

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Read me first

Thank you for your interest in joining the Cities Race to Resilience. This document includes Frequently Asked Questions on the Cities Race to Resilience. If you do not find an answer to your question please email [racetoresilience@iclei.org](mailto:racetoresilience@iclei.org).

If you wish to be part of Race to Resilience, we invite you to join via the [Cities Race to Resilience](#) website. Please note that it is not possible to join the Race to Resilience directly via the UNFCCC or COP26 website (see "[How to join Race to Resilience](#)"). For further information about joining, jump directly to: [Information about joining Cities Race to Resilience](#).

If you are already in the Race to Resilience and wish to recruit other cities jump directly to [Information about recruiting your peers in the Race to Resilience](#)

## Table of Contents

General information about Cities Race to Resilience .....	3
What is the Cities Race to Resilience? .....	4
Who is part of Race to Resilience?.....	4
I am already in Cities Race to Resilience, what role can I play ahead of COP26?.....	4
I am already committed to GCoM, should I join the Cities Race to Resilience? .....	4
Is the Race to Resilience connected to the Cities Race to Zero? .....	4
Information about joining Cities Race to Resilience .....	5
How do I join Cities Race to Resilience? .....	5
What is the Cities Race to Resilience pledge? .....	5
What are the benefits of joining Cities Race to Resilience? .....	5
As a member of the Cities Race to Resilience, will I gain access to other initiatives?.....	6
Do I need to join Cities Race to Resilience to be part of the Race to Resilience? .....	7
When should I join the Cities Race to Resilience? .....	7
Who should sign the Cities Race to Resilience pledge?.....	8
When will my commitment be announced?.....	8
Will cities know in advance when their commitment will be announced? .....	8
When can I announce my commitment?.....	8
What should I do after joining Cities Race to Resilience?.....	8
Reporting .....	9
What should my city do if it already has a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment? .....	9
Do I need to report annually on both my Risk and Vulnerability assessment and climate resilience action?.....	9
My city has not been reporting its climate data publicly due to lack of capacity. What can I expect from this process?.....	9

## General information about Cities Race to Resilience

### What is the Race to Resilience?

The High Level Climate Champions Race to Resilience — the sibling campaign to [Race To Zero](#) — was launched at the [Climate Adaptation Summit](#) on 25 January by Alok Sharma, COP26 President designate, after an opening statement from Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary General of the United Nations.

The Race to Resilience is a global campaign run by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions to rally leadership and support from cities, regions, businesses and investors to help frontline communities build resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Race to Resilience aims to catalyse action by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks.

Race to Resilience aims:

- **By 2030**, to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks

Through a partnership of initiatives, the campaign will focus on helping frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

- **Urban:** Transform urban slums into healthy, clean and safe cities
- **Rural:** Equip smallholder farmers to adapt and thrive
- **Coastal:** Protect homes and businesses against climate shocks

Non-state actor-led regional, national or global initiatives are invited to express their interest to join the Race to Resilience.

Initiatives must share the vision and goals of the Race to Resilience, and meet the following criteria:

- **Pledge:** To translate new and existing targets, directly or indirectly, into the numbers of people from vulnerable groups and communities who will be made more resilient to climate risks
- **Plan:** To use the best knowledge and scientific evidence, and share a clear plan by COP26 to take action towards this commitment with interim targets and milestones
- **Proceed:** To take immediate action to pursue commitment in support of Race to Resilience, and has an active and functional secretariat able to request and monitor members
- **Publish:** Agree to report back on progress annually starting at COP26

To understand what cities must do to meet the Race to Resilience criteria jump to: [What is the Cities Race to Resilience pledge?](#)

### What is the Cities Race to Resilience?

C40 Cities, CDP, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Making Cities Resilient 2030, Resilient Cities Network, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have come together to mobilize an unprecedented coalition of cities committed to prioritizing resilience and implementing inclusive and resilient climate action ahead of and beyond the COP26 in Glasgow.

The [Cities Race to Resilience](#) is one of the initiatives under the Race to Resilience campaign, focused on driving cities to join and pledge their commitment to the global fight against climate change. The Cities Race to Resilience offers cities themselves the unique opportunity to showcase action and drive ambition, according to their own contextually relevant local landscape.

Cities are invited to take this crucial step, be a catalyst for change, and join the Race to Resilience to demonstrate your commitment in being part of the most decisive year in climate action history.

### Who is part of Race to Resilience?

There are over 2 cities already in the Race to Resilience - along with XX businesses, XXX investors, 73 regions and XXXX universities.

You can see if your city is already part of the Race to Resilience here.

Since its launch on July 18th 2021, just over 2 cities have joined the Race to Resilience via [Cities Race to Resilience](#).

### I am already in Cities Race to Resilience, what role can I play ahead of COP26?

Although you are already part of the Race to Resilience you can play a crucial role in recruiting more of your peers. Get in touch at [racetoresilience@iclei.org](mailto:racetoresilience@iclei.org) if you want to be involved.

