



Local Governments  
for Sustainability

OCEANIA

# Councils CaN!

**Australia's new Climate and Nature (CaN) action suite is brought to you by ICLEI, the world's leading network of local and subnational authorities driving collective action for a more sustainable world.**

Our atmosphere and biosphere are changing rapidly. Science shows us that climate change, and the degradation and destruction of nature, are intricately linked, exacerbating one another. The rapid deterioration of ecosystems is contributing to climate change, and climate change is having a profound and growing impact on nature.

With Australia being one of the continents most exposed to intense weather events exacerbated by these cumulative effects, urgent action is needed.

Recognising the critical linkages between climate and nature, and the need for councils, capital cities and regions across Australia to urgently, and more effectively, connect their climate and nature actions, ICLEI Oceania has curated a unique, integrated suite of Climate and Nature (CaN) action offerings to support Australian councils – large or small, metropolitan, regional or remote – on their sustainability journeys.

The Climate and Nature (CaN) action suite includes practical tools, expert technical support and peer learning platforms to support Australian councils in accelerating local and state-level action, contributing not only to their current and future communities, but also to local and global targets, as direct, urgent and concrete responses to the climate and biodiversity emergencies.



**Environmental risks could hit the point of no return.**

*~ WEF's Global Risks Report 2024*

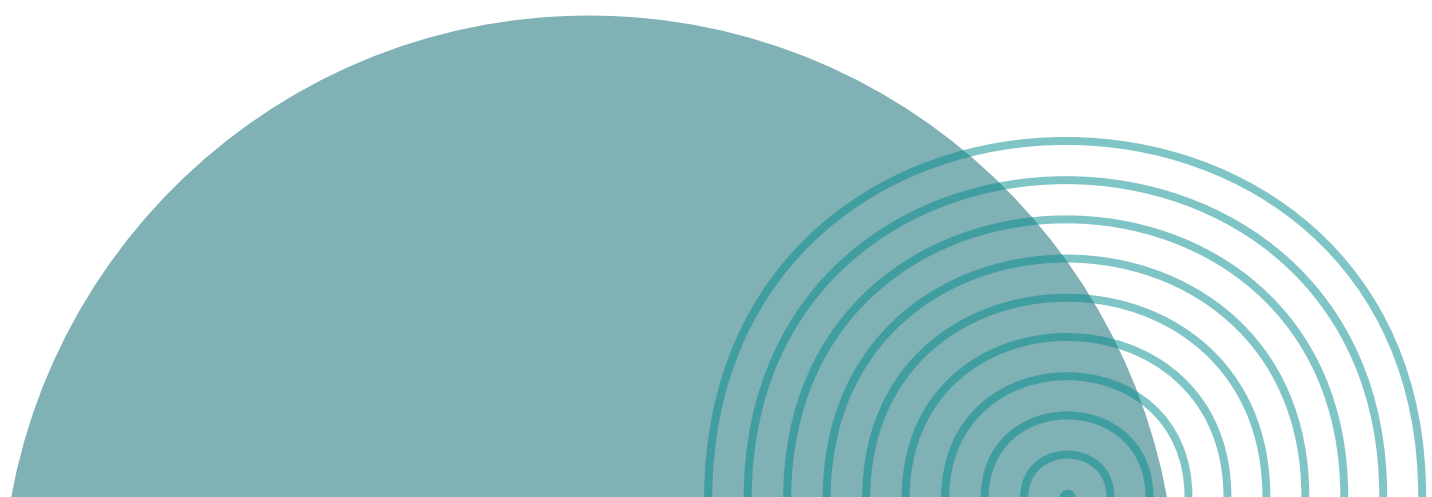
Australian councils CaN choose to participate in one or multiple initiatives/activities, creating their own path of climate and nature-related support, according to their needs and budget, regardless of how advanced their progress is in these areas of action.

Councils leading in this space have the opportunity to inspire, support and collaborate with other councils who are well on their way or just beginning their CaN journeys. They can also step up their advocacy on the global stage at the United Nations COPs via ICLEI as Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and related environmental processes. Intermediate or less advanced councils will benefit from networking, collaboration, learning, support and inspiration from, and with, their peers.



