

NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



Funded by
the European Union

Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy

Online Planning Lab





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Modules

MODULE 1

WHAT IS AN ACTION PLAN IN THE
CITIES MISSION?
(SYSTEMIC APPROACH)

MODULE 2

TRANSITION TEAM

MODULE 3

GOVERNANCE & POLICY

MODULE 4

PORTFOLIO OF ACTIONS

MODULE 5

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS &
LEVERS OF CHANGE

MODULE 6

FINANCING THE AMBITION





Climate City Contracts

What are Climate City Contracts?

How are European cities using them as innovation and governance tools?



Learning objectives

Through the session today, we will explore:

- the key governance innovations introduced by CCCs;
- how Mission Cities are using CCCs, tailoring them to their context and ambitions;
- how CCCs are scaled up in various national contexts.



What are Climate City Contracts?





What are Climate City Contracts...

... at Mission level?





One Hundred Climate Neutral Cities, One common tool: the **Climate City Contract**





One common tool: the **Climate City Contract** to

1. Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
2. Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050





One common tool:

106 Climate City Contracts

developed by Mission Cities

and more Climate City Contracts

developed by Mission-Minded Cities in Sweden, Romania, Spain...





What are Climate City Contracts...

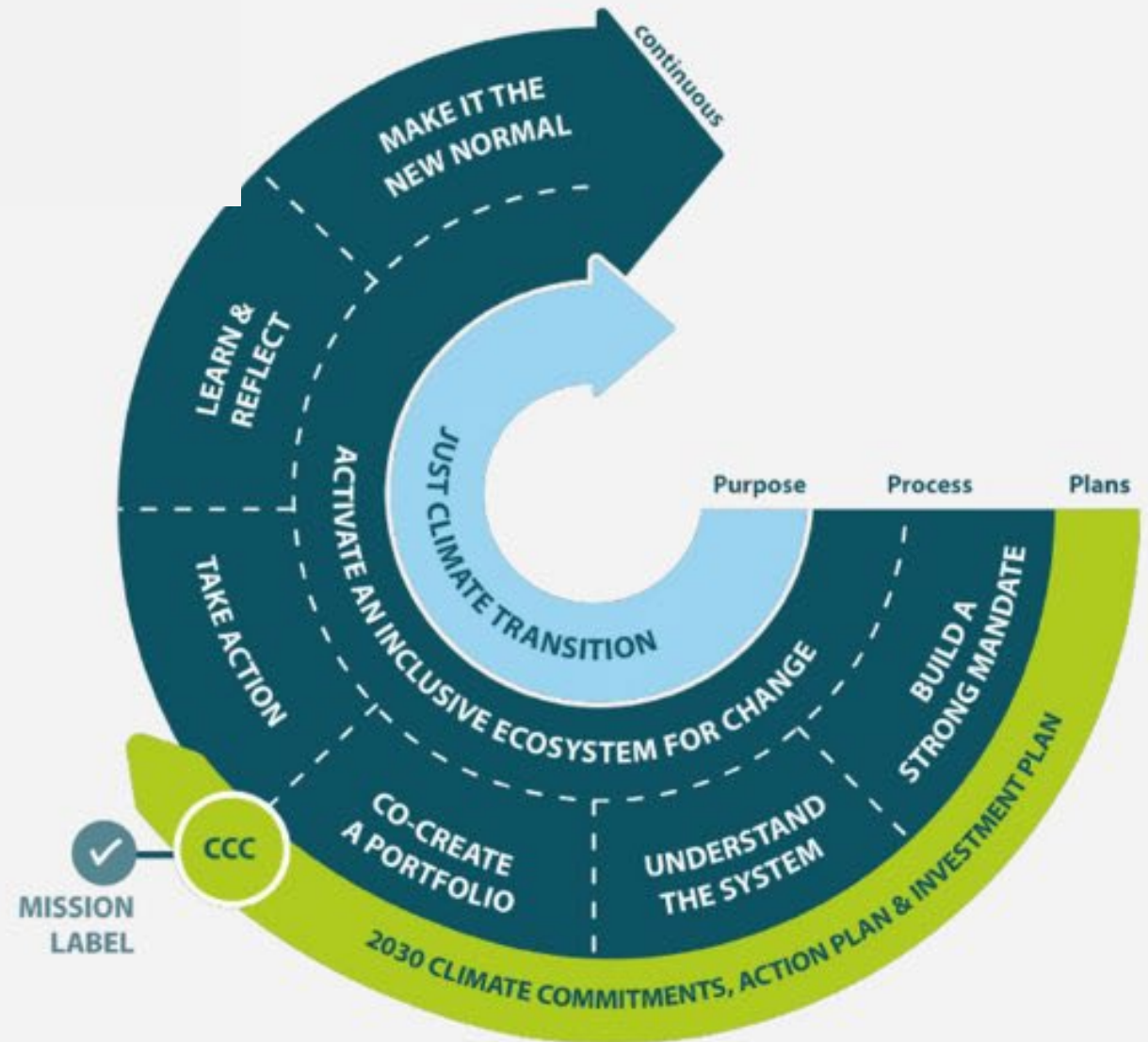
... at city level?





