



ONE PLANET
CITY CHALLENGE



Co-funded by
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PARTICIPANT BOOKLET

WWF's One Planet
City Challenge 2025-26







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This booklet is designed to provide local governments with general information on WWF's One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) and its different stages, how to join the Challenge, and what happens next. The guidance complements the instructions found on [CDP-ICLEI Track](#) and [panda.org/opcc](#).

Contact information

For additional information and answers to your queries, please see [complementary participant information](#) or email us at opcc@wwf.se.

If you still have technical questions regarding data reporting and CDP-ICLEI Track, please visit the [CDP Help Center](#) or email your relevant CDP regional inbox:

- CDP North America: citiesna@cdp.net
- CDP Europe: cities.europe@cdp.net
- CDP UK, Middle East, Africa and Caucasus: citiesEMEA@cdp.net
- CDP Asia Pacific: citiesapac@cdp.net
- CDP Latin America: reportecer@cdp.net

Please copy WWF (opcc@wwf.se) in your message for additional facilitation, or contact your local WWF office.

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THE OPCC IN A NUTSHELL

The One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is a global program designed by WWF to help you increase your city's resilience through integrated and ambitious climate action. It aims to develop and disseminate participant cities' best climate mitigation and adaptation practices, while publicly recognizing the most ambitious leaders in the field.

To participate in the OPCC, cities report their climate actions, strategies and data on [CDP-ICLEI Track](#) – a standardized international platform. As part of the process, WWF reviews cities' reported plans against good-practice, climate-action-planning criteria.

Each participant receives a feedback report with the results of our assessment. This includes information on whether submitted targets align with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 °C. We further review whether the climate action plans are well-balanced towards the goal, and provide high level guidance on the most effective actions to meet such targets.

Participating cities can access capacity building webinars organized by WWF along with specific local programs and events run by local WWF offices. These may include specific topics such as food, nature-based solutions, adaptation, plastic waste or transportation.

WWF profiles climate leaders as an inspiration for others to follow suit. Cities with the most robust and credible reporting are acknowledged as finalists, and ultimately winners in various categories. Finalists are invited to participate in our global public engagement campaign [We Love Cities](#) designed to raise awareness for cities' climate action, and to evoke support and feedback from citizens.

The OPCC strives to maximize the benefits for participating cities by aligning with multiple city initiatives, thereby minimizing their reporting workload. The OPCC data requirements are aligned with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM).

The OPCC has grown steadily since its inception in 2011. To date, over 900 cities from 70 countries have participated at least once in the OPCC.

THE FIVE STAGES OF THE



1. Registration & Reporting

STAGE 1: REGISTRATION & REPORTING

Cities and other local governments wishing to participate in the OPCC are asked to:

1. Register their interest via their local WWF office or via email to opcc@wwf.se.
2. Join the OPCC through CDP-ICLEI Track. Once you have logged into the system, you can choose the option to join our Challenge. It is listed among the available initiatives. Cities that participated in the 2023-24 OPCC round are automatically enrolled in 2025-26 and can re-open and submit. For further information please visit [the CDP Help Center](#). More information can be found [here](#).
3. Enter data on CDP-ICLEI Track in adherence with the reporting requirements for the OPCC, which aligns with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM). For more information, please consult our Technical Document. Cities can start disclosing data in mid-June* when CDP-ICLEI Track opens for submissions. To maximize the benefits of your reporting, we recommend submitting by CDP's scoring deadline mid-September as this will allow joining other initiatives. During September to November, cities have the opportunity to update and make improvements to their questionnaire. CDP-ICLEI Track closes in November and cities need to have submitted in public format by then to be qualified as participants in the OPCC.

** All dates are preliminary and might be subject to change. For the latest updates, please visit [CDP](#) or our [Information for Cities webpage](#).*



2. Assessment & Review

STAGE 2: ASSESSMENT & REVIEW

The submitted data is evaluated using the OPCC's Assessment Framework, and its Scoring Framework. This focuses on the assessed GHG emissions and risks from climate change, mitigation targets and adaptation goals (inclusive, integrated, and science-based), climate action plans, implementation of strategies and / or actions, and results-based monitoring.

