



Global Covenant of Mayors Common Reporting Framework

Version 6.1

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6.3 Energy Access Plan

All local governments **shall** report their energy access plans. However, at this stage, the detailed reporting framework is still being defined by the GCoM. Further consultation will be carried out before local governments are required to submit their energy access plans (which may be already a component of their Climate Action Plans).

In general, energy access refers to “access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy”. It is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular SDG 7 “Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and the Sustainable Energy For All (SEforALL) Initiative, which aims to ensure universal access to modern energy services.

An energy access plan typically includes three components:

(1) Access to *secure* energy

- Reduce energy demand (i.e. energy efficiency and energy management).
- Diversify energy mix, including the biggest possible share of diverse renewable energy (also considering locally available RE sources).
- Lower dependence from imported energy and diversify sources of supply.

(2) Access to *sustainable* energy

- The aim of the GCoM is that all energy used should become sustainable¹⁹, so whenever there is no access to energy in a location, renewable energy sources should be considered first, using energy efficient technologies.
- For access to electricity, renewable energy plays a growing role in both grid-based electrification and the expansion of decentralized technologies that are essential for rural areas.²⁰

(3) Access to *affordable* energy

- Energy affordability depends on many factors that typically go beyond the local government’s purview. For example, energy prices are usually addressed at the national level. However, the affordability of energy can be influenced by factors under the control of the local government, such as local policies, energy management, the use of subsidies or other mechanisms like incentives to promote renewable energy systems or energy saving measures.

¹⁹ For GCoM, nuclear energy is not considered “sustainable”.

²⁰ Energy Access Outlook 2017 “From Poverty to Prosperity”