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SEOUL USES CLIMATE REPORTING TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL ACTION

Seoul (South Korea) engages with and leads networks of international peers committed to climate action. The city uses thorough emissions inventories to ensure its own success, and to inspire action in cities across the world.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Seoul has held an important role in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) since the network's founding. At the United Nation's Climate Summit in New York (USA) in 2014, Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon joined the Mayors of Paris (France) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) – as well as then UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and former Mayor Bloomberg of New York – in launching the Compact of Mayors, which was a commitment by 228 cities to cut up to 13 gigatons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. In 2016, the Compact merged with the European Union's Covenant of Mayors to form the GCoM. Still today, Mayor Park sits on the GCoM's Leadership Committee.

Seoul takes on leadership roles across several international climate initiatives spanning the GCoM, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and C40 Cities. It pairs this international outlook with a strong commitment to engaging local residents in all its climate work.

To ensure the city can accurately monitor its contributions to fighting climate change, Seoul conducts regular and rigorous GHG emissions inventories, and reports these widely through the GCoM. This has also enabled the city to take on new climate projects, which directly respond to the sectors that are in most need of support and change.



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The GCoM supports Seoul to effectively keep track of its climate change efforts, by encouraging and assisting them and their peers to disclose GHG emissions.

According to the cities' 2017 GHG inventory, the energy sector accounts for 91 percent of total emissions in Seoul. More specifically, energy associated with buildings and the transport sector account for 68 and 19 percent of overall emissions, respectively. Seoul thereby sees reducing emissions from energy as a chief challenge that must be addressed.

Fortunately, Seoul has a strong history of successfully reducing emissions from energy. Notably, the city implemented the "One Less Nuclear Power Plant" (OLNPP) energy policy in 2012, which aimed to cut energy consumption by the equivalent of the amount of energy produced by one nuclear power plant (i.e. 2 million TOE). This was accomplished mainly through directly engaging citizens in energy-saving and renewable energy generation. By 2014, the policy led the city to reach its goal; since then, Seoul

has increased the OLNPP policy's goal, working to reach energy savings of 4.5 million TOE.

Climate change has led the temperature in Seoul to steadily rise, and has led to more frequent and intense extreme weather events like heat waves and cold spells. These have, in turn, resulted in an increase in energy use for cooling and heating, which thereby poses a challenge to the city's energy saving goals. In addition, Seoul has experienced economic growth, leading more residents to live in one-person households, which also acts as an obstacle to lowering energy consumption in the city.

Overcoming these challenges and reducing emissions from the building and transportation sectors requires support from Seoul locals. The city sees its residents as partners who are critical to reaching municipal climate targets. As such, Seoul actively promotes citizen participation – from the policy development stage through to implementation and monitoring activities – to ensure that the cities' efforts reflect the perspectives of civil society.





RESULTS AND IMPACT

Seoul has demonstrated that emissions reporting is critical to accurately understanding the results of local climate action, and to ensuring that future work targets those sectors that have the potential to lead to the greatest overall impacts with respect to curbing climate change.

Seoul conducts regular, thorough and transparent greenhouse gas emissions reports. Its 2017 data shows that, between 2005 and 2017, the city reduced GHG emissions by 2.76 million tonnes (a 5.6 percent reduction). Over the same time period, GHG emissions produced by households fell by 14.4 percent, and emissions in the transportation sector fell by 14.9 percent.

In the case of the transportation sector, Seoul attributes their success to a variety of projects, including a car-sharing scheme, supporting residents' use of environmentally friendly vehicles, and promoting the use of public transportation. Nonetheless, transportation continues to contribute a large proportion of the city's overall emissions. Seoul is thus committed to continuing to work to shift the model split such that an increasing number of commuters reliable

on sustainable urban mobility options in favour of, for example, private cars.

