

Climate Alliance

Review and Outlook

2020 | 2021



Climate Alliance

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Climate Alliance

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Klima-Bündnis der europäischen Städte mit indigenen Völkern der Regenwälder |
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Presidents of the Board: Andreas Wolter & Tine Heyse



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In 2020, we found ourselves facing a major challenge: a global pandemic. The coronavirus threw everyone's plans into disarray, literally overnight.

Regardless of this, climate change and the destruction of the rainforests in Amazonia continued to advance and the pandemic has had dramatic consequences for our indigenous partners. The threats continued unabated – often out of the public eye and without the state controls that had already been far too weak.

2020 also marked 30 years of Climate Alliance. With over 1,800 members in 27 countries, our alli-

ance is today one of the world's largest city networks and an important voice for local concerns at the EU.

Our three decades of experience form a sound basis for the future and constitute an important asset. On the EU level, 2020 was an opportunity to urge the newly elected Commission and national governments to make the planned investment programmes climate-friendly. As the economic, ecological and social framework programme for the coming years, the European Green Deal must be used to consistently implement transformation processes towards a climate-friendly, sustainable future.

Foreword

We hope that face-to-face meetings will become possible again over the course of 2021. Despite all of the challenges that the pandemic brought, the date for Climate Alliance's annual conference in 2021 has already been set thanks to the renewed funding commitments of the City of Wels and the State of Upper Austria. A huge thanks for this!

Finally, I would like to praise our management team and all of our staff who have continued to perform their work to the highest of standards despite the difficult conditions. Thank you very much, and of course, the very best of health to you all!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Andreas Wolter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andreas" and last name "Wolter" clearly distinguishable.

– Andreas Wolter,
Climate Alliance President and
Mayor of Cologne, Germany



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Strasbourg, France, showing a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs. The city is nestled between two green, forested hills. In the background, a river (the Rhine) is visible, and the city extends towards a distant horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "An alliance for the climate" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**An alliance
for the climate**

For over **30** years now, Climate Alliance members have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. Today, Climate Alliance is the world's largest city network dedicated to climate action and climate justice. Our more than **1,800** members across Europe and beyond are committed to reducing their emissions and to linking local action with their global responsibility.

Goals

As part of the Climate Alliance Digital Days held in October 2020, the network continued the discussion initiated at the annual meeting in Rostock in 2019 on Climate Alliance's emissions reduction targets. The discussions based on the paper 'On net-zero and climate neutrality – pathways to a low carbon future' were triggered by the multitude of different CO₂ reduction strategies with which municipalities are confronted as well as questions on their feasibility. The discussion with the members will continue in 2021, based on the concrete proposals by the European Secretariat.

Learn more:
climatealliance.org/On_Net_Zero

Mission

Not all efforts to protect the climate are based on the same principles.

Climate Alliance municipalities stand for climate action that is:



FAIR

Promoting the well-being of all of the world's peoples in harmony with the nature.



NATURE-BASED

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



LOCAL

Thinking globally but acting locally, encouraging 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 universal solution.

Members

Climate Alliance's members come from all over Europe and beyond ...

- **1,858** members
- **1,795** towns, cities and districts
- **26** federal states and regions
- **36** NGOs and other organisations
- **27** countries

In 2020, we welcomed 101 new members, including more than 70 from Austria, 25 from Germany, three from Ireland and one from Belarus.

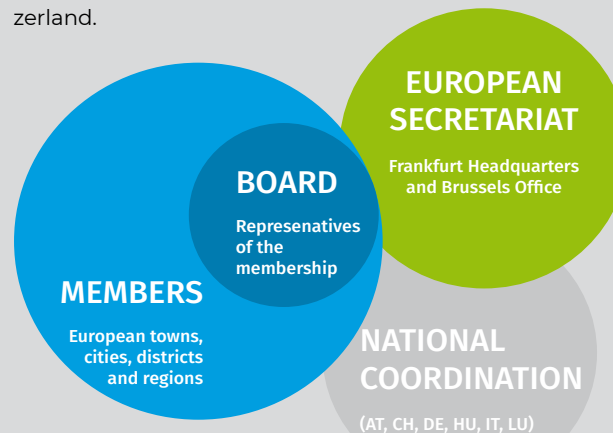
Learn more:

climatealliance.org/municipalities/the-network

Structure

The Executive Board is responsible for the network's strategic direction. Its members are elected by the members of Climate Alliance.

The European Secretariat manages the international network and carries out numerous activities. A total of six national coordination offices support Climate Alliance's members in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg and Switzerland.



EXECUTIVE BOARD



Andreas Wolter | President
Mayor of Cologne, Germany



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



Robert Leven | Board Secretary
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Tine Heyse | President
Mayor for Environment, Climate, Energy
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Eva Schobesberger | Board Member
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Delegate for Environmental Issues,
Province of Barcelona, Spain



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



Simone Raskob | Board Member
Councillor and Head of the Department for
Building and Environment,
Essen, Germany



John Tanner | Board Member
City Councillor, Oxford, United Kingdom

In 2020, we unexpectedly had to bid farewell to Robinson López Descanse, who had been Vice-President of Climate Alliance and COICA Coordinator for Climate Change and Biodiversity since 2018.

He passed away in August 2020 in his native Colombia after he contracted COVID-19.



Robinson López Descanse leaves behind a void and we will greatly miss his tireless commitment.

His successor, Harol Ríncon, also hails from Colombia and shall now continue his important work.

Team in 2020

EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT

Climate Alliance's European Secretariat is spread over two locations, with its headquarters in Frankfurt and an office in Brussels.

The Frankfurt office is also home to the national coordination point for Climate Alliance members in Germany.

- Executive Director: Thomas Brose
- In Frankfurt*: **40** employees | **32.6** full-time positions
- Brussels: **9** employees | **8.1** full-time positions
- **3** volunteers and **7** interns worked for Climate Alliance in 2020

* Several employees work specifically on initiatives for Climate Alliance members in Germany.

**30 years of Climate Alliance –
A journey for the climate**

2020 was an important year – both for global climate action and for Climate Alliance. We looked back on three decades of local climate action. With more than 1,800 members in 27 countries, Climate Alliance

is today one of the largest city networks in the world. What a tremendous achievement! 2020 was also a milestone for global climate action: just 30 years now remain until the all-crucial year of 2050.

