



Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
Commitment of
The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
United States of America, National Capital Region



I, **Daniel Sze, Chair of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee** commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), joining thousands of other cities and local governments around the world currently engaged in climate leadership.

GCoM envisions a world where committed mayors and local governments – in alliance with partners – accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.

Whatever the size or location, the mayors and local leaders committed to GCoM stand ready to take concrete measures with long-term impact to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as access to sustainable energy.

To implement this vision, we pledge to implement policies and undertake measures to (i) reduce / avoidⁱ greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (ii) prepare for the impacts of climate change, (iii) increase access to sustainable energy, and (iv) track progress toward these objectives.

Specifically, within three years of this commitmentⁱⁱ, we pledge to develop, adoptⁱⁱⁱ, use and regularly report on the following:

- A community-scale GHG emission inventory, following the recommended guidance;
- An assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities;
- Ambitious, measurable and time-bound target(s) to reduce/avoid GHG emissions;
- Ambitious climate change adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change;
- An ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy; and
- A formally adopted plan(s) addressing climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.

The targets and action plans for mitigation / low emission development must be quantified and consistent with or exceed relevant national unconditional^{iv} commitments defined through the UNFCCC (Intended) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The targets and action plans should be in line with National Adaptation Plans, where these exist; and should be consistent with the principles around energy access and urban sustainability embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We will explore the allocation of adequate staff resources and institutional arrangements. This includes governance processes, municipal structures and budget allocations to deliver on this commitment and secure continuity.

We acknowledge that there may be additional regional- or country-specific commitments or requirements that we commit to follow, and that may be agreed through our city networks or through our direct engagement with local partners of GCoM.

The **Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee** of the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments** acknowledges that continued engagement in GCoM and associated Regional or National Covenants, as established, is contingent on complying with the above requirements within established timeframes.

Name and title of person signing this commitment

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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5,570,234 Inhabitants, **3,722** sq. miles

United States of America

OFFICIAL SIGNATURE

Mandated by the **Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee** on **September 25, 2019**.

ⁱ "Avoid emission" via low emission development

ⁱⁱ Flexibility is allowed to suit differentiated local circumstances and needs.

ⁱⁱⁱ According to the city and local government's procedures

^{iv} Many countries have submitted two sets of NDC targets: unconditional targets, to be implemented without any explicit external support; and conditional targets. The latter are more ambitious than unconditional targets and require external support for their fulfilment. The cities and local governments committing to the GCoM are required to commit at least to the equivalent of their country's unconditional targets, but are encouraged to be more ambitious where possible.