



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy



Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy



Conference: Adaptation to climate change: what is the situation in Belgium?
– November 22nd, 2017





HISTORY & POLICY FRAMEWOK

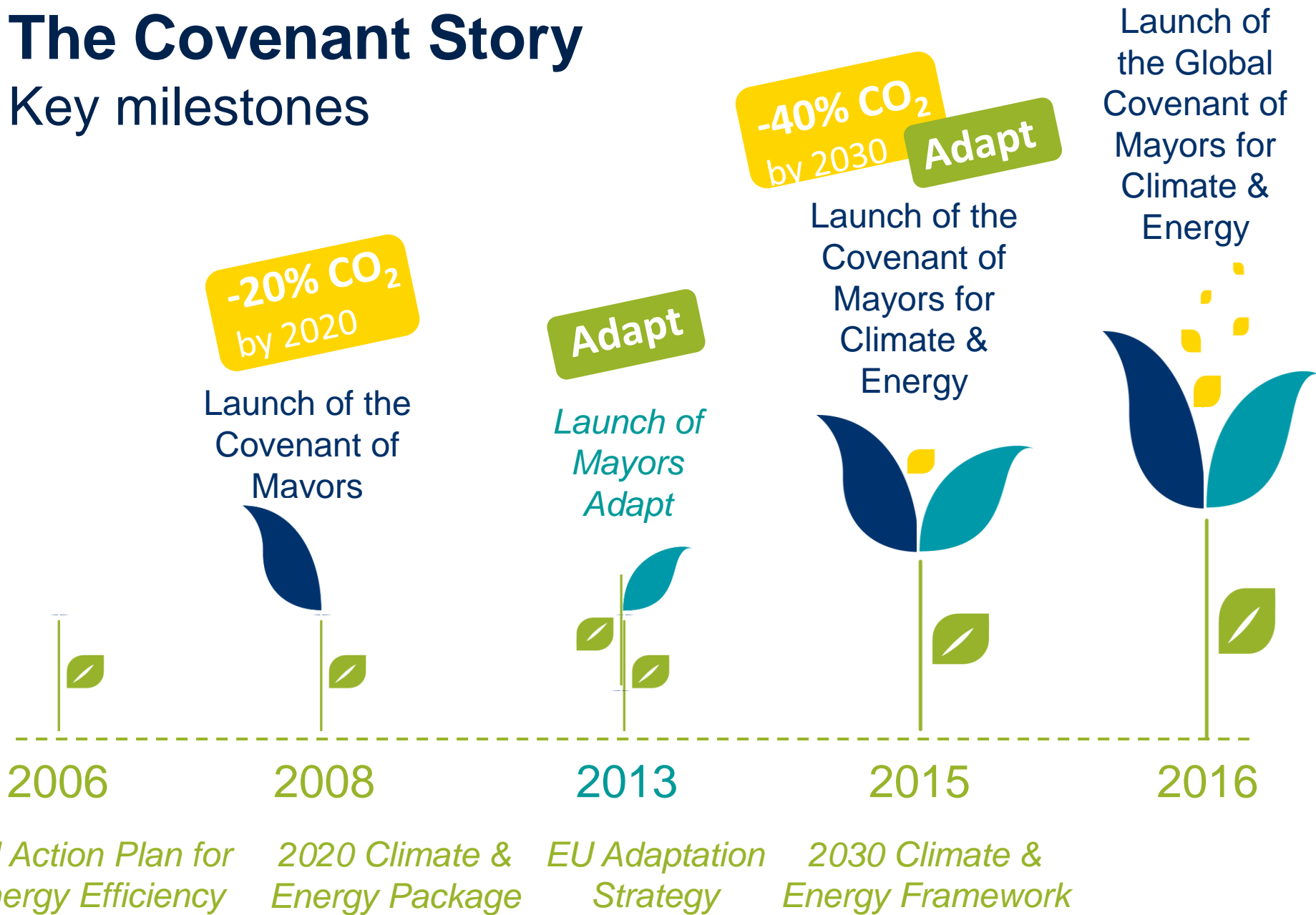
The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy



is an EU initiative, bringing together **local and regional authorities** voluntarily committed to implementing **EU climate and energy objectives** on their territory.