30 years of Climate Alliance

In 1990, indigenous representatives from Amazonia and municipal representatives from Europe met in Frankfurt to draft a resolution for a partnership to protect the rainforest and the global climate. A lot has changed since then. We thus took 2020 as an opportunity to reflect on our journey to date, together with those who have accompanied our network on its path for a long time now. The anniversary also offered a chance to look to the future. Particularly in light of the coronavirus pandemic, it is crucial to pave a green path for the future in order to achieve global climate goals by 2050.

Last year, our members showed just how local action on COVID-19 and climate change can look with countless creative ideas such as pop-up cycle paths, vegetable gardens or the adaptation of public spaces. Climate Alliance has always supported its members in their municipal climate efforts. In addition to a strong network, ambitious goals are also essential for effective climate action. As part of the “Digital Days”, for example, we initiated a discussion on the network’s objectives with the idea of drafting a charter on Climate Alliance’s path through the labyrinth of climate goals. With this, Climate Alliance took the first step into the next 30 years – with sustainable ambitions, three decades of experience and a strong network.



– Thomas Brose,
Climate Alliance Executive Director

Learn more:
climatealliance.org/about-us/the-association/30-years

Making Connections



Climate Alliance Digital Days

Climate Alliance adapted to the realities of 2020 and organised an entirely digital annual conference for the first time in October 2020, the Climate Alliance Digital Days. The event, comprising four full days of inspiring presentations, motivated participants and diverse workshops, began as an experiment but was ultimately a resounding success.

Attended by our members as well as by countless other municipal climate action stakeholders, the online conference focused on local ways out of the crisis for a green

recovery after the coronavirus pandemic ends. From discussions on a green recovery and the double crisis of climate and Corona to workshops on the energy transition, climate justice or building renovation and numerous networking opportunities, participants seized this opportunity to take a closer look at local approaches to handling global crises. They were also able to learn how municipalities and our network can emerge from the crisis more resilient and sustainable than ever before.

Climate Alliance's first ever digital general assembly also took place during the Digital Days. All members had the opportunity to participate remotely via online voting. In addition to electing new members of the Executive Board, a resolution was also passed that called on the European Council to reject the EU-Mercosur agreement in its current form.

Learn more:
bit.ly/CA_EU-MERCOSUR



Working groups

Whether before, during or after the Climate Alliance Digital Days, Climate Alliance's working groups active on the European level ensured a lively exchange between interested members in 2020.

WORKING GROUP ON ADAPTATION

This working group focuses on the exchange of experience, knowledge and views on the key issues surrounding adaptation to climate change. The working group hosted a workshop during the Climate Alliance Digital Days to discuss the role of integrated urban planning in making cities more resilient to the effects of climate change and other crises. The Climate Alliance European Secretariat informs working group members of the latest developments in European adaptation policy via a newsletter.

WORKING GROUP ON FINANCING

In 2020, this working group held its main meeting during the Climate Alliance Digital Days. Forty participants learned more about innovative approaches to financing local energy plans and specific steps to implement their strategies. Climate Alliance is planning more intensive cooperation and exchange with interested members of the working group in 2021. The aim is to provide municipal representatives with further information about funding opportunities for climate action and to help them boost their municipality's financial resilience.



WORKING GROUP ON CO₂ MONITORING

In addition to the CO₂ monitoring processes on the EU level, this working group mainly focused on one particular project in 2020: carbon pricing as an instrument to promote more climate-friendly services and products. The working group has been collaborating closely with Klimaatverbond Nederland (Climate Alliance Netherlands) since the end of 2020 with two clear goals: first, to

develop a European carbon pricing model based on the Covenant of Mayors SECAP template and, second, to implement pilot projects in European municipalities. Interested municipalities are invited to join the working group in 2021.

“A PRICE ON CO₂ IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.”

– Thijs de la Court,
Klimaatverbond Nederland

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/working-groups

**The Covenant of Mayors –
Helping shape the future**

Since its founding in 2008, Climate Alliance has been a driving force behind the Covenant of Mayors. For its more than 10,000 signatory towns and cities, the initiative helps

to drive climate action locally. At the same time, it serves as a central tool through which all Climate Alliance members can help shape EU climate and energy policy.

The Covenant of Mayors

With the EU Green Deal getting underway, it will be necessary to give the Covenant of Mayors a new boost. First of all, we need to ramp up ambition. This also means the Covenant will venture into new domains such as food and consumption, while at the same time striving for a climate transition that is fair for all. The public is increasingly demanding climate action. It is thus critical to make the advantages of local climate policy visible. People need to both see and experience the benefits, for quality of life, for jobs, for energy independence and for economic activity.

For municipalities, the European Green Deal and the COVID Recovery have the potential for a fair and inclusive transformation towards more ambitious climate action. The Covenant of Mayors will help fill these historic European plans with life, mobilising funds for the benefit of cities, towns and their citizens. The Covenant of Mayors thus represents a critical link to the EU level for signatories and non-signatories alike. This is precisely why Climate Alliance's involvement in this European movement is so important.

The coming years will be decisive for climate policy. If we want to be remembered in a positive light by the generations to come, we need effective climate action now. It's time to ramp up our ambitions!



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



Shaping climate policy

Representing the interests of the local level at the international level is a pillar of Climate Alliance's work – this is done through cooperation on European initiatives or participation in international events and processes. In its work, Climate Alliance always underlines the crucial role of the local level in shaping and implementing climate policy. In this sense, Climate Alliance was also active in 2020. Our contribution to the EU's Renovation Wave public consultation is one example in which we advocated for the concerns our member municipalities.

The European Green Deal

In 2020, the European Union entered a new phase heralded by the adoption of the European Green Deal, which sets a target for a greenhouse gas emissions reduction of at least 55% by 2030 and a long-term vision to reach climate neutrality. These ambitious objectives can only

be achieved through a transformational change in all sectors of the European economy and on all levels of governance. Conditions must also be created to make the circular economy a transversal aspect of the EU's climate and energy plans. The many circular economy initiatives

***“THE TRANSITION MUST BE GREEN
OR THERE WON'T BE AN ECONOMY!”***

– Xesco Gomar Martín,
Climate Alliance Board Member and
Delegate for Environmental Issues,
Province of Barcelona, Spain

flourishing at local level offer great potential to form the basis for a just transformation. The current realities of the Corona crisis, too, call for a transformative process that provides for a socially equitable exit from the pandemic.

