

LOCAL PACTS

HOW MUNICIPALITIES CREATE THEIR OWN COP21 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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On the road to COP26



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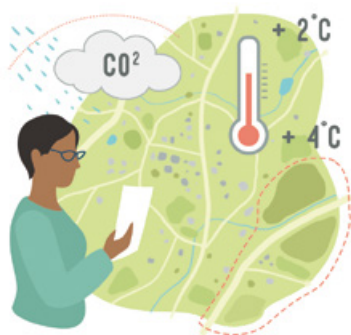
There is no single definition of what a “Local Participatory Agreement for the Climate Transition (PACT)” should include, as it is always context-dependent. A PACT (Participatory Agreement for the Climate Transition) is a process that aims to translate the Paris Agreement at a city level. Its objective is to set a precise strategy that will enable a territory to reach neutrality by 2050 and to set mid-term science-based targets. PACTs take into account the municipality’s competencies as well as the climate footprint of all local activities and needs.

This document is the executive summary of a comparative study in which we propose the “minimum requirements” to set up a long-term local partnership to transform the local “ecosystem”.

You will find the full-text publication on Energy Cities’ website at:

<https://energy-cities.eu/publication/local-pacts/>

1 KNOWLEDGE DRIVEN-PROCESS



Some are calling it their **local IPCC**, some outsourced it to their university, or to recognised research centres for climate policies, some mixed academics with more local mapping and citizen-based knowledge gathering; but the objective of scientific councils is always to have robust science-based targets. After a decade or two to align cities objectives on the national policies, it is time to have the climate targets landing into each different local context. Now that the final goal of climate neutrality in 2050 is agreed, the scientific committee can inform strategies.

This “**scientific council**” is also key in building trust between partners of the PACT and has to be a neutral body to feed the debate and support the decision-making process. Manchester is one of the most advanced examples in terms of “translation” of the Paris Agreement into the territory with its very detailed carbon budget and scientific advisory groups integrated in the reporting system. The local IPCC of Rouen lies on voluntary efforts but its strength is its multi-dimensional approach, not looking only at the climate data. Research is not feeding a permanent debate with all local stakeholders, but gives nevertheless a decisive impetus to local climate action. It is in Leuven where academics are the most integrated in the whole process, from setting of ambitions, to downscaling it to very concrete sectorial targets, which are revised when needed. It is also the basis for the clusters of partners.

2 STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT



The important point here is who we are including as “stakeholders”. Our stand was to investigate complex partnerships with a collective approach to engagement. Going beyond, but based on, citizens’ active participation. As the idea of the PACT is to move the local economic system, no climate neutrality can be reached without a drastic change of the local resource loops, nor finding how to increase sufficiency in all basic sectors. Therefore, in the examples we studied, the strengths of the models lie in building new local economic relationships. But of course, it involves more than the economy, it is also about

mobilising cultural and educational (and faith), institutions. Växjö has a very long history of embedding climate goals into the local life and to leave a large part of the decision to the local stakeholders, or to ask for their advice.

3 SHARED GOVERNANCE



Shared governance means shared decision-making, responsibilities, it is a big paradigm shift which is sometimes on the edge of administrative rules. Nevertheless, there are models, as this publication shows, that can be fitting into the legal framework.

Leuven and the Drôme Valley both created associations that regroup all players, respectively Leuven 2030 and Biovallée, to monitor their local transition process. Local authorities are important stakeholders but not the only decision-makers anymore. This created dynamics which resulted in some of Europe’s most ambitious climate targets.

4 COLLECTIVE ASSESSMENT



This is actually a pillar but also an outcome of the others 3, or 4 pillars that are feeding each other. Although we could also file the “citizens’ assemblies” into the stakeholder’s participation, we believe it is one of the strongest examples of collective assessment mechanisms. Building a common understanding of the starting point, of the possible ways and paths, and finding a consensus is extremely powerful to change the “traditional” boundaries and always reached unexpected decisions. Grenoble is launching its own citizen assembly on climate change, as a local version of the French *Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat*.

As this executive summary shows, the first pillar, knowledge-based, is easier to implement and have already been tested more than the others. The other three have less developed models; everything is still to be built. Inventing new forms of local partnerships, besides being the necessary foundation for a shared process and collective vision for the territory, might be the most exciting part of the journey. Why skipping it?

This is why we chose to tell the story behind each of the case-studies in this publication. More than going into the details of the processes, we insisted on how they emerged, under which conditions and with the help of which actors. Often, the way is the aim.



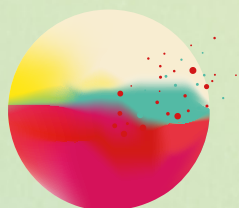
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