The Covenant Story

Key milestones

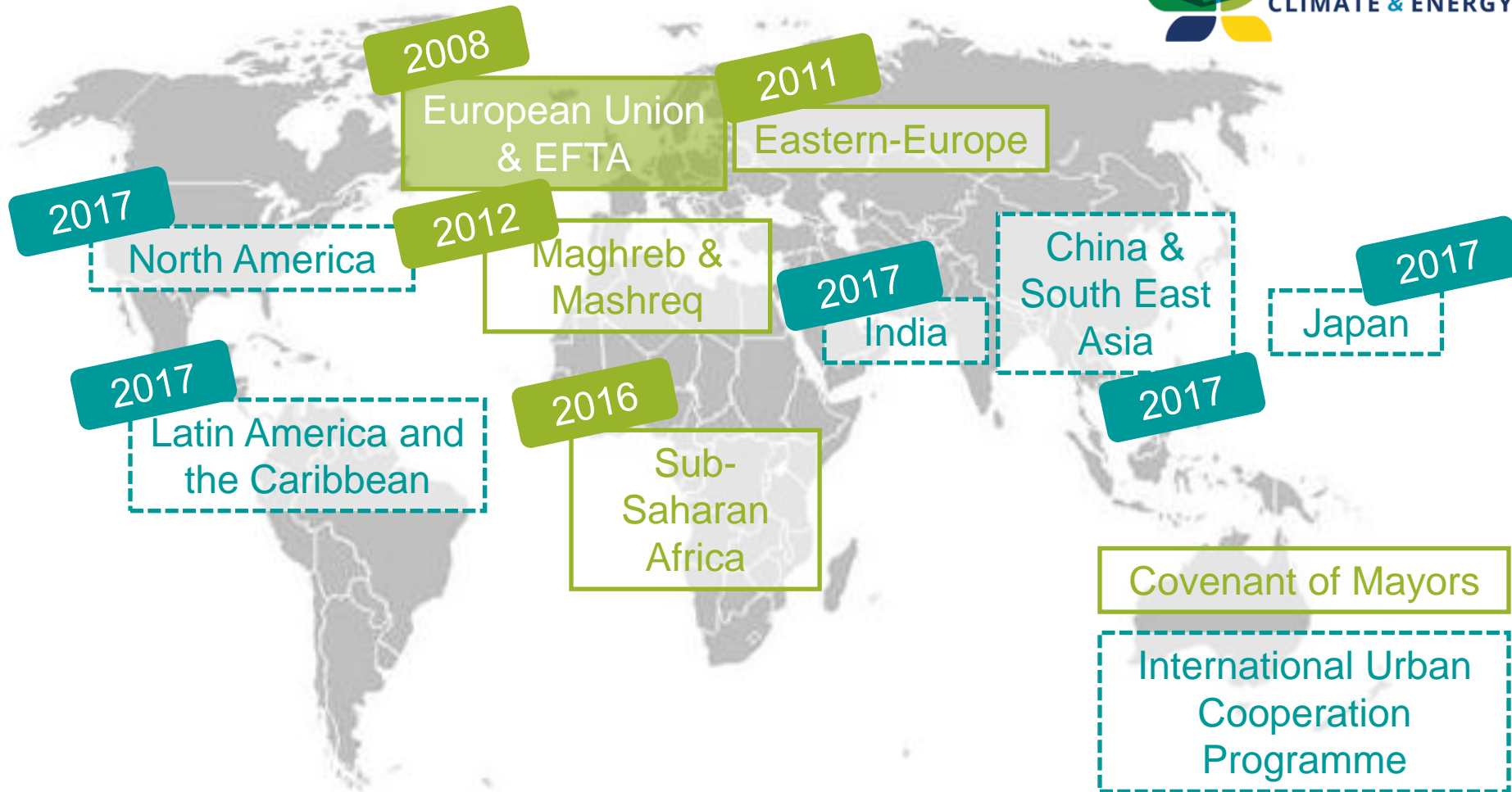


Geographic Reach

9 regions / countries covered



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY





Key Figures

9,000+ signatory cities (incl. **950+** committed to adaptation),

330+ regions, provinces & grassroots associations,



5,900+
Action Plans developed
& **1,600+** Monitoring Reports



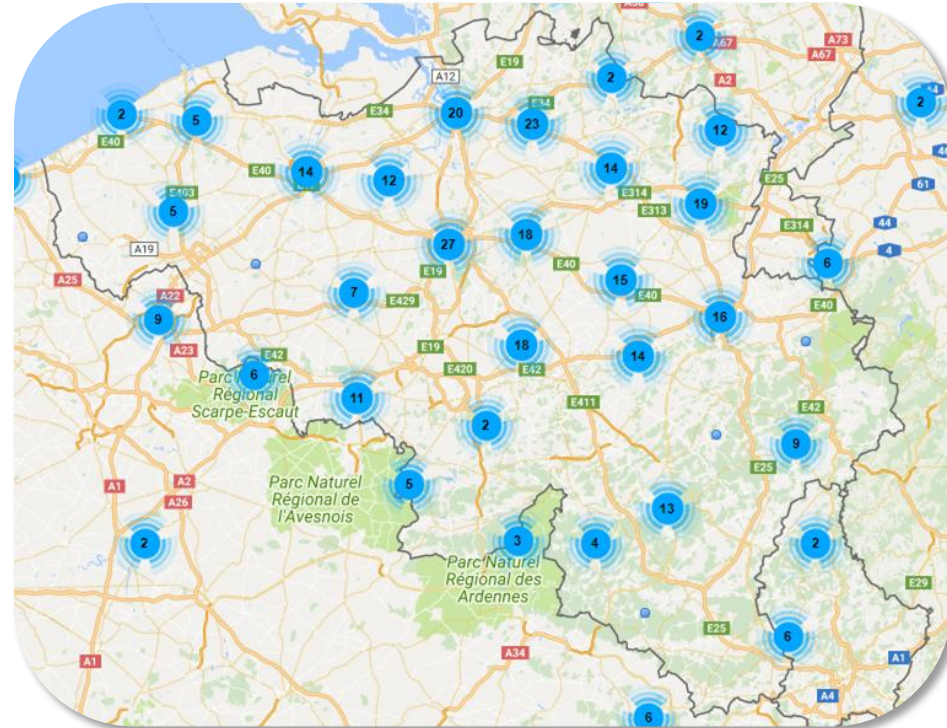
... average CO₂-emission reduction of about **28%** by 2020

Focus on Belgium



328 signatory cities (incl.
112 committed to adaptation)

235
Action Plans developed
& **80** Monitoring Reports



Focus on Belgium



Covenant Coordinators

Bureau Economique de la Province de Namur

IDETA - Wallonie picarde Energie Positive

IGEAN Milieu & Veiligheid

Intercommunale IGEMO

Intercommunale Leiedal

Intercommunale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij voor de Kempen

Intercommunale wvi

Interleuven

Interwaas

Province de Hainaut

Province de Liège

Province de Luxembourg

Province of Antwerp

Province of East-Flanders

Province of Limburg

Province of West-Flanders

Provincie Vlaams-Brabant

Région wallonne

SOLVA

Veneco

20 coordinators (incl.
1 region, **9** provinces, **5**
'intercommunales')
& **2** grassroots associations

Covenant Supporters

Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities

Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie



THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY IN A NUTSHELL

Covenant Signatories' Vision (3 pillars)



Signatories endorse a shared vision for 2050:

- Accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories,
- Strengthening their capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impact,
- Allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

Decarbonisation

Resilience

Secure,
sustainable and
affordable energy

Covenant Signatories' Commitments in Europe



Signatories now pledge to:

