

# Pledging Guidance for the European Climate Pact in 2022

This document provides information about using the data being reported by local authorities (cities, states and regions) through the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System in 2022 as basis for pledges under the European Climate Pact.

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## European Climate Pact

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The **European Climate Pact** is an initiative of the European Commission supporting the **implementation of the European Green Deal**. It is a movement to **build a greener Europe**, providing a platform to work and learn together, develop solutions, and **achieve real change**.

The Pact provides opportunities for people, communities, and organisations to participate in climate and environmental action **across Europe**. One of the many ways cities can participate is by **pledging concrete actions**.

CDP cities, states and regions can have their **data translated into Pact pledges with no additional steps** should they choose to **opt-in**. The identified pledges will be **recognised and published** on the official Pact website, in the organisational pledge section for [local authorities](#).

For more information visit the [CDP European Climate Pact webpage](#), or the official website of the European Climate Pact.

*European Union cities, states and regions that publicly disclose and choose to participate via CDP's online dashboard consent to have their reported actions shared on the European Climate Pact website as pledges; and to be contacted for relevant visibility and engagement opportunities.*


## How to opt-in

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Cities, states, and regions wishing to join the European Climate Pact can do so directly through the CDP Online Reporting System.


### Cities

By selecting “European Climate Pact” on the Partners & Initiatives section of the dashboard.



**European Climate Pact**

The European Climate Pact is an initiative of the European Commission supporting the implementation ... [\[more\]](#)



### States and Regions

By selecting “Yes, we wish to pledge to the European Climate Pact through our CDP disclosure” under “The European Climate Pact Submission” question:

Please indicate your consent for CDP to showcase your disclosed environmental actions on the European Climate Pact website as pledges to the Pact. ⓘ

- Yes, we wish to pledge to the European Climate Pact through our CDP disclosure
- No, we do not wish to pledge under the European Climate Pact at this stage

Clear selection

## What is my jurisdiction's specific case?

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What happens next depends on your jurisdiction's specific case. Use the table below to understand your participation in the European Climate Pact depending on your current status, and what to do next. The term 'local authorities' refers to all jurisdictions responding the questionnaires.

Case 1 - Local authorities that have not yet pledged using their data	You can opt-in via the dashboard (cities) or the submission page (states and regions) as detailed in the section "How to opt-in".
Case 2 - Local authorities that have already opted-in/pledged using their data in 2021	Even if you have already opted-in in 2021, it is necessary to do it again so up-to-date 2022 data can be used to report on your previous pledges and/or identify new ones. Please follow the same steps as case 1.
Case 3 - Local authorities that pledged via the <a href="#">Pact pledging form</a> and would like to report on their pledges	If you have indicated in the Pact pledging form that you intend to report on your pledges via CDP, you just need to follow the instructions outlined in the "How to opt-in" section. If you have not made that indication in the pledging form, make sure to get in touch with our team to flag it. Contact details are available at the "Get in touch for support" section at the end of this document.

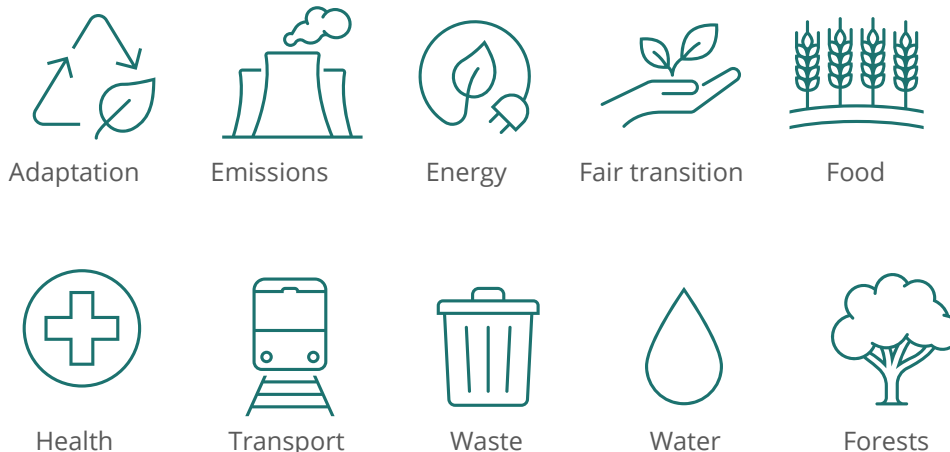
## Recommended Questions and Corresponding Pledges

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### Streamlining the pledging process

Aiming to streamline the pledging process for European Climate Pact, the Pact Secretariat has developed a list of template pledges that local authorities (as well as businesses) can select from when submitting a pledge.

