



ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)



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This document contains frequently asked question by OPCC participants during the registration and reporting processes and complements the instructions found on OPCC's Candidates Booklet and CDP and ICLEI's unified reporting system website.

The 2019-2020 One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is open to cities in many countries across the globe. If you would like your country to be added to the list, let us know by sending a message to opcc@wwf.se.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions? Please contact your national WWF office or WWF's international OPCC Core Team (at opcc@wwf.se) for general questions about the OPCC.

Technical questions related to CDP's reporting platform should be directed to CDP at cities@cdp.net.

Other kind of technical support questions should be directed to ICLEI at carbonn@iclei.org.

ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

And other useful information for One Planet City Challenge cities 2019-2020

1. THE OPCC IN A NUTSHELL

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

The OPCC aims to develop and disseminate climate mitigation and adaptation best practices. In this respect, the OPCC invites cities to:

Report ambitious climate commitments, in line with the Paris Agreement and the goal of not exceeding 1.5 °C global warming; and

Report ambitious, cross-cutting, inclusive big-win climate action plans that deliver on those commitments.

This year, for the first time, participating cities will be assessed on how their efforts align with the Paris Agreement and the stated goal of a maximum of 1.5 °C of global warming. Participants will also receive guidance on big-win actions to help them get there. Given the importance of energy and buildings to help a city move towards 1.5 °C alignment, WWF will also provide cities with support tools focused on these areas, including webinars, tips and guidance. In some cases, national WWF offices may provide additional guidance on for example, consumption-based emissions or transportation.

To participate in the OPCC, cities are required to report their climate ambitions through CDP and ICLEI's unified reporting system and enter data through CDP's platform¹. The OPCC data requirement is fully aligned with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM). This means that cities can meet the GCoM reporting requirements by participating in the OPCC, and vice versa.

The OPCC has grown steadily since its inception in 2012. By last count more than 400 cities from 25 countries on 5 continents participated at least once in the OPCC.

¹ In previous rounds, cities reported their climate ambitions through ICLEI's carbonn Climate Registry (cCR). CDP and ICLEI are partnering to present one unified process for subnational climate action reporting. Beginning in April 2019, local and regional governments will only have to report once on CDP's platform.

2. WHY AN OPCC FAQ BOOKLET?

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) booklet addresses common questions about participation, reporting and key features of the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC). By compiling the most common questions in one place, support can be provided more effectively preventing additional layers of communication between city participants, partners and the support team.

This main part of the booklet is divided into three sections. One dedicated to the most common questions on **user experiences of CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System**. Next, section IV, will cover general questions on the Cities Questionnaire for OPCC 2019-2020, OPCC's main requirement for data reporting². The final section addresses questions related to OPCC's method to align to 1.5 °C future, an assessment framework and approaches to tailored action-oriented advice.

² The OPCC data requirement is fully aligned with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM). This means that cities can meet the GCoM reporting requirements via participating in the OPCC, and vice versa. For more information, please refer to Global Covenant of Mayors Common Reporting Framework in the following link: <https://bit.ly/2wRn1wf>.

3. QUESTIONS ON USER EXPERIENCE OF CDP/ICLEI UNIFIED REPORTING SYSTEM

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

A: No, it is not possible to appoint third party entities to report to OPCC. Although reporting formats can be shared with third parties for complementary information, the uploading and submission of data must be done by participating city.

Q: Can cities participating in OPCC do offline reporting?

A: Yes, once registered and opting-in for OPCC in individual account, a city can download data submission questionnaire in excel format. Please note that cities can also download data submission questionnaire as a Word document, but only excel format can be uploaded back to the system.

Q: Can cities participating in OPCC do submissions after July the 10th?

A: Submissions by 10th of July 2019 are strongly recommended. Cities are asked to report at least 1 mitigation, 1 inventory (when available) and 1 action or action plan by the deadline. Minor corrections and updates can then be made until end of September 2019.