A collaborative governance process

The **Climate City Contract** aims to build a mandate and capacity to work collectively with greater impact. As a process, it may look different in every city, but its components guide cities' work of building a stronger mandate for climate action, understanding their challenge in all its complexity, and developing collaboratively a portfolio of actions to overcome barriers and leverage opportunities for climate neutrality.





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Actions**
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments:** capture the outcomes of a co-creation process with local, regional, and national stakeholders to establish new ways of working together to achieve climate neutrality faster. It includes **a shared 2030 ambition and a strategy to achieve it**, as well as the **commitment(s) to action from stakeholders** in the contract.
- **Actions**
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Actions:** The **Action Plan** identifies the **gap in emission reductions** of existing strategies, policies, and plans, **and uses levers of change** (governance and policy, democracy and participation, finance, technology, social innovation, capacity) **to create** a coordinated portfolio of **interventions** across emission sectors to bridge the gap to climate neutrality by 2030.
Learn more in Module 3 of this course!
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

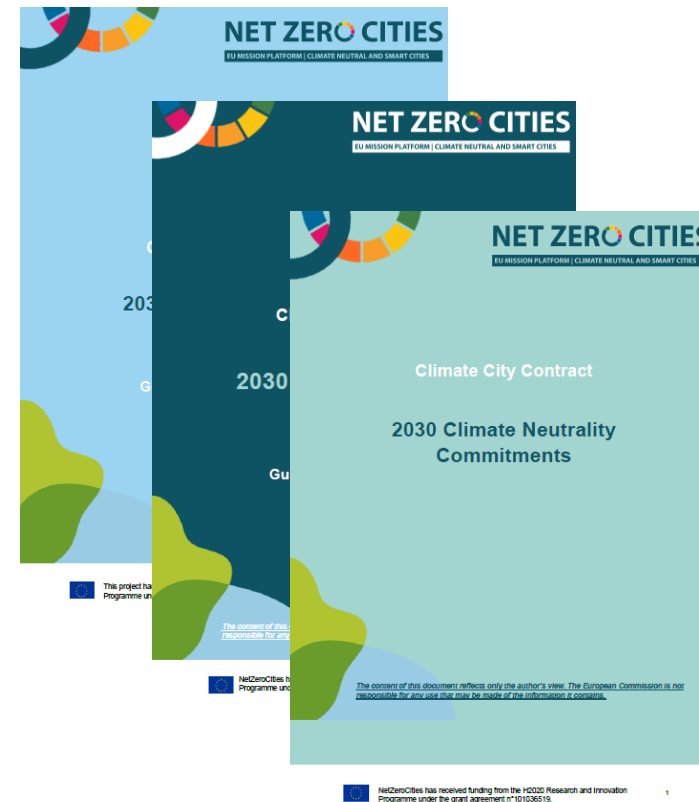
- **Commitments**
- **Actions**
- **Investments:** strategically mobilises and organises public resources and address how to attract private capital for funding and financing cities pathways to climate neutrality. **Learn more in Module 5 of this course!**





CCC Resources and templates

All Climate City Contract resources are available in the [Knowledge Repository on the Portal](#)



Get inspired!