### I am already committed to GCoM, should I join the Cities Race to Resilience?

The Race to Resilience campaign is completely in line with GCoM commitments and will not be considered a separate campaign but as a mechanism for raising the ambition of your current climate adaptation actions. After making the pledge on the Cities Race to Resilience website, you can continue to report your progress through the regular reporting platform that you are using.

### Is the Race to Resilience connected to the Cities Race to Zero?

The Race to Resilience officially launched on January 25th 2021. Cities Race to Zero is in the process of including the Race to Resilience commitment to the Mayors' pledge, which will allow cities to commit to both campaigns simultaneously.

## Information about joining Cities Race to Resilience

### How do I join Cities Race to Resilience?

To join, go to <http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org> and sign the online pledge (only mayors, council leaders or equivalent individuals at the head of their city or local government should sign the pledge. Staff members may fill the online form on their behalf with their authorisation. For example, please upload an approval letter from the mayor, CEO, governor or equivalent to prove their endorsement). After signing the pledge you will be shown relevant guidance to begin delivering it:

- Start developing your climate risk and vulnerability assessment that includes all vulnerable communities.
- Commit to at least one action before COP26.
- Report the information you have in 2021, even if incomplete. No later than 2022 report your target and thereafter report progress annually on your usual reporting platform or the recommended one (CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or MyCovenant). If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.

### What is the Cities Race to Resilience pledge?

The Cities Race to Resilience pledge, that we require cities to sign to be a part of the Race, is fully aligned with the required [minimum criteria](#) of the Race to Resilience. Cities should sign it online at [www.citiesracetoresilience.org](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org)

The Cities Race to Resilience pledge asks that you do the following:

1. Pledge to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that includes all vulnerable communities;
2. Plan to use available climate change knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide climate action;
3. Immediately proceed to taking action by committing to at least one of the resilience actions as listed on [www.citiesracetoresilience.org/](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org/) by COP26; and,
4. Report commitments by COP26, and progress annually thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform.

### What are the benefits of joining Cities Race to Resilience?

Joining the Cities Race to Resilience will bring the following direct benefits to your city or sub-national government:

- **Access to the Race to Resilience:** Joining automatically qualifies your city to be a part of the Race to Resilience led by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions, ensuring formal recognition for your efforts by the UNFCCC.
- **Leadership and visibility:** This is a unique opportunity to join and shape a global movement capable of changing the world. The stories of cities that have committed to the Race to Resilience will be showcased leading up to, during and post COP26.
- **Endorsements by partners and access to resources:** the Cities Race to Resilience is the sum of its partners. Joining is compatible with a number of the partner initiatives, tools and resources.

### As a member of the Cities Race to Resilience, will I gain access to other initiatives?

Joining the Cities Race to Resilience is compatible with the following partner initiatives:

- **CitiesWithNature:** CitiesWithNature is a unique initiative that recognizes and enhances the value of nature in and around cities across the world. It provides a shared platform for cities and their partners to engage and connect, working with shared commitment towards a more sustainable urban world.
- **The C40 Urban Nature pledge:** C40's Urban Nature Declaration positions cities as leaders in increasing publicly and equitably accessible nature in their urban environments to support regional biodiversity and reduce climate risk and vulnerability. The Declaration will amplify and support the delivery of urban nature by setting greening targets and accelerating actions focused on delivering solutions for equitable climate resilience, building an inclusive economy and ensuring healthy communities — setting cities on a pathway where people and nature support one another.
- **Cities4Forests:** Cities4Forests is a coalition of 69 cities from around the world that are using their political, economic, and cultural power to protect and restore forests, both within cities and beyond. The coalition is managed by World Resources Institute and Pilot Projects. Cities4Forests helps its network of cities better conserve, manage, and restore their inner forests (such as city trees, urban parks and natural areas), nearby forests (such as watersheds), and faraway forests (especially tropical forests).
- **The City Climate Finance Gap Fund:** The 'Gap Fund' provides a range of technical and advisory services as well as capacity building support to cities and local governments in developing and emerging countries to prioritise and prepare climate-smart investments and programmes at an early stage, with the goal of accelerating preparation, enhancing quality, and ensuring they are bankable.
- **The CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting Platform:** By reporting your local climate action, your city will be part of over 800 climate-ambitious local governments that measure impact and share their progress with peers, citizens, businesses, investors, and the global community. This will help accelerate the global transition to a sustainable future and inspire others to take even more ambitious action. Race to Resilience reporting can be done through the free-to-use CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System.
- **Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Commitment:** your pledge meets the GCoM requirements for the adaptation target and may be paired with mitigation and energy access commitments for full compliance with the Common Reporting Framework.
- The ICLEI **GreenClimateCities (GCC) Programme**, offers cities and towns guidance to progress step-by-step toward climate neutrality.

