

CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Review
and Outlook

2021 | 2022



Climate Alliance

Impressum

Published April 2022

Climate Alliance

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Klima-Bündnis der europäischen Städte mit indigenen Völkern der Regenwälder |
Alianza del Clima e.V. | District court of Frankfurt am Main | Registry No: VR10149 |
VAT ID: DE244331692 | Presidents of the Board: Andreas Wollter & Tine Heyse

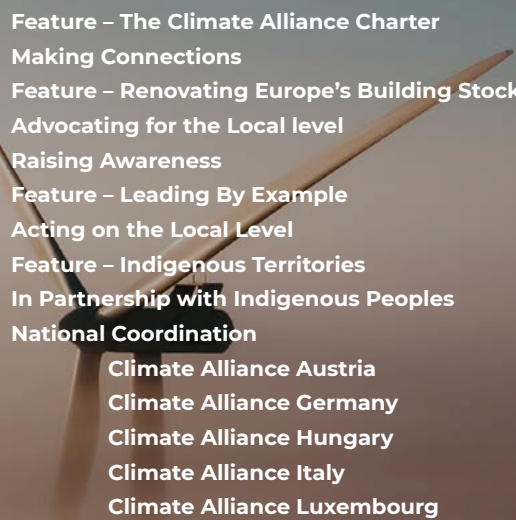


This publication contains descriptions of many projects funded in part by the EU. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of Climate Alliance and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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While last year continued to be dominated by the Corona pandemic, the climate crisis remained ever present, particularly as regions not previously considered to be at immediate risk from global heating were confronted with weather extremes. Record-breaking temperatures in Russia, Greece and throughout North America's Pacific Northwest led to historic fires that left great devastation in their wake. At the other end of the weather spectrum, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands experienced the

worst flooding in decades – the many victims and billions of euros in damage alone show that the effects of global heating are increasingly being felt in Europe.

At the beginning of November, the international community came together in an effort to curb such disasters in the future: in Glasgow, an international climate conference took place once again after a one-year break. Yet in spite of some concrete results, the agreed upon measures unfortunately still

fall short of what it would take to prevent temperatures from rising by more than 2°C.

Some good, however, did come out of 2021. Shortly before the IPCC declared a 'red alert' for the world with its sixth assessment report, the EU Commission presented its Fit for 55 package. Fit for 55 is set to help us achieve the EU Green Deal goal of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Through our work in the Covenant of Mayors as well as other efforts, Climate Alliance is participating in the design and implementation of this initiative and, above all, strengthening the role of municipalities.

Foreword

Our network also broke new ground in 2021 with the Climate Alliance Member Charter, which shows just how local climate action can look. With this document, Climate Alliance has built on over 30 years of work, sending an important message in support of ambitious local climate action that is fair, nature-based, local, resource-saving and diverse. Adopted by the general assembly during the Climate Alliance International Conference (CAIC) in Wels, Austria, the Charter is now one of our network's fundamental documents. Its recommendations for action will continue to be developed into the future and accompany our alliance in its work, for example, at the next CAIC in Hesperange, Luxembourg from 28 to 30 September 2022. We are looking forward!



Preparations for Climate Alliance membership of the Wampís indigenous territory in Peru – approximately 1.3 million hectares in size – was another 2021 network highlight. In granting the Wampís territory membership, we can jointly point to the essential contribution that areas of intact rainforest make, not only as tremendous carbon sinks, but also in terms of safeguarding critical water cycles and biodiversity. Climate Alliance’s indigenous partners continue to be particularly affected by Corona, in addition to the already serious threats to lives and livelihoods, especially for those on the frontline of the territorial destruction. We continue to stand hand in hand for climate justice.

As Presidents of the Climate Alliance Executive Board, we would like to thank all members as well as the staff of the European Secretariat offices in Frankfurt and Brussels, but also in the various national coordination offices, for their motivation and hard work.



Andreas Wolter

Climate Alliance President | Mayor of the City of Cologne (DE)



Tine Heyse

Climate Alliance President | Mayor for Environment, Climate, Energy and North-South, City of Ghent (BE)



Harol Rincón Ipuchima

Climate Alliance Vice-President | Coordinator for Climate Change and Biodiversity of the COICA



An Alliance for the Climate

For over **30** years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With nearly **2,000** members spread across more than **25** European countries, Climate Alliance is the largest European city network dedicated to fair and comprehensive climate action. In answering how climate protection and adaptation should be practised in our cities and towns, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility.

**EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
TAKING LOCAL ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

Goals and Action

2021 was a significant year for the network. Members adopted the Climate Alliance Charter at the annual international conference, a document that shows how equitable climate action can look locally. The charter also opens up a target range with which local authorities can aim for more ambitious emission reductions in the future. The Climate Alliance network has thus set a strong example for more climate action.

Specifically, Climate Alliance municipalities now support the following goals via their membership in the network:

- Implementation of effective and comprehensive climate action in accordance with Climate Alliance principles

- Promotion of climate justice together with indigenous peoples by supporting their rights, protecting biodiversity and abstaining from the use of unsustainably managed timber
- A **95%** reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, in line with IPCC recommendations

While targets are important and give direction, it is now also essential to define how these goals are to be reached. From climate neutrality to **100%** renewable energies and the introduction of a CO₂ price – our charter provides Climate Alliance members with recommendations to drive a sustainable and equitable transformation on the ground.

Learn more at
bit.ly/Climate_Alliance_Charter

The network

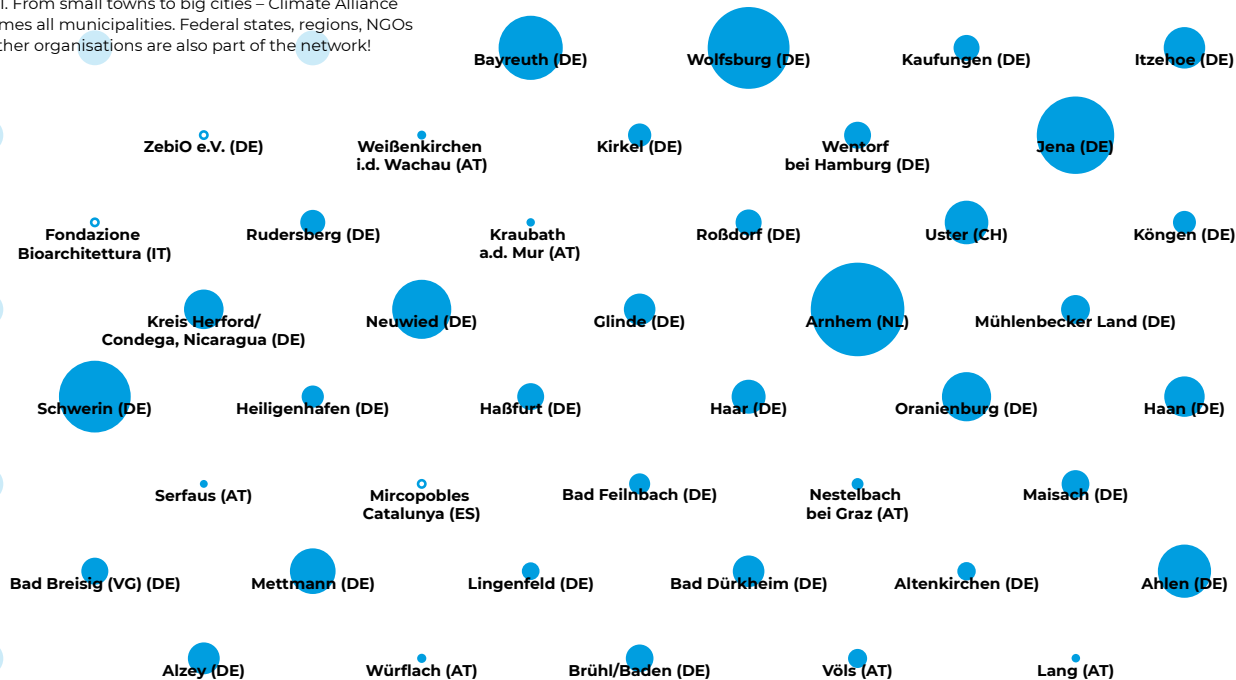
Climate Alliance members come from all over Europe and beyond. At the end of 2021, our network counted...

- **1,896** members
- **1,748** cities, towns and districts
- **27** provinces and regions
- **69** NGOs and other organisations
- all coming from **27** countries

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/municipalities/the-network

In 2021, we had the pleasure of welcoming **42** new members!

The circles represent the populations of our new arrivals in 2021. From small towns to big cities – Climate Alliance welcomes all municipalities. Federal states, regions, NGOs and other organisations are also part of the network!



Climate Alliance Principles

Climate Alliance advocates a comprehensive approach to local climate action, guided by a set of key principles. These Climate

Alliance principles act as both a compass and a filter for effective and sustainable climate action at the local level.

FAIR



Promoting the wellbeing of all the world's peoples in harmony with nature

NATURE-BASED



Supporting closed-loop systems that replenish and regenerate instead of extract and deplete.

