



Urban Environmental Accords

*Signed on the occasion of United Nations Environment Programme World Environment Day
June 5th, 2005 in San Francisco, California*

GREEN CITIES DECLARATION

RECOGNIZING for the first time in history, the majority of the planet's population now lives in cities and that continued urbanization will result in one million people moving to cities each week, thus creating a new set of environmental challenges and opportunities; and

BELIEVING that as Mayors of cities around the globe, we have a unique opportunity to provide leadership to develop truly sustainable urban centers based on culturally and economically appropriate local actions; and

RECALLING that in 1945 the leaders of 50 nations gathered in San Francisco to develop and sign the Charter of the United Nations; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the obligations and spirit of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the 1992 Rio Earth Summit (UNCED), the 1996 Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements, the 2000 Millennium Development Goals, and the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, we see the Urban Environmental Accords described below as a synergistic extension of the efforts to advance sustainability, foster vibrant economies, promote social equity, and protect the planet's natural systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, today on World Environment Day 2005 in San Francisco, we the signatory Mayors have come together to write a new chapter in the history of global cooperation. We commit to promote this collaborative platform and to build an ecologically sustainable, economically dynamic, and socially equitable future for our urban citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call to action our fellow Mayors around the world to sign the Urban Environmental Accords and collaborate with us to implement the Accords; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by signing these Urban Environmental Accords, we commit to encourage our City governments to adopt these Accords and commit our best efforts to achieve the Actions stated within. By implementing the Urban Environmental Accords, we aim to realize the right to a clean, healthy, and safe environment for all members of our society.

IMPLEMENTATION & RECOGNITION

THE 21 ACTIONS that comprise the Urban Environmental Accords are organized by urban themes. They are proven first steps toward environmental sustainability. However, to achieve long-term sustainability, cities will have to progressively improve performance in all thematic areas.

Implementing the Urban Environmental Accords will require an open, transparent, and participatory dialogue between government, community groups, businesses, academic institutions, and other key partners. Accords implementation will benefit where decisions are made on the basis of a careful assessment of available alternatives using the best available science.

The call to action set forth in the Accords will most often result in cost savings as a result of diminished resource consumption and improvements in the health and general well-being of city residents. Implementation of the Accords can leverage each city's purchasing power to promote and even require responsible environmental, labor and human rights practices from vendors.

Between now and the World Environment Day 2012, cities shall work to implement as many of the 21 Actions as possible. The ability of cities to enact local environmental laws and policies differs greatly. However, the success of the Accords will ultimately be judged on the basis of actions taken. Therefore, the Accords can be implemented through programs and activities even where cities lack the requisite legislative authority to adopt laws.

The goal is for cities to pick three actions to adopt each year. In order to recognize the progress of cities to implement the Accords, a *City Green Star Program* shall be created.

At the end of the seven years a city that has implemented:

19 – 21 Actions shall be recognized as a ★★★★★ City

15 – 18 Actions shall be recognized as a ★★★ City

12 – 17 Actions shall be recognized as a ★★ City

8 – 11 Actions shall be recognized as a ★ City

ENERGY

Renewable Energy · Energy Efficiency · Climate Change

WASTE REDUCTION

Zero Waste · Manufacturer Responsibility · Consumer Responsibility

URBAN DESIGN

Green Building · Urban Planning · Slums

URBAN NATURE

Parks · Habitat Restoration · Wildlife

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transportation · Clean Vehicles · Reducing Congestion

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Toxics Reduction · Healthy Food Systems · Clean Air

WATER

Water Access & Efficiency · Source Water Conservation · Waste Water Reduction

ENERGY

Action 1 Adopt and implement a policy to increase the use of renewable energy to meet ten per cent of the city's peak electric load within seven years.

Action 2 Adopt and implement a policy to reduce the city's peak electric load by ten per cent within seven years through energy efficiency, shifting the timing of energy demands, and conservation measures.

Action 3 Adopt a citywide greenhouse gas reduction plan that reduces the jurisdiction's emissions by twenty-five per cent by 2030, and which includes a system for accounting and auditing greenhouse gas emissions.

WASTE REDUCTION

Action 4 Establish a policy to achieve zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040.

Action 5 Adopt a citywide law that reduces the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty percent in seven years.