Check out the Climate City Contracts developed by 4 Mission-minded cities:

- [Viladecans](#) | [Viladecans CCC Iteration v2026](#)
- [Bilbao v2025](#) | [Bilbao CCC Iteration v2026](#)
- [Constanta](#)
- [Iasi](#)



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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Commitments



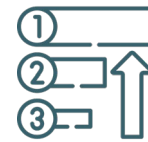
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Key elements of the Commitments



Set a climate target and accelerate the journey towards climate neutrality



Define priorities and principles to guide the planning and implementation phases



Leverage co-benefits to strengthen the case for climate action



Adopt a whole-city approach and secure commitments from different levels of government and the local ecosystem of actors





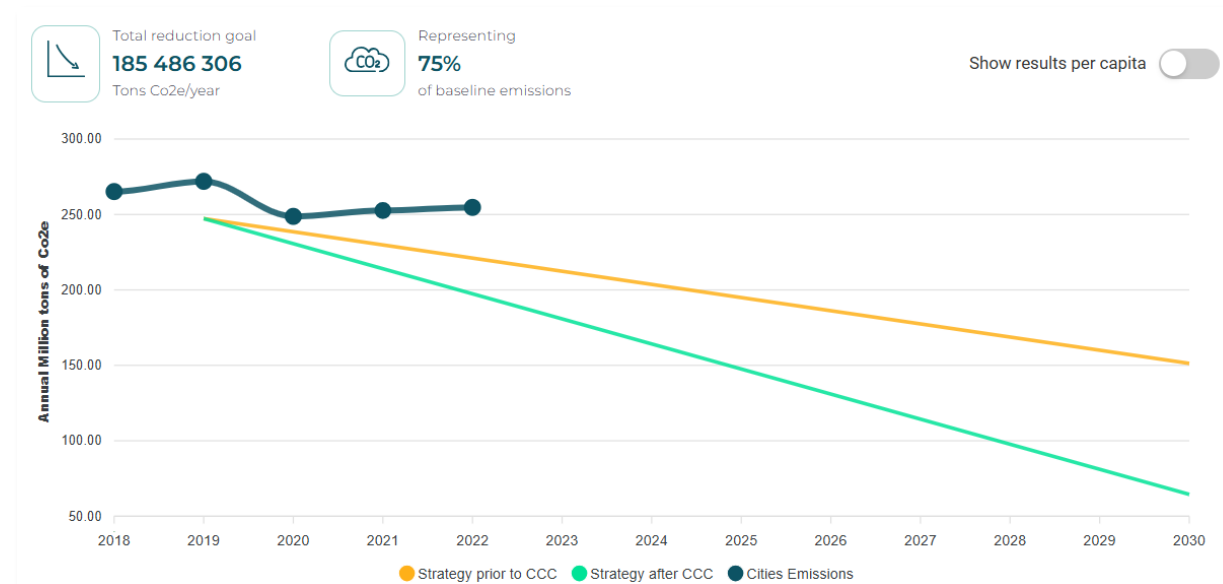
Key elements of the Commitments Document

Climate-neutrality target

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to: **set a climate-neutrality target** and **accelerate** the journey towards climate neutrality.

Mission Cities began their journey to climate neutrality at **different starting points** and **levels of maturity**. Some updated their climate targets, while others set their first target. The Climate City Contracts helped all cities **strengthen their commitment to climate neutrality**.

[NetZeroCities Barometer](#)





Key elements of the Commitments Document

Priorities and Principles

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool that **defines priorities and principles**.

The Mission Cities' climate neutrality targets and strategies are based on **strong principles** that guide both the planning and implementation phases of the Climate City Contracts. Mission Cities have adhered to principles such as **co-creation, open innovation, transparency, sufficiency, or just transition, leaving no one behind**.



Lyon

The city of Lyon has strategically integrated the principle of *sobriété* (sufficiency) into the development of its CCC, aligning with its broader commitment to climate neutrality.