- **[Making Cities Resilient 2030](#)**: MCR2030 offers cities a clear, three-stage roadmap to implementing resilience building actions with the goal to ensure cities become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030, contributing directly to the achievement of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG11), the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and the New Urban Agenda.
- **[The WWF One Planet City Challenge \(OPCC\)](#)**: with your pledge and progress reporting we invite you to participate in this global competition where frontrunners are recognized. Here you will also receive support on science-based targets, and strategic feedback on your climate action package.
- **[Resilient Cities Network \(R-Cities\)](#)**: Resilient Cities Network is a global city-led non-profit organization that brings together knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower cities to help them build a safe, equitable, and sustainable future for all. R-Cities is the world-leading urban resilience network, supporting 100 city governments worldwide to impact more than 220 million urban dwellers by 2030.
- **[United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#)**: The World Organization of UCLG promotes resilience as a fundamental building block for the ecological transformation of cities and territories. UCLG developed dedicated Learning Modules on Resilience, in order to build capacities of local and regional governments, and their associations, on disaster risk reduction and management, under a broad understanding, which includes social conditions, gender and many others.
- **[1000 Cities Adapt Now](#)**: The [1000 Cities Adapt Now](#) initiative is a 10-year global program to accelerate climate adaptation in 1000 cities worldwide. The program helps cities implement adaptation measures - including investment in nature-based solutions, [urban water resilience](#) and resilient upgradation for the urban poor. The 1000CAN initiative will scale implementation of the strategic solutions by leveraging key city networks and institutions and their overlapping geographies, city relationships, data expertise and knowledge resources.
- **[Africa Urban Water Resilience Initiative](#)**: The [Africa urban water resilience program](#) is set to develop and implement urban water action plans at the city-region scale in 20 cities by 2030 starting with an initial cohort of 6 cities in 2021 and build a catalytic instrument to support scaled action and investment in water resilience in 100 cities.

### Do I need to join Cities Race to Resilience to be part of the Race to Resilience?

Yes. Like any race, Race to Resilience has many initiatives for many different stakeholders (businesses, regions, investors, universities, etc.). Cities Race to Resilience is the initiative for cities. It is especially designed to help them meet the Race's criteria and access the best available expertise along the way. All cities joining the Cities Race to Resilience are automatically then part of the larger Race to Resilience. It is not possible to join the Race to Resilience directly via the UNFCCC or COP26 website.

### When should I join the Cities Race to Resilience?

Cities can join the Race to Resilience via the [Cities Race to Resilience](#) website at any time before COP26.



### Who should sign the Cities Race to Resilience pledge?

We ask that only mayors, council leaders of equivalent individuals at the head of their city or local government sign the pledge. Staff members may fill the online form on their behalf with their authorisation.

### When will my commitment be announced?

After submitting your signed pledge via the [Cities Race to Resilience Platform](#), the team will check it for completeness and will be in touch with you if needed. Your pledge will not be announced right away.

New commitments to the Race to Resilience are announced at momentous occasions where we believe they can have the biggest impact with the media, global community and send effective signals to the national governments parties of the UNFCCC who are expected to enhance their own climate pledges.

### Will cities know in advance when their commitment will be announced?

Yes, cities will be informed when their commitments will officially be announced.

### When can I announce my commitment?

Cities can announce their Race to Resilience commitment at any point after it has been formally announced by the Cities Race to Resilience campaign. A communications toolkit will be shared with the Cities Race to Resilience signatory cities to support them in communicating their commitment and promoting the Cities Race to Resilience.

### What should I do after joining Cities Race to Resilience?

After crossing the starting line of the Race to Resilience, cities should immediately take action on their pledge:

1. Integrating climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that includes all vulnerable communities;
2. Start using available climate change knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide climate action;
3. Start taking action by implementing one of the resilience actions you selected as part of your pledge listed on [www.citiesracetoresilience.org/](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org/) by COP26; and,
4. Start reporting commitments by COP26, and progress annually thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform.

Cities Race to Resilience partners are available all along the way to support cities in their race.



## Reporting

### What should my city do if it already has a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment?

You must report it through one of the Cities Race to Resilience reporting platforms in 2021: CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or MyCovenant.

If you don't currently report using CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or MyCovenant, make sure you have provided this information in your pledge (choose: I don't currently report from the list). You will be contacted by someone at Cities Race to Resilience for guidance on reporting. If you have any questions please contact us at [cities@cdp.net](mailto:cities@cdp.net).

### Do I need to report annually on both my Risk and Vulnerability assessment and climate resilience action?

Yes, reporting on progress for Race to Resilience is annual, to enable tracking of progress against commitments. Begin by reporting the information you have in 2021, even if this is incomplete. For cities who report annually to CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or MyCovenant, there is no additional reporting requirement.

### My city has not been reporting its climate data publicly due to lack of capacity. What can I expect from this process?

For cities already familiar with reporting through the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or My Covenant, there will be no added reporting effort required. Cities that have not reported before will get support to ease them into the process to ensure this transition is not burdensome.