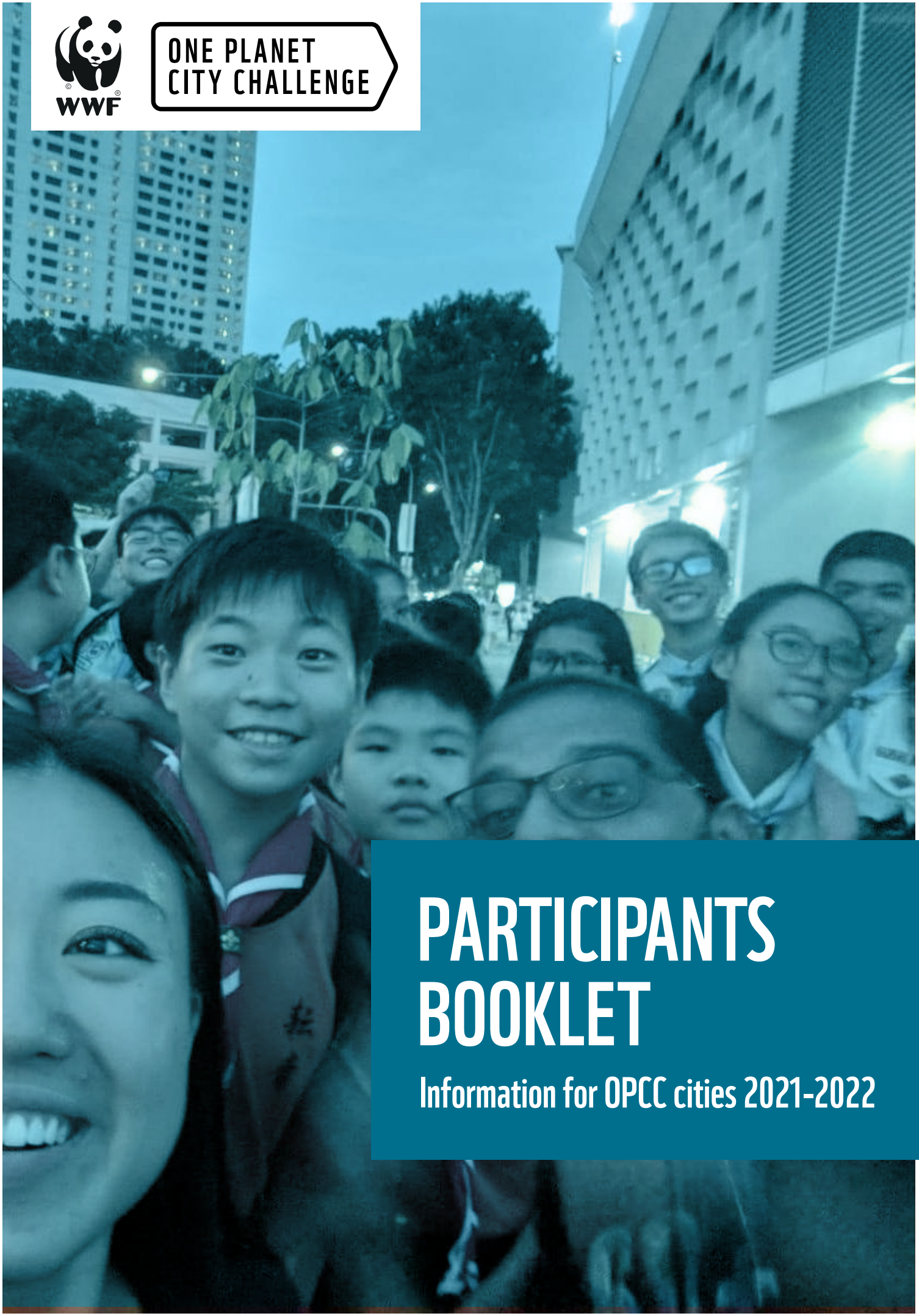


WWF

ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

PARTICIPANTS BOOKLET

Information for OPCC cities 2021-2022



Global Warming Images / WWF



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ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

This booklet is designed to provide local governments with general information on the One Planet City Challenge and guidance that complements the instructions found on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System.

Contact information

For additional information and answers to questions you may have, please check our FAQ or Updated Assessment Framework booklets. You can also email us at opcc@wwf.se.

