



ONE PLANET
CITY CHALLENGE

A large, diverse crowd of people is gathered outdoors for an event. Many individuals are making peace signs with their hands. A prominent green balloon is held up in the center of the crowd. The background shows trees and a blurred crowd, suggesting a park or public square setting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Information for OPCC cities 2023-2024



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This document contains frequently asked questions for WWF's One Planet City Challenge. The guidance complements the instructions found on [CDP-ICLEI Track](#).

For additional information and answers to your queries, please check our OPCC Participants website [here](#). If you want to join the OPCC or have other questions please contact your national WWF office or opcc@wwf.se.

For questions related to CDP-ICLEI Track please contact cities@cdp.net or your relevant CDP regional inbox:

CDP North America – citiesna@cdp.net

CDP Europe, Middle East and Africa – citiesEMEA@cdp.net

CDP Asia Pacific – citiesapac@cdp.net

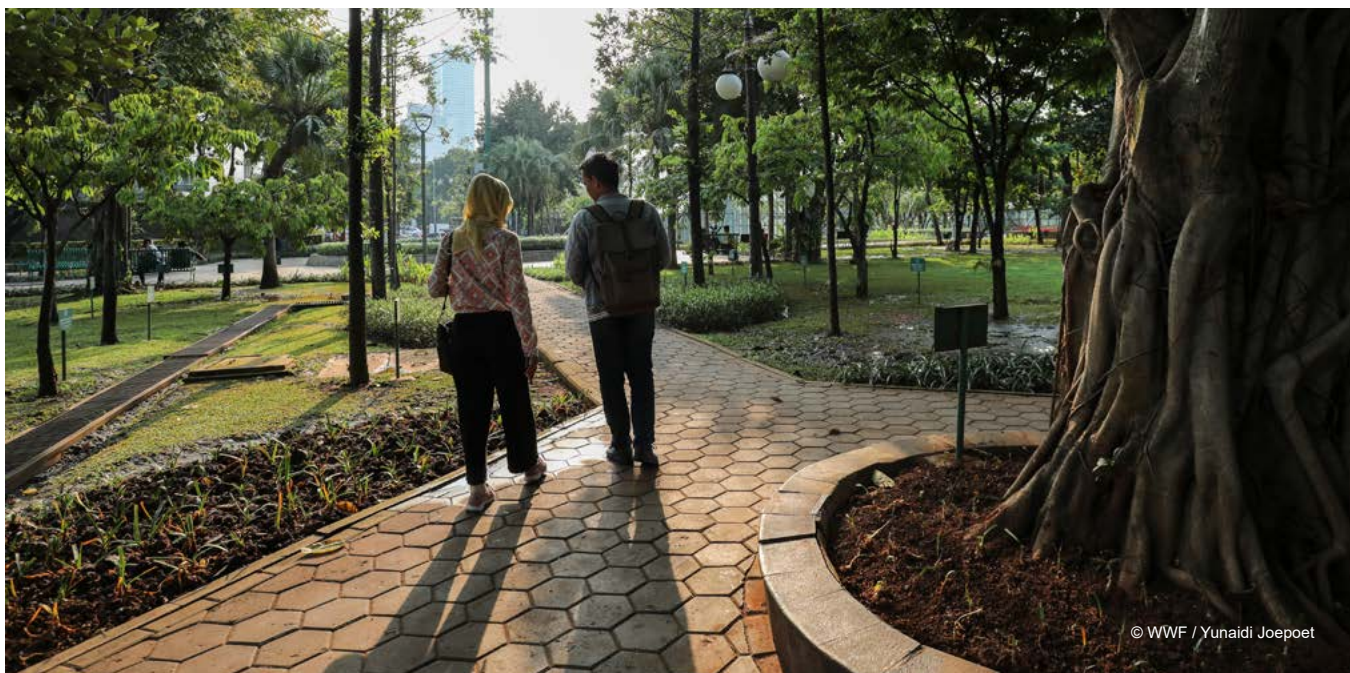
CDP Latin America – reportecer@cdp.net

Please copy WWF (opcc@wwf.se) in your message for additional facilitation.

For other technical questions, please contact opcc-helpdesk@wwf.se.

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THE OPCC IN A NUTSHELL



The One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is a friendly biennial competition organised by WWF to guide cities towards effective climate action, while publicly recognizing the most ambitious cities as leaders in the field.

The aim of the OPCC is to develop and disseminate best practices in the fields of climate mitigation and adaptation. In this round of the OPCC, cities are reviewed on how their efforts align with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 °C. Each city participant receives a Strategic Feedback Report that includes an assessment of your targets, and how well your climate action package is balanced towards the Goal. Participants also receive guidance on big-win actions to help them get there. WWF provides capacity building webinars and in some cases, your national WWF office may provide additional programs on, for example, food, Nature-based-Solutions, adaptation, waste or mobility. To participate in the OPCC, cities and other local governments¹ are required to report their climate ambitions through CDP-ICLEI Track. The OPCC data requirement is aligned with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)².

¹ Throughout this document 'cities' and 'local governments' will be used interchangeably.

