

Reporting platforms for Local and Subnational Climate Action

ICLEI BRIEFING SHEET - Climate Series, No. 05

Through ambitious and committed climate action, local and subnational governments have made a convincing case for a more significant role within international climate change dialogues, as well as for increased access to financing for low-carbon strategies. For this to happen, however, local and subnational governments need the legitimacy which comes with high quality, measurable, reportable, and verifiable data. This briefing sheet details protocols, GHG inventory tools, and reporting platforms which can provide this legitimacy, and multiply the scope of local and subnational government climate action.

Key Messages

- In order to be significant contributors to the ongoing international discussions and negotiations on global warming, local and subnational governments around the world need to measure GHG emissions and set ambitious reduction goals in order to develop robust climate action strategies, and deliver tangible results for their citizens.
- The carbonn® Climate Registry is an internationally recognized reporting platform that supports and facilitates structured annual reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of climate actions by local and subnational governments.
- The Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC) allows for horizontal aggregation and vertical integration of GHG data, therein encompassing reports at multiple levels which are compatible with international standards while providing solid proof of GHG developments for financing low-carbon efforts
- Reporting platforms, protocols, and GHG inventory tools are the driving force behind the “data revolution” which is necessary to provide the legitimacy required to upscale and multiply local and subnational government climate action.

- The accomplishments in climate action from local and subnational governments – collected by the UNFCCC from the data that is facilitated through the NAZCA portal, the Compact of Mayors and the Compact of States and Regions – will be publically reported at COP21 in Paris.

Local engagement in global climate action

As centers of communication, commerce and culture, cities envelop the lived experience of over half the global population. Yet because of this activity, cities are also significant sources of energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and are major contributors to global climate change.

Local and subnational governments around the world have demonstrated ambitious action towards reducing their consumption and emissions. However, for city-level engagement in climate change mitigation to be effective, cities must be able to access accurate and timely data on GHG emissions in order to monitor the progress of these actions. Effective local climate action, therefore, begins with the creation of a GHG inventory which can be used to help cities understand how various activities and practices at the urban level contribute to GHG emissions. In effect,

inventory tools and reporting platforms allow for credible, consistent and meaningful GHG accounting which – by complementing local and subnational policies, programs and strategies – allow local actors demonstrate a global impact on mitigating climate change.

ICLEI offers several protocols, GHG inventory tools, and reporting platforms to support municipal authorities from around the world fulfill their climate action commitments.

carbonn® Climate Registry

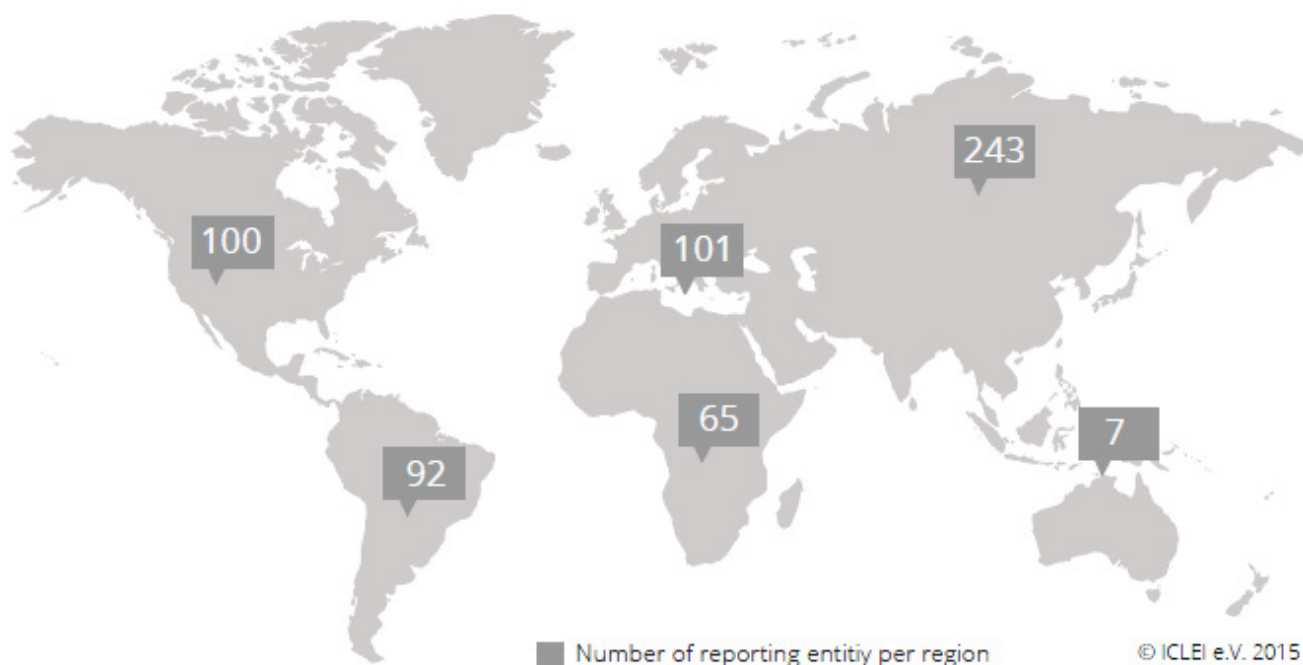
The carbonn® Climate Registry (cCR), launched in 2010, is the world's leading voluntary reporting platform to enhance transparency, accountability, and credibility of climate actions undertaken by local and subnational governments. Based on the experience of voluntary local climate action dispersed globally, and informed by the guidance of the International Local Government GHG Emissions Analysis Protocol (IEAP), the cCR is an invaluable contribution to existing efforts for enhanced global climate action.

By providing an intuitive platform for structured reporting on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the cCR

helps local and subnational governments demonstrate leadership, achieve transparency and accountability for their climate actions, and initiate a process for direct access to global climate funds. Additionally, because it supports vertical integration and aggregation of GHG inventories, the cCR allows active reporting parties to ensure that their collected data is in line with international agreements while providing a window through which national governments and the global community can better understand the performance, achievements, and ambitions of local climate action.

By increasing the visibility of local and subnational climate action, the cCR gives national governments the evidence they need to formulate appropriate global climate policies that account for the effectiveness of subnational climate action. In this regard, ICLEI will promote the results of the cCR with the release of the 5 Year Overview Report at COP21 in December 2015. The release of five years of data at COP21 will provide an invaluable testament to what cities, towns, and regions have accomplished, while also giving an indication of where cCR-reporting actors are heading in terms of local climate action.

Current reporting statistics of the carbonn® Climate Registry



Source: ICLEI (2015), carbonn® Climate Registry 5 Year Overview Report (2010-2015)

Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC)

The GPC - a collaborative effort between ICLEI, WRI, and C40 - provides the most comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting and reporting framework for cities around the globe. The cCR reporting platform defines “performance” as a core element of MRV climate action, and the GPC supports this by providing guidance for harmonized quantification of government and community GHG emissions. Through the GPC’s standardized system for measuring and reporting emissions, cities can see what climate strategies are working, better target their resources, and hold themselves accountable for results.

The Compact of Mayors

The cCR is a recognized reporting platform of the [Compact of Mayors](#), a global coalition of mayors and city officials committed to reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change and tracking their progress publicly. It is an agreement by city networks – and by their members, in turn – to tackle climate change in a consistent and complimentary manner to national efforts. The Compact provides standardized measurement of emissions and climate risk, and consistent, public reporting of their efforts (in the cCR).

