

Frequently Asked Questions: Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign

What is ICLEI?

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is an international membership association of local governments dedicated to addressing environmental issues through local action.

What is the Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign?

The Cities for Climate Protection® (CCP) Campaign ICLEI’s hallmark program that engages cities, towns, and counties in reducing the pollution that causes global warming. The CCP Campaign started in 1993.

How many cities, towns, and counties participate?

More than 200 cities, towns, and counties in the United States—and more than 770 communities worldwide—participate in the CCP Campaign.

How does a jurisdiction participate in the CCP Campaign?

Any city, county, or town can participate in the CCP Campaign by joining ICLEI and adopting a resolution or making an executive proclamation that commits to reducing local emissions that contribute to global warming. The process is not linear and consists of working through five milestones:

1. Conduct a local emissions inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions
2. Adopt an emissions reduction target
3. Draft an action plan to achieve the target
4. Implement the action plan
5. Evaluate, report on progress, and update plans

How do jurisdictions benefit from CCP participation?

- Participating jurisdictions reduce global warming pollution, cut traffic, save tax dollars, clean the air, and improve the quality of life in their communities.
- CCP participants have access to a global network of local governments that act to protect the climate through innovative and proven projects.
- ICLEI provides technical assistance, emissions analysis software, case studies, training workshops, publications, and other learning, networking and recognition opportunities.

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How much staff time does CCP participation require?

The CCP staff liaison from the energy, planning, public works or other department integrates CCP work with ongoing department activity. The time requirement varies depending upon the size and complexity of the local government, the pace at which the community opts to address the milestones, and the involvement of community members.

How do local governments inventory emissions?

ICLEI provides forms for collecting data and software for conducting the emissions inventory. Relevant data are collected for local transportation, waste, and energy consumption. The software computes emissions numbers as well as co-benefits related to cost savings and criteria air pollution prevention. The resulting inventory is a valuable resource for planning new activities and serves as a baseline for measuring progress.

How do local governments develop emissions reduction plans?

Cities, towns, and counties use the CCP toolkit to work through the milestone process. The toolkit helps participants identify emissions reduction ideas and strategies. ICLEI also provides case studies and sample action plans prepared by other CCP local governments.

How much does CCP participation cost?

The CCP is free for members of ICLEI. ICLEI membership provides discounts on publications, events, and software. ICLEI members pay an annual fee based on population.