

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy USA: Regional and Metro-scale Climate Leaders

The **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy** (GCoM) is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to an inclusive, just, low emission, resilient society. The initiative is jointly funded by the European Union and Bloomberg Philanthropies and supported through a global network of partners, including C40, ICLEI, UCLG, Eurocities, Energy Cities and Climate Alliance. There are currently over 160 GCoM member cities in the US, all of whom have made a commitment to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

GCoM has been working in the USA with partners such as the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), ICLEI USA, C40 and others to help build a program that will help support US cities in their efforts in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and becoming more resilient to climate change. One key strategic objective which national stakeholders identified was to help foster more metro-scale or regional 'Climate Action Plans', bringing together multiple local government entities and regional organizations to tackle the issues.

In response to this demand, the '**Regional and Metro-scale Climate Leaders**' was developed as an initiative of GCoM USA, funded by the European Union through its '**International Urban Cooperation**' (IUC) program. Through an application process, MWCOG was selected as one of four metropolitan regions committed to joining GCoM and showing leadership regarding climate change. Across the next 12 months, IUC and GCoM will be working closely with MWCOG to help develop a regional Climate Action Plan including a GHG Inventory, GHG Emissions Scenarios and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment through coordination and cooperation at the regional level as well as through contracted technical assistance funded by IUC. Technical assistance for the program will be provided by BuroHappold Engineering who will support each of the four regions with technical development of the regional Plans.

The expected schedule for the project, is shown on the following page. The project will end by October 2020 with a final Climate Action Plan, including climate mitigation and adaptation actions developed for 2021 through 2025 and 2026 through 2030.

2030 Action Plan Development Timeline	2019				2020									
	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Regional GHG Inventory and BAU Projections			W											
Mitigation Targets and Low-Carbon Scenarios			W				W							
Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment			W				W							
Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Actions							W							

W = Workshops

The initiative is an opportunity for metropolitan and regional associations of governments to collaborate with municipalities locally and to learn and exchange with other regions internationally, with the aim of producing a set of successful case studies for ambitious regional climate and adaptation action, such as in MWCOG, which can in turn be promoted nationally and globally through the GCoM network.