Action 6 Implement "user-friendly" recycling and composting programs, with the goal of reducing by twenty per cent per capita solid waste disposal to landfill and incineration in seven years.

URBAN DESIGN

Action 7 Adopt a policy that mandates a green building rating system standard that applies to all new municipal buildings.

Action 8 Adopt urban planning principles and practices that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological restoration.

Action 9 Adopt a policy or implement a program that creates environmentally beneficial jobs in slums and/or low-income neighborhoods.

URBAN NATURE

Action 10 Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within half-a-kilometer of every city resident by 2015.

Action 11 Conduct an inventory of existing canopy coverage in the city; and, then establish a goal based on ecological and community considerations to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than fifty per cent of all available sidewalk planting sites.

Action 12 Pass legislation that protects critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics (e.g. water features, food-bearing plants, shelter for wildlife, use of native species, etc.) from unsustainable development.

TRANSPORTATION

Action 13 Develop and implement a policy which expands affordable public transportation coverage to within half-a-kilometer of all city residents in ten years.

Action 14 Pass a law or implement a program that eliminates leaded gasoline (where it is still used); phases down sulfur levels in diesel and gasoline fuels, concurrent with using advanced emission controls on all buses, taxis, and public fleets to reduce particulate matter and smog-forming emissions from those fleets by fifty per cent in seven years.

Action 15 Implement a policy to reduce the percentage of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by ten per cent in seven years.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Action 16 Every year, identify one product, chemical, or compound that is used within the city that represents the greatest risk to human health and adopt a law and provide incentives to reduce or eliminate its use by the municipal government.

Action 17 Promote the public health and environmental benefits of supporting locally grown organic foods. Ensure that twenty per cent of all city facilities (including schools) serve locally grown and organic food within seven years.

Action 18 Establish an Air Quality Index (AQI) to measure the level of air pollution and set the goal of reducing by ten per cent in seven years the number of days categorized in the AQI range as "unhealthy" or "hazardous."

WATER

Action 19 Develop policies to increase adequate access to safe drinking water, aiming at access for all by 2015. For cities with potable water consumption greater than 100 liters per capita per day, adopt and implement policies to reduce consumption by ten per cent by 2015.

Action 20 Protect the ecological integrity of the city's primary drinking water sources (i.e., aquifers, rivers, lakes, wetlands and associated ecosystems).

Action 21 Adopt municipal wastewater management guidelines and reduce the volume of untreated wastewater discharges by ten per cent in seven years through the expanded use of recycled water and the implementation of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that includes participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social, and environmental principles.

SIGNATORY CITIES

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Signature & date

Founding signatories (June 5th, 2005)

1. Ahmedabad
2. Arnhem
3. Austin, TX
4. Bahia de Caraquez, Canton Sucre
5. Bamenda
6. Berkeley, CA
7. Buriën
8. Calicut
9. Cape Town
10. Chalon-sur-Saone
11. Changchun (in absentia)
12. Chicago, IL

13. Copenhagen
14. Curitiba
15. Delhi
16. Denver, CO (in absentia)
17. Dhaka
18. Gampaha
19. Hyderabad
20. Istanbul
21. Jakarta
22. Kampala
23. Kïev
24. Larnaca (in absentia)

25. Lausanne
26. London
27. Lurin
28. Lyon
29. Matale
30. Melbourne
31. Moscow
32. Mount Vernon, NY (in absentia)
33. Nairobi
34. New Paltz, NY
35. Oakland, CA
36. Rio de Janeiro
37. Rochester, NY (in absentia)
38. San Miguel de Allende
39. Santa Monica, CA
40. Seattle, WA
41. Seogwipo

42. Sinaia
43. Stockholm
44. Surabaya
45. Tainan City
46. Taipei
47. Vancouver, B.C.
48. Vitoria-Gasteiz
49. Zürich
50. San Francisco, CA
51. Belo Horizonte
52. Venice
53. Emeryville, CA



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United Nations Environment Programme World Environment Day June 5th 2005

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What are the Urban Environmental Accords?

