

Meeting invitation

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eglr5kqz98c48d87&llr=z5mtzkcab>

September 17, 2019

Dear Mayor and GRC Community Leader,

Please join our Environment Committee, CMAP and the *Global Covenant of Mayors* in kicking off a year-long Chicago regional climate action planning process.

Our collaboration around the Greenest Region Compact is now recognized as a leading force in municipal sustainability by the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*. We have the honor of being one of just 4 metropolitan regions in the US chosen to demonstrate the power of regional and collaborative planning for climate change.

We invite your partnership and participation in this important endeavor.

This meeting will bring together Greenest Region Compact (GRC) communities to help develop a regional climate action plan. We will build on foundational work done by [CMAP to inventory greenhouse gas emissions](#) in the region. With support from the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Energy](#) we will strategize to build a plan that joins our GRC Communities with 9200 global cities and 131 countries working to build sustainable and livable cities.

What is a Regional Climate Plan?

The climate action planning process begins with an inventory of all the ways in which fossil fuels are used. This greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory identifies the most significant sources of pollutants contributing to climate change. A climate action plan then looks to address ways to reduce the use of carbon-based (fossil) fuels and sets a meaningful target for reduction. Our regional climate plan will also assess the risks associated with the impacts of climate change, like flooding and excessive heat, and propose strategies to protect our communities.

While climate change is an overwhelming, existential threat, municipalities of all sizes and strengths can make decisions and take actions that reduce risks and slow climate change. For example, 35 GRC Communities, earned SolSmart designation for streamlining [solar codes and policies](#) to attract an estimated 9 MW of new rooftop solar to their communities. This clean energy will avoid 11,150 metric tons of CO2 emissions annually, or the equivalent emissions from using 1,254,682 gallons of gasoline. These are the kinds of sensible strategies for sustainable communities outlined in the [GRC Framework](#). Our Chicago regional climate plan will connect these local actions to critical global targets for GHG reduction to amplify our collective impact on climate change.

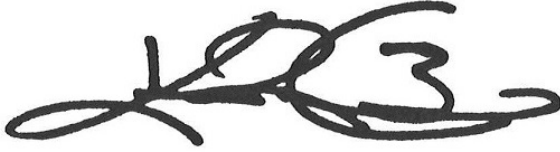
Please join us October 8th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM; 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL

This event will kick off a year of collaborative, strategic planning leading to a pioneer climate action plan for our region. Experts from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, BuroHappold Engineering, and CMAP will explain the first steps of climate planning. The afternoon session will invite municipal leaders to work together to align strategies of the GRC Framework with global standards. Lunch will be provided. **View the [agenda here](#).**

A future workshop will focus on climate-related risks and vulnerabilities. Working together, we expect to have a robust regional climate action plan that supports sustainability in your community.

We need your help to make this happen. Would you also be able to provide information about your community's perspective on sustainability and climate by [completing a short survey here?](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB3' with a stylized flourish.

Kevin Burns

Mayor, City of Geneva

Environment Committee Chairman, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus