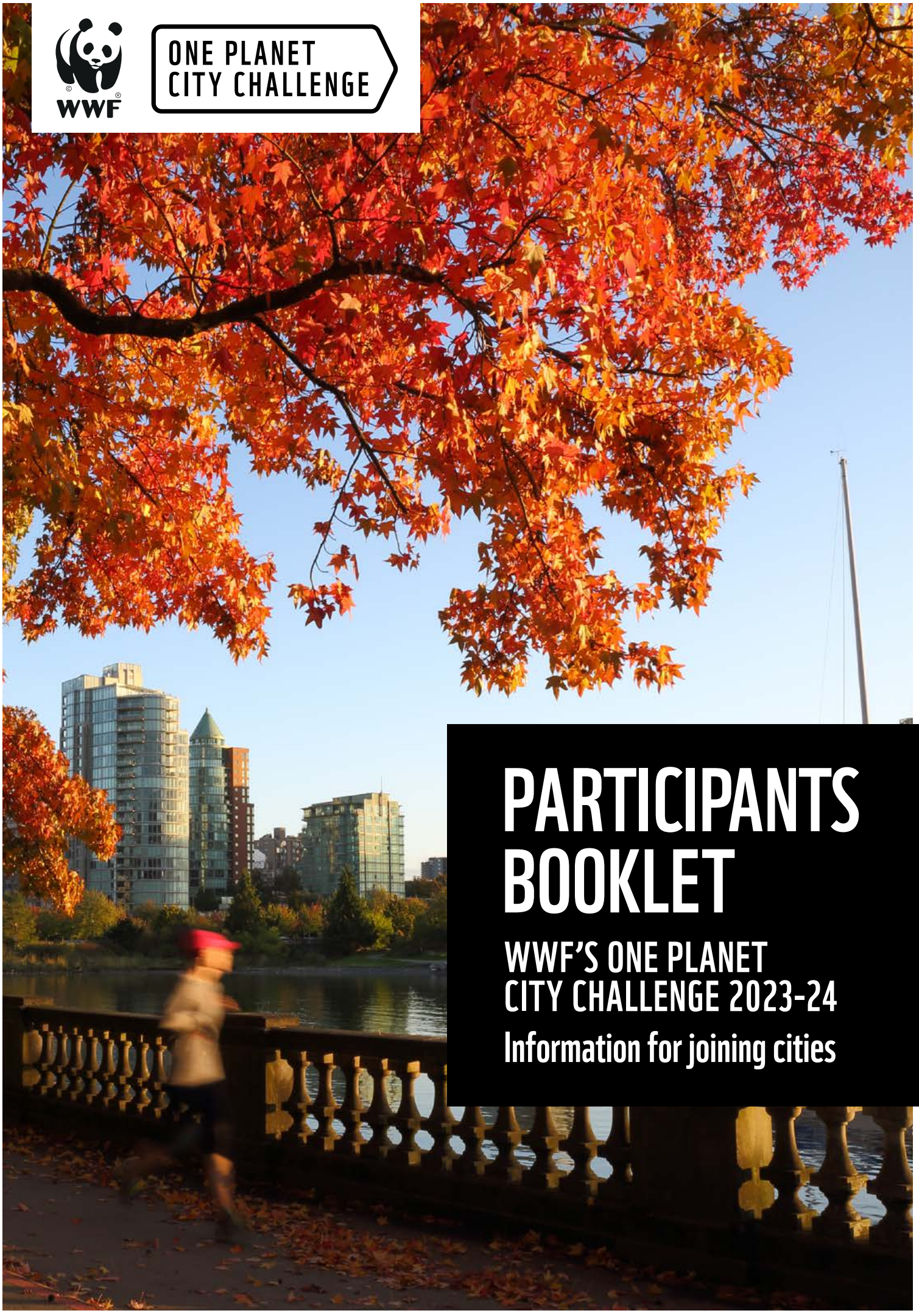


ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

PARTICIPANTS BOOKLET

WWF'S ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE 2023-24

Information for joining cities



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WWF

ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

This booklet is designed to provide local governments with general information on WWF's One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) and its different stages, how to join the Challenge, and what happens next. The guidance complements the instructions found on CDP-ICLEI Track.