In May 2020, Climate Alliance made the case for a green recovery. The network supported the development of an open letter in which the Covenant of Mayors Executive Board called on the European Commission to put the EU Green Deal at the heart of recovery efforts.



The Covenant of Mayors – Europe

Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy
EUROPE

Climate Alliance has been a driving force of the Covenant of Mayors ever since its launch in 2008. The initiative ensures the prominence of local climate action in EU policy and promotes ambitious measures. Through the Covenant of Mayors – Europe, Climate Alliance members

have the opportunity to make their voices heard at the EU level. In 2020, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe survey highlighted this once again. Climate Alliance members were able to shape the initiative and thus future EU climate policy. The results showed support for higher ambition

in climate protection as well as the scaling up of action and thus paved the way for the future. Climate Alliance, very much a part of this future, supported the development of concepts for 2021 on topics such as the climate emergency, climate neutrality and a just transformation.

Last year the initiative was also able to publish materials that can provide Climate Alliance members with inspiration for their local climate action measures. The climate action activities of five city partnerships, including Climate Alliance members Ghent (BE) and Albertslund (DK), were, for example, showcased in a special report.

Learn more:

eumayors.eu/support/library

In 2021, the Covenant of Mayors is planning to further develop its activities on a national level – a development that Climate Alliance is substantially supporting. The initiative has already taken a first step by expanding its political board to include national ambassadors to represent national perspectives and needs.

- As of 31 December 2020, over **9,700** local and regional authorities have committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives through the Covenant of Mayors – Europe
- The commitments made by Covenant of Mayors – Europe signatories are often higher than the EU's own targets – amounting to an average **47%** reduction in emissions by 2030
- In total, Covenant of Mayors signatories submitted **6,200** favourably evaluated action plans and **1,845** monitoring reports to the EU

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/advocacy

A young girl with a blue helmet and a backpack is riding a purple bicycle towards the camera. She is smiling and looking back over her shoulder. In the background, a woman is also riding a bicycle, smiling. They are on a paved city street with large trees and buildings in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Raising awareness



CITY CYCLING

Cycling for a better climate

More municipalities, more cyclists and more kilometres cycled! In 2020, the world's largest cycling campaign ended with record-breaking results – in complete defiance of the coronavirus crisis. In response to the pandemic, the CITY CYCLING team introduced a new award category to acknowledge creative ideas for running the campaign during this extraordinary time. Three winners were selected from among the countless applications for this special category and honoured during the digital award ceremony held in February 2021. CITY CYCLING is once again raring to go this year and calls on municipalities all around the world to pedal for the climate!

The MOVEBIS research project run in parallel to CITY CYCLING also announced successes in 2020. With the first large-scale mapping of municipal cycling in Germany, the project made its visualised data available to municipalities participating in CITY CYCLING for free in December 2020 via an online platform. This data will enable municipalities to better attune the planning for their municipal cycling infrastructure to local needs.

- CITY CYCLING produced record results: **545,988** cyclists, **115,343,683** kilometres cycled, **16,956** tons of CO₂ avoided
- A CITY CYCLING podcast comprising **6** episodes was launched
- The first **2** French municipalities participated in the campaign
- Since 2018, **260,000** people have registered to use the MOVEBIS app and cycled a total of **25.3** million kilometres

***“I USE MY BIKE AS OFTEN AS
MY TOOTHBRUSH!”***

– Katharina Feindler of the
Recklinghausen press office in the
CITY CYCLING podcast.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns-and-more/city-cycling

Green Footprints

Kids on the move for
climate action

Home schooling during the lockdowns and the cancellation of the UN Climate Change Conference, where we normally hand over the green footprints, presented major hurdles for Climate Alliance's campaign for kindergarten and primary school children. With creative approaches and an extended

footprint collection period, Climate Alliance and campaign participants managed to meet these challenges with composure. The participating kindergartens and schools ran the campaign flexibly and in some cases only collected green footprints in November or December.



Parents were also involved in home schooling. Thanks to a great deal of understanding and commitment along with endless creativity, the Green Footprints campaign was once again a success in 2020.

The 2021 campaign is now kicking off. Kindergartens and schools are invited to get involved as of April. According to the current plans, the green footprints collected will be handed over at the UN Climate Change Conference, due to take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

- More than **115,000** children from **6** countries signed up in 2020
- Despite the pandemic, **1,568,124** million green footprints were collected – an outstanding achievement!

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/campaigns-and-more/zoom



Change the Power – (Em)Power to Change

Cities and towns for the
Sustainable Development
Goals and climate justice

In 2020, the EU-funded project through which Climate Alliance was able to provide its members with numerous awareness-raising and communication tools on the sustainable development goals came to an end. These materials included the educational film 'Belo Monte: After the Flood' about a dam project in Brazil. The three exhibitions on climate justice entitled 'We Are All Witnesses' were also updated at the end of 2020 and are



now available online. The Change the Future tool that suggests ways in which municipalities and the public can take action to achieve a good life has been used by more than 1,600 people in ten countries. The most successful local use of the tool was acknowledged during the ninth Climate Star competition within a special Change the Future category. A total of 33 municipalities from across Europe have now used the awareness-raising campaign entitled 'A Good Life is Simple'. In Klagenfurt, a bus featuring the eye-catching motifs even travelled the city's roads for three months at the end of 2020.

Climate Alliance continues its educational work in the fields of sustainability and climate justice and will continue to make resources available to interested members after the project ends.

- The exhibitions on climate change were visited by around **15,000** people
- **600** people watched the film 'Belo Monte: After the Flood'
- Over **1,900** people participated in **73** educational events

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/change-the-power-empower-to-change

**The double crisis –
Climate, coronavirus and the
local response**

Changes in the scale of extreme climate events everywhere require a new way of leading public policies in our cities that implies new responsibilities, important investments and an innovative way of governing. We need to prepare our cities for a warmer climate and anticipate extreme weather events with the help of concrete measures to diminish heat islands, revegetate urban spaces,

improve air quality and stave off water shortages. In that sense, we need to redouble our inventiveness in the way we act together. Above all, we need to ensure that we keep listening – working with all those who are willing, giving a voice to the invisible and remaining open to shape solutions resolutely with all stakeholders. Economic changes, the agricultural transition, resilience

The double crisis

and perspective – all our key political issues need to be questioned collectively or we will fail. But in the face of crises, we cannot lose our ambition.



