



# Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

**Innovate4Cities: A Global Climate Action Accelerator**

# WHAT IS THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS?

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A first-of-its-kind and largest global alliance of cities leading the fight against climate change, with support from city networks and other partners.

# WHY IS THE GLOBAL COVENANT IMPORTANT?

- Creates the largest coalition of cities and local governments supported by global and local city networks, committed to greater climate impact and recognition
- Recognizes that “climate action” is about improving quality of life, creating new jobs and economic opportunities, while ensuring a climate safe for future generations.
- Values vertical alignment and collaboration across all levels of government in support of local action
- Makes all city data on local actions available to the public in one place in a consistent way – for the first time ever
- Creates an “evidence base” for increased investment in urban low carbon infrastructure



# UNLOCKING URBAN ACTION

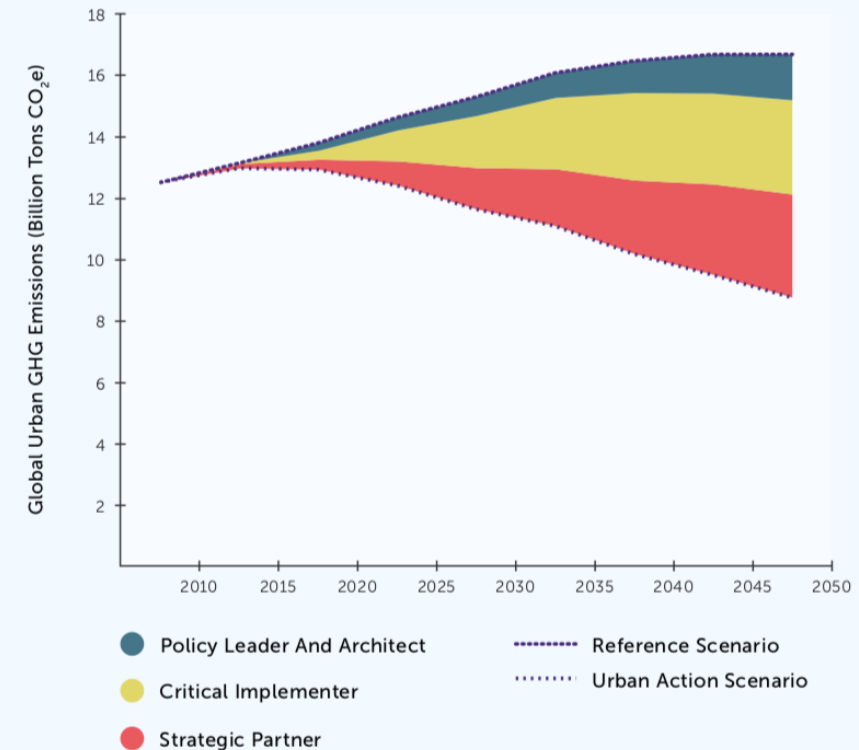
CITIES COULD REDUCE  
ANNUAL GLOBAL GREENHOUSE  
GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS BY

**3.7**  
**Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
**in 2030**

or 15% of the GHG reductions required to keep warming to less than 2C, relative to pre-Paris commitments by 2050."

## URBAN GHG ABATEMENT POTENTIAL

By "Best" Role Of City Government



# Current Global Reach and Impact

9,098 CITIES

120 COUNTRIES

770+ MILLION  
PEOPLE

OVER 10% OF THE  
GLOBAL  
POPULATION

CITIES COULD  
COLLECTIVELY  
REDUCE 1.3  
BILLION TONS PER  
YEAR IN 2030

NEW GLOBAL  
COMMON  
REPORTING  
STANDARD



# Innovate4Cities

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A Global Climate Action Accelerator