The low-carbon revolution will be data-driven and intuitively presented

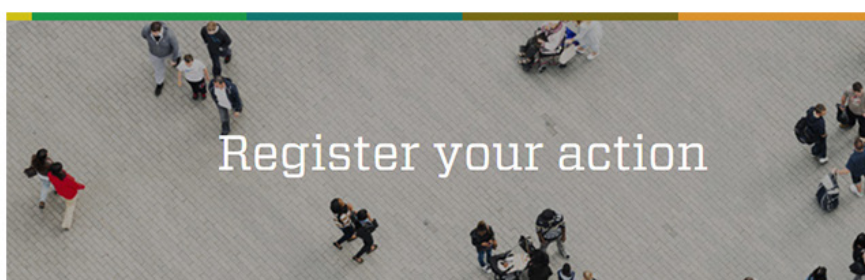
To drive the achievement of ambitious sustainability targets, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has referenced the need for a “data revolution” to enhance the state of

The NAZCA Portal

The Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) was launched at COP20 in Lima to showcase the diverse range of progressive actions that are being undertaken globally by cities, investors and businesses to address climate change. The initiative provides momentum towards COP21 by profiling local and subnational government action towards improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewables and mobilizing climate mitigation, and adaptation financing. The NAZCA portal relies on the data that is provided by the cCR, which is one of the two reporting platforms that have been tasked with exclusively managing the annual reporting, monitoring and evaluation of sub-national climate action.

measurement and evaluation. In order to make the “data revolution” truly revolutionary, it must be accompanied by a “presentation” revolution which ensures that data is both digestible and applicable for policy makers. Data which has been effectively communicated can help inform better decision-making and resource allocation at all levels and provide the transparency that is necessary to hold governments accountable for progress.

The 608 entities reporting to the cCR and 151 cities and towns which have indicated their intent to comply with the Compact of Mayors have all made commitments, demonstrated performance, and taken actions which will drive the data-revolution. The cCR takes this one step further by presenting the MRV climate action data it has collected in an intuitive, attractive, and communicable



Register your commitment to action with one of our data partners by clicking on one of the links below

For companies, cities and subnational regions



For cities and subnational regions



For subnational regions



For companies and investors



For cities and subnational regions



format.

More information on data-driven climate action is available in the MRV Briefing Sheet from this series.

Vertically integrated reporting within the cCR

In order to resolve the issue of double counting of population and GHG emissions which can occur when aggregating data from local and subnational governments with overlapping jurisdictions, the cCR has been upgraded to support vertically integrated reporting. Vertically integrated reporting is an aspect of the cCR's "intelligent jurisdiction mapping" function, which maps out the hierarchical connections between different levels of jurisdiction. This ensures that, during the data aggregation process, the cCR avoids double counting of GHG emissions by only incorporating data from the highest reporting entity.

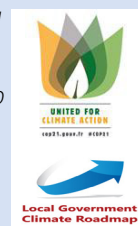
These functionalities of the cCR enable reporting entities to contextualize their reports within their overarching regional framework, and provide the opportunity for them to "benchmark" themselves in relation to other reporting entities within their region. This, in turn, can provide the data necessary to support meaningful peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange, and can raise the ambition of climate action within cities, towns, and regions around the world.

More related ICLEI Briefing Sheets in the 2015 Climate Series:

- No. 01 - A brief history of local government climate advocacy: the Local Government Climate Roadmap - mission accomplished!
- No. 02 - Vertical integration between levels of government to effectively address climate and energy
- No. 03 - "Friends of Cities": Good practices in multi-level partnerships on scaling-up climate action
- No. 04 - Forging Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable actions to tackle climate change
- No. 06 - The Transformative Actions Program (TAP): Linking with finance

And more, available at: www.iclei.org/briefingsheets

These Briefing Sheets are produced by ICLEI as a contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap at the UN Climate Summit (COP21) 2015 in Paris.



Further Reading

- <http://climateaction.unfccc.int>
- <http://carbonn.org>
- <http://www.ghgprotocol.org>
- ICLEI (2015), carbonn® Climate Registry 5 Year Overview Report (2010-2015)



More briefing sheets here

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ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the world's leading network of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolises committed to building a sustainable future. By helping our Members to make their cities sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, we impact over 20% of the global urban population.

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