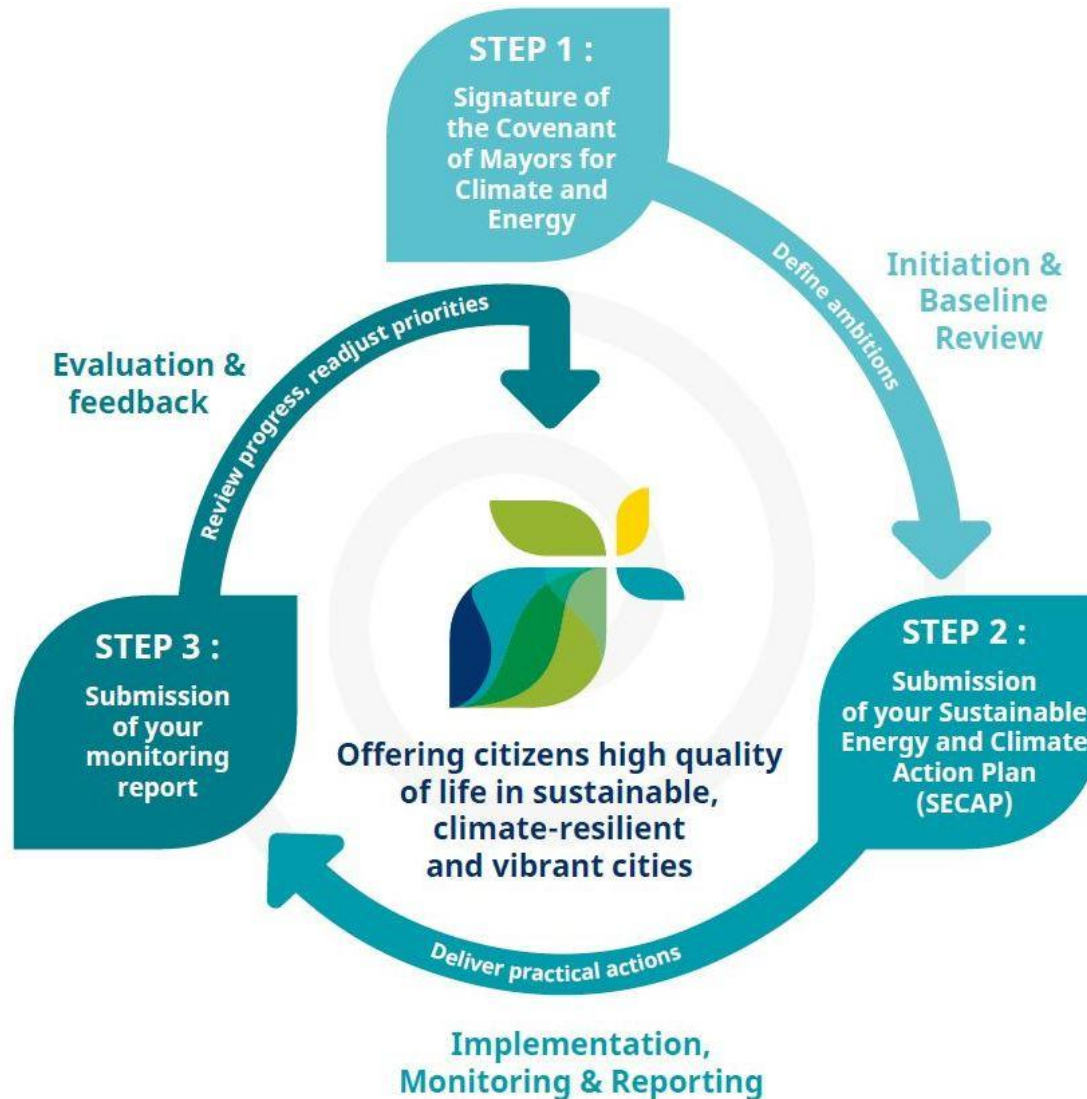
Reduce CO₂ (and possibly other GHG) emissions by at least **40% by 2030** (Covenant-EU)

Adjusted to regional context!

Increasing their resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change

Translate political commitment into local results by developing local **action plans** and **reporting** on their progress