– Julie Laernoës,
Climate Alliance Board Member
and Vice President of
Nantes Métropole, France

The tragic situation that is the Corona crisis has in some ways given us strength to face the climate crisis, starting with our local responses. The City of Modena has dealt with the growing demand for public transport resulting from COVID measures with greater attention to environmental sustainability and emissions reduction. We have also introduced new predictive air pollution models to help us adopt vehicle traffic and CO₂ emissions measures before – not after – pollution levels exceed the limits. Last summer, the city tested a local policy that granted

more public spaces to restaurants, cafés and shops in the historic city center. This was not only a way to offer these businesses relief from an economic crisis, it also highlighted the benefits of expanding Modena's pedestrian areas in the city centre – one of the very measures foreseen in our local sustainable urban mobility plan. These examples demonstrate, concretely, how the fight against the Corona crisis can also provide answers to the climate crisis, propelling us towards a truly green recovery.



– Alessandra Filippi,
Climate Alliance Board Member and
Executive for environment, agriculture and
sustainable mobility, City of Modena, Italy

A photograph of a person's hands holding a small plant with green leaves and small purple flowers. The person is smiling and is wearing a blue shirt. The background is a garden with other plants and a building. The text "Acting on the local level" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Acting on the local level

The climate emergency in member cities

Climate Alliance members have always been pioneers when it comes to combatting the climate crisis. They show just what can be achieved with local climate action through a range of resolutions and

measures. The climate emergency movement is another driver of local awareness and municipal climate action – particularly for ambitious municipalities. In October 2020, Bamberg (DE) became the 100th Climate Alliance member to pass a climate emergency or similar declaration.

MUNICIPAL EXAMPLES IN 2020

CONSTANCE (DE)

In May 2019, Constance was the first city in Germany to declare a climate emergency, launching the movement in the country. In 2020, the city took stock: its climate emergency declaration resulted in new jobs, for example in urban transport and building construction, and it significantly increased general awareness of climate issues. The challenge now? Taking an interdis-

ciplinary approach to climate action. Municipal processes must above all be changed and adapted to the requirements of the climate crisis.

LEIPZIG (DE)

Despite many years of climate efforts, it was just taking too long to reduce the city's per capita greenhouse gas emissions. In summer 2020, Leipzig thus took action, publishing a comprehensive pro-

gramme of immediate measures as part of its climate emergency declaration. A total of 25 measures in seven fields of action make clear that climate protection is a cross-cutting task. And this is precisely Leipzig's approach. From concepts for sustainable mobility to nutrition and consumption, from now on Leipzig will meet the challenge of climate change with even more concrete steps.



BAMBERG (DE)

A dedicated meeting specifically on climate change was held in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, making clear that the city has recognised the urgency of the climate crisis. On 13 October 2020, Bamberg decided on a climate reboot and identified diverse measures such as a climate check for climate-relevant draft resolutions, a climate summit in 2021 and the launch of a CO₂ inventory. The city will thus continue to look beyond the coronavirus crisis and has its sights firmly set on the crisis after the crisis, namely the climate catastrophe.

Learn more:

bit.ly/CA-climateemergency

European City Facility

Unlocking financing for sustainable energy investments

Climate Alliance is offering municipalities across Europe hands-on expertise, financial aid (€60,000), capacity building and peer-to-peer support via the European City Facility (EUCF). Launched in February 2020, this EU initiative helps unlock the potential for implementing sustainable investment concepts. It supports the local level in the development of investment concepts and mobilisation of finances for sustainable energy projects. The first application round from April to October 2020 was a huge success: municipalities from all over Europe took advantage of a quick and easy procedure to apply for EUCF support.

A second application round is planned for 2021 in which the EUCF will make additional funding available, enabling it to support even more cities and towns. Information on the applications and investment plans from the first application round will also be published to provide insights into the application procedure.

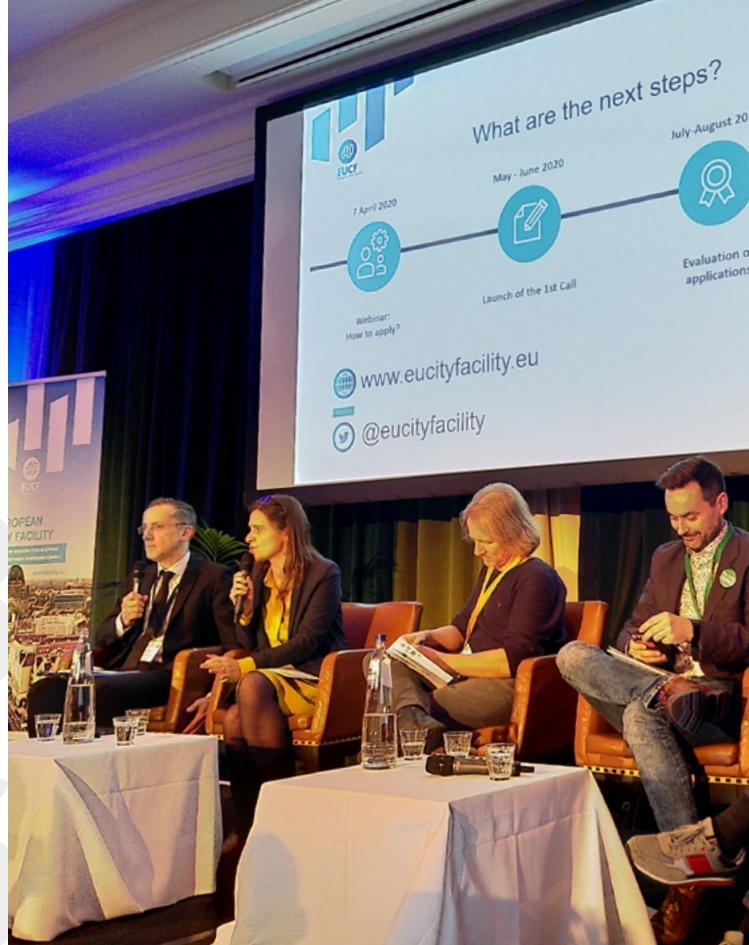
“NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL COMES AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME. BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM TO ADDRESS – AND MOBILISING FUNDING IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THEM!”