LOCAL



Thinking globally but acting locally, concentrating on the regional sourcing of goods and energy.

RESOURCE-SAVING



Using fewer resources by doing more with less and using less to begin with.

DIVERSE



Recognising strength in diversity. There is no one-size-fits-all answer.

Executive board



Andreas Wolter | President
Mayor of the City of Cologne, Germany



Harol Rincón Impuchima | Vice-President
Coordinator for Climate Change and
Biodiversity of COICA



Robert Leven | Board Secretary
Councillor for the Municipality of Hesperange,
Luxembourg



Alessandra Filippi | Board Member
Executive for Environment, Agriculture and
Sustainable Mobility for the City of Modena, Italy

Tine Heyse | President
Mayor for Environment, Climate, Energy and
North-South of the City of Ghent, Belgium



Rainer Handfinger | Board Treasurer
Mayor of the Municipality of
Ober-Grafendorf, Austria



Roland van Meygaarden | Board Member
Mayor of the Municipality of Boxtel,
The Netherlands



Matthias Nabholz | Board Member
Department Head for Environment and Energy
of the City of Basel, Switzerland



Eva Schobesberger | Board Member
Councillor for the City of Linz, Austria

Xesco Gomar Martín | Board Member
Delegate for Environmental Issues of
the Province of Barcelona, Spain



Julie Laernoës | Board Member
Vice-President of Nantes Métropole,
France



Simone Raskob | Board Member
Deputy Mayor for Environment, Transport
and Sport of the City of Essen, Germany



John Tanner | Board Member
Former Lord Mayor of the City of Oxford,
United Kingdom



European Secretariat

Team

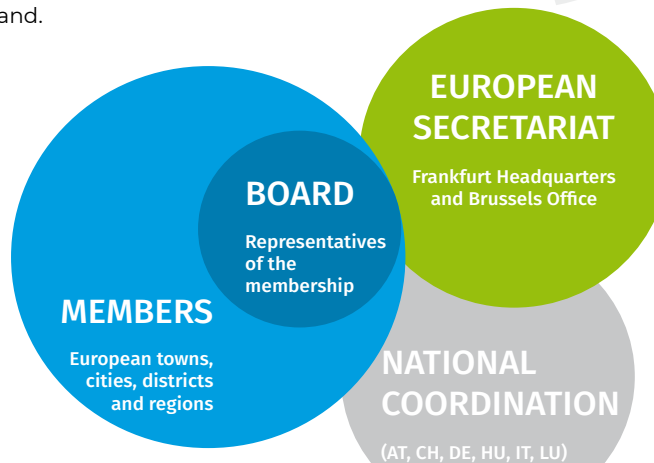
Climate Alliance's European Secretariat is spread over two locations with its headquarters in Frankfurt and a Brussels office. The Frankfurt headquarters also houses the national coordination office for German Climate Alliance members.

- Executive Director: Thomas Brose
- In Frankfurt*: **44** staff members | **35.4** full time positions
- In Brussels: **11** staff members | **8.3** full time positions
- Plus **9** volunteers and interns throughout 2021

* Of these, 21 staff members also work specifically on initiatives for Climate Alliance members in Germany.

Structure

The Executive Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the Climate Alliance. It is composed of and elected by the members at the annual general assembly. The European Secretariat manages the network on an international level and carries out a wide variety of activities such as projects and campaigns both for and with members. A total of six national coordination offices support Climate Alliance members in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.



A Network Milestone

On 8 September 2021, Climate Alliance members adopted a new charter, also known as the Declaration of Wels in a nod to the host of the conference at which it was passed. The Climate Alliance Mem-

ber Charter references longstanding network goals while also expanding on them, recognising the need for more ambitious emissions reductions.

The Climate Alliance Charter

While goals, numbers and milestones look good, real action is better. Perhaps the charter's most defining feature is its focus on the 'how' of climate action. Climate Alliance is certainly not the only city network to fight global heating, but it is our commitment to climate action that is both comprehensive and equitable that sets us apart. Climate Alliance's principles – fair, nature-based, local, resource-saving and diverse – lie at the heart of this new charter.

Here's what members have to say about our network's newest guiding document...

“We are happy to be part of the powerful city network that is the Climate Alliance and to have contributed to the development of its charter. In this way, we show how seriously we take climate protection and sustainability. We cannot stop climate change by telling others what to do. We must tackle it together.”

– Matthias Sinn, City of Solingen (DE)

“Hannover has decided to go as close to climate neutral as possible by 2035. We thereby expressly support the 1.5 degree target set in Paris as well as the Climate Alliance Charter. We are working fast and furiously on the implementation of climate action measures: socially just and with a view to a life worth living for future generations.”

– Anja Ritschel, Head of Department for Economy and Environment, City of Hanover (DE)

“Ask not only what the climate crisis means for you, but what you can do to stop it. The challenge is to further awaken the commitment of all municipalities, together with their citizens. This is what the Climate Alliance Member Charter encourages.”

– Robert Leven, Municipal Councillor, City of Hesperange (LU)

“Climate Alliance goals, as affirmed in the Charter, are an impetus for me to push for a climate-resilient society and city administration and to drive the necessary transformation with all I have. In doing so, I want to include the people and convince them of my ideas. For a climate-active Leichlingen.”

– Monika Meves, Climate Protection Management,
City of Leichlingen (DE)

“Climate Alliance has developed into a well-known European community. With the Climate Alliance Member Charter, we have adopted a clear statement for ambitious climate protection. Thanks to the many actions of our partners, awareness of the need for climate action has reached our city halls and administrations. Acting now is essential; we are ready to make our cities and towns climate-neutral.”

– Andreas Wolter, Mayor, City of Cologne (DE)

95%

CLIMATE ALLIANCE GOALS

In addition to a commitment to climate justice via a partnership with indigenous peoples, each town, city and district joining Climate Alliance passes a municipal resolution committing to a continual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, aiming for a **95%** cut by 2050 as compared to 1990 levels, in line with IPCC recommendations. Member municipalities strive towards this goal on the basis of effective and sustainable climate action in accordance with Climate Alliance's [principles](#): fair, nature-based, local, resource-saving and diverse.

Read more at
bit.ly/Climate_Alliance_Charter



Making Connections

Whether via events or thematic working groups – Climate Alliance members benefit from numerous opportunities that foster mutual exchange and thereby promote local climate action.

Climate Alliance International Conference | CAIC22

In 2021, the Climate Alliance International Conference took place as a hybrid event for the first time. Together with the Climate Alliance coordination offices for Austria and Upper Austria, we welcomed guests from all over Europe both in Wels (AT) and via computer monitors.

The European Green Deal was the focus of attention. From 8 to 10 September, Climate Alliance members and experts discussed how EU climate policy can be broken down to the local level and how municipalities from across Europe are already building upon it.

“We don’t have a climate crisis! We have a new state of affairs that won’t go away!”

– Harald Welzer, CAIC22 keynote speaker

- Nearly **500** participants from more than **30** countries shared ideas in networking offerings, exchanged in numerous workshops and gathered inspiration for their municipalities
- Climate Alliance members adopted the network's newest guiding document, the Climate Alliance Member Charter, at the CAIC21 General Assembly – a real highlight of the year.



From left to right: Silvia Huber, Deputy Mayor of the City of Wels; Norbert Rainer, Executive Director of Climate Alliance Austria; Robert Leven, Municipal Councillor of Hesperange (LU) and Ulrike Schwarz, Member of the Parliament of the Province of Upper Austria (AT) at the CAIC21

The next municipal host is already in the starting blocks for 2022: CAIC22 will take place from 28 to 30 September 2022 in Hesperange near Luxembourg (LU) under the motto 'Unleashing local potential – driving global transformation'.

Learn more at

climatealliance.org/events/international-conference/2021-conference

Climate Alliance Working Groups

Climate Alliance organises numerous working groups for its members – at the European level as well as nationally. These working groups focus on relevant topics in the field of climate action and invite all Climate Alliance members to get involved.

WORKING GROUP ON BUILDINGS

At the end of 2021, Climate Alliance launched a new working group on buildings. A survey conducted by Climate Alliance in the summer of 2021 clearly showed that municipalities across Europe are interested in the topics of buildings and building renovation. The kick-off event at the end of November provided information on the deep renovations and opportunities for municipalities to mobilise homeowners. Interested Climate Alliance members are invited to join this new working group.

WORKING GROUP ON ADAPTATION

This Working Group on Adaptation has been bringing local representatives and experts together since 2015 to exchange experiences and develop solutions. Twice a year, members receive updates on policies, initiatives and projects in the field of adaptation. During CAIC21, the working group met digitally and focused their attention on vulnerable groups. Members presented local examples of climate change adaptation and discussed ways to scale up and accelerate these approaches.

Buildings
Adaptation

“Local energy projects should offer more than public acceptance. Or rather, real acceptance comes with (financial) participation.”