The list is fully aligned with the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System questionnaires, covering a variety of topics such as:

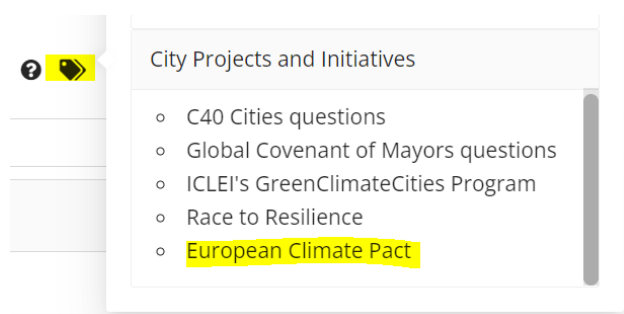


However, the list is not exhaustive and will be updated regularly. Please check for an up-to-date version of the list on the [European Climate Pact website](#) or [contact our team](#).

### Translating reported data into pledges

Using the template pledge list as a guide, our team analyses your jurisdiction’s response to extract qualifying commitments.

Questions from which pledging data can be extracted are tagged as such in the Online Response System. By clicking on the tag icon (📌) next to a question you can check whether that question is relevant to the European Climate Pact.



Qualifying commitments are defined according to the completeness and relevancy of your response. This applies both to closed (yes/no) and open questions (qualitative/quantitative responses). Your data will only be considered as a pledge if your response clearly states a commitment, or an action being undertaken.

Please see a few examples below extracted from the 2022 cities questionnaire:

#### Example 1

Relevant questions	<p>(5.1) Does your jurisdiction have an active greenhouse gas emission reduction target(s) in place? If no active GHG emissions reduction target is in place, please indicate the primary reason why.</p> <p>(5.1a) Provide details of your emissions reduction target(s).</p>
Example of potential pledge	<p><b><i>Have a GHG emissions city-wide reduction target of 100% by 2050 or earlier</i></b></p>

Example of response	For an absolute target, for example, complete the following fields: Boundary of target; Base year; Base year emissions (metric tonnes CO2); Target year emissions (metric tonnes CO2); Target year; Percentage reduction target.
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### Example 2

Relevant questions	(6.1) Provide details of your jurisdiction's energy-related targets active in the reporting year. In addition, you can report other climate-related targets active in the reporting year.
Example of potential pledge	<b><i>Have water related targets</i></b>
Example of response	Add a row, select "Water Target" in the drop-down list and complete the following fields: Target description; Boundary of target relative to jurisdiction boundary; Year target was established; Base year

### Example 3

Relevant questions	(7.1) Does your jurisdiction have a climate action plan or strategy?  (7.1a) Report details on the climate action plan or strategy that addresses climate mitigation and/or climate adaptation (resilience) in your jurisdiction.
Example of potential pledge	<b><i>Have a published city plan that addresses climate change adaptation</i></b>
Example of response	Response should include at a minimum the title of the published plan and a public weblink.

### Example 4

Relevant questions	(9.1) Describe the outcomes of the most significant mitigation actions your jurisdiction is currently undertaking. Note that this can include those in the planning and/or implementation phases.
Example of potential pledge	<b><i>Have a low or zero-emission zone in my city</i></b>
Example of response	Select the following options from the list of Mitigation actions: "Transportation"; "Development of zero emission zones" or "Measure that restrict internal combustion engines" and add an "Action description".

For 2022, our team identified over fifty unique potential pledges to be extracted from the questionnaires that will follow a similar structure to the examples above. This is the first year that the European Climate Pact is fully integrated into the CDP questionnaires.

Who are the leading local authorities that already pledged in 2021? Explore [here](#).