– Tine Heyse,

Climate Alliance President and Mayor for
Environment, Climate, Energy and North-South,
Ghent, Belgium

- The launch event reached **1,000** participants
- The EUCF received **250** applications in 2020
- **48%** of the applications came from Southern Europe
- **28%** of the applications came from Central and Eastern Europe
- **26%** of the applications came from Northern and Western Europe

Learn more:
climatealliance.org/activities/projects/eucf



SaMBA

Sustainable mobility
in the Alpine region

Within the Interreg project Sustainable Mobility Behaviours in the Alpine Region (SaMBA), Climate Alliance aims to trigger behavioural changes among citizens that will prompt the increased use of sustainable transport. An online workshop on the topic of mobility during the coronavirus pandemic made clear that behavioural changes in times of crisis are possible and solutions exist for improving aspects such as the cycling infrastructure. Numerous cities played an important role in this last year and, among other measures, set up new cycle paths. As a participant in the CITY CYCLING campaign, the SaMBA pilot municipality of Emmendingen recorded a record increase in cyclists.

At the end of 2020, SaMBA also launched a video and photo competition. Municipalities from the Alpine region can participate through May 2021 and submit their personal visions of sustainable mobility. The main prize: a trip to Turin,

Italy, where the final conference for the project is due to take place in summer 2021. Here, the outcomes of three years of project work on changing mobility behaviour will be presented.

- More than **100** stakeholders participated in the online workshop on mobility and the coronavirus pandemic
- A total of **4,462** cyclists and **124** politicians from the rural district of Emmendingen participated in CITY CYCLING in 2020

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/samba



RegEnergy

Connecting urban demand for renewable energy
with rural supply

Supply and demand partnerships for renewable energy between urban centres and the surrounding rural areas form the focus of the Interreg project Renewable Energy Regions (RegEnergy). In 2020, Climate Alliance was also able to share further insights into the topic, both during the European Week of Regions and Cities and the first Climate Alliance Digital Days as well as during numerous online workshops. Topics such as the municipal procurement of green energy, the establishment of energy communities and regional storage solutions

formed the focus. In one example, Plymouth (UK) successfully connected the Creacombe solar farm to its grid. Climate Alliance member Brest (FR) was able to install solar panels on further buildings and the energy agency comprising Climate Alliance's three new Irish members, the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford, continued to work on the installation of a biogas upgrading plant.

In 2021, the project will celebrate its half-way point and share its preliminary achievements with the public during a midterm conference.

- More than **34** meetings have taken place between RegEnergy partners and regional stakeholders involved in the production and consumption of renewable energy
- The RegEnergy team disseminated information on renewable energy supply and demand partnerships in online workshops lasting a total of **360** minutes

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/regenergy



TANDEM

Franco-German
climate action partnerships

In 2020, the TANDEM project continued to pursue its goal of driving positive change in municipal energy policy through cross-border climate action partnerships. Climate Alliance organised a competition together with Energy Cities in the run-up to the Franco-German Energy Transition Week in 2021. Creative ideas were sought for implementation during the special week and ten local initiatives relating to the energy transition were selected. These are to be launched at the start of 2021. The cooperation with strong partners and funding from the Deutsch-Französischen Bürgerfond (Franco-German Citizens' Fund) significantly increased the campaign's visibility.

After the Energy Transition Week 2021, future project efforts will concentrate on continuing the work of Franco-German climate action part-

nerships. Small groups from several TANDEM cities will also increasingly focus on specific topics.

- The TANDEM team worked with a total of **19** cooperation partners, including **2** financial sponsors
- A total of **3** online seminars raised awareness on the topics of the climate emergency, citizens' funds and citizens' energy
- Citizen cooperatives and bilateral climate action projects were discussed during the **2**-day TANDEM workshop held in December 2020 with some **60** participants

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/tandem

More topics.
More projects.
More climate action.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Bringing cities to life – and life to cities

As a part of the Connecting Nature project, Climate Alliance provided its members with seven guidebooks for nature-based solutions. Two innovation summits in two countries are planned for 2021 to increase awareness on nature-based solutions.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/connecting-nature

Advice on adapting to climate change

A report co-authored by Climate Alliance and published in 2020 as part of the ETC/CCA project advising the European Environment Agency confirmed that cities need to adapt more to the impacts of climate change and that both monitoring and evaluation will play a central role.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/etccca

Adaptation

FINANCING AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Financing ambitious local climate objectives

Energy financing consultants in Flanders (BE) have developed a range of financing solutions for cities with ambitious climate plans within Climate Alliance's FALCO project. The replication potential of these solutions is now being reviewed.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/falco

CLIMATE AND ENERGY CONCEPTS

Supporting European islands in their clean energy transition

With the Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat, Climate Alliance coordinated the design of a framework to enable island communities to develop their own strategic roadmap for the transition to clean energy. Municipalities have become facilitators and coordinators of the clean energy transition instead of mere service providers.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/eu-island-secretariat

Energy storage solutions for historical urban centres

As a pilot of Climate Alliance's Store4HUC project, the biomass heating plant in Weiz (AT) received an energy-efficient heat storage system for a listed church in 2020. A self-sufficiency measurement tool was also published at the end of 2020 with which users can measure the degree of self-sufficiency of energy storage solutions in combination with renewable energy sources.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/projects/store4huc

Outlook for 2021

Climate Alliance will continue to expand its commitment to local climate action in 2021 – with new projects, new issues and new challenges. Always with the aim of creating added value for our members!