# WHAT IS INNOVATE4CITIES?

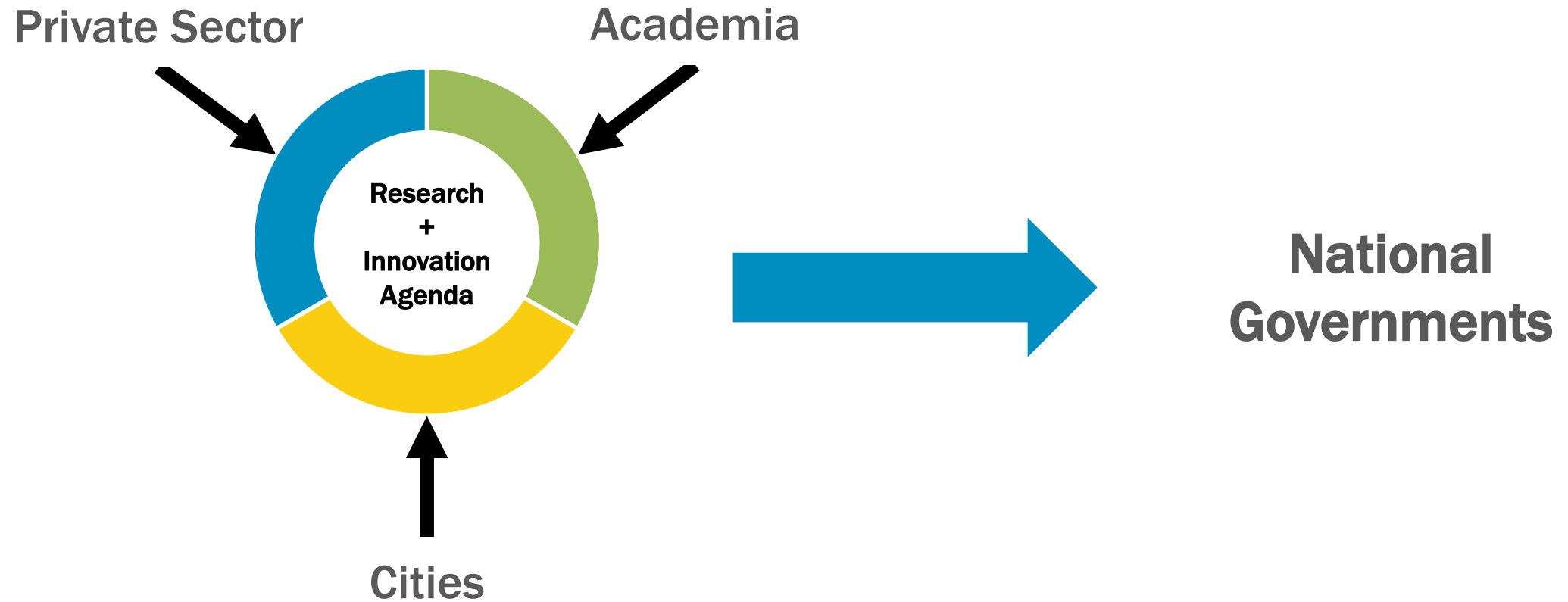
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- Innovate4Cities will define specific cities' research and innovation needs, exploring ways to incorporate these priorities into national research agendas.
- Synthesized into the first-ever cities driven research agenda to be delivered at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco
- This initiative will catalyze the scientific advances necessary to better equip cities with the intelligence and tools to drive even more ambitious climate action



# CO-GENERATING INNOVATE4CITIES

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# FRAMING QUESTIONS

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1

What information do city leaders need as they implement ambitious climate action?

2

How do we translate scientific knowledge into information that decision-makers can use to accelerate climate action at the local level?

3

What does the academic community believe to be the critical areas where research is needed to support action at the city level as it pertains to climate change?

4

How can innovative technologies be rapidly tested and deployed to cities?

5

How do we ensure aligned interest between the academic, local government and national government actors to rapidly agree, fund and implement a joint, global research agenda?

## POTENTIAL TOPICS

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- Opportunities for **satellite research** to **fill data gaps** that would accelerate retrofit and grid decarbonization activities.
- **Immediate climate actions cities can implement** based on their unique characteristics (location, population, solar capacity, modal split, and structure of built environment, etc.).
- Definition of methods and development of **tools to better project urban growth** that would better inform urban planning.
- Identification of **disruptive technologies** that can spur new city climate action as well as methods to **quantify those benefits**.
- Guidelines on the establishment of **local level renewable energy targets and the methods to achieve them**.
- Creation of policy frameworks that would make **cities more climate resilient**.
- **Evidence for policymakers** to show that investment in resilient planning, infrastructure, and transit will pay dividends in the long-run.

# INNOVATE4CITIES FOCUS AREAS

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**Science and Research**

**Innovation and  
Technology**

**Data Gaps**

# THREE FOCUS AREAS

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## Science and Research

Innovation and  
Technology

Data Gaps

Significant **momentum to produce research on- and for cities**, and to drive evidence-based action and innovation related to climate change and sustainability in cities is building. Realizing the significant need for cities to adapt to, and mitigate, global climate change is driving **demand for detailed downscaled climate models** as well as **social science on urban systems** that cannot be met with current knowledge and global climate models.