² For more information, please refer to Global Covenant of Mayors Common Reporting Framework in the following link: <https://bit.ly/2wRn1wf>.

The OPCC has grown steadily since its inception in 2011. At this point, over 700 cities from 69 countries on 6 continents have participated at least once in the OPCC.

WHY AN OPCC FAQ BOOKLET?

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) booklet addresses common questions about participation, reporting and key features of WWF's One Planet City Challenge (OPCC). Read this first to find your answers.

The booklet is divided into four sections dedicated to:

Section 1 | **Questions on the OPCC's main features.**

Section 2 | **Questions on the user experience of CDP-ICLEI Track.**

Section 3 | **Questions on the Cities Questionnaire 2023.**

Section 4 | **Questions on the OPCC's focus on 1.5 °C alignment.**

1. QUESTIONS ON THE OPCC'S MAIN FEATURES

Q: Why should a city participate in the OPCC?

A: The One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is WWF's invitation for cities to join us on our ongoing mission: the creation of cities that enable people to thrive in balance with nature now and in the future. In this friendly competition, WWF supports cities in accelerating their climate transformation and showcases participants' best practices. Some of the reasons why your city should join the challenge are: the opportunity to receive a tailor-made Strategic Feedback Report; support in understanding and structuring your overall climate performance; guidance on science-based targets; opportunities for public engagement, networking and mobilisation. As part of a larger community you can be a part of pushing the climate agenda both nationally and globally. We further offer capacity building and invitations to other WWF initiatives. Last but not least: the challenge is not about winning, but about moving the climate agenda forward together and inspiring and spurring each other on!

Q: Do cities need to have a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory to participate in the OPCC?

A: A GHG inventory forms part of the evaluation criteria of the OPCC. It is not a mandatory requirement to have one – however, the lack of such an inventory will lead to a lower overall score. Furthermore, without an inventory, a city will receive much less useful feedback. Therefore, it is highly recommended.

Q: What is the OPCC Jury?

A: The OPCC Jury is the body that, based on reported data, selects national and global OPCC winners with the most ambitious and inspiring commitments and actions. The Jury selects winners based on criteria defined by the OPCC's Assessment Framework (find the Technical Document [here](#)). It is made up of leading urban sustainability and climate experts from a wide range of countries, representing leading international institutions working with urban issues, scientists and researchers, city networks, and more. Once confirmed, you will find a list of the Jury members for this OPCC round on: www.panda.org/opcc.

Q: What's new about this OPCC round?

A: This round of the OPCC builds on and improves features introduced during the last cycle such as: (1) a new Cities Questionnaire ([CDP-ICLEI Track](#)), (2) an updated Assessment Framework including updated scoring criteria, and a new approach to providing action-oriented advice tailored to each participating city, (3) capacity-building sessions, and (4) a new approach to selecting winners.

This time around, the OPCC focuses on building awareness for participants on the importance of setting science-based targets, on developing GHG emissions inventories, and calculating avoided emissions from climate action plans. For more information about webinars, partnerships and special offers for this year's OPCC, check out: panda.org/opcc.

In assessing frontrunners, the OPCC jury selects **two global winners**. This enables us to recognize the specific challenges facing cities with different capacities. The jury will select a winner from a high GDP per capita setting, and one from a medium-low GDP per capita setting. This also allows us to reward a city that must achieve a steeper decline in emissions, as well as a city that can be allowed to mitigate their emissions more slowly. National winners are selected in countries with a minimum of five participating cities. Additionally, in this round of the OPCC, the jury will also select an **All Stars Winner**. *All Stars* cities consist of any 2022 OPCC National Winner that has maintained their reporting standard since the last round. The winner will be a city that shows progress and improvement on their 2022 results.

Finally, in this OPCC cycle, your mitigation targets are evaluated based on methods recognized by the [Science-Based Targets Network \(SBTN\)](#), including the OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method. The latter is endorsed by the [Cities Race to Zero Initiative](#), within the [UN Race to Zero Campaign](#), as a method that can enable cities to set GHG emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement 1.5 °C goal (see details in our Technical Document found [here](#)). If your city is interested in joining the Race to Zero campaign, or is already involved, OPCC participation can provide an independent review of whether your climate targets are aligned with the requirements of the Race to Zero and guidance on where improvements are needed.

Q: Who can participate? Does OPCC allow the participation of regions or departments, districts or other smaller jurisdictions within a city?

A: All cities and other local governments reporting to CDP-ICLEI Track are welcome to participate in WWF's OPCC. The reporting requirements of CDP-ICLEI Track define the participation prerequisites for the OPCC. Thus, eligible participants in CDP-ICLEI Track, are also eligible for the OPCC. For a full list of the administrative boundaries accepted and their descriptions, see the [2023 Cities Reporting Guidance](#).

Q: Do cities need to report yearly to the OPCC?

A: The OPCC is a friendly competition that runs biennially, i.e. it runs in two-year cycles. The current cycle is running through 2023-2024 with data reported in 2023. Although the OPCC only requires participants to report every two years, we encourage cities to submit their reporting to CDP-ICLEI Track every year.

