

Cities are the new hotspots

Driving the crisis of ecological overshoot & biodiversity losses



70%

EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE

Cities must lead the global energy transition

- The global urban population is expected to have doubled by 2050
- Cities cause more than 70% of global CO2
 emissions
- \$350 trillion will be invested and used in cities over the next three decades



Purpose of the Earth Hour City Challenge 2013-2014

- Mobilize action and support from cities in the global transition towards a climate friendly, sustainable future with a focus on shifting from fossil to renewable energy solutions
- Cities/local authorities report their ambitious, holistic, inspiring and credible commitments and actions for:
 - dramatically increasing the use of renewable energy solutions in the next few decades
 - low-carbon development including emissions mitigation, energy efficiency and other sustainability cobenefits (focus long term sustainability and wellbeing of citizens)
- The selection of the Earth Hour Capitals (both national and global) will also take into consideration **resources committed** in relation to the size of the sustainability challenge and the **capabilities** of the city/country

Earth Hour City Challenge: background

- Program inviting cities to lead the global transformation towards a renewable and sustainable economy
- Most ambitious city awarded global Earth Hour Capital of the year
- First international pilot 2012-2013 included 6 countries (Canada, US, India, Italy, Norway, Sweden)
- Vancouver awarded first global Earth Hour Capital





Earth Hour City Challenge Participating Countries 2013-2014



Earth Hour Capitals are selected by an international expert jury (2013-14)



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Seth Schultz (New York City) Director, Research at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group



(Mexico City Director of the Secretariat of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate



Alexandre Meira da Rosa (Washington D.C) Manager of Infrastructure and Environment Sector, IDB



Christiana Figueres (Bonn) **UNFCCC** Executive Secretary

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Simon Giles (London) **Senior Principal Intelligent Cities** Accenture Global



Gino van Begin (Bonn) Secretary General of ICLEI



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Aromar Revi (Bangalore) Director, Indian Institute of Human Settlements

Rigorous quality control process to identify strong sustainability actions

- Third party city pre-screening and evaluation process (conducted in 2013-14 by Accenture)
- Local-level consultations with urban experts based at local WWF offices
- Expert review and shortlisting process carried out by an international jury of experts
- Cities report actions that are 'completed', 'in progress', and 'looking for funding'.



Partnerships

- 8 to 11 jury members 2013 to 2014
- In 2013 partnerships with:
 - ICLEI local governments for sustainability (main supporting partner)
 - Asian Development Bank (potential outreach and city finance support)
 - UN Habitat (urban campaign)
 - Ambassador Mayors (EHCC candidate city and outreach support)
 - Mexico City Pact (jury and outreach support)
 - C40 Network (jury and outreach support)

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EHCC also provides powerful public profiling opportunity for cities and partners



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Results EHCC 2013 & 2014

- Internationally recognized reporting platform managed by ICLEI
- 2013: <u>66 EHCC Candidate Cities</u> from 6 pilot countries
 193 commitments 230 GHG inventories 1232 actions
- 2014: <u>163 EHCC Candidate Cities</u> from 14 countries 386 commitments - 381 GHG inventories - 2123 mitigation actions and 484 adaptation actions



To sum up

- Expected investment in cities can either lock us into fossil-fuel dependent and wasteful infrastructure or help drive a global transition
- The Earth Hour City Challenge highlights how cities can be global solution hotspots
- Engaging citizens to make sustainable lifestyle choices
- Engages with finance actors and decision makers to promote a rapid transition to renewable and sustainable urban economies