– Kai Lipsius, Green Capital Agency
Head, City of Essen (DE)

WORKING GROUP ON FINANCING

In 2021, the Working Group on Financing met every three months to exchange views on topics such as financing building renovations, European funding programmes and financing models for citizen energy. The meeting in the framework of CAIC21 also focused on the question of how energy communities can boost citizen engagement. Members shared their knowledge with the group and reported, for example, on their experiences with the European City Facility.

WORKING GROUP ON CO₂ MONITORING

The CO₂ monitoring working group is currently focussing on a project with Klimaatverbond (NL), exploring CO₂ pricing in European municipalities as an instrument to promote more climate-friendly services and products. The project, open to municipalities interested in taking part, was presented at CAIC21 with information also provided on current developments in the field of CO₂ monitoring.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/working-groups

Renovating Europe's Building Stock

In December 2020, the EU set an ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% from 1990 levels by 2030. A key piece of the puzzle requires addressing the EU's inefficient building stock, which accounts for over 35% of EU emissions.

Buildings have long lifecycles: almost all of the buildings we see today will still be in use in 30 years' time. It is thus crucial that we unlock the potential that building renovation has to offer. The European Commission's Fit for 55 legislative package addresses the energy performance of existing buildings with the Renovation Wave Strategy. The plan: to double renovation rates to 2% annually by 2030, translating to the retrofiting of some 35 million buildings across Europe.

It is clear: we need to get started now. Cities and towns can lead by example, both with their own building stock and by mobilising homeowners. By stimulating deep renovation, local authorities not only significantly reduce energy use and emissions but also improve thermal comfort and indoor air quality while mitigating energy poverty and boosting the local economy. Climate Alliance is supporting the local level in improving building energy performance through a range of initiatives focusing on renovations.

With the WHY project, the association is helping forecast the effects of political decisions on the residential sector's energy demand and we are promoting high performance renovations on the basis of Passive

House principles in combination with the speed of prefabrication through outPHit. With Build Upon², the network helped develop an indicator framework with European municipalities to capture cross-sectoral benefits of renovation and convey municipal needs concerning additional monitoring efforts.

Climate Alliance has also been assisting municipalities to set-up so-called 'one stop shops' with the help of projects like PadovaFit and EUROPA. By gathering planning expertise, financial advice, and access to local tradespeople in a single place, one stop shops lower the hurdles to renovation, enabling citizens to efficiently and cost-effectively renovate their living and working spaces.

Municipalities are also encouraging renovations with Climate Alliance's Energy Caravan, a campaign carried out successfully in more than 100 municipalities since 2009. By helping cities and towns bring energy consulting to homeowners directly, the Energy Caravan has increased family home renovation rates from an average of just 1% to an astonishing 15%. This, in turn, has triggered considerable private investments in building renovation. The success of the campaign in Southwest Germany has prompted requests for cooperation across the country and Europe.

Bundling the topics covered in all of the network's building related initiatives, the Climate Alliance Working Group on Buildings, launched in

2021, provides a platform through which interested municipalities can exchange with peers and experts alike. The working group welcomes all members interested in joining the conversation to get involved.

Building renovation may not be a new challenge, but it is an increasingly pressing one. EU legislation centred on the Renovation Wave strategy and action plan, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance of Building Directive has set ambitious goals to address Europe's building stock. Climate Alliance is supporting members in rising to the occasion.

Passive House district in Heidelberg (DE)





Advocating for the Local Level

WORKING FOR MUNICIPALITIES

The role of cities and towns in the mitigation of and adaptation to global heating as well as in climate justice cannot be overstated.

Through position papers as well as on-the-ground initiatives and participation in international events and forums, Climate Alliance's European Secretariat voices the interests of the local level both in European policy circles and on the international stage. This year, Climate Alliance devoted special attention to the topics of adaptation, building renovation and energy poverty.

THE 26TH CLIMATE SUMMIT, GLASGOW

The pandemic shifted many plans, including those for COP26. The big event that had been planned in 2020 ended up taking place in 2021. Climate Alliance's delegation was on the ground in Glasgow with a packed schedule.

While the COP's final pact was watered down at the last minute, it did formally recognise role of 'local communities' and civil society, also giving a nod to the role of indigenous peoples in climate action. To further support the ambitious climate commitments of local au-

thorities, Climate Alliance supported the European Committee of the Regions declaration entitled, "The EU Green Deal: From Local to Global", calling for increased collaboration with sub-national actors and specific, targeted action. We also signed on to the Real Solutions Not Net-Zero call and actively contributed to a UK100 report launched at COP26 on how in-country local government networks accelerate climate action.

In over a dozen events and through various collaborative efforts, Climate Alliance worked to raise awareness on climate justice and the critical

role of cities and towns in taking on global heating. We will of course continue these efforts in the years and COPs to come.

“When it comes to climate protection, we are not only responsible for our own wellbeing, which, as this year’s floods showed, is increasingly under threat. We are also responsible for the wellbeing of people in the least developed countries of the Global South who have contributed only marginally to man-made climate change but are often hit the worst by it.”

– Janine Müller, Climate Alliance delegate to COP26 and Climate Protection Manager, City of Haan (DE)

Read more at

climatealliance.org/events/climate-summits/cop26-glasgow

From left to right: John Tanner, former Lord Mayor of the City of Oxford (UK) and ▶
Thomas Brose, Executive Director of Climate Alliance, at COP26 in Glasgow (UK)



POLICY AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

2021 proved crucial in terms of policy on climate towards the implementation of the European Green Deal – the EU’s overarching plan to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least **55%** by 2030. To align the legislative framework with these ambitious goals, the EU presented its Fit for 55 package in July with plans to update existing energy directives and offer new policies for emissions reductions while safeguarding vulnerable citizens. Other policy highlights reflecting ambitions of the European Green Deal include the

COVID recovery plan, the new budgetary period, the Renovation Wave and the Horizon Europe research programme’s five ‘Missions’. In each of these, acknowledgement of the role of local authorities is evident.

Climate Alliance, for its part, is actively supporting the role out of the European Commission’s Cities Mission, for which we are running the city twinning programme and contributing advice on sustainable climate finance. The mission will support **100** cities to go climate-neutral by 2030. We are also in close contact with the managers of the

EU’s Adaptation Mission, which will make **150** European regions and communities climate resilient by 2030. For all programmes, Climate Alliance works to highlight synergies with existing initiatives, such the Covenant of Mayors, and thus avoid unnecessary redundancy.

Throughout 2021, we also took a stand on several European policy issues. The climate justice team, in cooperation with the Climate Alliance board, gave direct input at the Cities and Regions for International Partnerships Forum, organised by Committee of the Regions and the

55%

100

150



European Commission. Climate Alliance also signed open letters on two European Directive amendments: the Renewable Energy Directive, in which we highlighted elements for policies to increase renewable energy use and the Renovation Wave, in which we raised awareness on energy poverty as part of the Right to Energy Coalition. These topics will remain a focal point of Climate Alliance's policy work into 2022.

“Working towards net-zero is a lonely business for local councillors. We lack the money and the power. Voters often oppose the changes we want, so we need the support of networks like Climate Alliance. If the town next door can do it, so can we.”

– John Tanner, Climate Alliance board member and former Lord Mayor of Oxford (UK)

Read more at
climatealliance.org/activities/advocacy

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS – IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

In 2021, Climate Alliance again played a leading role in the EU's Covenant of Mayors initiative, which attracted some **1,000** municipalities throughout the year, bringing the grand total to over **10,000** signatories.

In April 2021, the initiative entered a new phase with signatories invited to step up their ambition. Beyond the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050, new covenant commitments include an even stronger focus on two central Climate Alliance themes: climate adaptation and the alleviation of energy poverty. In sharing expertise gained through Climate Alliance's Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, for example, the network is tapping into synergies that benefit municipalities across Europe. To help cities and

towns on the topic of adaptation, we are now coordinating the European Commission's Policy Support Facility, which Climate Alliance helped shape to fit municipal needs in a series of consultations leading up to its launch. The facility will be piloted via the Covenant office starting in 2022, offering comprehensive technical assistance with European and country-specific components.

2021 also saw the strengthening of ties between the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Alliance's partner, the European Committee of the Regions, allowing for a more effective connection between local needs and European regional politics. The Covenant of Mayors Political Board with Climate Alliance representation via Pilar Díaz Romero of the Province of Barcelona is also giving local leaders the opportunity to play a greater role in shaping EU legal and financial frameworks. The board regularly engages in direct and structured dialogue with EU policy makers, having met multiple times, for example, with the European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson during the course of 2021. Our strong role in shaping the Covenant of Mayors continues to open doors, helping ensure EU policy frameworks are better suited to the local level and to promoting local action.



Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy EUROPE

“The EU needs its one million local and regional politicians if the Green Deal is to succeed... regions, cities and villages are raising the climate bar higher to meet people’s demands and protect our planet.”

– Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Committee of the Regions President

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS – GLOBALLY

Climate Alliance has been involved in the shaping of the Global Covenant of Mayors since the initiative officially went global in 2016, having contributed to the work of several regional offices.