EUROPA

Boosting deep energy refurbishment in the residential sector

outPHit

Deep retrofits made faster, cheaper and more reliable

ENPOR

Mitigating energy poverty in the private rented sector

Energy Poverty Advisory Hub

Eradicating energy poverty and accelerating a just energy transition in European regions, cities and municipalities

WHY

Understanding and projecting the energy demand of the residential sector

Interlace

International cooperation for the restoration and networking of urban spaces in Latin America and Europe

Belarus support programme

Covenant of Mayors for Sustainable Development Goal localisation in Belorussian cities

Central and Eastern European Sustainable Energy Union (CEESEU)

Expanding public administration capacities in Central and Eastern European countries for more sustainable energy and climate policies

A long, narrow boat with a blue canopy is moving across a wide river. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding forest. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The forest on the far bank is dense and green. The boat has a white hull and a blue canopy with white trim. Several people are visible inside the boat. The text "Indigenous partnership" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Indigenous partnership

Besides local climate action, cooperation with indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin forms the second pillar of Climate Alliance's work. For over 30 years now, we have worked closely with indigenous partners and COICA, the umbrella association of Amazon Basin indigenous organisations. Together we campaign for greater climate justice.

FOSTERING SOLAR ENERGY

In 2020, the European Secretariat joined forces with Climate Alliance Austria to support FOIRN, the umbrella organisation for the indigenous peoples of the Rio Negro, making solar-powered radios available for better communication locally. In Ecuador, Climate Alliance helped the local initiative Kara Solar train young indigenous people in the use of renewable energy sources. Kara

Solar installed solar energy in indigenous communities and worked with the Achuar people to develop a solar boat.

STOPPING EU-MERCOSUR TRADE AGREEMENT

During several online workshops held in 2020, Climate Alliance raised awareness about the dangerous effects of the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement on the rainforest and its inhabitants. A resolution was subsequently agreed during the Digital Days: Climate Alliance members voted in favour of calling on the European Council and the European Parliament to reject the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement in its current form due to the anticipated increase in deforestation and the violation of the rights of indige-

nous peoples. Instead, trade should be aligned with the European climate goals and social standards. The European Parliament voted in favour of an amendment to the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement in October 2020. Further decisions are expected in 2021.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/advocacy/european-policy/eu-mercursosur

***“THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
IS AN AGREEMENT FOR LARGE
COMPANIES. IT UNDERMINES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
STANDARDS AND ABOVE ALL
THREATENS SMALL FARMERS AND
FAMILY BUSINESSES.”***

– Rainer Handlfinger,
Climate Alliance Board Treasurer,
President of Climate Alliance Austria
and Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf, Austria



COMBATTING COVID-19 IN THE AMAZON BASIN

The coronavirus also has the Amazon Basin in its grips. For most indigenous peoples, the virus constitutes an additional threat. As significantly fewer governmental controls took place, illegal logging and gold mining intensified. More and more indigenous leaders were threatened – not least as a result of the behaviour of the Brazilian president, who continues to discriminate against indigenous communities, allowing crimes against them to go unpunished. Climate Alliance has stood by its indigenous partners during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING AMAZONIA ACTIVISTS

Whether hygiene products, masks, communication tools or traditional medicine, Climate Alliance and its members provided direct aid on the ground throughout the entire year. Emergency measures were also necessary, for example, to assist the Amazonia activist Miguel Guimaraes, President of the FECONAU indigenous organisation in Peru. The organisation has been fighting the illegal expansion of palm oil plantations into its lands for many years. Following a partial court victory, the threats against Miguel Guimaraes increased. Donations from numerous members as well as other financial aid allowed Climate Alliance to ensure the safety of Miguel Guimaraes and his family.

Climate Alliance offers its members numerous resources such as such campaign materials to raise awareness of these topics in Europe. The network also coordinates several funds that provide direct assistance on the ground, such as the Corona Relief Fund to support indigenous communities in their fight against COVID-19 in the Amazon Basin, the Energy Fund to promote renewables in the Amazon Basin and the Legal Aid Fund for ensuring basic rights.

In 2021, Climate Alliance will further strengthen its cooperation with the indigenous peoples of Amazonia and stand by its partners during the crisis. A strong alliance with indigenous peoples is essential in the fight against climate change.

“WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE SHOULD NOT ONLY ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE, BUT ALSO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND HELP PREVENT FURTHER GLOBAL WARMING.”

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

- According to a study by the Brazilian space agency Inpe, a total of **11,088 km²** of the Amazon was cleared between August 2019 and July 2020
- This corresponds to an increase of **9.5%** compared to the previous period (August 2018 to July 2019)
- In 2020, **40%** more indigenous people were arrested than in the previous year, while the murder of indigenous people and environmental activists largely continues to go unpunished
- In Peru alone, **11** indigenous activists were murdered in 2020 at the start of the coronavirus pandemic

Learn more:
climatealliance.org/activities/indigenous-cooperation/funds-for-amazonia

The importance of unity and cooperation

At the end of 2020, plans were finalised for a meeting with Mark Lygo, Oxford Lord Mayor, and Katja Dörner, Mayor of Bonn. It became the first virtual reception to welcome European citizens who

have made their homes in Oxford. Participants originally from Poland, France, Germany and many other countries both inside and outside the European Union took part.

Unity and cooperation

There was no free glass of wine or sticky cake during that February meeting, much less a handshake from Councillor Lygo. But at least the Mayor of Bonn, Oxford's twin city, was saved the long journey through the Channel Tunnel. The key message of the reception: Oxford remains an international and European city.

The pandemic has taught us that solutions to international problems must themselves be international. Cooperative efforts to fight COVID-19 are a case in point. With the help of a vaccine developed in Oxford, manufactured initially in Italy and produced by the Anglo-Swedish company Astra-Zeneca, lives worldwide are now being saved.

It is no different when it comes to the Climate Emergency. Oxford City Council is going for zero carbon by 2030. We have also joined forces with our two universities, the Mini-car factory and others to commit to reaching zero carbon by 2040 for the city as a whole.

On the global level, a highlight in 2021 will undoubtedly be the 26th UN Climate Conference Conference in Glasgow (COP26) this November. Nothing could be more urgent. Only when towns and cities around the world take ambitious action on climate change will we manage to stop our planet from over-heating.

It will take a huge effort at COP26 to steer the world towards success. I know Mark Lygo and Katja Dörner will make sure their cities, both Climate Alliance members, are leading the way.