Swedish Cities

During their 2024 CCC iteration, Swedish cities worked collectively to strengthen their commitment to the principle of Just Transition.





Key elements of the Commitments Document

Co-benefits

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to **leverage co-benefits to strengthen the climate narrative**

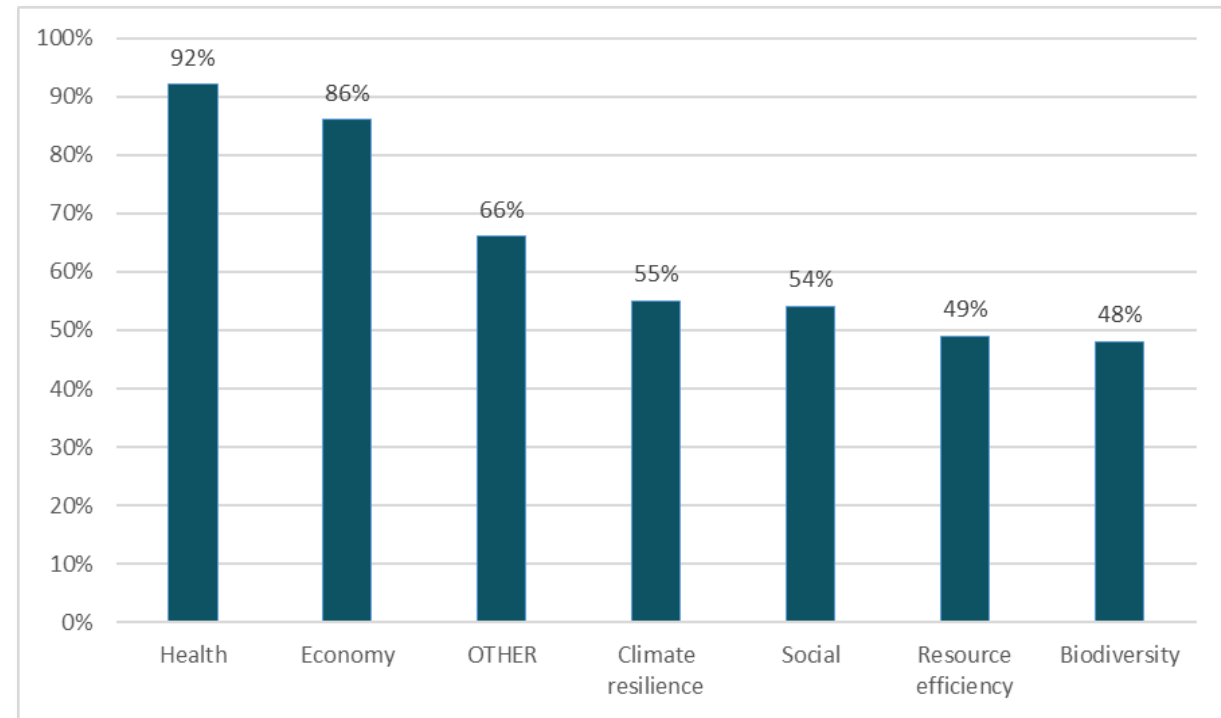
Climate City Contracts emphasise the importance of implementing climate actions to:

- Improve air quality
- Increase employment rate
- Boost local business
- Foster the city attractiveness

*“Decarbonization will bring concrete benefits to many sectors of society such as: 1) Reduced **air pollution, fuel poverty and noise** through decarbonation of heating and mobility; 2) Increased **property value and employment** due to retrofit work”*

Share of CCCs referring to co-benefits by categories

[CCC Highlights – Co-benefits and Indicators](#)





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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Commitments?





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Alejandro Gómez Gil

Grabación Alejandro Gómez
Coordinador de Projectes Europeus i
Estratègies Urbanes
Municipality of Valencia





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?