Recognizing that majority of the world's population now reside in cities, and that cities consume 75% of the world's natural resources, the City of San Francisco, as host city of the United Nations World Environment Day 2005, selected "Green Cities" as the unifying theme for the event and developed the Urban Environmental Accords, a set of 21 action steps that intends to address the special environmental challenges and opportunities of cities everywhere. Given the unique capacity of mayors to initiate and steer initiatives that produce immediate and direct outcomes, mayors are recognized as excellent change agents for making urban communities into models of sustainable development. It is for this reason that mayors from all over the world came to San Francisco on June 1-5, 2005 to share ideas and discuss solutions to universal urban environmental issues on energy, waste reduction, urban design, urban nature, transportation, environmental health, water.

2. What is the goal of the Urban Environmental Accords?

The Urban Environmental Accords are a series of implementable goals that can be adopted at the city level to achieve urban sustainability, promote healthy economies, advance social equity and protect the world's ecosystem. By achieving success at the city level, the multilateral city commitments of the Urban Environmental Accords can inspire and mobilize expanded commitment at the national level. The Urban Environmental Accords build on and continue the legacy of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the 1996 Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements, the 2000 Millennium Development Goals and the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development

3. How do cities adopt the Accords?

Implementing the Urban Environmental Accords will require open and active participatory dialogue between the cities, residents, community groups, businesses, academic institutions and other stakeholders. At the end of seven years, a city that has implemented 19-21 Action Steps will be recognized as a 4-Star City, a 3-Star City for 15-18 Action Steps, a 2-Star City for 12-17 Action Steps and a 1-Star City for 8-11 Action Steps.

4. Some of the goals appear too high, unrealistic or may not necessarily apply to every city. How do cities handle the implementation process?

The 21 Action Steps of the Urban Environmental Accords are a series of action-oriented steps that cities can use as reference points for setting achievable goals and standards that can be tailored to fit the specific structures of their communities. The ability of cities to enact local environmental laws and policies differ from cities to cities. However, the success of the Accords will ultimately be judged on the basis of actions taken collectively. Accordingly, the Accords can be implemented through programs, services or activities even where cities may lack the requisite legislative authority to mandate laws.

5. How will implementing these goals result in cost savings?

Measures that support the sustainable utilization and management of energy, urban design, waste reduction, urban nature, transportation, environmental health and water resources often result in reduced resource consumption and improvements in the general health and economic wellbeing of cities. Adopting the Accords can leverage a city's purchasing power and promote the advancement of environmentally sound practices.



6. Who will monitor progress and enforcement?

City mayors may appoint a special city council, city department or advisory group that will work with the mayor in setting goals and oversee the implementation process. In many instances, the Accords can be integrated as part of the city's long-term Sustainability Plan. We will also be working very closely with the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and their partners to implement the Accords.

7. Which other cities have signed on?

As of June 5, 2005 the following 53 cities have pledged their support of the Urban Environmental Accords: Ahmedabad (India), Arnhem (The Netherlands), Austin (USA), Bahia de Caraquez Canton Sucre (Ecuador), Bamenda (Cameroon), Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Berkeley (USA), Burien (USA), Calicut (India), Cape Town (South Africa), Chalon-sur-Saone (France), Changchun (China), Chicago (USA), Copenhagen (Denmark), Curitiba (Brazil), Delhi (India), Denver (USA), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Emeryville (USA), Gampaha (Sri Lanka), Hyderabad (India), Istanbul (Turkey), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kampala (Uganda), Kiev (Ukraine), Larnaca (Cyprus), Lausanne (Switzerland), London (UK), Lurin (Peru), Lyon (France), Matale (Sri Lanka), Melbourne (Australia), Moscow (Russia), Mount Vernon (USA), Nairobi (Kenya), New Paltz (USA), Oakland (USA), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Rochester (USA), San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), Santa Monica (USA), Seattle (USA), Seogwipo (Korea), Sinaia (Romania), Stockholm (Sweden), Surabaya (Indonesia), Tainan, Taipei, Vancouver B.C. (Canada), Venice (Italy), Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Zurich (Switzerland), San Francisco (USA).