## Pledging process

Deciding to publicly submit your data to the European Climate Pact is the first step into the pledging process. It will be followed by:

- ▼ Analysis of the data by the CDP-European Climate Pact team and extraction of relevant pledges
- ▼ Identified pledges will fall under two different categories according to their ambition level: North Star<sup>1</sup> or Pathway<sup>23</sup>
- ▼ Publication of the identified pledges and accompanying information on the European Climate Pact website
- ▼ Local authority becomes part of the Pact universe and can take advantage of: visibility and speaking opportunities, showcasing its leadership, appointing an organisational [ambassador](#), making a joint pledge, as well inspiring others
- ▼ In 2023, continue to report on your climate and environmental data, which will count as reporting on your European Climate Pact pledges
- ▼ Should your city, state, or region wish to make further pledges to the Pact outside of CDP's reporting timeline you can do so directly via the European Climate Pact website under [organisational pledging](#).

For more information on pledging for local authorities under the European Climate Pact, check the general pledging guidance document available on the [Pact website](#).

## Changes from 2021

The list of template pledges used in 2021 has been amended to better accommodate for recurrent pledges and cover a broader spectrum of commitments. We have also adapted the list to align with the changes in the CDP questionnaires. Please see the main changes below:

2021 Wording	Detail of changes	2022 Wording
Have an up-to-date city-wide emissions inventory within two years and verified by an external auditor	Only cities taking Pathway 2 or above will be eligible for this template pledge	No changes
Identify which vulnerable populations are affected by climate-related impacts on health	Only cities taking Pathway 2 or above will be eligible for this template pledge	No changes
Draft policies relating to food consumption within my city	The scope has expanded from consumption to further areas (e.g., donation, distribution, local production etc.).	Draft adaptation and/or mitigation related food policies within my city/region
Have a fleet of public busses which are Electric + Hybrid + Plug in hybrid + Hydrogen surpassing 15% of the total fleet	Only EcoMobility cities will be eligible for this template pledge	No changes

<sup>1</sup> North Star – ambitious actions that contribute to greatly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, in turn, to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement – limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. These actions are also consistent with the EU's objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

<sup>2</sup> Pathway – actions that cover a wide range of climate-friendly activities. They can represent a first commitment to climate action, leading to bolder steps for more experienced actors and to defining more ambitious targets.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that the word "Pathway" has two meanings under the CDP system. In addition to referring to the ambition level of European Climate Pact pledges it relates to the different routes (Pathways) cities can take in the questionnaire.



Have a municipal fleet (excluding buses) which is Electric + Hybrid + Plug in hybrid + Hydrogen surpassing 20% of the total fleet	Only EcoMobility cities will be eligible for this template pledge	No changes
Incorporate Waste management targets into the master planning of the city	The scope has expanded from management to further areas (e.g., disposal, generation, reduction, etc.)	Have waste related targets
Incorporate Water security targets into the master planning of the city	The scope has expanded from security to further areas (e.g., efficiency, pollution, sanitation, etc.)	Have water related targets
Have a published city Water Resource Management strategy	Only cities taking Pathway 2 or above will be eligible for this template pledge	No changes
Incorporate Renewable energy targets into the master planning of the city	We have made the wording clearer and more specific, breaking down the pledge into two pledges	Have a renewable energy target Have an energy efficiency target
Measure and report city-wide meat consumption per capita (kg/year) Measure and report city-wide dairy consumption per capita (kg/year)	Pledges will be parked and substituted by two new pledges	Have a target to increase consumption of alternative and plant-based proteins Have a target to reduce consumption of animal-based proteins.
Incorporate Adaptation targets into the master planning of the city Define climate adaptation goals and respective metrics/KPIs for each goal	The new wording is a result of merging the two pledges	Have climate adaptation goals and define respective metrics/KPIs
Incorporate Emissions reduction targets into the master planning of the city	We have made the wording clearer	Have emissions reduction targets
Disclose data regarding city wide renewable energy and energy efficiency targets and existing progress towards these	Changed wording to emphasise the public element of data reporting	Public report on data regarding city wide renewable energy and energy efficiency targets and existing progress towards these

## Get in touch for support

If the information in this document was not sufficient or if you have any additional questions, please feel free to write to:

▼ Barbara Pilz - CDP's Senior Cities, States and Regions Officer, European Climate Pact:  
[barbara.pilz@cdp.net](mailto:barbara.pilz@cdp.net)

You can also visit our [CDP European Climate Pact webpage](#) for other relevant information.