The Covenant step by step

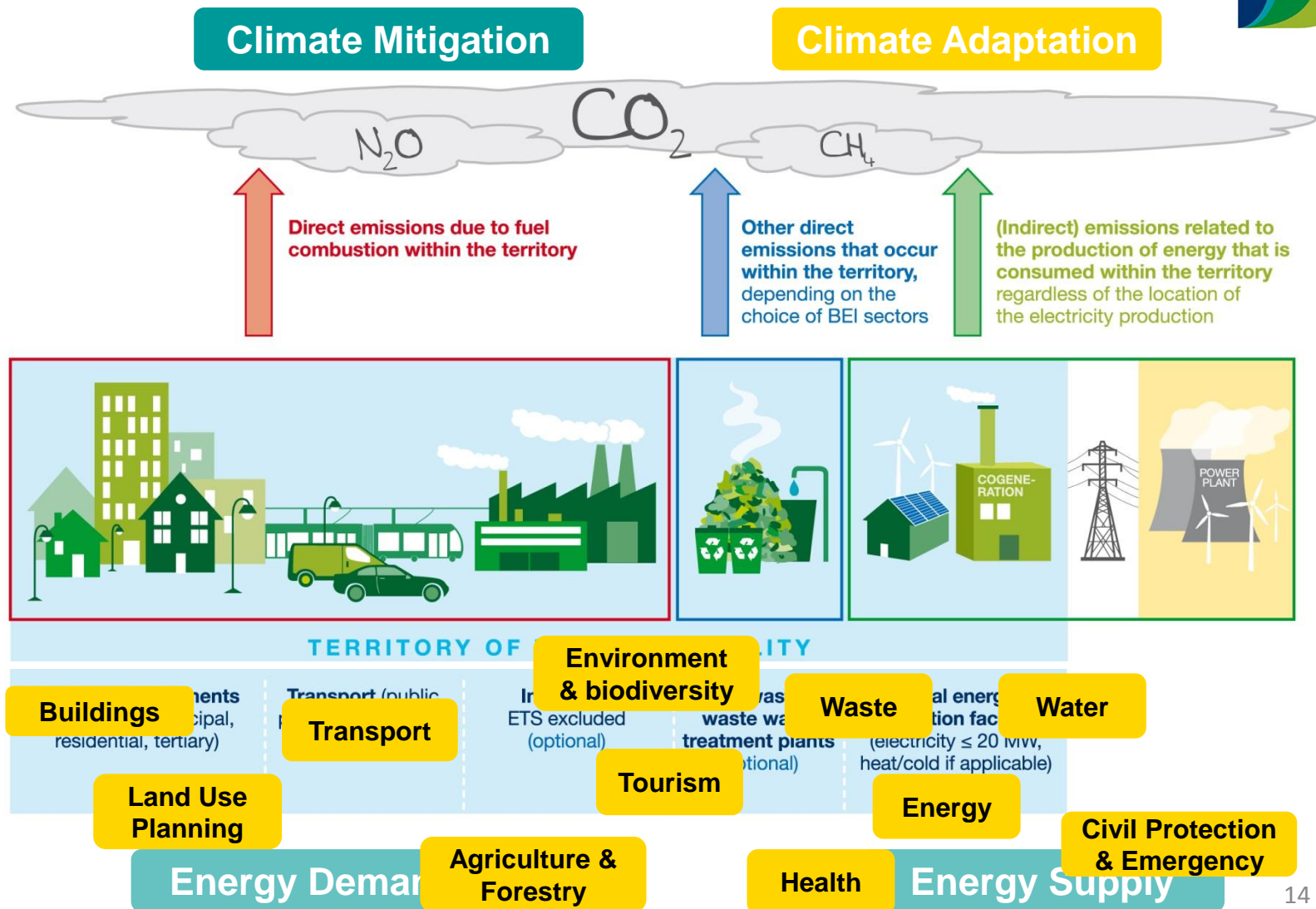


Covenant Reference Documents



Steps/Pillars	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION
1) Initiation and baseline review	Preparing a Baseline Emission Inventory	Preparing a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
2) Strategic target setting and planning	Submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) * and mainstreaming mitigation and adaptation considerations into relevant policies, strategies and plans <u>within two years following the formal signing</u>	
3) Implementation, monitoring and reporting	Report progress <u>every second year following the SECAP submission</u> in the initiative's platform	

An integrated approach



Guidance materials



Action Plan template & instructions



Guidebook



Thematic leaflets



Climate-ADAPT portal & its Urban Adaptation Support Tool

Good practice publication



Quick Reference Guide				
Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy				
Financing Opportunities for Local Climate & Energy Actions (2014-2020)				
European Structural and Investment Funds	European Financing Programmes	Project Development Assistance	Financial Instruments	Alternative Financing Schemes
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF
ERDF	ERDF	ERDF 50%	ERDF	ERDF

Publication on Financing Instruments

Case Studies (BE)



- Antwerp: A green tool to measure the environmental and ecological benefits of green areas (2017)
- Ghent: Empowering Ghent's vulnerable families in their energy-efficiency refurbishment (2016)
Ghent crowdfunding platform realising climate change adaptation through urban greening (2016)
- Kempen: Working together to tap geothermal energy (2015)
- Limburg Province: Teaming up for carbon neutrality (2012)

Adapting to climate change
Published in October 2017

A green tool to measure the environmental and ecological benefits of green areas

Antwerp, Belgium

IN A NUTSHELL
Among many other co-benefits, blue-green infrastructures help cities become more resilient to climate change. Antwerp's 'Greenfoot' allows urban planners to explore green potential to improve the living environment (heat stress, air quality, etc.) in a specific area or neighbourhood.

Addressing heat and flood stress
Although Antwerp has avoided major floods so far, the city is at risk of fluvial flooding, sea level rise and storms. Antwerp also suffers from increasingly extreme temperatures. In the city, from late afternoon to night time, the average temperature is up to eight degrees warmer than in rural areas. This phenomenon is called the 'urban heat island effect'. Only green spaces are significantly cooler than the rest of the urban territory, and contribute to retaining excess water.