Q: When will cities be able to start the questionnaire for the next edition?

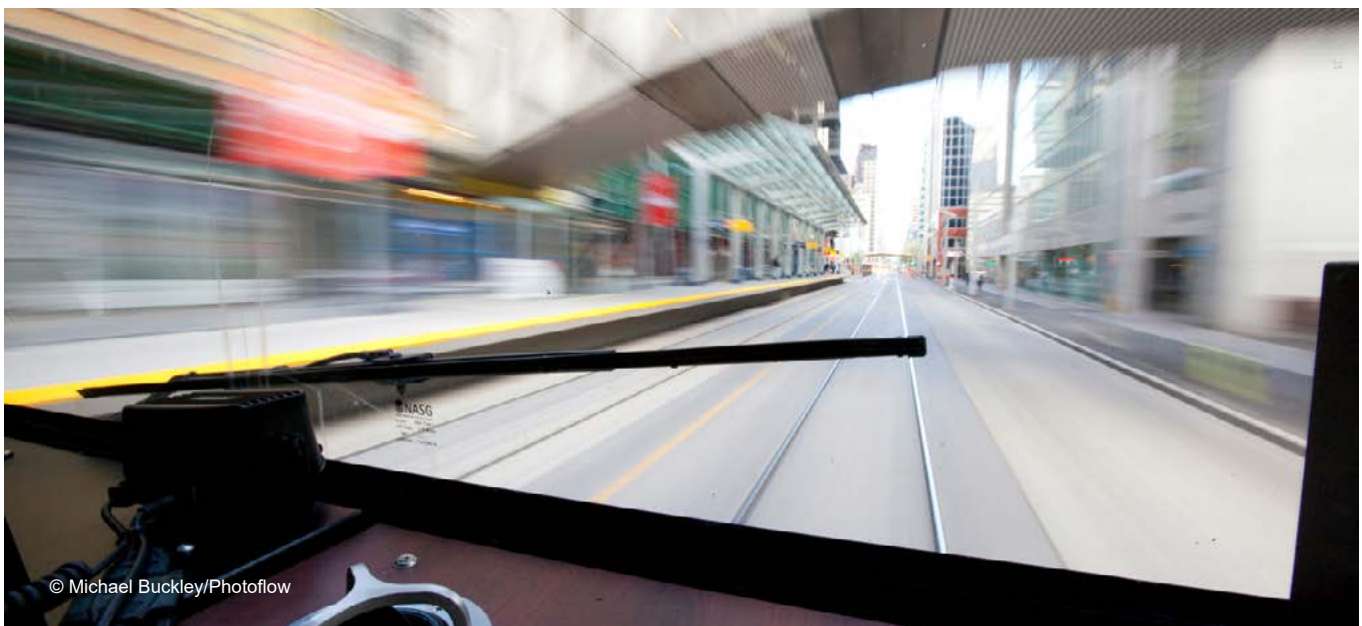
A: The submission period in CDP-ICLEI Track for the 2023-24 OPCC cycle is open between early-April 2023 and December 2023. You will receive more information about this from CDP via email. Thereafter, new admissions to the OPCC will be accepted in 2025.

Q: How does the OPCC engage our citizens?

A: One of the goals of the OPCC is to increase transparency and accountability by making climate action data available to city stakeholders. We therefore ask all our participants to report 'publicly' to CDP-ICLEI Track. In this way, cities' reporting will be available on the [CDP Open Data Portal](#). In addition to this, the OPCC includes a public engagement campaign called [We Love Cities](#). In this campaign, we profile all of our finalists and invite them to rally support for their sustainability actions, as well as collect suggestions from their citizens to further accelerate the transition. In 2022, the campaign gathered over 1.29 million votes and 116 000 improvement suggestions for the 63 finalists from 27 countries on board. To find out more about the campaign, visit www.welovecities.org. National WWF offices may also offer various initiatives which will help participating cities and local governments to engage their citizens and promote public engagement.

Q: Is there a difference between the 'Gaps Report' and the 'Strategic Feedback Report'?

A: Yes; the 'Gaps Report' focuses on the quality and completeness of the specific data in terms of the indicators that are used for the OPCC evaluation i.e. it focuses on specific areas for potential improvement in the reporting. This report is shared with participants that submit their data to CDP-ICLEI Track by August 2023. The Strategic Feedback Report (also named 'Assessment of your City's Climate Journey') on the other hand, is more elaborated to provide insights to cities' climate journey at a high level of aggregation (e.g. Impact vs Vision, or the alignment of targets) and give recommendations on high impact actions.



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2. QUESTIONS ON THE USER EXPERIENCE OF CDP-ICLEI TRACK

Q: How can a city that is interested in participating in the OPCC get access to CDP-ICLEI Track?

A: Cities and other local governments can register their interest by completing the CDP-ICLEI Track registration form [here](#) or you can request registration by writing to your relevant CDP regional inbox:

CDP North America – citiesna@cdp.net
CDP Europe, Middle East and Africa – 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.

Q: Now that my city has access to CDP-ICLEI Track, how do we participate in the OPCC?