In 2021, we helped elaborate the Global Covenant's Multilevel Climate Action Playbook for Local and Regional Governments, which was created in cooperation with the EU Commission and the UNFCCC. The playbook, presented at COP26, took up a key Climate Alliance idea: that the role of municipalities should not

only be recognised in the international climate process but also integrated into each country's national determined contributions or NDCs.

We are also actively involved in the Global Covenant's Data Technical Working Group, responsible for delivering the reporting framework that applies to Covenant signatories worldwide. Here, Climate Alliance has long shared its expertise in the field of monitoring and reporting methodologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In 2021, Climate Alliance also worked in-

tensely with the working group on issues of energy poverty and access to sustainable and affordable energy. These aspects are due to be integrated into the Covenant Reporting Framework over the course of 2022.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/covenant-of-mayors



Raising Awareness



CITY CYCLING

Cycling for a better climate

Climate Alliance's CITY CYCLING campaign invites municipalities, citizens and local politicians to get on their bikes and cycle as many kilometres as possible within a three week period. In 2021, the campaign built on the successes of past years, again breaking all records for participating cyclists and municipalities, kilometres cycled and tons of CO₂ avoided. These successes were celebrated in November at a hybrid event, hosted by Berlin's Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection and its director, Senator Regine Günther.

- Around **160** million kilometres were covered by bicycle, avoiding more than **24,000** tons of CO₂
- Record numbers took part in the 2021 campaign – **804,077** cyclists from **2,172** municipalities
- Cyclists from a total of **6** countries got involved – with participants from Germany, Luxembourg and France joined last year by newcomers from Denmark, Romania and the USA

“The newly attained records clearly show that people around the world are fed up with the status quo and are demanding a cycling-oriented focus for transport infrastructure.”

– André Muno, CITY CYCLING Campaign Manager

Two platforms, RADar! and RiDE, are also linked to the campaign. RADar! is a reporting platform that helps municipalities improve local cycling infrastructure together with their citizens. In 2021, numerous cities and towns invited residents to submit reports via app on the condition of cycling paths. Since 2021, a new service called RiDE has also offered interested municipalities in Germany scientifically evaluated data for optimised municipal planning. The platform feeds off of data from the CITY CYCLING app and can thus only be used by participating municipalities. In 2022, the RiDE portal and its functionality will be further expanded and optimised.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns/city-cycling

Green Footprints

Kids on the move for climate action

The Green Footprints campaign has been helping children learn more about their options for sustainable lifestyles and mobility since 2002. In Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Belarus, thousands of children diligently collected Green Footprints for the climate by consciously choosing climate-friendly means of transport to get to school, consuming local food, or saving energy. As in the year before, educational facilities responded flexibly to the restrictions imposed by the Corona pandemic in 2021: planned campaign periods were postponed

at short notice and parents got spontaneously involved in their children's tasks at home. Together, the schools and kindergartens as well as the parents and children made the campaign a great success once again.

In November, collected footprints from both 2021 and 2020 were handed over to Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, during COP26 in Glasgow (UK). For the 2022 campaign season, materials will also be available in French for the first time – ensuring even more municipalities and institutions will be reached and even more children will be motivated to act for the climate!

*“I'm extremely grateful for these contributions...
This is very much in fact about their future, about the world
they will be living in. I would ask the children to continue
and to not give up.”*

– Patricia Espinosa, UN Climate Change Secretariat Executive
Secretary at the Green Footprints handover at COP26 in Glasgow



Green footprint handover to Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, at COP26 in Glasgow (UK)

- In 2021, children from **9** countries collected more than **2.9 million** Green Footprints
- In 2020 and 2021, over **350,000** children were part of the campaign
- A total of over **5 million** Green Footprints were presented to the UN Climate Change Secretariat at COP26 for 2020 and 2021

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns

Change the Power – (Em)Power to Change

Local authorities for the sustainable
development goals and climate justice

Climate Alliance offers numerous
materials to help its members raise
awareness among their citizens
on climate action and impacts of
global heating. In 2021, Change the
Power offerings were again in great
demand.

Swap new junk for old values

A good life is simple



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES – PEOPLE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

An exhibition that gives global heating a face with stories of people from Latin America, Europe and Africa

This modular exhibition was digitised in 2021 and is now also available online in German and English

Learn more at climatewitnesses.eu

CHANGE THE FUTURE

An online tool that helps municipalities show their citizens ways to engage in building a better future

Climate Alliance facilitated a Change the Future Challenge in Belarus for the first time in 2021 – a great success for all involved with over **60** participants in **19** teams!

Learn more at bit.ly/CA-change-the-future

CLIMATE COMPASS

An online tool that enables municipalities to show and build upon their commitment to climate action and climate justice

As of 2021, more than **200** data sets had already been entered into Climate Compass.

Learn more at bit.ly/climate-compass

A GOOD LIFE IS SIMPLE

An awareness raising campaign on (over) development in the areas of mobility, nutrition, consumption and energy

The materials, freely available to interested municipalities, were

downloaded nearly **1,400** times last year.

Learn more at bit.ly/overdeveloped

We will continue to advance these and other offerings on climate justice throughout 2022, providing interested cities and towns with materials and tools to further support local sustainability and climate justice efforts.



Ludmilla the camel – the mascot of the Energy Caravan throughout its beginnings

Energy Caravan

Helping municipalities mobilise citizens for energy retrofits

The Energy Caravan has been part of Climate Alliance's campaign portfolio since late 2021 and is both run and communicated in cooperation with the fesa association. The goal: to increase the renovation rate in the private building stock. This is done by rethinking conventional energy consultations – cities and towns offer citizens in selected neighbourhoods free advice from qualified energy consultants. The consultations take place directly at the property and cover all building related topics.

Thanks to the Energy Caravan's neighbourhood approach, the campaign is just as suitable for small towns as it is for large cities. The implementation of the Energy Caravan follows a standardised procedure with all steps and workflows made available in adaptable templates. Climate Alliance and fesa provide the necessary knowledge transfer and guide participating municipalities, thus enabling them to carry out the project independently in the future.

- The success of the Energy Caravan speaks for itself: on average, **25%** of the target group takes part in the energy consultations offered and **60%** of this group actually implements the suggested measures
- Well over **100** municipalities have carried out the campaign
- Upon the start of campaign communication activities at the end of 2021, more than **20** enquiries came in from municipalities of all sizes

“With the Energy Caravan, Climate Alliance is giving cities and towns an approach with they can take on the most important municipal field of action in the area of climate protection.”

– Jan Schwarz, Energy Caravan Campaign Manager,
Climate Alliance

While the campaign materials are currently geared towards implementation in Germany, the campaign team is working to make the Energy Caravan available to municipalities from other countries in the future. Municipalities in Luxembourg, for example, will start running the campaign in 2022.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns/energy-caravan

Successful practical examples are worth their weight in gold when it comes to local climate action – they can both inspire and open up new pathways. In our network, numer-

ous cities and towns are playing a pioneering role. In 2021 as in years past, we have shed light on some of their ambitions and plans.

Leading By Example

ROSTOCK (DE) TACKLES FINANCIAL HURDLES

Rostock is working to increase its share of renewable energy, but making the leap from ideas to action presented a hurdle. For example, how can the state of the city's solar panels be analysed and the legal framework for their expansion be defined? With the support of the European City Facility (EUCF), Rostock was able to tackle this challenge. As one of the EUCF's first beneficiaries, the city received €60,000 in funding to clarify open questions, cast its idea into a concept and thus pave the way for comprehensive investments.

BREST (FR) BRINGS ENERGY CONSULTATIONS HOME

In recent years, Brest Métropole has been able to motivate residents from different neighbourhoods to take a closer look at their energy consumption. The city has offered individual consultations in homes and provided information on energy-saving behaviour. Currently, Brest is developing a one stop shop to tackle energy poverty together with the local energy agency.

CASCAIS (PT) INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS

Cascais plans to produce 184 MW of solar energy with photovoltaic panels and create local energy communities. As part of the SCORE project, the Portuguese municipality made use of a financing model for the joint financing and purchase of PV installations by cities, private households and other actors. These energy communities will soon be able to supply most of their energy needs themselves – along with and supported by the municipality.

FRANKFURT (DE) PROVIDES ENERGY CONSULTATIONS TO WELFARE RECIPIENTS

The Electricity Savings Check, developed in Frankfurt, offers free energy savings advice as well as immediate assistance to welfare recipients. As part of the programme, new appliances with high energy efficiency standards are installed. This also helps the municipalities themselves save money through reduced utilities costs in social housing.

RÜSSELSHEIM AM MAIN (DE) ORGANISES ENERGY CONSULTING CAMPAIGN IN RECORD TIME

Since its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, the city administration has placed an even greater focus on climate action. Rüsselsheim's new climate team carried out the Energy Caravan campaign for energy-efficient building refurbishments at the end of 2021. "We decided to implement this campaign because we saw a great opportunity to reach many citizens with its proactive approach, offering information and drawing attention to the topic of energy-efficient renovation," comments municipal campaign manager Jule Rump on her city's decision.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/about-us/municipal-action/examples

Acting on the Local Level



THE 9TH CLIMATE STAR

#WeAreChange

Success stories of local climate action

What is future-oriented climate action? How can we shape a resilient future? Which aspects will play an important role looking forward? In search of inspiring examples from our members, the European Secretariat, together with Climate Alliance Lower Austria, asked these very questions. Committed cities and towns from across Europe were invited to apply for the ninth Climate Star Award. In spring 2021, the winning municipalities were honoured during a festive online ceremony, made possible with the support of the Province of Lower Austria.