The screenshot displays a video conference interface. On the left, a presentation slide titled "EU MISSIONS" is shown. The slide features the European Union flag, a cityscape, and solar panels. The text on the slide includes "EU MISSIONS", "CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES", "Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges", and the hashtags "#EUmissions", "#HorizonEU", and "#MissionCities". A curved arrow points from the slide to the "LEUVEN CLIMATE CITY CONTRACT" logo on the right. The logo includes the text "LEUVEN", "LEUVEN 2030", and "leuven". On the right side of the video conference, two participants are visible in separate windows. The top window shows a man identified as "Francesco Palmia". The bottom window shows a woman identified as "Jessie Van Couwenberghe".

EU MISSIONS
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES
Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges
#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities

LEUVEN LEUVEN 2030 leuven
CLIMATE CITY CONTRACT

Francesco Palmia

Jessie Van Couwenberghe

Jessie Van Couwenberghe
Mission Manager
City of Leuven





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Francisco Benito Sanchez
Project Manager
City Council of Valladolid





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Risto Veivo,
Climate Director, City of Turku
Lead Author, IPCC Special Report on
Climate Change and Cities,





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Elin Svanström
Process leader Viable Cities
Eskilstuna Municipality





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?

Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy
Online Planning Lab

Helena Kyrki

Manager for Sustainable Development,
Mayor's Office, Municipality of Espoo



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Mayor's Office, Municipality of Espoo



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How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?

Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy
Online Planning Lab

Liviu Purtător
Primăria municipiului Cluj-Napoca

Funded by the European Union

Liviu Purtător
Primăria municipiului Cluj-Napoca





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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Action Plan





Key elements of the Action Plan



The baseline:

- GHG emissions inventory
- Existing relevant policies and plans



Barriers and opportunities:

- System analysis across emissions domains



The target and the emissions gap



The theory of change and action portfolio

- Concrete actions linking emission domains with systemic levers, and indicating outcomes and long-term impact



The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework

- Quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure and describe progress, outcomes and impacts