Cities with the most robust and credible reporting are acknowledged as finalists. Up to 3 finalists are selected per country.

Further information about the OPCC Assessment Framework will be published on the [Information for Cities webpage](#).



3. Feedback & Capacity-building

STAGE 3: FEEDBACK & CAPACITY-BUILDING

Each participant receives an OPCC Strategic Feedback Report, a tailored tool to help your city advance its climate journey. It's designed to provide a clear understanding of the big picture, identify specific opportunities for improvement, and strengthen communication for effective policymaking. The report includes an assessment of whether your city's climate targets are aligned with your fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, feedback on your city's mitigation and adaptation actions, climate risks, and results-based monitoring. It acts as a benchmark to measure progress and offers tools to identify new opportunities for improving your city's climate performance.

In addition to the assessment, OPCC participants are invited to engage in WWF's Strategic Support Program (SSP). This program contains a dynamic mix of webinars, guides, and group-based coaching that provides participants with tools and a structured process to enhance their strategic climate work, as well as ample opportunities for knowledge sharing among peers.

OPCC CYCLE



4. Engagement & Mobilisation

STAGE 4: ENGAGEMENT & MOBILISATION

Up to 3 of the top-performers per country will be invited to join a global public engagement campaign. WLC invites people to express support for their favorite among the finalist cities and encourages them to also submit their suggestions to further accelerate change. For more information, please visit welovecities.org.

THROUGH WE LOVE CITIES, CITIES CAN:

- Inspire and raise awareness for sustainability progress being made at a local level.
- Offer the general public an opportunity to celebrate, vote for, and improve their cities by submitting suggestions to decision makers.
- Reward communities and strengthen the bond between citizens and their local governments.



5. Recognition & Celebration

STAGE 5: RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION

Top-scoring cities will be recognized in various categories based on reported data at national, regional, and global levels. Our aim is to celebrate successful climate action and highlight cities that are ambitious about mitigating climate change and building local resilience. WWF invites cities, regardless of how far they have come, to join the OPCC and we look forward to helping them embark on the journey towards sustainability, resilience, and 1.5 °C alignment.

ALIGNING CITIES WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S AMBITIONS

In 2015, a historic accord was signed, bringing together nearly 200 nations in a joint commitment to reduce GHG emissions – the Paris Agreement. The aim was “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels”.

Since then, in 2018, the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown how much more damage global warming of 2 °C compared to 1.5 °C would cause to human and natural systems. The report concluded that to keep global warming within this safer limit, global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2030, and reduced to zero as soon as possible,

by 2050 at the latest. The OPCC therefore assesses cities’ action plans and targets against this goal.

Meeting or staying below OPCC benchmarks signals a city’s commitment to the 1.5°C target – a commitment grounded in what climate science has established is required to protect the global climate system¹. This approach also ensures that cities have a fair, robust and pragmatic benchmark against which to compare their GHG reduction targets.

¹ IPCC, 2023: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 184 pp., doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.



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EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Targeting deep and holistic emissions reduction is a vital commitment, but it must be underpinned by a clear and actionable plan. The OPCC Assessment Framework supports this by incorporating learnings from leading climate action plan frameworks. The OPCC assessment checks whether mitigation actions align with the main sources of emissions and with IPCC strategies that can provide efficient climate mitigation. It also checks whether climate actions are sufficient in relation to estimated climate risks.

Targeting deep and holistic emissions reduction is a vital commitment, but it must be underpinned by a clear and actionable plan.

RECOMMENDED ADAPTATION PRIORITIES

Build Climate Resilience: Plan for Every Hazard!

Effective adaptation strategies tackle both **slow- and rapid-onset hazards**, ensuring resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The table highlights your city's **top climate hazards** (dark colours) with current and future risk levels: Low (red), medium-low (yellow), medium (orange), medium-high (green), high (purple). Hazards with no risk data and additional ones from similar cities appear as clear entries (light grey).