A: It is simple. Once you have registered and logged into CDP-ICLEI Track, you will be able to choose to ‘Report to’ the OPCC by ticking the corresponding box in the system (for more information, refer to [2023 Cities Reporting Guidance](#)).

Q: What are the relevant deadlines for joining and submitting information for the OPCC?

A: The reporting platform opens in early April 2023. The deadline for entering data to benefit from both CDP’s scoring and the OPCC feedback report is at the end of July (preliminary 26 July), but for entering the OPCC alone, the deadline is 31 August. OPCC participants will receive a ‘Gaps Report’ by beginning of October along with an opportunity to improve their reporting until 1 November 2023. These dates are meant to align with the reporting schedule of the Global Covenant of Mayors. The Strategic Feedback Reports will be available by February 2024. Please see panda.org/opcc-participants for updated timeline details.

Q: What should I do if I have a problem uploading information to CDP-ICLEI Track?

A: For issues related to the uploading of information into CDP-ICLEI Track, please visit the [CDP Help Center](#) or contact your relevant CDP regional inbox:

CDP North America – citiesna@cdp.net
CDP Europe, Middle East and Africa – 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.

Q: Can cities participating in the OPCC make changes to the information they have submitted if they need to make updates?

A: Yes, they can. Cities can open a disclosure amendment directly from the dashboard once they have submitted their data. Please bear in mind that amendments must be submitted before the relevant deadlines in order to be assessed in the OPCC process.

Q: How can cities amend their reporting on CDP-ICLEI Track?

A: Changes to your reporting can be made before or after the OPCC reporting deadline. However, changes made after the reporting deadline may not be included in the analysis or scoring.

If you are the main user, you can amend your response from the dashboard by navigating to ‘Latest Submission Details’ in your Cities 2023 block, and clicking ‘Amend Submission’.

Alternatively, you can visit the [CDP Help Center](#) for assistance to amend your response.

Q: Who can make amendments to a city’s submission?

A: Only the main user can click the ‘Amend Submission’ link in the dashboard. Once you re-open the questionnaire as a main user, you are able to amend your responses as the contributor (and then the main user will have to re-submit the response).

If you wish, you can request for someone to become the main user (rather than the contributor). Please view the [Cities Platform User Guide](#) or visit the [CDP Help Center](#).

Q: Will we be able to use our previous reporting to CDP-ICLEI Track for our renewed submission?

A: There is a copy-forward function in CDP-ICLEI Track, meaning that information entered into CDP-ICLEI Track during 2022 can be transferred to your 2023 questionnaire when applicable. Please note that some questions in the current questionnaire have been modified for 2023, and therefore not all fields will match 100%. Also, keep in mind that attachments are not automatically transferred. Review the automatically transferred answers carefully as it is your responsibility to ensure that your answers are updated and correct.

Q: Are you allowed to report older actions and their results, i.e. actions that the municipality took a while back and where results are available?

A: We recommend that you report the most up-to-date information with your latest climate action planning. You are welcome to include all actions that are relevant in your city – planned, under implementation or recently evaluated.

Q: Can participating cities appoint third party entities to report to the OPCC on their behalf?

A: No. In CDP-ICLEI Track, it is not possible to appoint third party entities. While reporting formats can be shared with third parties for complementary information, the submission of information must be done by the participating city itself. However, you may of course be supported by a consultant in the preparation of the data.

Q: Can cities participating in the OPCC do offline reporting?

A: Yes, once registered and having joined the OPCC from an individual account, a city can download the data submission questionnaire from the Online Reporting System to do offline reporting. Please note that uploads to the system can only be done in Excel format. For more information see the Cities Platform User Guide on the [Cities Guidance](#) page.

Q: What happens after the OPCC reporting deadline?

A: After the final OPCC reporting deadline (amendments can be made until 1 November 2023, see details above), your data will be reassessed and used to prepare a tailor-made Strategic Feedback Report, where we evaluate the climate data reported against a set of criteria and assess the overall performance of your climate vision and impact. The results also inform our expert Jury that is tasked with choosing national and global winners, which are celebrated in awards ceremonies. National finalists are also invited to our [We Love Cities](#) campaign. Various other offers and partnerships are available to our participants. Email opcc@wwf.se for more information.

Q: Will data submitted to the OPCC via CDP-ICLEI Track be public after submission?

A: To participate in the OPCC, all data submitted to CDP-ICLEI Track must be public. All data will appear on the [CDP Open Data Portal](#). Click on the link and go to 'Explore', then to 'Browse All Data' to explore cities' publicly reported data. The WWF Gaps Report and final Strategic Feedback Report will be communicated directly to our participants via email. It will be up to you to share these results with other stakeholders. We encourage you to do that to enable transparency and accountability and to increase their engagement in your climate journey.

Q: What other initiatives besides the OPCC can you join when doing the CDP reporting?

A: The initiatives available are evident on the dashboard of CDP-ICLEI Track. This year, cities can report to:

- OPCC
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- ICLEI Green Climate Cities
- ICLEI Ecomobility / Ecologistics
- Cities Race to Zero
- Cities Race to Resilience

Q: Which reporting platforms are available for cities to participate in the OPCC?