**By saving nature, we boost the chances of staying below 1.5°C while laying the foundations for lives that are happy, healthy, culturally enriched and socially connected.**

*~ WWF's Climate, Nature and our 1.5°C Future report*



## Councils CaN learn, collaborate, inspire, share, report, plan and find support through:

### CitiesWithNature Community of Practice\*



ICLEI Member and non-member councils work collaboratively to connect, learn and improve biodiversity outcomes in their municipality. Membership of the Community of Practice includes regular network meetings, online expert webinars and learning cohorts on relevant topics, opportunities for Councillors to connect with one another, and a private Slack Workspace for sharing and collaboration. Technical support is also provided for the global [CitiesWithNature Action Platform](#), which Community of Practice members are encouraged to use.

**\$999 ex GST for ICLEI Members**

**\$1199 ex GST for non-members**

### CitiesWithNature Action Platform



FREE global [Action Platform](#) for councils to connect, learn and share targets, actions and case studies on what they are doing locally to help achieve global nature goals and targets. The platform is recognised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the official vehicle through which local and state governments report on their biodiversity commitments and ambitions towards the global [Biodiversity Plan](#) adopted in 2022 in Montreal at [CBD COP15](#). Through the platform, councils and regions benefit from leading expertise of close to 400 councils and regions already part of the initiative, of ICLEI's renowned [Cities Biodiversity Center](#) and our 15+ global partners including [UNEP](#), [IUCN](#) and many more.

**FREE**

### Berlin Urban Nature Pact



NEW FREE initiative seeking to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery in councils worldwide by 2030. [The Pact](#) sets SMART targets across key areas like species and habitats, water management and blue infrastructure, soil health, and food and agriculture, and also offers concrete implementation guidance and principles to aid councils in their activities. Pact signatories will use the [CitiesWithNature Action Platform](#) to track the progress of their pact commitments.

**FREE**

### Coastal Community of Practice\*



A first-of its kind Australian cohort of coastal councils connecting mainly as an online Community of Practice. It provides curated space to share experiences, robust scientific tools, resources and best practices around coastal resilience and adaptation to climate change. This includes the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation to navigate the different types of climate change impacts such as sea level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges. The work of this Community of Practice will contribute to ICLEI's global coastal and oceans advocacy work through the UN Oceans Conferences and related global platforms, served by ICLEI's leading global coastal coordinators and experts.

**\$999 ex GST for ICLEI Members**

**\$1199 ex GST for non-members**

## Journeys for Life initiative



Councils can express their interest in being part of the new FREE [Journeys for Life](#) initiative that will establish a platform for councils located along migratory routes of certain species (e.g. birds, turtles, sharks, whales, butterflies), facilitating the exchange of knowledge, resources and best practices, in support of the objectives and implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species. Councils joining this cohort will benefit from being served by ICLEI's technical inhouse team based within our global [Cities Biodiversity Center](#) and local ICLEI Oceania experts, connecting with other pioneering councils from across the world.

**FREE (limited offer)**

## GreenClimateCities



ICLEI's [FREE global climate impact program](#) offers councils a proven step-by-step process for integrated climate action to respond to the climate emergency and progress towards climate neutrality. The tailor-made framework and process provides access to technical guidance, tools and best practice case studies to support integrated climate action through ICLEI's five interconnected development pathways. Additionally, councils can demonstrate their leadership by tracking and reporting their progress on the ICLEI-CDP Track reporting platform. GreenClimateCities supports the ICLEI council network committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM).

**FREE**

## Climate Community of Practice\*



ICLEI Member and non-member councils work collaboratively to connect, learn and improve climate outcomes in their municipality. Membership of the Community of Practice includes regular network meetings, online expert webinars and learning cohorts on relevant topics, opportunities for Councillors to connect with one another, and a private Slack Workspace for sharing and collaboration. Technical support is also provided to get the most out of the ICLEI-CDP Track reporting platform, which Community of Practice members are encouraged to use.

**\$999 ex GST for ICLEI Members**

**\$1199 ex GST for non-members**

## Town Hall COPs



A community engagement mechanism that empowers residents to actively contribute to local, national and global climate emergency commitments and actions. Together with elected leaders and council officers, residents can discuss how to elevate local or subnational climate ambition and action, including council climate emergency declarations and climate neutrality commitments. Outcomes are reported to the Australian government to be integrated, as appropriate, in the next Nationally Determined Contributions for COP30 in November 2025 and via the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency engagement with the UNFCCC and at the Daring Cities annual forum.

**Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply**

\* **Please note:** Communities of Practice are subject to sufficient numbers.



## Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



A FREE [global alliance of more than 13,000 cities and councils](#) to which you can align your climate targets and progress through a dedicated global reporting system ICLEI-CDP Track. Signatories benefit from networking, events, peer exchange and linking local action with global advocacy and targets. With ICLEI hosting the Secretariat of GCoM for the entire Oceania region, councils have access to an Australian based help desk and also global teams with unparalleled inhouse technical and climate advocacy expertise.

**FREE**

## Disaster Risk Reduction self assessments



A workshop-based self-assessment of the readiness of your council to respond to disasters and reduce future loss and damage. This process is based on the UN Sendai Preliminary and Detailed Scorecards.

**Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply**

## Adaptation plan localisation in partnership with The Adaptation Game



An interactive workshop-based game to engage your staff and community for neighbourhood assessment of climate risks and opportunities, helping to “localise” your next adaptation plan. Offered in partnership with the makers of TAG.

**Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply**

## Tailored region- or topic-based learning cohorts



Using the ICLEI international learning cohort format, regional or topic-based clusters of councils (ICLEI Members and non-members) can be formed to tackle your high priority climate and nature challenges.

**Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply**

## Tailored consultancy/technical support



### Create or review council documents

Tailored assistance to help you create or review your council climate and nature strategies and plans. Climate adaptation and mitigation plan reviews are based on global common reporting frameworks such as Net Zero and energy roadmaps, [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and Just Transitions planning principles, while nature and biodiversity plans are based on ICLEI's global nature-based development pathway planning cycle, [CitiesWithNature Action Platform](#) and the [City Biodiversity Index](#).

Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply

### Grant applications

Grant applications can be tedious and time consuming, especially when there are multiple stakeholders involved. Ad hoc grant writing support can be provided to individual councils that require help or to a learning cohort or community of practice.

Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply

### Data collation

Ad hoc support can be provided to councils that require help to collate data for various sustainability assessments or reporting cycles.

Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply

### Wetlands City accreditation

Recognising the importance of councils and urban wetlands, the Convention on Wetlands has introduced a voluntary accreditation scheme which provides councils that value their natural or human-made wetlands an opportunity to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts. Tailored assistance can be provided to support councils applying for [Wetlands City accreditation](#).

Price on application: ICLEI Members\* & non-members rates apply

\* The cost of ICLEI membership varies according to the population size of the municipality. See the [ICLEI Oceania website](#) for current rates.

## ICLEI's pathways and approach

ICLEI engages at the local to global levels, shaping policy and sparking action to transform urban environments worldwide. We build connections across levels of government, sectors and stakeholder groups, sparking city-to-city, city-to-region, local-to-global and local-to-national connections. By linking subnational, national and global actors, policies, commitments and initiatives, ICLEI strengthens action at all levels, in support of sustainable urban development.

At the subnational level, ICLEI drives change along five interconnected pathways that cut across sectors and jurisdictional boundaries. This design enables local and regional governments to develop solutions in a holistic and integrated way, creating change across entire urban systems.

These pathways, outlined below, are part of the ICLEI São Paulo Strategic Vision 2024 – 2030, which guides the work of the ICLEI network.



### Zero emission development pathway

The zero emission development pathway supports integrated climate action to curb climate change and improve air quality, while creating new sustainable socio-economic opportunities and improving the health of people and natural systems.



### Nature-based development pathway

Nature-based development protects and enhances the biodiversity and ecosystems in and around our cities, which underpin key aspects of our local economies and upon which we depend for the well-being and resilience of our communities.



### Equitable development pathway

Equitable development builds just, livable, happy and inclusive urban communities, addresses the systemic causes of poverty and in- equality, and safeguards the natural support systems for human life.



### Resilient development pathway

The resilient development pathway anticipates, prevents, absorbs and recovers from shocks and stresses, in particular those brought about by rapid environmental technological, social and demographic change, and improves essential basic response structures and functions.



### Circular development pathway

Circular development, together with new models of production and consumption, builds sustainable societies that use recyclable, sharable and regenerative resources to end the linear model of “produce, consume, discard,” while continuing to meet the material and development needs of a growing global population.

**Please contact ICLEI Oceania for further information or to discuss your interest in one or more of this suite of offerings by emailing [admin.oceania@iclei.org](mailto:admin.oceania@iclei.org).**



**[www.icleioceania.org](http://www.icleioceania.org)**



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