

# AMBITIOUS CITY PROMISES

Engaging citizens. Driving climate action.



A WORLD OF  
LOCAL ACTION



ICLG  
Local  
Government  
for Sustainability

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Emissions by 20 million tons  
Less Nuclear Power  
GREEN  
Seoul

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## Starting point

# The Promise of Seoul

The Promise of Seoul is a comprehensive strategy and climate action plan adopted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government in 2015. The plan includes 11 pledges that cover all areas of climate change, from energy, air quality, transport and resource recycling to water, ecology, urban agriculture, health, safety and urban planning.

It embodies the collective resolve of 10 million Seoul residents who want to create a better city for future generations. They are at the heart of the Promise of Seoul, having played a vital and active role in shaping the action plan and making their own pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

Through the ICLEI-implemented Ambitious City Promises, the Promise of Seoul is living up to its goal to inspire other cities in shaping their own Promises in close partnership with their communities.



# Rapid urbanizing world

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In a rapidly urbanizing world, local governments and their communities play a pivotal role in tackling climate change and advancing sustainability in cities. The Ambitious City Promises project is contributing to this work by capacitating local governments, engaging citizens and driving climate action through low emission development strategies (LEDS).

The Promise of Seoul, a comprehensive climate strategy adopted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government at the ICLEI World Congress in 2015, is at the heart of Ambitious City Promises. It provides a model of effective climate action at the community level, showing that cities can be both engines of growth and global leaders on climate action by establishing inclusive low emission urban economies.

Through the Ambitious City Promises, cities in Southeast Asia will adapt this model of inclusive, ambitious climate action, mainstreaming low emission development strategies and creating new climate leaders.

By spreading the vision behind the Promise of Seoul, Ambitious City Promises will show how collective action taken in cities, with leadership from local governments, can contribute to achieving and ratcheting up national and global climate goals.



**The ICLEI Network is  
advancing climate action  
and forging new models  
for climate governance,  
knowledge transfer and  
community engagement.**

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**With the unprecedented rates of urbanization  
in Southeast Asia, ambitious low emission  
development strategies are critical to  
sustainable development in the region.**

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# Where the Promise of Seoul is spreading

Many Southeast Asian countries are experiencing unprecedented economic growth and urbanization. In 2014, the United Nations reported that about 47 percent of the population in Southeast Asia resides in urban areas. This is expected to increase to 64 percent by 2050<sup>1</sup>. The region has seen rapid and often unplanned development and the emergence of megacities that face severe urban challenges and contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

Through Ambitious City Promises, cities in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam will receive support in establishing and implementing ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments and local climate action plans. Each of these countries faces unique and complex urban challenges, and their carbon emissions are expected to rise without appropriate interventions.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government will provide policy advice and consultation to the project cities based on the knowledge the city acquired through the Promise of Seoul.

**Together the project cities represent a population of over 23 million.**





## Vietnam Hanoi / Soc Son / Son Tay

Hanoi almost tripled its size when it expanded to its neighboring provinces and districts. A bustling center of business, culture and technology, the city plans to establish its baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory and formulate an action plan to reduce emissions. Soc Son primarily aims to harmonize economic development with environment protection programs, while Son Tay, known as a historic town, is battling pollution and infrastructure overload, both of which could be addressed through more inclusive and integrated city planning.



## Philippines Pasig / Marikina / Parañaque

A residential, industrial and commercial hub with at least 755,000 people, Pasig City is facing rapid urbanization and commercialization. Through Ambitious City Promises, the city plans to update its greenhouse gas emissions inventory and identify areas where low emission development can be effectively integrated. Marikina and Parañaque are both situated in the National Capital Region. Facing economic pressures due to a rapidly growing population and expanding industry and commerce, they are exploring strategies for low emission development and sustainability.



## Indonesia Jakarta / Bekasi / Tangerang

With 10 million residents, Jakarta noticed an increase in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Through this project, the city aims to integrate emissions targets into its city development and energy planning. As satellites to Jakarta, Bekasi and Tangerang feel the stress of peak-hour congestion. Although neither of them have local greenhouse inventories or climate action plans, the city governments are committed to sustainable urban development and to taking part in the national smart city program.



# Project activities

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In-country consultations to facilitate capacity building, policy advice and technology transfer provided by ICLEI, the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the project advisory group



New or improved comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventories



Public outreach to actively engage city residents and key local climate stakeholders



Platforms to collect pledges from key stakeholders including businesses and households



Concrete climate action plans – called City Promises – that set ambitious targets and integrate community pledges



Initial implementation of City Promises through pilot projects



International reporting aggregated city plans, actions and achievements via the carbonn Climate Registry (cCR)



Learning and cooperation opportunities with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and other peer cities

# Aims and outcomes of Ambitious City Promises

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## Develop and deploy bottom-up models of climate action planning.

Ambitious City Promises will demonstrate the impact of bottom-up climate action by engaging city residents and integrating stakeholder pledges into the City Promises. By consolidating and integrating community pledges into local action plans, cities can quantify community contributions and make the case for greater ambition at all levels of government. In this way, Ambitious City Promises will create new climate leaders at the municipal and community level.

## Establish lasting mechanisms for knowledge sharing.

Ambitious City Promises will strengthen climate action by spreading good practices through city-to-city exchange and support. Inspired by the Promise of Seoul, this project, with the support of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, will guide participating cities in establishing mechanisms that allow for peer learning while supporting and aligning with national climate action plans and policies.

## Contribute to local, national and global climate goals.

Ambitious City Promises will accelerate ambitious climate action at the local level by equipping cities to define and implement low emissions development strategies through City Promises shaped by inclusive, participatory processes. These Ambitious City Promises will increase impact and allow for increasingly significant contributions to national and global climate goals.

**Rapid urbanization throughout Southeast Asia means that **reducing emissions in megacities** makes real contributions to national greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals and can help raise national ambitions.**



## Partners

Ambitious City Promises is implemented by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. The ICLEI World Secretariat is responsible for project management and coordination. ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat and ICLEI East Asia Secretariat are also implementing partners. The Seoul Metropolitan Government is a supporting partner.

## Contact

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## At a glance

**Project name:** Ambitious City Promises

**Full title:** Ambitious City Promises: Commitments for low-carbon urban development in Southeast Asian large cities

**Funded by:** German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

**Project duration:** January 2017 - June 2020

**Project countries:** Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines

This publication should be cited as **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, 2017. Ambitious City Promises brochure. Bonn, Germany.**

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Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



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