natural resources such as land and soil, water, fauna and flora, food, nutrients, minerals, materials and energy
- ICLEI triennial World Congress and regional conventions
Healthy & Happy Community
- one of ICLEI’s 8 Urban Agendas

Local communities should enjoy health, happiness and a good quality of life, irrespective of their economic standing

ICLEI offers:

- ICLEI offers opportunities for Members to develop a local “happiness index” on the route “beyond GDP”
- Members concerned about public health and safety may seek guidance through ICLEI’s Safe & Healthy Communities program
- The Local Agenda for Peace and Security gives support to Members in crisis-stricken regions and those with communities suffering from violence who seek to incorporate a just and peaceful community in their sustainable development plans
“Sustainability: understand it, localize it, customize it and humanize it. Our core business is helping you to understand global sustainability challenges, localizing their impacts and customizing solutions, so that citizens feel that they too need to be part of the effort. Join the organization and our work!”

Gino Van Begin
ICLEI Secretary General
Join our Network

Our Members and Partners prove that local governments worldwide take responsibility in creating a sustainable society!

- ICLEI Members and Partners are informing and inspiring a global dialogue of what is possible and necessary. They are working together, driving innovation, and providing powerful leadership and direction.
- They consistently top the rankings of the World’s Greenest Cities.
- They have led the effort in recent years to envision, accelerate and achieve strong climate protection goals, creating cleaner, healthier and more economically viable communities.
- They benefit from ICLEI's professional networks, trainings, tools, events, advocacy and more than 20 years of sustainability experience.
“Cities and local governments are not waiting for the world to change. We are changing the world together. And this is what really sets the tone at ICLEI.”

Mayor Park Won-Soon
Mayor of Seoul, and Chair of World Mayors Council on Climate Change
Be part of the change

Becoming a part of the ICLEI Network is more than becoming a Member or a Partner. It is about joining a committed network of local governments from across the country and around the world, learning from one another and sharing resources to accelerate success – and **to create more vibrant and sustainable communities together.**
ICLEI has over 250 international staff working in 17 legal entities and satellite offices worldwide supporting cities to become low-carbon, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, and to green their infrastructure and urban economy. Find out more at www.iclei.org

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ICLEI World Secretariat is supported by:

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