Since 2002, Climate Alliance has regularly awarded the Climate Star to municipal projects, thus highlighting the actions of its most ambitious members. The award commemorates the dedication and the successes of Climate Alliance members in municipal climate action.

“The many submissions as well as the award winning projects... offer encouragement. A shift has begun on the local level towards policies aligned to the Paris climate goals. It is now a question of inspiring even more municipalities – both large and small – from inside and outside our Climate Alliance network to join us on this path.”

– Tine Heyse, Mayor for Environment, Climate, Energy and North-South of the City of Ghent, Belgium (BE)

WINNING PROJECTS IN 2021

On 22 April 2021, a total of **16** projects from across Europe were awarded in **4** categories...



ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Ascha (DE)

for its ambition to become an energy independent municipality by 2030

Eppan (IT)

for its Sustainable Mobility for Eppan Commuters e-bike initiative

Graz (AT)

for its Climate Innovation City project on accelerating cultural change

Tulln (AT)

for Austria's first water-to-water heat pump

SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Baden (CH)

for a competition among families to change everyday routines

Kreis Steinfurt (DE)

for its #energieland2050 digital campaign encouraging citizen dialogue in times of Corona

Ludwigsburg (DE)

for a competition designed to help people minimise their ecological footprints

Perchtoldsdorf (AT)

for its Perchtoldsdorf 4 Future initiative to develop a decarbonisation strategy

Targu Mures (RO)

for the integration of sustainability in everyday life with the Change the Future Challenge

INVOLVING CITIZENS

Energy Agency of Rhineland-Palatinate (DE)

for the idea of combining climate action with voluntaring in its Klick Aktiv project

Retzer Land (AT)

for one of Austria's first local electricity marketplaces

Herzogenburg (AT)

for its 20 Ideas for the Climate programme to involve citizens

SAVING RESOURCES

Esch sur Alzette (LU)

for BENU, the first ecovillage in the Luxembourg area

Junglinster (LU)

for combining sustainable mobility and the integration of refugees with with the Equivelo initiative

Villach (AT)

for its urban re-use network with replication potential

Kajárpéc (HU)

for its initiative to protect trees and raise awareness amongst citizens

The application phase for the next edition of the Climate Star Award is already underway for 2022: spring 2023 will mark the tenth time that winning municipalities from across Europe will be honoured with the Climate Star for their climate action. The network is looking forward to many more inspiring examples!

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/municipalities/climate-star

PROJECT WORK



Throughout 2021, the Climate Alliance European Secretariat was involved in more than **25** projects at the European level – both for and with its members. Via such projects, the network advances its goals and creates sustainable added value for cities and towns across Europe. The topics are diverse – from energy poverty to mobility change to financing.

25

34 million

ENERGY POVERTY ADVISORY HUB (EPAH)

The leading EU initiative on local action against energy poverty

An estimated **34 million** people in Europe are affected by energy poverty to varying degrees. Climate Alliance has coordinated EPAH, the EU's leading initiative on energy poverty, since January 2021 – a network of stakeholders aiming to eradicate energy poverty and accelerate the just energy transition in European municipalities.

Activities kicked off with the launch of EPAH's online presence in September, followed by the publication of the EPAH Atlas and the Tackling Energy Poverty through Local Action report in November. Both mate-

rials were based on a survey of cities and towns and provide an overview of projects and measures to alleviate energy poverty combined with inspiring examples. The official launch event was the highlight of the year, bringing together EU representatives as well as mayors and municipal representatives to foster exchange on local approaches to tackling energy poverty.

EPAH expanded on these efforts at the beginning of 2022, issuing a call by which cities and towns can apply for technical support from experts for the development of municipal

measures. In addition, training opportunities are being offered to make the local level fit for the fight against energy poverty.

- More than **500** stakeholders discussed the challenges of energy poverty at the EPAH conference at the end of November
- The EPAH report highlights **24** outstanding examples – at the local, national and international levels
- During the research phase, the EPAH team collected more than **200** inspiring examples for the interactive database, the EPAH Atlas

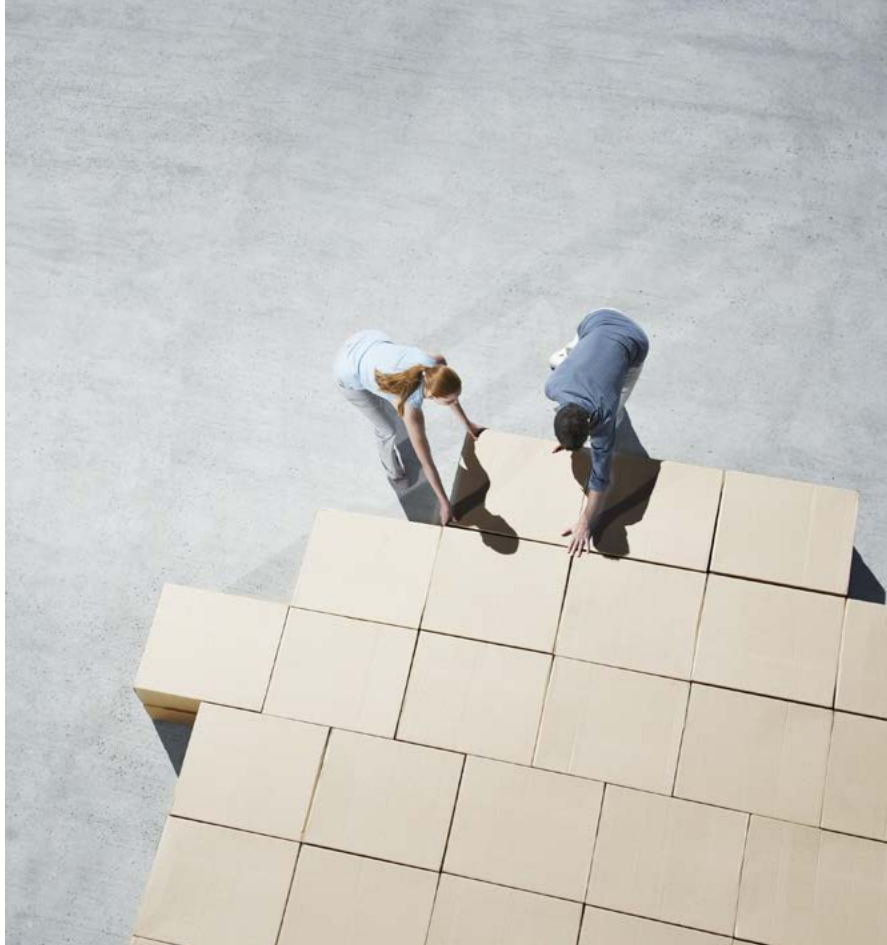
500
200

“It is clear that to reach those in need, the local level, the municipalities, need to be at the forefront when it comes to driving forward the just transition. As the EU’s leading initiative on local action to address energy poverty, the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub will be the go to place for local authorities and civil society as they take forward wide-ranging solutions.”

– Kadri Simson, EU Commissioner for Energy

Learn more at

climatealliance.org/en/activities/projects/epah





Example of a 'Mobile Green Room' in a city centre

CONNECTING NATURE

Bringing cities to life, bringing life into cities

Nature-based solutions are a new concept in the field of municipal climate action. Inspired and supported by nature, they are also cost-effective and offer environmental, social and economic benefits. Through the EU-funded Connecting Nature project, Climate Alliance is promoting innovative nature-based solutions in policy and on the ground, thereby strengthening municipalities in their efforts to adapt to global heating.

In 2021, Climate Alliance co-organised several local and regional events to bring nature-based solutions to cities and their residents. The project team also helped organ-

ise two summits. The first, held in spring, focused on successful practical examples, while the second summit highlighted nature-based businesses and the financing of nature-based solutions. Interested municipalities also had the opportunity to apply for the Connecting Nature Roadshow at the end of 2021. In April 2022, member cities of Chemnitz (DE) and Zurich (CH) will present the mobile nature-based solutions exhibition.

The third Connecting Nature Summit, which will also mark the project's end, will take place in Genk (BE) in May 2022. It will focus on the impact of nature-based solutions on cities and their citizens.

- The team welcomed more than **1,400** participants during the **2** Connecting Nature Summits in 2021
- **5** cities – including **2** Climate Alliance members – will host the Connecting Nature Roadshow in April 2022
- The team produced a total of **10** podcasts on technologies for greener and smarter cities

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/projects

NETZEROCITIES

Paving the way to climate-neutral cities in Europe

The EU understands that cities are taking a pioneering role on the path to climate neutrality by 2050. It has thus created a special 'Cities Mission' programme as one of several 'Missions' providing concrete solutions to our biggest challenges. The Cities Mission aims support at least **100** European cities on the path to climate neutrality by 2030 with a focus on cities that have set a clear net-zero goal. Climate Alliance has been contributing to this Mission since the end of 2021 via the NetZeroCities project. Through a city twinning process, NetZeroCities is additionally supporting cities that are just embarking on their journey, are financially, structurally or geographically disadvantaged or are otherwise in need of aid.