A: All cities and local governments must currently submit their data to CDP-ICLEI Track.

Q: What are the differences between the CDP A-list and WWF's OPCC?

A: The assessment methods differ in both their structure and implementation. Therefore, they are not directly comparable. For instance, the data submitted by cities for the OPCC is assessed against a set of scoring criteria composed of 36 indicators – both quantitative and qualitative – which are combined into five sub-categories. The OPCC Assessment Framework aggregates scores on two key dimensions: 'Vision' which 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), and 'Impact' which represents the reduction potential of a city's current climate action (i.e. climate action plans and implementation of strategies and/or actions) (see the Technical Document found [here](#)). For details on CDP's criteria, please refer to the Cities Scoring Methodology on the [Cities Guidance](#) page.

Q: What level of formal approval for the OPCC participation is demanded at the municipality level? Are there any formal requirements from the political level for participation?

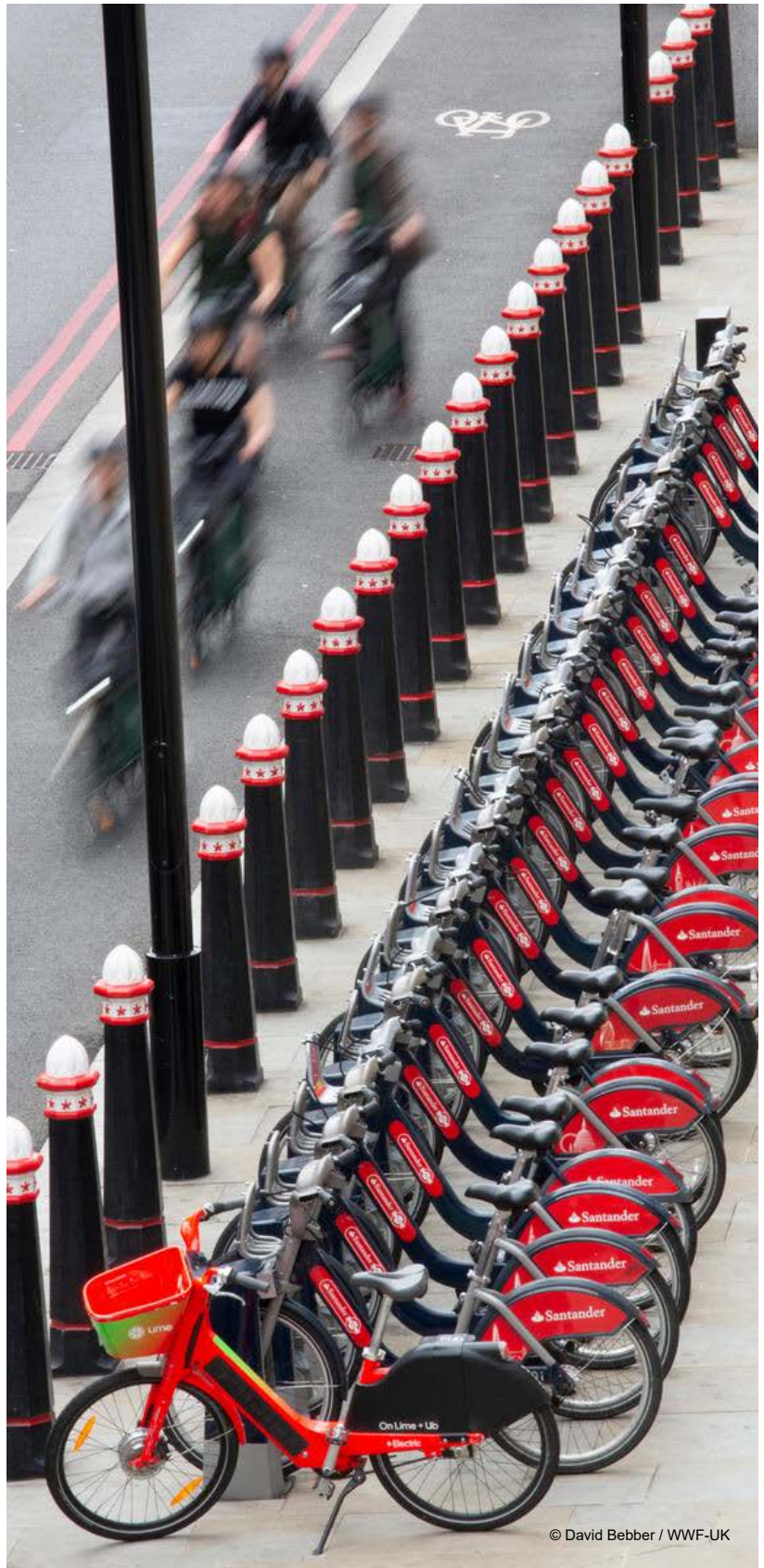
A: No formal approval is needed. Once a city registers in CDP-ICLEI Track – and after receiving login details – it can join the OPCC by checking the corresponding box in the system. While there is no requirement to upload a formal letter, there should be internal approval to report and represent the city.