– John Tanner,
Climate Alliance Board Member and
City Councillor, Oxford, United Kingdom





Pan-European work

Climate Alliance Austria

Management team:
Petra Schön, Friedrich Hofer
90 employees | 50 full-time positions

Climate Alliance Austria is an independent national association. Just about every second municipality in Austria is a member. In total, 1,059 municipalities along with 2,000 companies and educational institutions are part of Climate Alliance Austria. Regional offices in all Austrian provinces support members on the regional level.





In 2020, Climate Alliance Austria gained many new members, including 74 municipalities and seven new districts. During the first digital general assembly with 150 participants, the network informed members on its activities including the strong support for its indigenous partners of the Rio Negro. Last year, the network succeeded in helping the region along the Rio Negro cope with the pandemic better than other regions of Brazil through emergency coronavirus assistance – thanks to the use of medicinal plants, emergency packages and committed members in Austria.

Climate Alliance is currently involved in a total of 150 projects. From mobility to the SDGs to climate and culture – the range of topics addressed is extremely diverse. Two projects were conferred an Energy Globe Award in 2020: the Euregio travelling exhibition 'Coole Kids für prima Klima' (Cool Kids for a Great Climate) and the project '17 und Wir' (17 and Us), which makes the global sustainability goals from the UN Agenda 2030 more tangible on the local level.

- A total of **765** municipalities, educational institutions, parishes, businesses and NGOs participated in the European Mobility Week in Austria
- In 2020, **9,474** children from all over Austria collected **157,401** green footprints – through climate-friendly trips to school, kindergarten or leisure journeys
- Within the Klimaaktiv Mobil programme, Climate Alliance assisted children, parents and schools in the field of mobility management **61** times

There were also countless highlights in Austria's federal states in 2020:

- In **Tyrol**, the Klimaforum went digital for the first time and focused on the question of how networks can help us better prepare for crises
- The city and state of **Salzburg** celebrated 30 years of Climate Alliance membership with 50 participants during a digital event
- The marketing of climate-friendly coffee was promoted further as part of the Climate Alliance partnership between the state and municipalities of **Vorarlberg** and the inhabitants of the rainforest region of Chocó in Colombia



- Climate Alliance **Styria** developed Austria's first portal for regional weather events with the local environmental authority and the Central Institution for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG)
- In **Upper Austria**, Climate Alliance was delighted with the more than 6,000 downloads of its app 'Gutes Finden' (Finding Good Things) for sustainable offers in the region
- In 2020, four Climate Alliance districts in **Vienna** awarded climate action prizes – more than ever before. A total of 165 ideas were submitted

In 2021, Climate Alliance Austria plans to complete the restructuring process initiated several years ago. The aim is to standardise the association's structure. Member municipalities will have a greater say at the

federal state level and Austria-wide coordination will be more broadly based. Online offers and events, such as virtual courses, are also to be expanded further and improved in the future.



“WE CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO LEARN TOGETHER AND GLOBALLY FROM EACH OTHER. AND THAT DECISIVE ACTION BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IS NEEDED TO TACKLE THE CRISIS.”

– Rainer Handlfinger,
Climate Alliance Board Treasurer,
Climate Alliance Austria Board Chairman,
Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf, Austria

Learn more:
klimabuendnis.at

Climate Alliance Germany

Coordinators:
Katrin Jurisch, Svenja Schuchmann
26 employees* | 11.1 full-time positions

The national coordination office in Frankfurt is the point of contact for German members implementing climate action locally. Within governmental and non-governmental bodies, the national coordination office campaigns for the consideration of municipal concerns in federal policies. Climate Alliance is also involved in countless projects, initiatives and campaigns for and with its German members.

CLIMATE PROTECTION PLANNER REACHES EVEN MORE MUNICIPALITIES

Since February 2020, municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia have been able to use the Climate Protection Planner as a CO₂ monitoring tool for free. Interest from outside of Germany in Climate Alliance's instrument has also increased: the Climate Protection Planner team has now received a commission from a municipality in the German-speaking region of eastern Belgium.

CLIMATE ACTION MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC PROJECTS

Climate Alliance Germany cooperated with the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (ifeu) on the development of the Climate Impact Assessment. The Excel-based tool helps municipalities to assess the climate relevance and impact of municipal projects or decisions. In 2020, the team presented the Climate Impact Assessment during a number of online workshops, providing an opportunity for networking and an exchange.

Learn more:

climatealliance.org/activities/tools-and-methods

* Rough estimate of the positions at the European Secretariat working on initiatives for German members.

WORKING GROUP ON POLICY

The Working Group on Policy strengthens Climate Alliance as a political interest group for the specialist departments within the member municipalities on the federal level. In 2020, one outcome of the working group's work was the publication of an open letter to the German Chancellor calling for the coronavirus crisis to be used as an opportunity for a climate-friendly economic stimulus package.

In addition to these core issues, the following projects were also implemented in 2020:

- Climate Alliance was able to build a network of experts within the **Divestment and Reinvestment** project
- In Worms, Climate Alliance Germany is supporting two municipal projects: the preparation of a **progress report on the city's climate and energy concept** and the development of a **heat action plan**
- For the municipality of St. Augustin, Climate Alliance is developing a **climate change adaptation concept**
- In November, Climate Alliance entered into a partnership with fesa e. V. for the joint implementation of the Energy Caravan – a **municipal energy consulting campaign** that encourages citizens to carry out energy retrofits of their homes
- The development of Region N, a subsidy-independent network to support the **regional energy transition in Germany**, gained momentum with four network meetings, the recruitment of new participants and the aim for 100% renewables by 2030

In 2021, Climate Alliance Germany will continue to pursue its activities. New campaigns such as the Energy Caravan will provide additional impetus while current projects

continue and existing instruments are further disseminated – always with the aim of supporting German municipalities in their local climate action in the best possible way.

- **100** registrations were received for the first climate impact assessment workshop
- By the end of 2020, over **1,100** municipalities had signed up to use the Climate Protection Planner
- In November 2020, the divestment project concluded with **1** final conference, **1** guide for municipalities and **1** thematic strategy paper

Learn more:
climatealliance.org/home

Climate Alliance Hungary

President: Csaba Lajtmann
2 employees | 1 full-time position

Climate Alliance Hungary is led by the Reflex environmental association. The Hungarian national coordination office implements a range of activities with members as well as with a variety of other organisations.