At the end of November 2021, the Cities Mission initiative launched a call for cities from across Europe, with **100** municipalities to receive comprehensive technical, regulatory and financial advice as well as priority access to funding. In early 2022, the Mission will also foster the active participation of cities and local actors in the NetZeroCities project. Two rounds of exchange, one for strategic issues and the other for practitioners, will give the local level the opportunity to share views and actively shape the project.

In 2023, the NetZeroCities consortium will provide additional support to a smaller group of **30** cities in developing their own municipal strategies through a dedicated platform called the Mission Portal. For this purpose, a separate call for applications will take place in early autumn 2022 in order to mobilise a greater diversity of municipalities. The selected applicants will benefit from intensive exchange, offers supporting their climate neutrality goals and concrete financial aid.

- The European Commission has earmarked around **360 million** euro through 2023 for measures related to the Cities Mission
- A total of **362** cities applied to the first Cities Mission call in 2021

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/projects/netzerocities

RENEWABLE ENERGY REGIONS (REGENERGY)

Bringing together urban demand for renewable energy and rural supply

As coordinator of the RegEnergy project since 2018, Climate Alliance has been working to break up existing structures and promote the use of renewable energy in Northwest Europe. To support this goal, we are promoting supply and demand partnerships between urban centres and surrounding rural areas.

In 2021, the RegEnergy mid-term conference brought together local representatives, experts, energy agencies and other stakeholders to discuss the establishment of renewable energy partnerships. An overview of project results was published

in a 2021 factsheet with insights into the initiative and related challenges coming from six countries. As part of the European Sustainable Energy Week, the project team also organised the second RegEnergy Talk in October, highlighting experiences and solutions to help people gain better access to renewable energy. Another highlight in 2021 was RegEnergy's nomination for the REGIOSTARS Awards. The project was a finalist in the Green Europe category.



After four years of work, RegEnergy will come to an end in May 2022 with its final conference in Brest (FR). The event will provide a comprehensive look at the valuable results and experiences of each of the project partners. In 2022, a guide for regions to develop and implement urban-rural partnerships for renewable energy will also be published.

- Through RegEnergy, **18 million** euros were invested in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of 2021, resulting in CO₂ emissions reductions of **30,000** tonnes annually in Northwest Europe
- RegEnergy was one of the **25** finalists of the 2021 REGIOSTARS Awards out of a total of **214** applications

Learn more at climatealliance.org/activities/projects/regenergy

“The aim is to link supply and demand through the development of urban-rural partnerships. The strengths and experiences of a wide range of actors in North-West Europe are being gathered and, together, innovative models for win-win partnerships are being developed.”

– Tarek Al Wazir, Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing, Hesse (DE)



MORE TOPICS. MORE PROJECTS. MORE CLIMATE ACTION.

Store4HUC | Energy storage in historic city centres

In 2021, Climate Alliance supported the publication of three tools for improved energy storage planning via Store4HUC: the Autarky Rate Tool, the Optimal Sizing Calculator and the Optimal Heat Resource Module. The tools were tested with four pilot projects in Austria, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia.

SCORE | Promoting the co-ownership of renewable energies

Through this EU-funded project, Climate Alliance was able to make the CSOP calculator available to its members. The tool enables the de-

termination of economic feasibility for renewable energy investments. The SCORE project is motivating consumers and municipalities to participate in the energy transition with jointly financed projects.

TANDEM | Franco-German municipal partnerships

For the TANDEM team, 2021 started with the second Franco-German Energy Transition Week. Municipalities in Germany and France were called upon to engage citizens and businesses in the energy transition – through campaigns, events and other activities. During the course of the year, further members showed interest in forming new Franco-German climate partnerships. There are now 15 municipal partnerships in total!

ENPOR | Reducing energy poverty in the private rented sector

Building on an analysis of energy poverty in the private rented sector at the beginning of 2021, the ENPOR team launched a series of lunch talks in late spring to shed more light on the topic. Since November, the Energy Poverty Dashboard has also been providing an overview of available strategies for and approaches to dealing with energy poverty in the private rented sector.

Interlace | Restoring urban ecosystems with nature-based solutions

Through Interlace, Climate Alliance is raising awareness of nature-based solutions in urban environments in Europe and Latin America. With an events series called CITIES TALK NATURE, launched in 2021, com-

mitted cities and towns are being brought together on the topic of nature-based solutions.

European Environment Agency | Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

Climate Alliance is working with the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the topic of adaptation.

The report on equitable resilience in Europe was a key result of this cooperation in 2021. Climate Alliance also supported the organisation of the European Urban Resilience Forum, a central platform for municipalities and experts to exchange on adaptation and urban resilience.

EUCF | Helping cities unlock sustainable energy financing

Through the European City Facility

(EUCF), Climate Alliance is providing cities and towns with the opportunity to receive support in developing their investment concepts for sustainable energy projects. In 2021, EUCF issued two calls for applications from municipalities across Europe – nearly 100 investment concepts were selected and supported.

SEI Forums | Strengthening energy efficiency investments

Through Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEI Forums), Climate Alliance is helping build momentum on energy efficiency investments throughout the EU. In 2021, we organised several country-specific events and EU-wide online workshops to bring public and private experts together as well as to discuss innovative financing instruments.

SaMBA | Sustainable mobility behaviour in the Alpine region

In 2021, Climate Alliance was able to support the development of a handbook for municipalities through this project. The publication revealed how behaviour-changing measures for citizens can be implemented in the mobility sector. A final event in Turin (IT) in October marked the end of the EU project after more than three years.

e-SMART | e-Mobility smart grids for public transport and last-mile freight

e-Smart promotes transnational cooperation between public and private actors in the field of e-mobility and charging infrastructure. In 2021, this was done within the framework of numerous Trans-

national Living Lab workshops, supported by Climate Alliance. A series of interviews published on YouTube additionally highlighted the topic of e-mobility in public transport and last mile logistics.

outPHit | Deep retrofits made faster, cheaper and more reliable

This EU project combines novel renovation approaches such as the use of prefabricated components with the quality of renovations based on Passive House principles according to the EnerPHit standard. The goal: to make deep renovations faster, cheaper and more reliable. In 2021, a total of 17 demonstration projects from across Europe were selected to show how this approach can look in practice.

EUROPA | Boosting deep energy renovation in the residential sector

EUROPA aims to strengthen the market, trigger new investments and develop standards to enable deep renovations with a performance guarantee. Climate Alliance is coordinating knowledge transfer for the 30 participants from across Europe involved in the project's mentoring programme. After a call for applications in early 2022, the programme will run for six months and be managed by the five regional pilot partners.

PadovaFit | One stop shops for energy efficient home renovation

PadovaFit's focus is on the development of a one stop shop for the city of Padua (IT) and the replication of this process in other European

cities. As part of an event series in early 2022, Climate Alliance will offer insights into how one stop shops can boost renovation in the private residential sector.

Build Upon² | Scaling up energy efficient building renovation

In order to accelerate the renovation of the building stock, the project consortium published the Build Upon² Framework in November 2021. This reference framework supports cities and towns in collecting and reviewing relevant building data so as to ultimately develop customised renovation strategies.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/activities/projects

Where the Rainforest Is Best Protected

Written in cooperation with Dietmar Mirkes,
former National Coordinator of Climate Alliance
Luxembourg

The fact that indigenous peoples preserve the rainforest through their way of life and thus protect the climate is generally known in Climate Alliance circles. While two studies from 2021 clearly showed

that the whole of Amazonia became a net carbon source from 2003 to 2016, indigenous territories suffered almost no carbon losses. This confirms the crucial role of indigenous peoples as guardians of forests and the climate.

The results also confirm Climate Alliance's approach throughout the years. The collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to their traditional territories and resources must be understood as a fundamental human right, their interaction with the natural world must be recognised as a global environmental success story and the management of their territories must be placed more firmly in their hands.

Indigenous Territories

The Amazon rainforest in Brazil alone is responsible for almost 90% of the observed net changes. This is mainly due to an advancing agricultural front resulting in clearing for cattle grazing and soy cultivation in non-protected areas, but also to droughts and forest fires. This development has been reinforced since the beginning of 2019 by the policies of President Bolsonaro, who is systematically dismantling both indigenous rights and conservation institutions.