8. Is there a follow-up session to report and discuss the cooperative progress achieved by all signatory cities?

In 2012, seven years after the initial signing of the Urban Environmental Accords, a United Nations conference will discuss the progress of each city in implementing the Accords. Additional information regarding the Accords is available on www.sfenvironment.org and questions can be directed at accords@sfenvironment.com

Urban Environmental Accords Signing Cities

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| 1. Ahmedabad (India) | 47. Las Vegas (USA) | 88. Santa Monica (USA) |
| 2. Aarhus (Denmark) | 48. Lausanne (Switzerland) | 89. Seattle (USA) |
| 3. Arnhem (The Netherlands) | 49. Lima (Peru) | 90. Seogwipo (Korea) |
| 4. Assisi (Italy) | 50. Limassol, Cyprus | 91. Shenyang (China) |
| 5. Athens (Greece) | 51. Limon (Costa Rica) | 92. Sibiu (Romania) |
| 6. Austin (USA) | 52. London (United Kingdom) | 93. Signal Hill (USA) |
| 7. Bahia de Caraquez Canton Sucre (Ecuador) | 53. Lurin (Peru) | 94. Sinaia (Romania) |
| 8. Bamenda (Cameroon) | 54. Lyon (France) | 95. Stockholm (Sweden) |
| 9. Belo Horizonte (Brazil) | 55. Maputo (Mozambique) | 96. Strovolos (Cyprus) |
| 10. Berkeley (USA) | 56. Marina (USA) | 97. Stuttgart (Germany) |
| 11. Bogotá (Colombia) | 57. Matale (Sri Lanka) | 98. Surabaya (Indonesia) |
| 12. Burbank (USA) | 58. Medellin (Columbia) | 99. Syracuse (USA) |
| 13. Burien (USA) | 59. Medvezhegorsk (Russia) | 100. Taguig (Philippines) |
| 14. Cali (Columbia) | 60. Melbourne (Australia) | 101. Tainan City |
| 15. Calicut (India) | 61. Moab (USA) | 102. Taipei |
| 16. Cape Town (South Africa) | 62. Moro Bay (USA) | 103. Tehran (Iran) |
| 17. Capitola (USA) | 63. Monterey (USA) | 104. Vancouver B.C. (Canada) |
| 18. Chalon-sur-Saone (France) | 64. Montreal (Canada) | 105. Venice (Italy) |
| 19. Changchun (China) | 65. Moscow (Russia) | 106. Vienna (Austria) |
| 20. Chicago (USA) | 66. Mount Vernon (USA) | 107. Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain) |
| 21. Copenhagen (Denmark) | 67. Muntinglupa (Philippines) | 108. Zurich (Switzerland) |
| 22. Cork (Ireland) | 68. Nairobi (Kenya) | |
| 23. Curitiba (Brazil) | 69. New Paltz (USA) | |
| 24. Delhi (India) | 70. Novato (USA) | |
| 25. Denver (USA) | 71. Oakland (USA) | |
| 26. Dhaka (Bangladesh) | 72. Pacific Grove (USA) | |
| 27. Dimitrovgrad (Russia) | 73. Pafos (Cyprus) | |
| 28. Durham (USA) | 74. Panama City (Panama) | |
| 29. Emeryville (USA) | 75. Pasadena (USA) | |
| 30. Gampaha (Sri Lanka) | 76. Phnom Penh (Cambodia) | |
| 31. Gwangju (Korea) | 77. Polyarnie Zorie (Russia) | |
| 32. Hiroshima (Japan) | 78. Portland (USA) | |
| 33. Hyderabad (India) | 79. Richmond (USA) | |
| 34. Iloilo City (Philippines) | 80. Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) | |
| 35. Inglewood (USA) | 81. Rochester (USA) | |
| 36. Istanbul (Turkey) | 82. Sacramento (USA) | |
| 37. Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine) | 83. Salinas (USA) | |
| 38. Izmir (Turkey) | 84. Salt Lake City (USA) | |
| 39. Jakarta (Indonesia) | 85. San Francisco (USA) | |
| 40. Jerusalem (Israel) | 86. San Jose (USA) | |
| 41. Kabul (Afghanistan) | 87. San Miguel de Allende (Mexico) | |
| 42. Kampala (Uganda) | | |
| 43. Kiev (Ukraine) | | |
| 44. Kurunegala, Sri Lanka | | |
| 45. Lakatameia (Cyprus) | | |
| 46. Larnaca (Cyprus) | | |

Updated 07.22.09