If you still have technical questions regarding data reporting and the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System, please write to us at cities@cdp.net or opcc-helpdesk@wwf.se or contact your local WWF office.

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THE OPCC IN A NUTSHELL

The One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is a biennial competition organized by WWF to guide cities towards effective climate action, while publicly recognizing the most ambitious cities as leaders in the field.

The aim of the OPCC is to highlight leading examples of climate mitigation and adaptation by encouraging cities to:

- Report ambitious climate targets and commitments, in line with their fair share of the Paris Agreement's goal of not exceeding 1.5 °C global warming; and
- Report cross-cutting, inclusive, big-win climate action plans that deliver on those commitments.

Participating cities will be evaluated on how their efforts align with the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement. The OPCC 1.5 °C Alignment Method is recognized by the Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN) and endorsed by the UN's Cities Race to Zero Initiative, as a method that can enable cities to set GHG emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement. Our 'Feedback on 1.5 °C Alignment' report will indicate whether a city's reported targets are based in science. We further review the city's climate action package to evaluate whether it's in line with stated goals and offer advice on big-win actions. You may also have the opportunity to engage in programs on specific topics such as food, nature-base-solutions, adaptation, plastic waste or transportation, offered by local WWF offices.

The OPCC strives to maximize the benefits gained by participation in multiple city initiatives while minimizing cities' reporting workload. To participate in the OPCC, cities report their climate actions, strategies and data on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. The OPCC data requirements are aligned with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM).

The OPCC has grown steadily since its inception in 2011. To date, nearly 600 cities from 53 countries on 6 continents have participated at least once in the OPCC.

THE SIX STAGES OF THE OPCC CYCLE



GCoM data submission
1. Targets
2. GHG inventory
3. Plan
4. Actions

Up to 3 finalists per country
Further data collection
In-country checks

STAGE 1: REGISTRATION AND REPORTING

Cities wishing to participate in the OPCC are required to:

1. Register their interest via their local WWF office or via email to opcc@wwf.se.
2. Join the OPCC through the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. Once you have logged into the system, you will can choose the option to join our challenge. It is listed among the available initiatives. Contact cities@cdp.net, if you do not already have an account on the platform. More information can be found here.
3. Enter data on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System in adherence with the reporting requirements for the OPCC, which aligns with the Common Reporting Framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM). For more information, please consult our Updated Assessment Framework booklet. The deadline for the initial submission is 31 August 2021. Cities that meet this deadline will receive feedback on their submitted data by 8 October. Thereafter, cities have until 1 November to make corrections and/or updates to their reported data.

STAGE 2: OUR ASSESSMENT

The data submitted will be evaluated against WWF's assessment framework and its '*scoring criteria*'. This focuses on carbon reduction targets, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and climate action plans. The scoring criteria are found in our Updated Assessment Framework booklet.

STAGE 3: FEEDBACK ON 1.5 °C ALIGNMENT

Each participant will receive a 'Feedback on 1.5 °C Alignment' report with our assessment of whether a city's climate targets are aligned with science-based targets, whether mitigation actions align with main emissions sectors and whether adaptation actions map effectively to climate risks.



STAGE 4: EVALUATION BY THE OPCC JURY

Our international jury[1] of urban experts, will choose national and global winners. They will focus on how shortlisted cities demonstrate:

- Ambitious mitigation and adaptation targets, both mid- and long-term
- Evidence-based action planning based on engagement with a broad set of stakeholders. This indicates a city's potential to implement the plan and provides evidence of how the plan will be integrated in future decision making
- Clear commitment to tackle the effects of climate change, including strong support of the mayor or council, and dedicated resources for climate action and adaptation

1 The OPCC Expert Jury is made up of leading urban sustainability and climate experts, representing UN institutions, international development banks, scientists and researchers, including representatives from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), leading city networks, and more. Find out more on the jury at: www.panda.org/opcc.

STAGE 5: PROMOTION AND GLOBAL AWARDS

Once the winners have been identified by the jury, national and global leaders will be recognized and rewarded through a series of award ceremonies, conferences, press releases, social media posts, videos and more. Our aim is to celebrate successful climate action and highlight cities that are ambitious about mitigating climate change and building local resilience. WWF invites cities, regardless of how far they have come, to join the OPCC and we look forward to helping them embark on the journey towards 1.5 °C alignment.