Q: Can cities participating in OPCC modify submissions if they need to update information?

A: Yes, they can. Cities can open a disclosure amendment directly from the dashboard once they submit. Please bear in mind that they must submit this amendment before the deadline in order for any changes they have made to be considered for assessment by OPCC.

Q: How can a city interested in participating in OPCC have access to the registration portal of CDP/ICLEI's Unified Reporting System?

A: Interested participating cities can access registration via invitation only. If your city is interested but hasn't received an invitation letter with instructions, please contact cities@CDP.net and request a registration link. Please copy WWF (opcc@wwf.se) and ICLEI (carbonn@iclei.org) in your message for facilitation.

Q: It is said that cities participating in OPCC need to "Opt-in" for the challenge in CDP/ICLEI's unified reporting system...what is that?

A: This is the technological function that allows the city to indicate its interest in participating in OPCC. Once registered in CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System, cities will be able to choose OPCC (and any other initiative) by ticking the corresponding t box on the dashboard.

Q: What happens after the period for data submission to CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System ends on July the 10th?

A: We will go through basic checks to highlight gaps and potential errors and cities will be invited to update information and make corrections to their reported data by September 30th.

Q: Will CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System be able to recover/transfer previous OPCC submissions to carbonn?

A: Yes, the recovery and transfer of past submissions to carbonn can be done by request until May 15th 2019. Please note that due to changes in data submission questionnaire as compared to previous OPCC editions, only previously reported greenhouse gas (GHG) targets, inventories, climate hazards and climate action plans can be transferred. Specific actions described under past submissions cannot be transferred. Documents supporting previous submission cannot be transferred or recovered.

Q: Will data submitted to OPCC via CDP/ICLEI's Unified Reporting System be public after submission?

A: Yes, data will be available publicly online on CDP's open data portal by the beginning of September 2019.

4. QUESTIONS ON CITIES QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OPCC 2019-2020

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

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

Q: Can cities participating in OPCC report climate actions and plans yet to be implemented?

A: Yes, actions and plans yet to be implemented should be reported by indicating the status of the action accordingly. For example, as a scoping or pre-feasibility study, or pre-implementation.

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

A: Although cities must choose a primary focus and then report the action accordingly i.e. under mitigation or adaptation sections, complementary actions can be reported as co-benefits. To this purpose, it is important to indicate in the reporting that the one aspect complements the other in an integrated plan.

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

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

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

A: The data submission questionnaire is available to review and download in a few languages, but it is highly recommended that reports, in particular summary boxes, are submitted in English. Please contact your local WWF office if you require support for translation.

Q: Do cities need to upload evidence on what they are reporting to OPCC?

A: We encourage cities to attach evidence when it is indicated in the data submission questionnaire.

Q: Do cities need to include all GHGs if reporting an inventory?

A: Please consult the Common Reporting Framework (CRF) for further details. We recommend reporting all items required by the CRF, which is a comprehensive emission sources list. There are however sources that are not required such as scope 3 emissions in non-waste sector.

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

A: Although the data submission questionnaire doesn't include a historical time constraint, we recommend reporting the most updated information covered by the latest action planning.

Q: If a city does not have anything to report to OPCC in terms of adaptation actions (or mitigation)...will it be punished?

A: Mitigation and adaptation action plans are certainly beneficial for the scoring, are assessed at the strategic coverage and implementation stage. And though there is no penalty, the lack of such plans will ultimately lead to lower overall scores. T

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

A: For more details please consult the data submission questionnaire; it is the same as Global Covenant of Majors (GCoM) requirements. Participating cities should at a minimum report at least 1 mitigation, 1 inventory and 1 action/action plan. Cities that have initiated but not finalized their inventories can be exempt from this requirement. However, without inventory, feedback on 1.5 °C alignment cannot be performed. We encourage cities to remember to submit information related to renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts (Section 8 of the data submission questionnaire).