Emissions from households fell overall between 2005 and 2017, because Seoul enhanced its citizen engagement work. This led, for example, to increase the number of residents participating in programmes such as the Eco-Mileage programme – an energy-saving programme that provides incentives to households and organisations who voluntarily cut their monthly electricity, water, urban gas and local heating use by at least 10 percent compared to the monthly average of the previous two years.

It is clear that, through its focus on citizen engagement and its role as a leader across a number of international climate initiatives, Seoul has tapped into two powerful facets of climate action: engaging residents and working in global partnerships. Next, the city is committed to turn its attention inward. It will continue to work at the grassroots and international levels while, in addition, substantially cutting emissions produced by the public sector itself.



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LESSONS LEARNED

Detailed emissions reporting is critical to effective climate action. This has allowed Seoul to benchmark, and target its work towards the sectors that are contributing the most to climate change.

There is a global community of leaders who are committed to forging a more sustainable future together. Cities can step up and band together to ensure that they are raising ambitions and meeting necessary goals.

Residents can have a tangible impact on overall emissions. They must, therefore, be engaged and empowered to take a leadership role at every stage of a cities' climate work.

Once a city meets its goals – as Seoul did with the OLNPP policy in 2014 – this must be seized as an opportunity to further raise ambition.

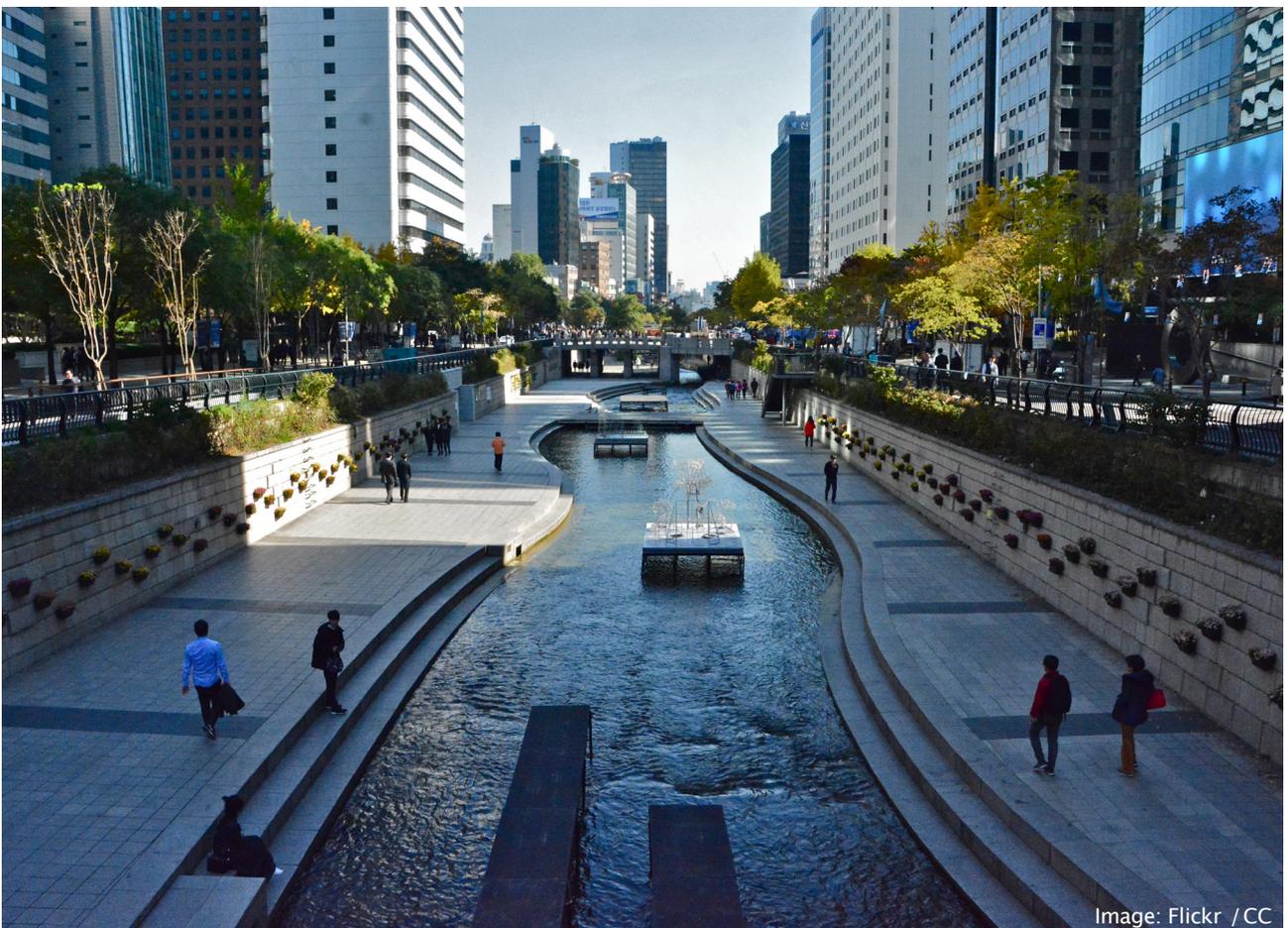


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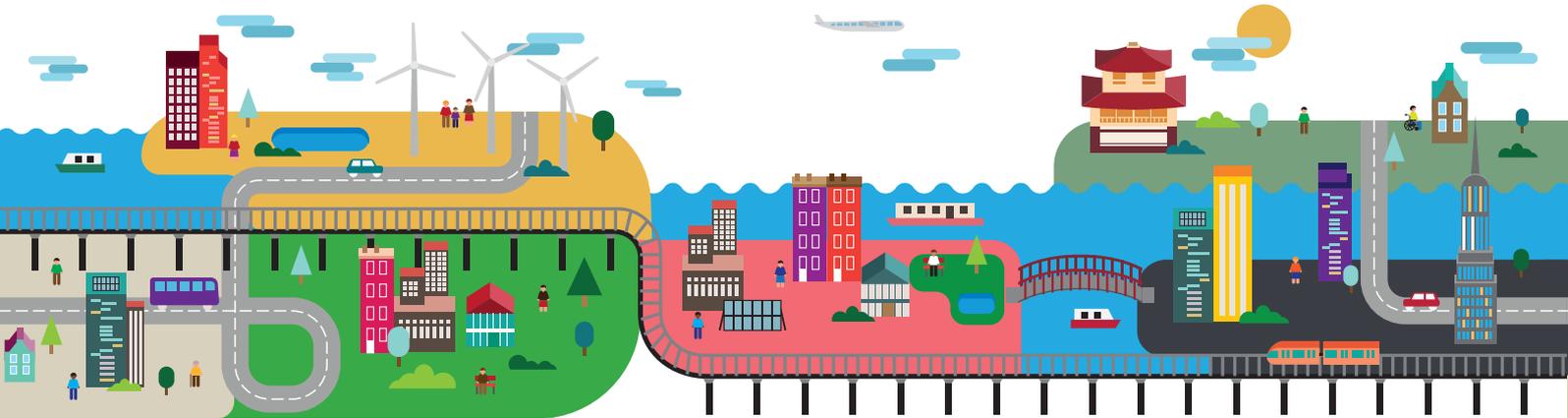
THE IUC PROGRAMME

The International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in the IUC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future. The IUC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) is an international alliance of local governments with a shared vision of a world where urban leaders and their partners accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to a just, low-emission and climate resilient future. The GCoM enables cities, local governments, and the networks that support them to move from ambition to action. It elevates climate leadership and facilitates partnerships at the crossroads of research, data, finance, and communications. The GCoM emphasises climate change mitigation, adaptation, and access to clean and affordable energy.

The GCoM supports locally-relevant solutions in sectors where cities can have the greatest impact. GCoM cities register, implement, and monitor their strategic action plans and make information on their efforts publicly available.



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