Climate Alliance was also able to raise awareness of sustainability issues in Hungary in 2020. Despite the coronavirus crisis, many schools participated in the Green Footprints campaign. The member municipality of Pápateszér cooperated with WWF Hungary and Climate Alliance Hungary to take the first

steps towards achieving a contiguous forest in a central location of the municipality's territory. In addition, the Hungarian national coordination office supported numerous European projects last year, such as the European City Facility and the Reflex's Erasmus+ project.

***“WE HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO SHOW
PEOPLE THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE.”***

– György Laki,
Climate Alliance Hungary Vice-President
and Mayor of Kajárép, Hungary



Climate Alliance Hungary plans to further promote the topics of financing and nature-based solutions among its members in 2021 through these projects. Organisation of the Hungarian edition of the Climate Star awards is also planned. Finally, the Hungarian national coordination office intends to step up to a challenge set last year: to raise funds for new projects.

- **15,999** schoolchildren participated in the Green Footprints campaign throughout Hungary
- The first annual digital meeting of Hungarian environmental NGOs attracted over **1,000** participants
- In 2020, **1** exhibition and **1** regional campaign were implemented on renewable energies and energy efficiency

Learn more:

eghajlatvedelmiszovetseg.hu

Climate Alliance Italy

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

The Italian national coordination office supports 120 Climate Alliance members in their ambitious climate action. Climate Alliance Italy also coordinates the helpdesk for Italian signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and is involved in a variety of European projects.



In 2020, the Diocese of Bolzano-Brixen became the first ecclesiastical institution to join Climate Alliance Italy. The coronavirus pandemic hit Italy particularly hard in 2020. Despite the dramatic impact, the Italian coordination office was able to draw something positive from this experience: a capacity for profound change. For the national coordination office, it was also important to maintain the cooperation with schoolchildren despite restrictions and school closures, for example through exhibitions and informational events. In addition to the activities on the national level, Climate Alliance Italy sought to acquire further EU-funded projects for 2021 and was awarded the Horizon 2020 project DIALOGUES, which focuses on energy ownership by socially vulnerable groups.

- The Climate Alliance Italy team spent **130** hours in online meetings in 2020
- In 2020, Climate Alliance Italy sent **291** Change & Climate informational packs to cities and towns
- A total of **120** schoolchildren watched the film 'Belo Monte: After the Flood' on northern Brazil's mega-dam project

“CLIMATE ALLIANCE AND ITS MEMBERS ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK TO ACHIEVING A POST FOSSIL FUEL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN WHICH CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION FORM PART OF LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”

– Karl-Ludwig Schibel,
Climate Alliance founding member and
Climate Alliance Italy National Coordinator

Learn more:
climatealliance.it

Climate Alliance Luxembourg

Coordinators:
Paul Polfer, Birgit Engel, Cédric Reichel
11 employees | 7 full-time positions

Climate Alliance Luxembourg is coordinated by two NGOs: Mouvement Ecologique is responsible for the environmental aspects and Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM) for climate justice.

Like many other events, Luxembourg's general assembly in November 2020 also had to take place online for the first time – a successful premiere. Another important project was the emergency aid for Climate Alliance Luxembourg's partners from the Global South. All donations collected were forwarded

to partners in Latin America as well as partners in the Philippines who were affected by the typhoons and their aftermath. The Luxembourg national coordination office was also successful in its campaigns: new records were set during the Tour du Duerf (Luxembourg's version of CITY CYCLING), a municipal cargo bike project was initiated, alternative city tours were offered and a podcast on climate change and human rights was launched.

The successful campaign and project work will be continued in 2021 when Climate Alliance Luxembourg will celebrate its 25th anniversary. A special campaign called '25 years – 25 good reasons to join Climate Alliance' has been launched to mark the occasion.

“THE WORDS OF VANDANA SHIVA ‘MINDFUL STEWARDSHIP OF THE PLANET IS FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION’ SUM UP OUR MISSION – NOT JUST FOR THE FUTURE, BUT FOR NOW.”

– Birgit Engel,

Climate Alliance Luxembourg National Coordinator

- **297,314** kilometres were cycled during the Tour du Duerf cycling campaign
- A total of **20,000** euros in emergency aid was forwarded to partners in the Global South
- **14** alternative city tours were conducted in 2020

Learn more:

klimabuendnis.lu



Climate Alliance Switzerland

Coordinator: Annette Graupe
2 volunteers

Climate Alliance Switzerland acts as a platform for an inter-municipal exchange among the Swiss members of Climate Alliance on climate action, energy and the environment.

In 2020, Climate Alliance Switzerland welcomed two new members: Burgdorf and Nyon. This brought the total number of Swiss members up to 17. With the election of Matthias Nabholz as a board member in October 2020, Switzerland will continue to be represented on Climate Alliance's Executive Board. The biggest success in the past



year was the Climate and Energy Charter of Swiss Cities and Towns. The charter, which was issued by Climate Alliance Switzerland, stands for a commitment to dedicated and effective climate action. Climate Alliance Switzerland will continue to be responsible for its administration and further development.

In 2021, Climate Alliance Switzerland also plans to motivate more municipalities to make a greater commitment and to encourage them to sign the Climate and Energy Charter. One important milestone in this light is the national referendum on the new CO₂ law in mid-June.

- By the end of 2020, **20** Swiss cities and towns – comprising **20%** of the population – had signed the Climate and Energy Charter
- Swiss members exchanged their experiences of local climate action during a total of **3** meetings
- **1** workshop with **20** participants was held on the topic of sustainable nutrition and food waste

“DESPITE AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THE GLOBAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL WARMING HAS NOT LOST PUBLIC ATTENTION. QUITE THE CONTRARY: AWARENESS HAS GROWN THAT A JOINT EFFORT INVOLVING EVERYONE IS REQUIRED.”

– Daniel Pollheimer,
Climate Alliance Switzerland

Learn more:
klimabuendnis.ch

NOT YET A MEMBER?
TAKE YOUR FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE INTO YOUR OWN HANDS
AND JOIN NOW!

Take advantage of tools and ready-made campaigns.
Find partners in Europe and beyond.
Raise your profile regionally and internationally.
Get your messages conveyed to key decision makers.
Be inspired by the experiences of others.

Find out more on climatealliance.org

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