The link between climate action, forests and the importance of indigenous peoples as key actors in a global climate strategy were the main ideas behind the founding of the network more than 30 years

ago. The cities and towns of Climate Alliance already support the political involvement of indigenous peoples in international processes through their membership. Many municipalities also provide additional support for indigenous peoples, for example through Climate Alliance funds or in the form of partnerships. The findings the aforementioned studies can thus be seen as further impetus for Climate Alliance members to develop joint projects with indigenous partners in support of their rights as well as for the protection of both the Amazon rainforest and the climate. Climate Alliance is currently developing offers for members that focus on climate impact costs as an effective alternative to the classic compensation approach. In exchange with our partner COICA

and the territory of the Wampís in northern Peru, the first indigenous territory to be accepted as a member of the Climate Alliance, we are developing a way for municipalities to make a targeted contribution to the conservation of the area. The assumption of shared responsibility lies at the core of the approach, which will provide a way to weave urgently needed rainforest protection into municipal climate action strategies.

Learn more at
climatealliance.org/indigenous-partners/insights



In Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Alongside municipal climate action in Europe, our partnership with the indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin forms the second pillar of the association's work. From the beginning, we have worked closely

with COICA, the umbrella organisation for indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin. Our partnership is expressed via institutional support, the strengthening of the involvement of indigenous peoples

in international political processes and via direct project funding in the Amazon region.

THE SITUATION IN THE AMAZON REGION COMES TO A HEAD

Forest fires, systematic human rights violations and threats to indigenous activists – in 2021, the plight of indigenous peoples in the Amazon basin worsened. With the responsible authorities barely present in indigenous territories and protected areas, indigenous communities had difficulties protecting their territorial boundaries. This had serious consequences including increases in illegal mining, an influx of

cattle ranchers and a renewed boost in deforestation as well as more human rights violations. In 2020 and 2021 alone, **220** people were murdered with activists criminalised and threatened. Last year, COICA was forced to officially declare a state of emergency for human rights in the Amazon basin. But it is not only the lives of indigenous peoples that are increasingly threatened; their livelihoods, the Amazon rainforests,

have also been further damaged in the past year through deforestation, degradation and fires. The threat is increasing, not least due to global heating. The IPCC's August 2021 report urgently warns of a further increase in 'fire weather' throughout Amazonia.

220

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES TAKES PRIORITY

A number of recent studies show that the rainforest is better preserved in indigenous territories. The protection and preservation of Amazonia's forests and thus of indigenous territories is a top priority. Climate Alliance has been pursuing this goal for more than **30** years and continued to do so in 2021.

We took steps to grant the territorial government of the Wampís membership in 2021, resulting in the first indigenous territory to officially become a Climate Alliance member. In northern Peru, the Wampís have formed an autonomous government to protect their territory. We are working with this indigenous group and COICA to find a way for members in Europe to make a targeted contribution to the conservation of the Wampís' territory and thus also to integrate rainforest protection into their municipal climate action.

“Destruction of the rainforest exposes indigenous peoples, the defenders of the forest, to a multitude of dangers that influence the climate on a regional and global level.”

– Harol Rincón Ipuchima, Climate Alliance Vice President and Coordinator for Climate Change and Biodiversity, COICA

Another positive signal came from Germany when, in April 2021, the Bundestag ratified International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 169 on the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – a great success! The Convention is the only legally binding instrument protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, guaranteeing their rights to the preservation of cultural identity, participation in state decision-making and to land and resources. Climate Alliance had been campaigning for the convention's ratification for many years as part of the German ILO 169 Coordination Committee.



CLIMATE ALLIANCE STANDS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Last year, Climate Alliance and its members again supported many of our indigenous partners' activities and projects. In 2021, the network collected more than **17,000** euros in donations and over **45,000** euros in associated membership fees, which are used for projects in the Global South. The Green Footprints campaign also donated over **800** euros to the Kichwa community of Sarayaku in the Ecuadorian part of the Amazon basin, where several school buildings had been completely destroyed by flooding. We will double this sum in 2022 to support Sarayaku in replacing furnishings and school materials.

As in the year before, the Corona pandemic constituted an important focus of aid for indigenous peoples in 2021. Some of the health initiatives supported include:

- (Primary) medical care for indigenous communities in the border region between Peru and Colombia
- Corona emergency aid in cooperation with the OIS indigenous organisation of Suriname

The monitoring of indigenous territories in order to detect illegal activities and intruders in a timely manner was another focus of our work and we were able to promote the following projects:

- Support for **87** Guarani and Kaiowás families to establish a sustainable water supply and thus create a basis for self-sufficiency gardens in the federal state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil
- Support for the Ashiñwaka women's organisation to monitor and control Sápara territories in Ecuador
- Training in territorial monitoring using drone technology in the Ucayali region of Peru

Learn more at climatealliance.org/indigenous-partners



National Coordination

Climate Alliance Austria

Management: Elke Kastner and Norbert Rainer |
68 staff members | 34 full-time positions

Austria's largest climate action network continues to grow. Climate Alliance Austria now counts **1,060** municipalities as well as **2,030** companies and educational institutions – all supported by regional associations and regional offices, which in turn are united under the umbrella of Climate Alliance Austria.

Awareness raising and education are at the core of Climate Alliance's work in Austria and in 2021 it was no different. As a response to Corona-related circumstances, a veritable online offensive was launched:

- **23** foot traffic officers from **8** federal states completed the 1st online active mobility course

- **25** climate action officers were trained in the 1st online municipal climate protection course
- **251** educators took advantage of **6** webinars on climate protection in elementary education
- The interactive online 'Klima fairbindet' video series, launched in 2020 during the first Corona wave, was successfully continued
- Regional network meetings like Tyrol's Climate Forum were also held virtually
- The free 'Gutes Finden' app for sustainable offerings in Upper Austria was downloaded **8,500** times



Poster for the Vöcklabruck's "Gutes Finden" green shopping guide app

Mobility was another topic at the centre of Climate Alliance's work in Austria last year: **459** municipalities, **124** educational institutions and **43** companies took part in the European Mobility Week while **14,207** children from **142** educational institutions got involved in the Climate Miles campaign, internationally known as the Green Footprints campaign. A total of **66** 'klimaaktiv mobil' schools and kindergartens were also supported for one year on the path towards safer and more climate-friendly school routes.

Both good and bad news came from Climate Alliance Austria's partner, FOIRN, the umbrella association of indigenous organisations on the Rio Negro in Brazil. As satellite photos taken by the Imazon environmental research institute show, the rate of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest

Unfortunately, Climate Alliance also mourned two colleagues in the last months. Johann Kandler, a long-time colleague and Amazonia expert at Climate Alliance Austria, passed away at the end of the year. He was described by colleagues as a wanderer between worlds and cultures. Oliver Testor, who had been Executive Director of Climate Alliance Austria since the beginning of 2021, also passed away at the beginning of 2022.

had increased by almost **30%** in 2021 as compared to 2020. Although the partner region on the Rio Negro was not affected, FOIRN is working with other organisations in drawing up territorial and environmental management plans to regulate and recognise indigenous territories in the hopes of counteracting these developments. Despite the pandemic, such plans were successfully completed for eight of ten regions in 2021. The two remaining regions have also already begun the process.



Graduates of the municipal climate action course

“Awareness for that which comes from the region and climate protection increased once again in Corona times. We were able to build on this momentum with our many online offers and thus also reach new target groups.”

– Rainer Handlfinger, Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf (AT), Climate Alliance Board Treasurer and Climate Alliance Austria Board Chairman

Learn more at
klimabuendnis.at

30%

Climate Alliance Germany

Coordinator: Svenja Schuchmann | 21 staff members*

As the point of contact for more than **560** German member cities and towns, the German National Coordination advocates for municipi-

palities at the regional and national levels, also engaging in numerous projects and campaigns both for and with the German members.

“As a network with over 30 years of experience, we know what is important when it comes to climate protection. We call on the federal government, in cooperation with the federal states, to provide municipalities with sufficient financial and human resources as well as the legal basis to be able to drive a comprehensive social transformation forward.”

– Svenja Schuchmann, National Coordinator,
Climate Alliance Germany

*This number corresponds to staff who work at least part-time on German projects. Due to the interconnections between the German National Coordination and the European Secretariat, an exact allocation of the staff is only partially possible.



WORKING GROUPS BUILD MOMENTUM ON MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION

In 2021, the German federal election was the central topic of Climate Alliance Germany's Working Group on Policy. In the middle of the year, the political summer evening gathered representatives from national politics, municipalities, business and society to discuss ways to achieve climate neutrality. For the coalition negotiations in November, the working group formulated key demands both for the future German government and for new members of the Bundestag in order to strengthen municipal climate action in the country.

Members also exchanged views in two further thematic working groups. In the Working Group on CO₂ Monitoring, the focus lies on the methodologies behind municipal energy and greenhouse gas inventories while exchange in the Working Group on Energy Supply revolves around the German energy transition and long-term strategies for heat and energy supply.

ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN DISTRICTS WITH REGION-N

Region-N, a Climate Alliance initiative for **100%** renewable energy in regions by 2030, targets committed actors in the energy transition, especially from rural districts. In 2021, **3** networking meetings were held to exchange knowledge and experience. A quarterly newsletter on topics related to the local energy transition was also established. In task forces on topics such as PV on commercial roofs or regional heat supply planning, strategies and instruments were developed that can be adapted to regional conditions and implemented locally. Region-N currently counts over **70** interested parties.