STAGE 6: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Up to 3 finalists per country will be profiled in the global We Love Cities (WLC) public engagement campaign. WLC invites people to express support for their favorite among the finalist cities and encourages them to submit suggestions for further improvement. For more information, please visit www.welovecities.org.

THROUGH WLC, CITIES CAN:

- Inspire and raise awareness for sustainability progress being made at a local level.
- Offer the general public an opportunity to celebrate, vote for and improve their cities by submitting suggestions to decision makers.
- Reward communities and strengthen the bond between the public and their local governments.

ALIGNING CITIES WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S AMBITIONS

In 2015, an historic accord was signed, bringing together nearly 200 nations in a joint commitment to reduce GHG emissions – the *Paris Agreement*. The aim was "*holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels*". Since then, in 2018, the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown how much more damage to vulnerable human systems a global warming of 2 °C compared to 1.5 °C would cause. The report therefore concluded that to keep global warming within this safer limit, global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2030, and reduced to zero as soon as possible, by 2050 at the latest. The OPCC therefore assesses cities' action plans and targets against this goal.

SCIENCE-BASED TARGET SETTING

Setting science-based targets allows cities to plan and implement emissions reductions at the right level of ambition and at the right pace, according to what climate science has established is required to protect the global climate system[1]. This approach also ensures that cities have a fair, robust and pragmatic benchmark against which to compare their greenhouse gases reduction targets.

The OPCC's approach for science-based target setting integrates the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as presented by its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C[2]. The latest IPCC evidence suggests that the most effective approach for achieving targets is to focus on setting the direction of emission reductions by defining a clear end goal and an interim target. For this reason, the OPCC requires cities to have a mid-term and a long-term target for Scope 1 and 2 emissions[3]:

- 2030: Reduce per capita emissions in-line with a global reduction of 50%
- 2050: Reduce total emissions to net zero

Recognizing that cities are at different stages of development with vastly different emissions profiles, OPCC takes equity into account by introducing the Human Development Index (HDI). A HDI factor corrects mid-term targets so cities are required to reduce per capita emissions at different rates. As a result, prescribed 2030 targets range between 25-65% reductions depending on development levels as determined by the HDI[4].

Cities have an impact on global emissions stretching far beyond their physical boundaries. For many cities, particularly in high income countries, emissions from production and transport of imported goods and services (included in Scope 3) can be significantly larger than their own Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. These are also called consumption-based emissions. We encourage leading cities to include Scope 3 in their reporting and engage with residents to address these emissions. By working with residents to address their consumption-based emissions, cities have many opportunities to transform their citizens' lifestyles and thereby expand their influence.

1 For more information, please refer to: IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

2 IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P. R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J. B. R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M. I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, T. Waterfield (eds.)]. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 32 pp.

3 According to IPCC (2014) 'Scope 1' emissions relate to those GHG emissions that are from sources owned or con- trolled by the reporting entity. On the other hand, 'Scope 2' emissions relate to indirect GHG emissions associated with the production of electricity, heat, or steam purchased by the reporting entity. Source: Allwood J.M., V. Bo- setti, N.K. Dubash, L. Gómez-Echeverri, and C. von

4 More information of OPCC's methodology to 1.5 °C alignment can be reviewed in detail in the full technical description of the Updated OPCC Assessment Framework, available here.

EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Targeting deep and holistic emissions reduction is a vital commitment, but it must be underpinned by a clear and actionable plan. The OPCC assessment framework supports this by incorporating learnings from leading climate action plan frameworks. The OPCC assessment tests whether mitigation actions align with the main sources of emissions and whether climate actions are sufficient in relation to estimated climate risks.

'FEEDBACK ON 1.5 °C ALIGNMENT' REPORT

The OPCC assessment will result in a tailor-made feedback report for each participant. As we review GHG inventories, targets and the climate action plans, scores will be determined based on set criteria. Please check our Updated Assessment Framework booklet for details on our scoring and evaluation. Our results are shown in three key dimensions: '*Vision*' represents a city's commitment and the ability to drive change, while '*Impact*' represents the reduction potential of current city climate action and '*Confidence*' represents the amount and quality of the supporting evidence provided for the information reported. Cities accumulating the highest combined score will be shortlisted and move to the next phase. We shortlist up to three cities per country as finalists from which a national winner is then chosen by the jury.

Please see an example of our report here.





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