5. QUESTIONS ON OPCC'S MAIN FEATURES

Q: Can cities report “intended” actions and plans? Is reporting limited to “existing” actions and plans?

A: Yes, cities participating in OPCC can report “intended” actions and plans. Actions and action plans can be defined as anything between scoping/plan in development to monitoring/implementation complete or plan updated.

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

A: Not required though cities are welcome to indicate if they have already done such estimates. One of the benefits of OPCC participation is to get guidance on what their science based targets should be.

Q: Do cities need to have a GHG inventory to participate in OPCC?

A: Not compulsory but beneficial if process is at least initiated. Note that a city will receive much less useful feedback without inventory.

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

A: No, See answer above.

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

A: The OPCC updated assessment framework integrates a pioneering methodology for this which has been developed by WWF in collaboration with representatives from C40, ICLEI, CDP, GCoM, IPCC and other important expert organizations.

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

A: A science based target for cities refers to the method that OPCC has designed to compare the alignment of cities’ emissions reductions targets with global emissions reductions trajectories. The goal is to make them compatible (with at least 55% likelihood) to limiting global warming to a maximum temperature increase of 1.5 °C by year 2100. For more details, please refer to “[One Planet City Challenge: Updated Assessment Framework](#)”.

Q: What is OPCC’s Expert Jury?

A: The OPCC Expert Jury is the body that, based on reported data, will select National and Global OPCC winners with the most ambitious and inspiring commitments and actions. The Jury is made up of leading urban sustainability and climate experts, representing UN institutions, international development banks, scientists and researchers, including representatives from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), leading city networks, and more. Once confirmed you will find a list of this year’s jury members on: www.panda.org/opcc.

Q: What’s new about OPCC 2019-2020?

A: The OPCC 2019-2020 offers new and exciting features to participants such as: (1) a method to help align city targets to a 1.5°C future, (2) an assessment framework that rewards evidence-based climate action planning, and (3) an approach to provide action-oriented advice tailored to each participating city.

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

A: Yes, different types of local governments are all welcome to join the OPCC.

Q: What is the pre-screening report? Will all participating cities be provided with this report?

A: The OPCC pre-screening assessment tests whether mitigation actions align with the main emissions sectors and whether adaptation actions map effectively to climate risks. To support knowledge sharing, we provide each candidate city with feedback, including examples of how similar cities are taking climate action. The OPCC will perform a quantitative pre-screening process, focusing on carbon reduction targets, GHG inventories and climate action plans for all participating cities. . For more details, please refer to [“One Planet City Challenge: Updated Assessment Framework”](#).

6. WEBINAR SERIES FOR CITIES PARTICIPATING IN OPCC 2019-2020 CYCLE

Webinars have been designed to introduce the OPCC 2019-2020 to stakeholders by guiding them through the general elements of the initiative, while also providing in-depth capacity building on the key elements of the OPCC 2019-2020.

Below is the list of webinars offered. Video podcasts of all webinars can be accessed by clicking on the links.

WEBINAR #1: CITIES THAT INSPIRE TO 1.5 °C: AN INTRODUCTION TO WWF'S ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

Description

In short: WWF's One Planet City Challenge assesses the gap between a city's current emissions and the safe range (limiting global warming to 1.5 °C). We also advise on high impact reduction actions. In the end, national winners as well as a global winner are selected by a high-level jury of experts.

This *Q&A Webinar* will address the rationale, design, process and timeline of the initiative as well as how to participate and the derived benefits.

Video podcast: <https://bit.ly/2FB2r6X>.

WEBINAR #2: CLIMATE SCIENCE FOR CITIES: SOLUTIONS TO 1.5 °C

Description: The Paris Agreement has refocused the global and local climate agenda, with commitments made towards aligning action to the ambitious 1.5 °C goal of maximum global warming.

This *Master Class Webinar* uncovers the science of 1.5 °C in connection to cities and the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC).