Q: To what degree is reported data open and transparent on CDP-ICLEI Track?

A: CDP and ICLEI collect the publicly reported data. This information is accessible to the public in the [CDP Open Data Portal](#) (see Terms of Reference of the portal found [here](#)). The data in the portal is constantly updated (browse and download an extract from the 2022 submission [here](#)).

Q: What are the benefits of reporting for cities, their partners, and their citizens?

A: As for any database, publicly disclosed information is useful for many purposes including, but not limited to, independent evaluations, research, transparency, and accountability. Cities that disclose information to CDP-ICLEI Track have access to multiple tools (e.g., Cities Analytics, Reporting Dashboards and Assessment Reports and Summaries of disclosed information). Furthermore, reported data from the platform is also shared with the [UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal](#) (formerly known as NAZCA) in order to showcase the cities' climate actions and targets. In addition, besides city participation to the OPCC, city submissions received through CDP-ICLEI Track are given a score and feedback by CDP when submitted within the deadline, see deadlines above (for more information see the Cities Scoring Methodology on the [Cities Guidance page](#)). Read more about the benefits of reporting [here](#).



3. QUESTIONS ON THE CITIES QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Q: What kind of data do cities need to report to the OPCC?

A: The OPCC uses part of the data reported by cities and local governments to CDP-ICLEI Track. These include several aspects of information, like general descriptors of the city, assessed GHG emissions and risks from climate change, mitigation targets and adaptation goals, climate action plans, implementation of strategies and/or actions, and results-based monitoring. For more details, please consult the [2023 Cities Questionnaire](#).

Note that the OPCC's reporting requirements are aligned with those of the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy](#).

Q: Can actions by citizens, universities or companies be reported as part of our OPCC submissions?

A: The data submission questionnaire, which was developed to align with the Global Covenant of Mayors Common Global Reporting Framework (CRF), is limited to actions taken by the local government. However, cities can report these as actions implemented in collaboration with citizens, universities, or companies.

Q: Can cities participating in the OPCC report climate actions and plans which are not yet implemented?

A: Yes, actions and plans which are not yet implemented should be reported by indicating the status of the action accordingly. For example, as a scoping or pre-feasibility study, or in pre-implementation stages.

Q: Can cities participating in the OPCC report mitigation and adaptation actions under one integrated plan?

A: Yes, cities can report either an integrated climate plan (including mitigation, adaptation, and/or energy access and poverty), or standalone plans in Q 7.1 and Q 7.1a in the 2023 Cities Questionnaire.

Q: Can cities participating in the OPCC report national plans as city plans?

A: Cities should only report on national plans if there is a section pertaining specifically to local governments. In this case, the relationship should be clearly defined in the action summary.

Q: Can OPCC data submissions be in languages other than English?

A: CDP-ICLEI Track accepts submissions in any language, but it is highly recommended that reports, especially summary boxes, be submitted in English.

Q: Do cities need to upload evidence to support their reporting to the OPCC?

A: We encourage participants to attach evidence when it is requested in the questionnaire.

Q: Do cities need to include all greenhouse gases (GHGs) if reporting an inventory?

A: Please consult GCoM's Common Reporting Framework (CRF) [guidelines](#) for further details. We recommend that you report all items required by the CRF, which is a comprehensive list of emission sources, including all GHG. There are, however, sources that are not required such as Scope 3 emissions in the non-waste sector. Alternatively, cities can report emissions using the Global Protocol for Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC). GCoM cities are, however, required to report their emissions in the CRF format.

Q: How recent do climate actions need to be to comply with OPCC data submission requirements?

A: Although there is no historical time constraint in the data submission questionnaire, we recommend reporting the most up-to-date information. This should cover the latest action planning and include all actions that are relevant in your city – planned, under implementation or recently evaluated.

Q: If a city does not have anything to report to the OPCC in terms of adaptation actions or mitigation actions will it get a lower score?

A: Mitigation and adaptation action plans form the basis for your scoring in our assessment of your reporting. There is no penalty, but the lack of such plans will lead to a lower overall score. We do, however, provide you with more knowledge through capacity-building webinars on how to develop an impactful climate action plan as part of your OPCC participation, to enable stronger climate action.

Q: What are GCoM's minimum reporting criteria?

A: For more information on GCoM reporting requirements please visit GCoM's Common Reporting Framework [website](#). There, the latest version of reporting criteria can be found.

4. QUESTIONS ON THE OPCC'S FOCUS ON 1.5 °C ALIGNMENT



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Q: Why should we limit global warming to 1.5°C?

A: We have known for a long time that higher global temperatures lead to greater climate impacts – on land, in the oceans, and in the polar regions. But now we know more specifically what effects can be expected when global mean temperature rises by 1.5 °C in comparison to 2 °C.

For example:

- Nearly 700 million people (9 % of world population) will be exposed to extreme heat waves at least once every 20 years in a 1.5 °C world, but more than 2 billion people (28 %) in a 2 °C world.