# THREE FOCUS AREAS

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Science and Research

**Innovation and  
Technology**

Data Gaps

Cities must **do more than rethink** their built environment **or enact more efficient mitigation and adaptation policies**. Tomorrow's innovations must **help cities meet needed emissions reductions** while making them more resilient. Opportunities must also be scaled to help cities **catalyze, pilot, and procure** new technology. Unique **partnerships and implementation models** must be considered to ensure these innovations are not overwhelmingly designed and deployed in a few leading-edge cities.



# THREE FOCUS AREAS

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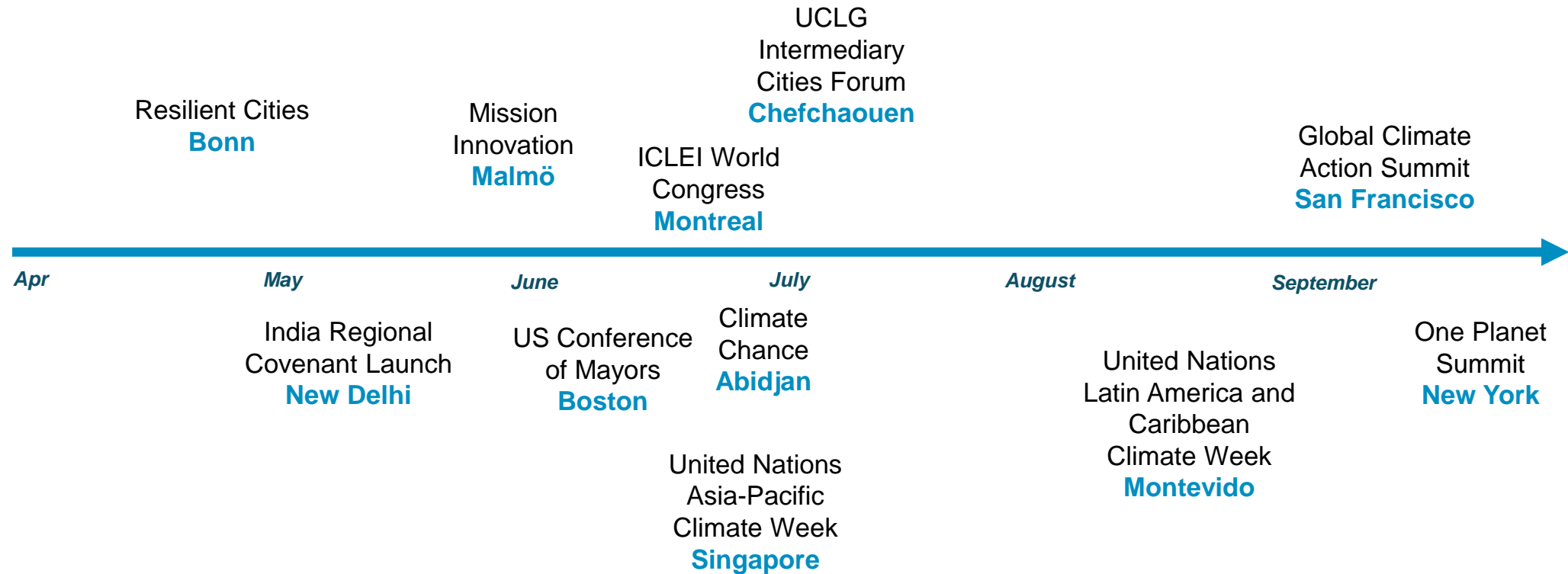
Science and Research

Innovation and  
Technology

**Data Gaps**

There are still **significant data gaps for cities** to help measure, plan, and monitor mitigation and resilience actions. In many cases, **key data is difficult to access or even disaggregate** from the national level. Without accurate data, policymakers, researchers, and civil society **lack the knowledge and justification** to pursue and analyze recommendations concerning mitigation and adaptation policy.

# DELIVERING INNOVATE4CITIES: CONVENINGS, ROUNDTABLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Shortlisted Global Events

**[innovate4cities@globalcovenantofmayors.org](mailto:innovate4cities@globalcovenantofmayors.org)**



**Launched in March 2018:** A bold call-to-action from cities of all sizes to the academic and technology innovation communities to seriously consider the role of scientific research, technology research & development and data in building ambitious climate action plans



**Asking Mayors to sign the Declaration** and send the message that cities urgently need the tools and data to address climate change.

# Thank You

[www.globalcovenantofmayors.org](http://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org)

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