



RELEASE:

Pittsburgh to foster renewable energy transition through new employment models

The city is leveraging renewable energy procurement for local workforce benefits

Pittsburgh, USA 09.11.2020. The City of Pittsburgh, USA, is embarking on efforts towards reducing 75 percent of carbon emissions in the city administration by 2030 while seeking to generate up to 110,000 new full-time positions in the renewable energy sector. The key element of this transition is a new platform for electricity procurement to enable Pittsburgh's buying cooperative, a group of 30 municipal agencies, to shift to renewable energy through power purchase contracts.

Additionally, Pittsburgh has been selected as one of five global cities to explore social equity in their climate planning framework as part of the [Urban Transitions Alliance](#), a city network and knowledge-exchange platform that supports current and former industrial hubs from across the globe to identify common challenges, share knowledge and develop solutions tailored to their individual transitions to a sustainable future.

"Not only will these new contracts allow us to substantially increase shares of renewables, but they will also stimulate our local workforce development with quality jobs in the areas of solar, wind and hydro energy. These efforts are part of Pittsburgh's economic development strategy, an opportunity which we are striving to make sure benefits as many people as possible," said Grant Ervin, Chief Resilience Officer of Pittsburgh.

The city is already cooperating with several local training agencies like the Pittsburgh Energy Innovation Center to ensure local talent is available to support Pittsburgh's climate targets. As a leader on sustainable procurement globally, Pittsburgh [recently joined](#) ICLEI's Global Lead City Network (GLCN). The membership means a commitment to leveraging procurement to tackle the climate crisis and sharing experience as a regional lighthouse with other public buyers.

Pittsburgh has become the poster child for how to transition from a highly impacted industrial town to a healthy, inclusive and vibrant community. This is a city that has evolved from air pollution so bad that it needed streetlights



throughout the day to an area that has created more cleantech and renewable energy jobs than local jobs in the oil, gas and coal industries combined.

Additionally, Pittsburgh now annually assesses its progress toward equitable opportunities and outcomes for residents of all races, genders, and incomes.

This special narrative has brought Pittsburgh into the fold of the [Urban Transition Alliance](#). “Socially responsible public procurement could help to strengthen inclusive local workforce development and address existing skills gaps. Through the Alliance, Pittsburgh will be able to exchange training models that connect local workforce programs with both labor and clean energy project developers. It can benefit from the German Ruhr region and the Polish GZM Metropolis in terms of structural change policies and technical partnerships. Other Alliance cities like Turku, E-Town and Cincinnati can provide good practices on green employment policies and regional stakeholder engagement to strengthen the renewable energy sector,” said Angie Fyfe, Regional Director at ICLEI USA.

The Urban Transitions Alliance is an initiative led by [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#), a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development, and supported by the [Stiftung Mercator](#), a German foundation committed to solidarity and equal opportunities.

You can find Pittsburgh’s full Urban Transition Alliance 2020 challenge [here](#).

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About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI's Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

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