- Similarly, in a 1.5 °C scenario, the end of the century projection is that 70 % of tropical coral reefs are at risk of severe degradation due to temperature-induced bleaching, but virtually all in a 2 °C world. Limiting global warming to 1.5 °C provides a much greater chance of keeping climate change at a more manageable level – a safe limit. Read more [here](#).

Aware of the dangers, all countries adopted the goal of limiting global warming “to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to industrial levels” in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Q: What are our chances of limiting global warming to 1.5°C?

A: The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) looked into safe global greenhouse gas emissions pathways in a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C (SR15). They concluded that if the world halved its emissions from a 2018 baseline by 2030, the likelihood of reaching the 1.5 °C target would increase to approximately 60%. But to achieve that, emissions would need to start an immediate decline. For every year of inaction, two years are taken away from the 2030 deadline. This highlights the urgency of addressing the climate crisis. Read more about the SR15 in [Summary for Urban Policy Makers: What the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C means for cities](#). As part of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report 2022, IPCC Working Group III assessed that this likelihood of reaching the 1.5 °C target has reduced since the SR15 due to continued global emissions increases.

Q: What type of targets and ambitions align with 1.5 °C?

A: According to the so-called [Carbon Law](#) the world needs to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, or sooner, and then halve again each decade until we reach Net Zero by 2050, or sooner, starting from today's emission levels (2020). These short-term goals are important to avoid exceeding the total aggregated carbon budget. This is consistent with WWF's One Planet City Challenge view on 1.5 °C alignment. The goal to reach "Net Zero by 2050 at the latest" is commonly seen as a long-term goal deadline for actors everywhere.

Q: What is a science-based target for cities?

A: Science-based targets (SBTs) are measurable and actionable environmental targets that allow cities to align their work with societal sustainability goals and the biophysical limits that define the safety and stability of our Earth's systems.

Q: Is there a science-based climate target-setting methodology for cities?

A: There are several ways for cities to set an emissions reduction target that is in line with what science indicates is necessary, if we are to keep global warming below 1.5 °C. WWF is a founding member of the [Science Based Target Network \(SBTN\)](#), which has thoroughly evaluated and tested three methodologies to set science-based targets in line with a 1.5 °C goal in cities. The OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method is one of these. The methods are backed by the latest science. They are comprehensive and take equity into account. For more information, please consult the following [guide](#).

The OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method is based on data from IPCC's [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C](#). It integrates considerations on how to allocate an emissions budget that is both fair and compatible with the 1.5 °C goal. The method is suitable for any type of city that reports in line with the reporting requirements of GCoM.

Q: Do cities need to have a science-based target in place to participate in the OPCC?

A: No, but cities and local governments that have targets based in science will have an advantage when the OPCC jury selects the winners.

Q: Do cities need to estimate their own science-based target?

A: This is not required, although cities are welcome to indicate if they have already done such estimates. One of the benefits of the OPCC participation is that you can receive guidance on what a science-based target that reflects your fair share of the Paris Agreement goal could be.

Q: How is a city's fair share of the Paris Agreement goal determined?

A: To determine each city's *fair share* of the Paris Agreement goal, the OPCC adheres to **Fair Allocation Principles**. There are three principles that dominate the global debate on fair allocation of carbon budgets:

- **Equality** – all people should have equal rights to emit emissions, regardless of their country's level of development.
- **Responsibility** – for contributing to climate change, both historically and in the future, which links to the 'polluter pays' principle.
- **Capacity** – for solving the problem (also described as 'capacity to pay') should be considered.

The OPCC assessment takes this into account by requiring a deeper mid-term (2030) emissions reduction target for cities in countries with a higher Human Development Index (HDI). A city's ambition is assessed against science-based targets where the recommended 2030 emissions reduction ranges between 25% and 65%. This adapts the global goal of halving emissions by 2030 to national circumstances.

Q: Is the OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method considered science-based?

A: The OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method is recognized by the Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN) and endorsed by the Cities Race to Zero Initiative, within the UN Race to Zero Campaign, as a method that can enable cities to set science-based GHG emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement goal.

Q: Participating cities receive support in setting science-based targets. What does this support look like?

A: Cities are invited to review our materials and learn how they can estimate their science-based target via a simple arithmetical operation. Details on how to do that can be found [here](#) (general) or in our Technical Document found [here](#) (detailed). WWF's national offices may also offer help to support cities' individual target setting in line with science-based targets. Please contact opcc@wwf.se for more information.

Q: How does the OPCC estimate a city's alignment with science-based targets?

A: For a detailed description of the OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method, see the Technical Document of the OPCC Assessment Framework found [here](#). The OPCC estimates cities' SBTs based on information reported to CDP-ICLEI Track.

Q: What type of actions and solutions would align with 1.5 °C?

A: To examine if a city is on a 1.5 °C trajectory, WWF's OPCC doesn't only look at a city's goals, but also examines evidence of climate action. Whether actions and solutions are in line with 1.5 °C is hard to determine in absolute terms, but we use the following items as indicators:

- **'Vision'** represents the city's commitment and the 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 current city climate action (i.e., climate action plans, and implementation of strategies and/or actions).