Beyond water management and heat stress reduction, greening the city contributes to reducing air and noise pollution, increasing biodiversity, and capturing CO₂. Antwerp's green plan, adopted in 2017, acknowledges these environmental and ecological benefits. But in many cases, these benefits are barely known and not easy to quantify.

Better informed urban planning decisions
To address this knowledge gap, the city of Antwerp has commissioned the creation of Greenfoot, aimed at providing information about blue-green measures and their effect on environmental challenges. Initially designed as an application to help Antwerp administrators make urban planning decisions, it has been adopted by private investors willing to invest in green actions and projects, and by technicians in charge of execution and maintenance.

The tool, which is entirely public, contains interactive maps that enable sites analysis. The user can visualise the location's current characteristics (soil, plants, etc.) and discover the effect of existing blue-green measures on seven parameters: biodiversity, CO₂ capture, noise, air quality, recreation and proximity, heat stress, and water management. Each parameter receives a score ranked from 0 to 5. It makes it possible to explore the impact of a possible measure (such as a green roof, water tanks or tree planting) on these seven parameters, compared to the existing situation.

One of Antwerp's green areas: Park of Eden

ANTWERP	
Population: 512,000	Area: 204.51 km ²
Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since: 2009	CO ₂ emission reduction target: -20% compared to 2005 levels

Focus on Belgium



Additional support provided:

- VITO created a tool for Flemish cities to help them develop & implement a SECAP.
- In Wallonia region, Covenant cities with a SECAP received funding for e.g. covering 50% of their tendering costs through the POLLEC campaign, in which local city networks, associations and the regional energy agency were involved.
- Wallonia also developed 2 tools (one on mitigation, one on adaptation), to help Wallonian municipalities develop & implement their SECAPs.



BENEFITS OF JOINING



Benefits of joining (1/2)

- High international recognition and visibility for your local authority's climate and energy action
- Opportunity to contribute to shaping the EU's climate and energy policy
- Credible commitments through progress review and monitoring
- Better financial opportunities for your local climate and energy projects
- Innovative ways to network, exchange experiences and build capacity through regular events, twinnings, webinars or online discussions



Benefits of joining (2/2)

- Practical support (helpdesk), guidance material and tools
- Quick access to “excellence know-how” and inspiring case studies
- Facilitated self-assessment and peer-to-peer exchange through common monitoring and reporting template
- Flexible reference framework for action, adaptable to local needs
- Enhanced cooperation and support from national and subnational authorities



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS OFFICE



Main missions

- Ensuring efficient **governance, shaping and steering** of the Covenant movement
- Offering innovative **communication, promotion** and showcasing solutions
- Providing first-class **helpdesk** services to the IUC/CoM-munity
- Offering tailor-made **capacity building** opportunities to the CoM-munity
- Strengthening and further developing the **reporting, monitoring and evaluation** framework
- Supporting the **globalisation of the Covenant**



→ Focus on our 'National Approach'

- **Goal: better coordination of European and national policies supporting local authorities on their energy transition and climate action**

→ Tailor Covenant activities in the different EU Member States to better match the national context & frameworks and therefore amplify the impact of its actions on the ground.

→ (Further) reinforce cooperation with relevant national stakeholders

- **Partners: National ministries, energy and climate agencies, national and thematic networks of local authorities, Covenant Clubs, CoR ambassadors**

→ Focus on our 'National Approach' in Belgium



Main directions

- Given the great success of the initiative in Belgium, which now covers almost the total population, the focus will be on providing capacity building for monitoring the actions of the action plans
- Very important will also be to continue the work done in liaising with both the Wallonian and the Flemish Regional Governments, which have been very supportive of the initiative, as well as with the provinces.

→ Focus on the ‘Coalition of the Willing’ on adaptation



Identified partners:

- EEA – in charge of Climate-Adapt Platform
- DG RTD – in charge of research on adaptation and nature-based solutions
- EASME – in charge of implementing research projects
- DG REGIO – in charge of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Adaptation
- UNISDR – in charge of “Making Cities Resilient”
- NRG4SD – in charge of “Regions Adapt”

Topics to be discussed:

- Review of the EU adaptation strategy and the role of local and regional authorities
- Links with EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Adaptation-CoM-other initiatives
- Role of regions and greater support for them
- Sharing of knowledge and expertise – dissemination and use of project outputs
- Future of EU funding for urban adaptation

Thank you!



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With the political support of the European Union