Video podcast: <https://bit.ly/2D6JqJL>.

WEBINAR #3: HOW TO REPORT TO THE ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE - SCOPE, PLAN, SUBMIT

Description: Cities wishing to participate in the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) are invited to report their climate ambitions through CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System.

This *Tutorial Webinar* will guide participants on how to use the system and successfully submit data to the OPCC.

Video podcast: <https://bit.ly/2J4lUkJ>.

WEBINAR #4: SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS FOR CITIES, EVIDENCE BASED CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING, THE ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE, AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

Description: To help concentrate ambition and catalyze action, the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) supports participating cities in showing that they have science-based emissions reduction targets that align with a 1.5 °C future and are supported by evidence-based climate action planning.

In this *Tutorial Webinar* we guide participants on how to achieve science based targets, and evidence based climate action planning based on different tools designed for the One Planet City Challenge.

Video podcast: <https://bit.ly/2WfvDuM>.

WEBINAR #5: TROUBLESHOOTING: REPORTING TO WWF'S ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

Description: Cities wishing to participate in the OPCC are invited to report their climate ambitions through CDP/ICLEI Unified Reporting System.

This Q&A Webinar will address common problems faced by cities when preparing city data submission and how to solve them.

Video podcast: <https://bit.ly/2wzUSt8>.

ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

CITIES

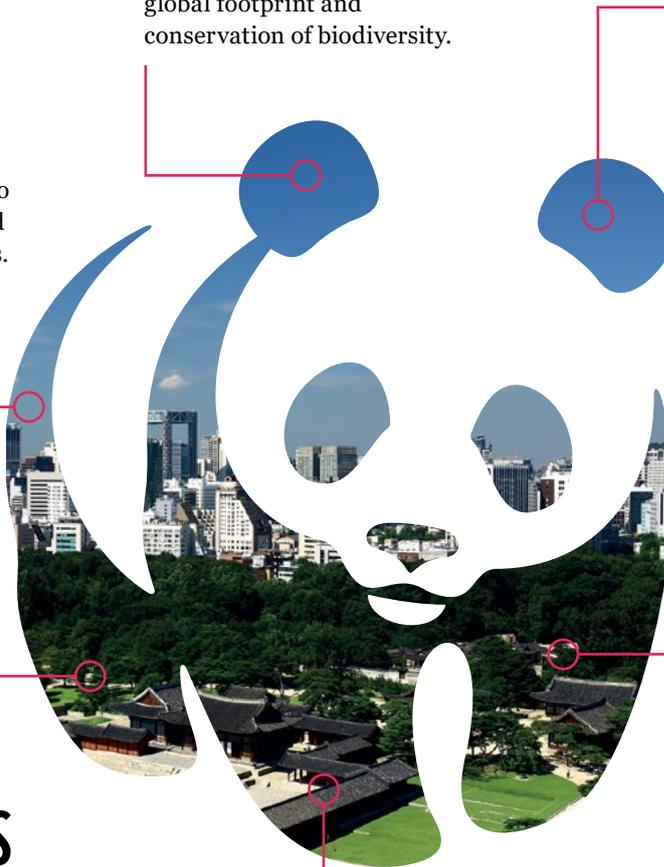
Cities are the epicentre of sustainable development. Working with cities is critical for achieving a sustainable global footprint and conservation of biodiversity.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

In the sustainable city, ecosystem services – both in the city and in relation to the world around it – stand for a wide range of benefits.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS

Smart, efficient cities can reduce their footprints while raising quality of life.



LEADERSHIP

A strong focus on urban solutions is needed in order to secure a globally sustainable development in the coming decades.

INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Sustainable cities require new ways of thinking about and organizing the city's needs, functions and infrastructure.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Cities and their residents will play a critical role in closing the gap between nations' commitments so far and the additional emission reduction needed to keep global warming well below 2 degrees.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org