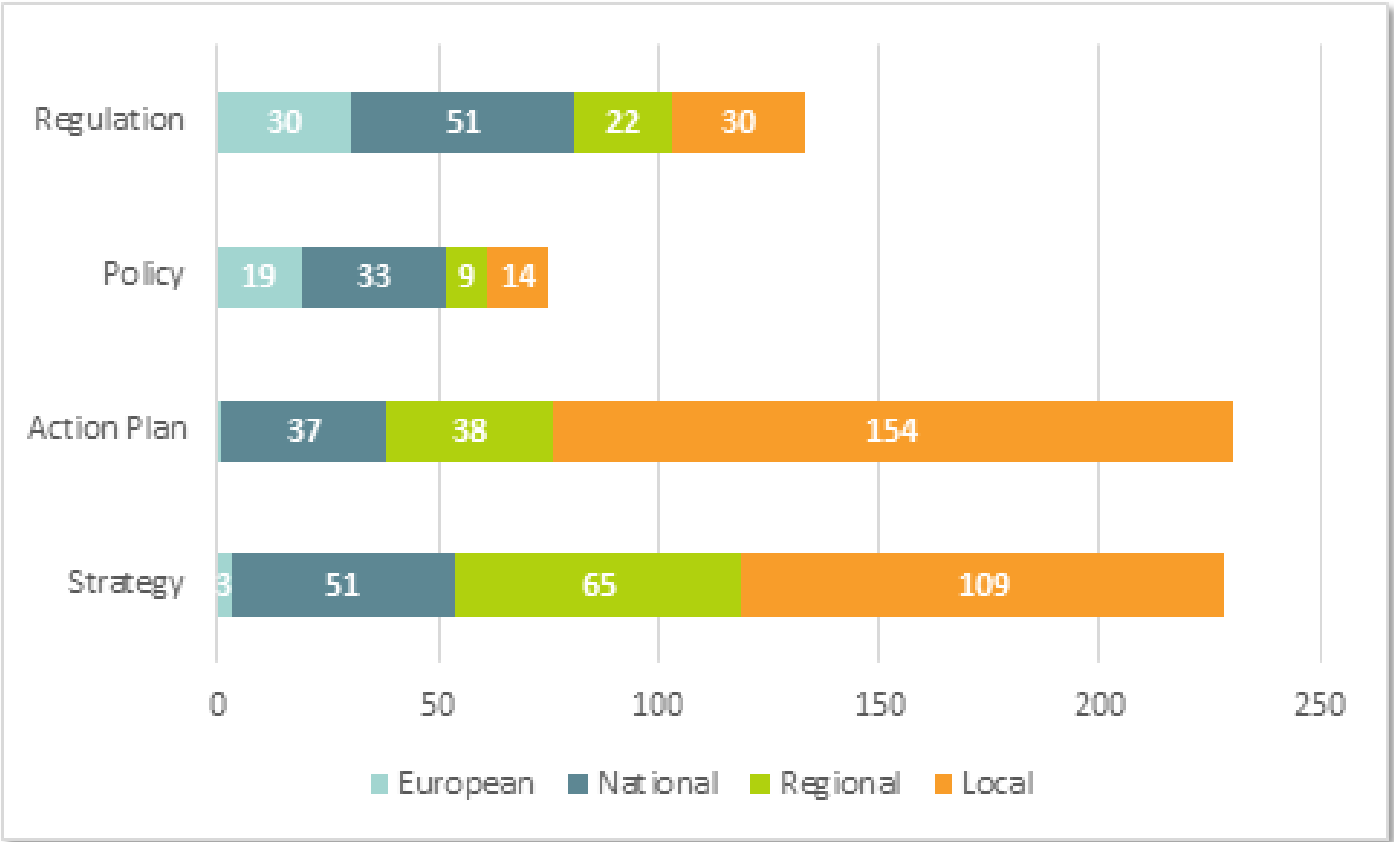
Elements of the Action Plan

The baseline

GHG inventory – MyCov, CDP-ICLEI

All existing regulations, policies and plans at different levels of government that contribute to the increase or decrease in GHG emissions

International commitments labelled CCCs are building on (top)
Mapped documents labelled CCCs are building on (bottom)
[CCC Highlights – Bold Commitments by 2030](#)

