

## Annex 1 - The European Covenants of Mayors

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### What is the Covenant of Mayors?

The Covenant of Mayors is the first and most ambitious European Commission initiative targeting directly the local authorities and their citizens to take the lead in the fight against the global warming.

All Covenant of Mayors signatories make a voluntary and unilateral commitment to go beyond EU objectives in terms of reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### What commitments do the Covenant signatories have to fulfil?

Covenant signatories aim to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 20% by 2020 through energy efficiency and renewable energy actions. To reach this objective, local authorities commit to:

- Prepare a **Baseline Emission Inventory**,
- Submit a **Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)**, approved by the municipal council within the year following their official adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, and outlining the measures and policies they will implement to achieve their targets;
- Publish regularly - every 2 years after submission of their SEAP - **implementation reports** stating the degree of implementation of the programme and the interim results;
- Promote their activities and involve their citizens / stakeholders, including the organisation of **Local Energy Days**;
- Spread the message of the Covenant of Mayors, in particular by encouraging other local authorities to join and by contributing to the major events (i.e. annual Covenant of Mayors ceremonies and thematic workshops).

### Baseline Emission Inventory

#### What is a Baseline Emission Inventory?

The Baseline Emission Inventory quantifies the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted due to energy consumption in the territory of the Covenant signatory. It allows to identify the principal sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and their respective reduction potentials.

#### What is the scope of the Baseline Emission Inventory?

The Baseline Emission Inventory should essentially be based on the **final energy consumption data**, i.e. what is consumed by the final end-users (incl. electricity, heat/cold and fuel) within the boundaries of the local authority.

### Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)

#### What is a SEAP?

A Sustainable Energy Action Plan is the key document that shows how the Covenant signatory will reach its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target by 2020. It defines the activities and

measures set up to achieve the targets, together with time frames and assigned responsibilities.

Covenant signatories can choose the format of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (especially if they have already done an action plan in the past). However, they need to make sure that their action plan is in line with the general principles after-specified and detailed in both the [SEAP template instructions](#) & the SEAP guidelines available in our [library](#).

### **What is the scope of the SEAP?**

The Covenant of Mayors concerns **the action at local level within the competence of the local authorities involved**. Hence, it is expected that the Covenant signatories will take action in several or all their possible roles:

- **Consumer and model:** All local authorities are responsible for their own energy consumption. At the same time they play an exemplary role by encouraging the citizens and other stakeholders to use energy more efficiently.
- **Planner, developer and regulator:** All local authorities are usually responsible for building, transport and land use planning policies. They have the power to optimize the energy performance of new facilities and to integrate traffic prevention strategies in development planning. They shape traffic/energy performance by legal decisions and regulatory instruments.
- **Producer and supplier:** Local authorities may also act as a local utility or service provider – promoting local energy production and using renewable energy sources (e.g. Combined Heat and Power/CHPs, district heating systems etc.).
- **Advisor and motivator:** Awareness-raising activities are important to engage the whole community to support sustainable energy policies. Local authorities can act as advisor and educator for citizens and other stakeholders (e.g. architects, planners or craftsmen).

### **Which sectors/fields of action are considered in the SEAP?**

Since the Covenant's commitments concern the whole geographical area of the local authority, the SEAP should include actions concerning both the public and private sectors.

Covenant signatories are free to choose their key areas of action. In principle, it is anticipated that most SEAPs will cover the sectors that are taken into account within the inventory:

- buildings (including new buildings and major refurbishment),
- municipal infrastructure (incl. district heating and public lighting),
- urban transport and mobility,
- industry and enterprises.

It should also be based on those areas where the local authority has a specific role to play, such as:

- Land use planning (Local Authority as planner),



Public procurement of energy efficient products and services (LA as consumer and model),

- Working with the citizens and stakeholders (LA as advisor and motivator).

When to submit the SEAP?

Within one year after the signature of the Covenant of Mayors, the signatory cities shall submit their Sustainable Energy Action Plan where the Covenant objectives and measures to reach them will be justified. The SEAP has to be formally approved by the City Council (or equivalent decision-making body). (CYC gained an extension to submit their SEAP by June 2011. The original submission date was January 2011)

### **Implementation report**

#### **What is an implementation report?**

Two years after having submitted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan, the Covenant signatories have to report on its implementation. This report aims to check the compliance of the interim results with the foreseen objectives. The procedure will be facilitated by an online monitoring template, closely linked to the SEAP template. It will show at a glance the results achieved, both in terms of measures implemented and reduction achieved in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **Local Energy Days**

#### **What is a Local energy day?**

An Energy Day is a local event that aims to raise public awareness of issues such as energy efficiency, use of renewable energy sources and the links between energy and climate change. Usually organised for a specified period, the types of events may vary, but normally include activities such as workshops, exhibitions, guided visits and open door days.