CLIMATE PROTECTION PLANNER FURTHER EXPANDS ITS OFFERINGS

In 2021, Climate Alliance's emission accounting tool again welcomed numerous new users – the yearend user tally counted over **1,450** active municipalities. A total of **20** training sessions introduced some **150** users and future advisors to the tool. A new link with the ESG-Cockpit, an instrument facilitating sustainable organisational management, has also expanded the Climate Protection Planner's range of services since August 2021, enabling the collection of relevant data for climate-neutral municipal administrations.

CLIMATE ALLIANCE AND THE CITY OF WORMS ADVANCE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

In 2021 Climate Alliance supported the City of Worms in the evaluation and preparation of a progress report of the city's municipal climate protection strategy. Climate Alliance also helped Worms develop a heat action plan as part of the Heat Safe/Worms project. The action plan was presented to the municipal environmental committee last year and selected measures will be carried out beginning in 2022, guided by a dedicated steering committee of municipal actors

Read more at
klimabuendnis.org

Climate Alliance Hungary

Coordinator: Csaba Lajtmann | 2 staff members |
1 full-time position

The Hungarian national coordination is led by Reflex, an environmental association that is, in turn, part of a large Hungarian NGO network.

The Hungarian National Coordination offered members the popular Climate Alliance Climate Star and Green Footprints campaigns again in 2021 – and members in the country showed their dedication. Member municipalities submitted a variety of projects for the Hungarian Climate Star, for example, on the expansion of green spaces in residential areas, rainwater management and water retention at the municipi-

pal level. In Hungary alone, around **22,000** children and **2,000** teachers took part in the Green Footprints campaign. In addition to these activities, Climate Alliance Hungary also worked on several EU projects to support members in their local efforts. The topics ranged from nature-based innovations for urban forests to energy poverty to funding opportunities for the municipal level. In Hungary, Climate

“Dear frogs, do you like this hot water? With regard to the climate crisis, we are behaving just like slowly boiling frogs. We are gradually getting used to it... Yet there is so much we can do. This is exactly why we are active and why we founded Climate Alliance Hungary more than 10 years ago.”

– György Laki, Vice-President, Climate Alliance Hungary

Alliance faces a challenging situation. Despite the dire messaging of the IPCC's recent reports, a large part of Hungarian society still does not recognise the urgency of the climate crisis. The Hungarian National Coordination team is thus taking on the challenge of using the time remaining to drive the magnitude of the situation home to decision makers and the general population.

In 2022, Climate Alliance Hungary will focus more intensely on the issue of energy poverty. In keeping with the European Year of Youth, the national coordination team also plans to involve young people more in both its work as well as that of Hungarian environmental NGOs.

Group photo at the annual meeting of green NGOs in Keszthely (HU)



- The Hungarian participants of the Green Footprint campaign collectively earned **298,625** footprints
- Climate Alliance Hungary participated in more than **10** festivals in 2021 to raise awareness about the climate crisis

A total of **5** Hungarian

- Climate Star Awards were presented to members in the country in 2021

Learn more at

eghajlatvedelmiszovetseg.hu

Climate Alliance Italy

President: Karl-Ludwig Schibel | 4 staff members |
3 full-time positions

Climate Alliance Italy provides a platform for the exchange of experiences between members as well as advice on ambitious climate policies. The office also manages the helpdesk of the Covenant of Mayors in Italy and works on climate policies and measures.

The energy transition and energy poverty were topics high on the agenda in 2021 for Climate Alliance Italy. The highlight was the presentation of Citizen Action Labs, a participatory approach to energy citizenship, at COP26 in Glasgow. The Italian national coordination



Ceremony welcoming the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone to the Climate Alliance

4
3

team is working with this approach as part of its DIALOGUES project, which involves testing out theory in a practical setting. In focus groups with municipalities, energy agencies and other networks, Climate Alliance Italy has highlighted the issue of energy poverty over the past year, in part, by testing the Domestic Energy Tutor (TED) energy advisory service. Last year also saw the official accession ceremony of the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone, the first ecclesiastical institution to become part of Climate Alliance Italy. The Italian Foundation for Green Architecture also joined Climate Alliance as a new member.

- In 2021, the Italian National Coordination discussed the topic of energy poverty in a total of **4** focus groups
- The Italian Coordination Office collaborated on **3** scientific articles dealing with the topic of energy citizenship

In the coming year, Climate Alliance Italy aims to intensify cooperation with Italian member cities and towns and involve them in further projects – not least through the Citizen Action Labs to be implemented in 2022.

“How can the trust of those who have so far benefited little from the energy transition be won? How can they be convinced that their lives will improve if they get involved in citizen energy? It is only if we gain the trust of all citizens that it will be possible to shape a sustainable future.”

– Karl-Ludwig Schibel, National Coordinator, Climate Alliance Italy

Learn more at
climatealliance.it

Climate Alliance Luxembourg

Coordinators: Paul Polfer, Birgit Engel and Cédric Reichel |
9 staff members | 6 full-time positions

25

In Luxembourg, member municipalities are supported by two NGOs: Mouvement Ecologique and Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM). These two organisations have been working under the umbrella of Climate Alliance Luxembourg now for over 25 years.

In 2021, the Climate Alliance Luxembourg celebrated **25** years of existence with a high-profile media campaign throughout the country. Unfortunately, 2021 was also a year in which the climate crisis hit the country hard with flooding in the summer devastating the Benelux country. Due to the pandemic, numerous events had to be postponed or cancelled – a significant disadvantage, especially for the educational activities that form a central element of the association's work in the country.

The Climate Alliance Luxembourg nevertheless was able to report some successes in 2021. The national coordination team was able to continue CO₂ inventory activities on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment for all municipalities in the country. The Green Footprints (Gréng Féiss) and CITY CYCLING (Tour du Duerf) campaigns were again a complete success and encouraged thousands of people to join in. Climate Alliance Luxembourg was also active in the area of climate justice last year. Funds from the Emergency Relief Fund were used to support two partners hit by typhoons and campaigning against the EU-Mercosur Agreement was continued.

- **1,300** children collected a total of **52,555** footprints as part of the Green Footprints campaign in Luxembourg
- **6** municipalities tested the first version of the Climate Check for municipal projects in Luxembourg
- The national coordination office produced **16** podcasts with **17** guests – ranging from partners from the Global South to NGOs to representatives of political networks from all over Europe



Some exciting projects are already in the pipeline for the coming year. In September 2022, CAIC22, Climate Alliance's International Annual Conference, will take place in Hesperange. Climate Alliance Luxembourg is also planning to carry out the Energy Caravan, a campaign

that entered the Climate Alliance portfolio in 2021. The Sécher um Vëlo/Séchere Schoulwee campaigns, aiming to make transport routes safer and, pandemic permitting, the resumption of study tours is also planned.

“A year like 2021 shows not only on a global but also on a local level who has actually understood what a global crisis is – and I don’t mean the pandemic.”

– Birgit Engel, National Coordinator, Climate Alliance Luxembourg

Learn more at klimabuendnis.lu

Climate Alliance Switzerland

Coordinator: Daniel Lehmann Pollheimer | 2 volunteers

Climate Alliance Switzerland is integrated into the Swiss Association of Municipal Infrastructure. Climate Alliance's coordination office in Switzerland connects Swiss members and supports them in their local climate action efforts.

In 2021, the City of Uster (CH) became a Climate Alliance member, bringing the total number of municipalities for which the Swiss National Coordination is responsible to **19**. This represents around **16%** of the total Swiss population. Last year, the Swiss team was also able to gain further signatories for the Climate and

Energy Charter of Swiss Cities and Towns. The charter is a commitment to dedicated and effective climate action; its contents are also partly reflected in the Climate Alliance Member Charter. In 2021, the role of the local level in climate protection also gained significance. The Swiss CO₂ Act, which was to write the Paris Climate Agreement into national policy, was rejected in a national referendum in the middle of the year. Its rejection on a national level made it all the more important for cities and towns to continue leading the way. Swiss municipalities are already demonstrating numerous examples

of net-zero strategies. Many are also beginning to implement these strategies, for example, by investing in local and district heating networks for a more sustainable heat supply.

- In November 2021, the National Coordination supported the national conference of PUSCH and EnergieZukunft Schweiz with the motto, 'Net 0 – it's up to our communities!'
- During **3** half-day meetings in 2021, Swiss members exchanged views and discussed their local strategies

- 45
- A total of **45** cities and towns signed the Climate and Energy Charter of Climate Alliance Switzerland, with the Charter also finding approval among Swiss municipalities outside Climate Alliance

For 2022, the Swiss National Coordination sees it as its duty to further promote the exchange of cities and towns in Switzerland and thus support their activities.

“When international and national climate policy slows and gets bogged down, cities and towns can lead the way and tackle the challenge with innovation, creativity and courage. It’s an exciting task!”

– Daniel Pollheimer, National Coordinator,
Climate Alliance Switzerland



Morgental solar power plant (CH)

Learn more at
[klimabuendnis.ch](https://www.klimabuendnis.ch)

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