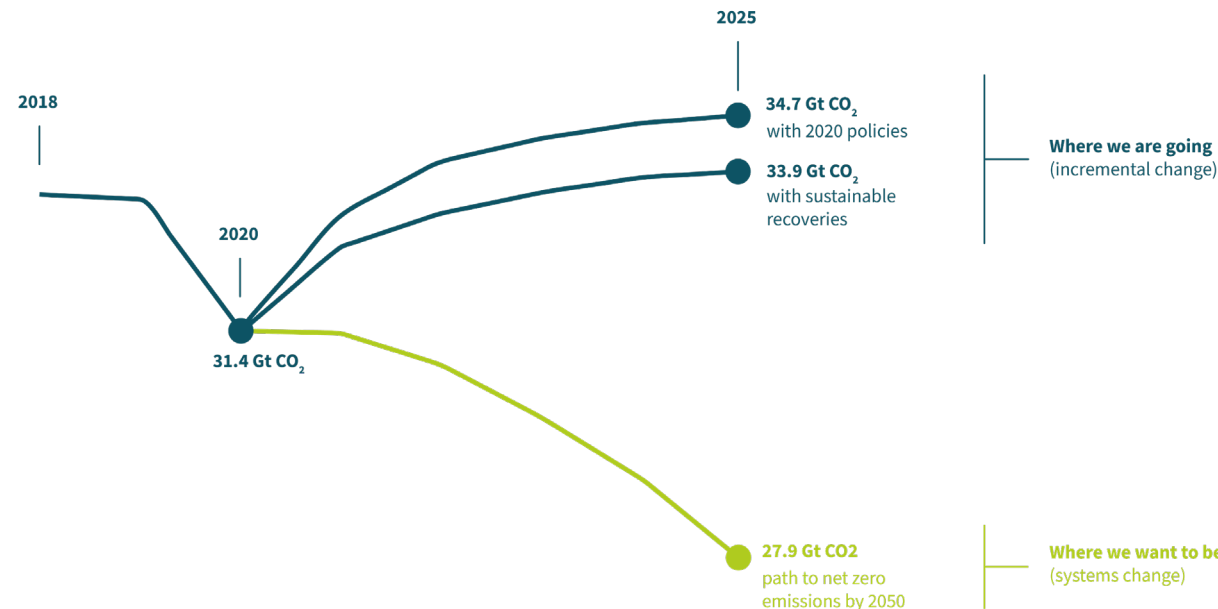




Elements of the Action Plan

The target and the GHG emissions gap

- **Target:** at least 80% reductions in GHG emissions by 2030
- **Emissions gap:** difference between the reductions through existing plans and the target. In other words, what needs to be reduced through new actions
- **Residual emissions:** emissions that cannot be reduced by 2030 and need to be offset by 2050.





Elements of the Action Plan

Systems analysis

The Climate City Contract as road map of **systemic barriers** and **opportunities** that need to be addressed in the portfolio of actions.

CCCs emphasise the need for a stronger multi-level institutional arrangement.

*“Another already described systemic barrier is that **only one-third of the measures are under the influence of the City and the Mannheim Group**. One third are influenced by the framework conditions at EU, National and State Level. And one third is dependent on the private capital, companies and citizens”*

City of Mannheim

Types of barriers mapped by cities
[CCC Highlights – Barriers to Climate Neutrality](#)

