# Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

At a time when the political climate in Washington is as polarized as ever and with an administration and Congress that is openly hostile to climate action, local efforts to push for clean energy and climate action policies will be paramount.
For more information go to www.globalcovenantofmayors.org

**The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** is an international coalition of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a low emission, resilient society.
The Covenant brings together the Compact of Mayors and the European Union's Covenant of Mayors, the world's two primary initiatives of cities and local governments, to advance their transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy, and to demonstrate their global impact. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy aims to take what is best from each of these individual initiatives and bring them together to achieve the greatest possible impact and true scale. The Global Covenant of Mayors now has 7,443 cities that have joined, representing 673,713,655 people worldwide and 9.30% of the global population.

Three cities in Virginia have already signed on to the Global Covenant of Mayors, to signal their intention to fight climate change and sea level rise by cutting carbon emission levels in their own city. The cities' plans are an inspiration to read, for their detailed analysis of their city's output of carbon and where it comes from, and their concrete ideas and goals for how to cut that carbon in the coming years.
**The cities' climate plans are online:**
**Arlington:** http://tinyurl.com/arlingtonplan
**Roanoke:** http://tinyurl.com/roanokeplan
**Blacksburg:** http://tinyurl.com/blacksburgplan

## The Covenant consists of 4 components:

**1. Join the Covenant --**Cities may register on either of the Covenant's standard reporting platforms—Carbonn Climate Registry or CDP. Following its submission, a city will be contacted by the Covenant support team.

**2. TAKE INVENTORY—**(1) Build and complete a community-wide GHG inventory with a breakdown of emissions for buildings and transport sectors; (2) Identify climate hazards; and (3) Report on both via the CDP or Carbonn Climate Registry questionnaires.

**3. CREATE REDUCTION TARGETS AND ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT.** –(1) update the GHG inventory to also include a breakdown of emissions from waste sector; (2) set a target to reduce GHG emissions; (3) conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment

**4. ESTABLISH AN ACTION PLAN—**Incorporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate change adaptation strategies into the city's strategic action plan.

# Benefits of joining the Global Covenant of Mayors

- City residents would feel empowered that they are achieving self-sufficiency and producing their own power, and have rights to produce power on their property
- City residents would know that more of their power is local and clean, not requiring stripping of mountains or wars in the Middle East
- Local jobs would be created in installation of wind turbines and solar PV
- Local residents working in these areas would gain experience in design and installation of wind and solar, giving them a step up the job market as the world makes a transition to renewables
- Local power will be more stable and less dependent on transmission lines
- Shelters will have the advantage of continuous power in extreme weather events. Residents would be insulated from electricity cost rises and regulatory changes because they are producing their own power
- Installing on public housing also helps educate a segment of the population who may not be involved with renewable energy and has potential tie-ins with schools serving those areas, to inspire the students with the benefits of clean energy
    - This would have the added benefit of reducing energy costs for low income communities

# Alignment with resiliency:

<u>Coastal Community of the Future</u>

- Installation of renewable energy would definitely help brand our city as a forward looking community of the future, by investing in tomorrow's technology and moving away from fossil fuels to power our economy.
- Renewable energy will give our community a resilience to storms and power instability that will be the envy of many, and an example for others to follow.
- Residents living in flood prone areas will know that the city is not only working to address their immediate flooding issues but also looking at long term solutions to the problem

<u>Economic Opportunity</u>

- Investing in solar and wind energy generation would galvanize local jobs, and jump-start a whole new sector of job opportunities for locals. This job diversification would help stabilize a local economy that is currently very dependent on just a few job sectors. The renewable energy job sector will allow our residents to have employment experience which will stand them in good stead and make them a valued employee in any community world-wide.

<u>Community Building</u>

- Installing solar will have many beneficial effects on strong, healthy neighborhoods. Low-income neighborhoods will have their concerns about utility bills allayed, as their utility bills eventually go to near-zero with the installation of renewable. Shelters that are used during storms will have constant power, due to use of solar with battery backup, which will be a life-giving relief to those dependent on power for medical equipment, and a relief and topic of conversation for others. Schools can use these installations of solar power as a teaching tool, so that the next generation of students from these neighborhoods are brought up with an intimate understanding of what is possible with renewables, and an inherent interest in that utility sector, which will surely be of use to them as they enter the workforce. The more frequent storms that are expected due to climate change will be less worrisome, since each community will have a resilient shelter where power is available 24/7.