Use this table to prioritise hazards and explore adaptation strategies based on other cities' experiences with similar risks.

For more details, consult the [OPCC Assessment Framework - Technical Document 2025](#).

Footnote: This table uses data from questions 1.2 and 1.1 of the [2025 City Dashboard](#).

HAZARD	CURRENT RISK	POTENTIAL RISK	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Extreme heat	4 city actions align	4 city actions align	Public engagement (including outreach to at-risk groups) Community engagement/education Community-based adaptation Adaptive management Climate planning and preparation
River flooding	2 city actions align	2 city actions align	Land zoning laws (including modern development in at-risk areas) Environmental management Sewer works Sea and water conservation Flood defences, such as flood barriers and culverts
Drought	4 city actions align	4 city actions align	Land zoning laws (including modern development in at-risk areas) Community engagement/education Climate planning and preparation Water efficiency regulations or standards Water use restrictions Soil and water preservation
Fire weather (risk of wildfires)	2 city actions align	2 city actions align	Public engagement (including outreach to at-risk groups) Community engagement/education Climate planning and preparation Fire prevention and suppression Fire risk assessment and mitigation Fire risk communication and education Fire risk management and mitigation
Coastal flooding (incl. sea level rise)	2 city actions align	2 city actions align	Land zoning laws (including modern development in at-risk areas) Environmental management Sea defences and coastal protection Coastal erosion management and mitigation Coastal planning and preparation Coastal management and mitigation Coastal risk assessment and mitigation Coastal risk communication and education Coastal risk management and mitigation

STRATEGIC FEEDBACK REPORT

The OPCC assessment results in a tailor-made feedback report, named 'Assessment of your City's Climate Journey', for each participant, where scores are determined based on set criteria. For details on the scoring and evaluation criteria, please refer to the updated Scoring Framework, which will be available [on our website](#) by the end of June 2025.

Our results are shown in two key dimensions:

'VISION' REPRESENTS A CITY'S COMMITMENT AND ABILITY TO DRIVE CHANGE

I.e., assessed GHG emissions and risks from climate change, mitigation targets and adaptation goals, and results-based monitoring.

'IMPACT' REPRESENTS THE REDUCTION POTENTIAL OF A CITY'S CURRENT CLIMATE ACTION

I.e., mitigation and adaptation action plans and their implementation.

Top-scoring cities are acknowledged as finalists and move to the next phase. A set of minimum scores and a process of quality control is applied to avoid risks for green washing.

YOUR CITY'S FAIR SHARE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement's essential target: holding global warming to 1.5°C.

To limit warming to 1.5°C, cities also aim to **halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050**. These targets align with high-integrity climate commitments outlined by **IMACS24**.

The graph, based on the **OPCC 1.5°C Alignment Method**, assesses your goals in line with the Paris Agreement. Meeting or outperforming the **OPCC benchmarks** signals your city's dedication to the 1.5°C target – a commitment grounded in science!

To learn more about the **OPCC 1.5°C Alignment Method**, refer to the [OPCC Assessment Framework - Technical Document 2025](#).

Footnote: This graph uses data from questions 1.2, 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the [2025 City Dashboard](#).

YOUR CITY'S CLIMATE PERFORMANCE

Achieving climate success means tackling emissions and building resilience.

To thrive, cities must both **reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts**.

The treemap on the right shows your city's performance across key stages of the climate journey. Lighter shades represent the total possible score, while filled areas show your city's **actual results**, with the maximum score available on display.

Use this graph to quickly spot your city's **strengths and areas for improvement**.

For detailed scoring, contact your national WWF office or the [OPCC Technical Helpdesk](#) (helpdesk@wwf.eu).

Footnote: Values in this graph are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore this sum of points available may not be exactly 100.



**OUR AIM IS TO SUPPORT
THE CREATION OF ONE PLANET
CITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.
CITIES WHERE ALL PEOPLE
THRIVE WITHIN THE
ECOLOGICAL LIMITS OF OUR
ONE AND ONLY PLANET**



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

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website at panda.org

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