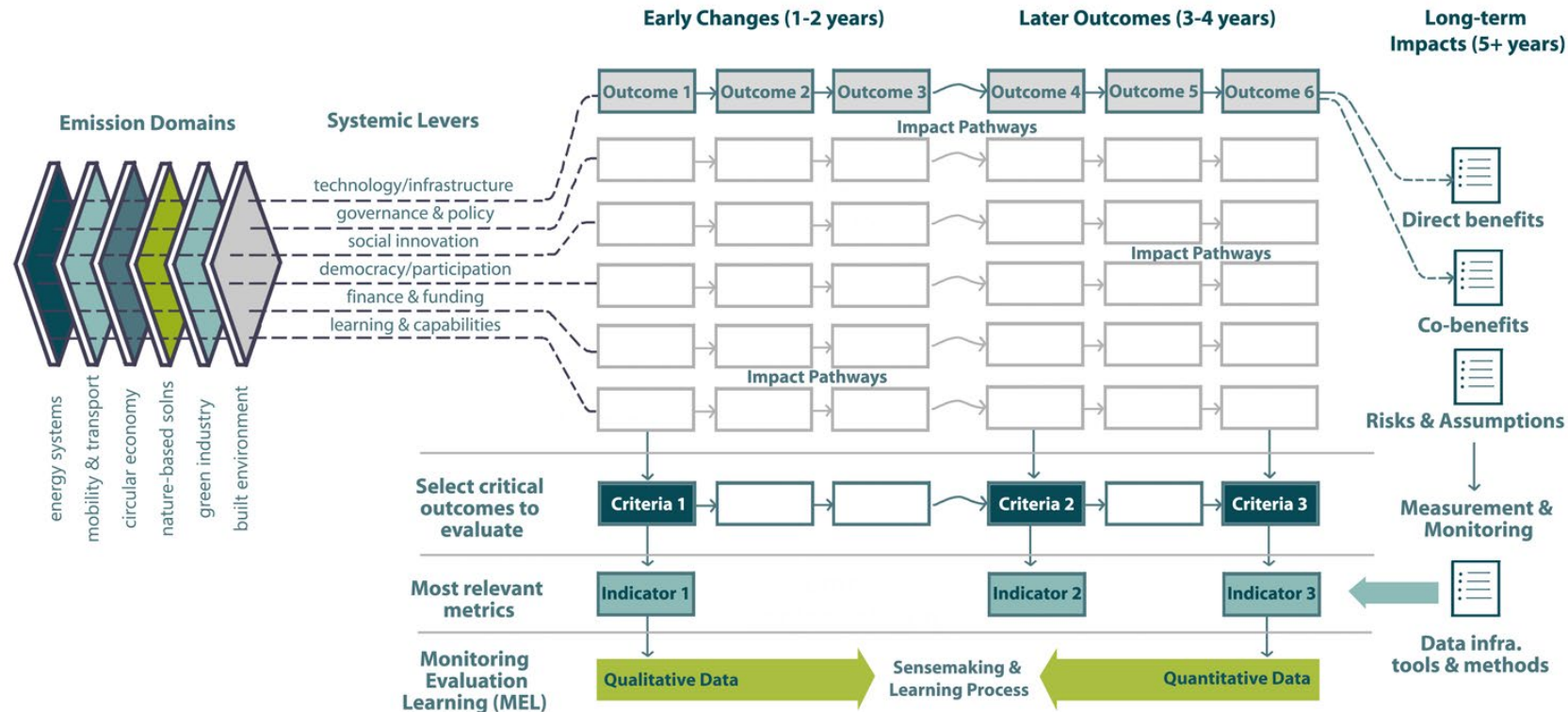




Elements of the Action Plan

The theory of change and action portfolio

The Climate City Contract as a roadmap to **impact pathways** and **portfolios of actions** that **activate different levers of change** across emissions domains.





Elements of the Action Plan

The monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework

The Climate City Contract as a MEL roadmap that associates quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure and describe progress, outcomes and impacts

International commitments labelled CCCs are building on (top)
Mapped documents labelled CCCs are building on (bottom)
[CCC Highlights – Bold Commitments by 2030](#)

	FIELD OF ACTION	Step 4: Identify Data Sources
Direct Benefit	 GHG Emission/ CC Mitigation	How can emissions and emission reduction be measured in each sector?
Indirect Benefit	 Co-Benefits	How can co-benefits be measured in each sector?
Systemic Levers	 Technology and Infrastructure	How can status and progress regarding the roll-out of key technologies be measured?
	 Governance Innovation	What are relevant impact pathways leading to long-term impacts and co-benefits for the city's climate mission?
	 Social Innovation	How can status and progress regarding social innovation be measured?
	 Democracy and Participation	How can the status and progress regarding citizen engagement and co-creation be measured?
	 Finance and Funding	How can status and progress regarding funding and financing be measured?
	 Learnings & Capabilities	How can status and progress regarding learnings and capabilities be measured?





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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Action Plan?





How can cities benefit from developing an Action Plan?



Francisco Benito Sanchez
Project Manager
City Council of Valladolid





How can cities benefit from developing an Action Plan?

Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy
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Reinhold Stadler
*Project Manager,
Transport Association Braşov*

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Francisco Palma

Funded by
the European Union

Reinhold Stadler
Project Manager,
Transport Association Braşov





Further explore these topics

MODULE 4 PORTFOLIO OF ACTIONS

- **Practical session** - Module 4 "Portfolio of Actions" (Tuesday, October 27th | 14:00 CET)
- **Reflective session** - Module 3 + 4 (Thursday, October 29th | 13:00 CET)

MODULE 5 TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS & LEVERS OF CHANGE

- **Practical session** - Module 5 "Technical Solutions: Buildings" (Tuesday, November 10th | 9:00 CET)
- **Second Practical session** - Module 5. "Technical solutions: Mobility" (Tuesday, November 24th | 9:00 CET)





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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Investment Plan





Key elements of the Investment Plan



Map the costs and capital needed to implement the action plan and reach climate neutrality by 2030.



Help identify possible barriers to capital formation and deployment, and how the policy landscape could facilitate greater access to climate funding and finance.



Map the risks and capacity-building needs, and identify the key external stakeholders needed to enable financing of the climate transition.





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Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Investment Plan?





How can cities benefit from developing an Investment Plan?



Module 1

What is an Action Plan in the Cities Mission?
Systemic Approach

How can funding be mobilised at a national level?



Elena Simion, International Projects Expert - UEFISCDI Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (Romania)





Further explore these topics

MODULE 6 FINANCING THE AMBITION

- **Practical session** - Module 6.
"Finance" (Tuesday, December 8th | 9:00 CET)
- **Reflective session** - Module 6
(Thursday, December 10th | 13:00 CET)





Contacts

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Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



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