We review a city's total action package to examine whether mitigation actions align with the main emissions sectors and IPCC strategies for efficient climate mitigation, and whether adaptation actions map the climate risks effectively. Read more about our approach in the Technical Document of the OPCC Assessment Framework (which will be found [here](#)).

Q: How fast do emissions need to decrease for 1.5 °C alignment?

A: Global emissions need to decrease rapidly in order to retain global heating to within 1.5 °C. While global net zero emissions need to be reached in the early 2050s to meet the goal, the emissions pathway to net zero is ever more crucial. Climate change is caused by the aggregate amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere and so reducing this sooner rather than later will increase the chances of avoiding catastrophic global heating and substantially reduce the damages to social and natural systems. We therefore urge cities to decrease emissions as fast as possible, and to do all they can to achieve this.

Q: Should some countries/cities decrease their emissions faster than others?

A: Economic capacity and historical emissions form an important part of a fair transition. All cities should reduce their emissions as soon as possible so global net zero emissions can be achieved by 2050 or sooner, but cities in high GDP contexts should decrease emissions much faster than others. For cities with high consumption levels these goals should include consumption-based emissions. Consumption-based emissions are all other GHG emissions that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities taking place within the city boundary, such as the production, transportation and life cycles of imported goods and services.

Q: What are Scopes 1, 2 and 3 in climate city reporting?

A: These are a way of distinguishing the level of control that an entity has over GHG emissions that are associated with it.

- **Scope 1** for cities is defined as: GHG emissions from sources located within the city boundary.
- **Scope 2** for cities is defined as: GHG emissions that occur due to the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the city boundary.
- **Scope 3** for cities is defined as: all other GHG emissions that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities taking place within the city boundary, such as emissions from the production and transportation of goods. These include consumption-based emissions but also inputs to production processes that occur inside the city boundary.

Q: Are my city's targets in line with 1.5 °C?

A: Based on the data reported by your city, we can determine if your city's targets are equivalent to its fair share of the Paris Agreement goal and its aim to limit climate change to 1.5 °C. To know if a target is aligned or not, please refer to the [SBTN guide](#).

Q: Can I use WWF's assessment of my city's alignment to 1.5 °C in our communication?

A: Yes, you can say that according to your reporting to WWF's OPCC, your city's targets are compatible with ambitions to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.

Q: Will my city be included in WWF's communication?

A: WWF highlights examples of ambitious participants in a variety of OPCC communications activities including publications, events, and social media. WWF also issues press releases and targets local, national, and global media where and when appropriate, for example when announcing national finalists and winners. Check on panda.org/opcc for continuous updates.

Q: What is the Race to Zero campaign?

A: The Race to Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. These ‘real economy’ actors join the largest-ever alliance committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. This is sending governments a resounding signal that businesses, cities, regions, and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals. Read more [here](#).

Cities can participate in the Race to Zero campaign by joining [Cities Race to Zero](#). The Cities Race to Zero is organised by C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), CDP, the World Resources Institute (WRI) along with WWF.

Q: My city participates in WWF’s One Planet City Challenge (OPCC), does this qualify it for joining the Race to Zero?

A: No, your city is not automatically qualified for the Race to Zero by participating in the OPCC. To join Cities Race to Zero please go to the online portal at: www.citiesracetozero.org where your mayor, council leader or equivalent will be asked to sign the Cities Race to Zero pledge and follow the step-by-step process to completing your Cities Race to Zero commitment. We invite all Cities Race to Zero participants and applicants to enter the OPCC, where we provide guidance to your city and assess whether your current climate targets and actions are aligned with the ambitions of the Race to Zero campaign. Use this assessment to guide your next steps and be recognized as a frontrunner through our initiative.

Q: Does the OPCC provide support to cities in meeting the Race to Zero pledge?

A: The OPCC does not provide specific support for cities to complete the pledge. However, the feedback we provide through our reports to your city can provide an independent review of your climate work, which will help in fulfilling the Race to Zero requirements. The method that OPCC uses to assess alignment with 1.5 °C (the OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method) is endorsed by the Cities Race to Zero Initiative, within the UN Race to Zero Campaign, as a method that can enable cities to set GHG emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement goal.

Q: How is the OPCC connected to the Global Covenants of Mayors (GCoM)?

A: The OPCC evaluates cities’ climate performance based on their submissions to CDP-ICLEI Track. Reporting through this mechanism is aligned to the [Common Reporting Framework](#) (CRF) of GCoM, which includes a set of global recommendations to ensure robust climate action planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting procedures. This kind of public disclosure promotes transparency and accountability, and through international reporting, the city can be counted and play a part in the global urban arena. Cities joining the OPCC will need to report according to the CRF on CDP-ICLEI Track.

Q: How can our city contribute to raising national climate ambitions?

A: Commitment to, and action on, a 1.5 °C-aligned pathway is the most powerful contribution a city can make. Join your like-minded peers and other stakeholders to increase your influence on other cities and on your national government to have them follow your lead. The OPCC promotes ambitious participants and their solutions in various communications channels and arenas, both national and global.



**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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