Contact information

For additional information and answers to your queries, please check our FAQ or Technical Document describing the OPCC Assessment Framework (found in the Participants Documents here). You can also email us at opcc@wwf.se.

If you still have technical questions regarding data reporting and CDP-ICLEI Track, please visit the CDP Help Center or email your relevant CDP regional inbox:

- CDP North America – citiesna@cdp.net,
- CDP Europe, Middle East and Africa – citiesEMEA@cdp.net,
- CDP Asia Pacific – citiesapac@cdp.net,
- CDP Latin America – reportecer@cdp.net;

Please copy WWF (opcc@wwf.se) in your message for additional facilitation, or contact your local WWF office.

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THE OPCC IN A NUTSHELL

The One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) is a biennial friendly competition organized by WWF. It aims to develop and disseminate participant cities' best climate mitigation and adaptation practices, while publicly recognizing the most ambitious leaders in the field.

To participate in the OPCC, cities report their climate actions, strategies and data on CDP-ICLEI Track – a standardized international platform. As part of the process, WWF reviews cities' reported plans against good-practice, climate-action-planning criteria.

Each participant receives a feedback report with the results of our assessment. This includes information on whether submitted targets align with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 °C. We further review whether the climate action plans are well-balanced towards the goal, and provide high level guidance on the most effective actions to meet such targets.

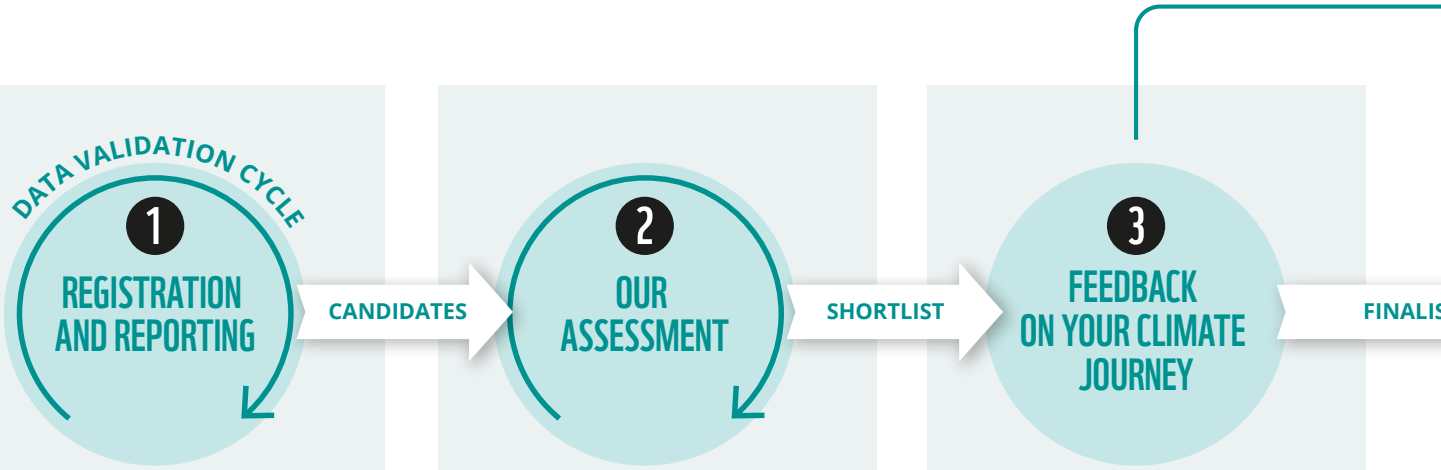
Participating cities can access capacity building webinars organized by WWF along with specific local programs and events run by local WWF offices. These may include specific topics such as food, nature-based solutions, adaptation, plastic waste or transportation.

Additionally, best-performing cities are put forward to an international jury of experts that chooses national and global winners according to criteria set by the OPCC. Winners are rewarded with public recognition and helped to promote their actions and plans to their citizens. Finalist cities can participate in WWF's international social media enabled public engagement campaign We Love Cities.

The OPCC strives to maximize the benefits for participating cities by aligning with multiple city initiatives, thereby minimizing their reporting workload. 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, over 700 cities from 69 countries on 6 continents have participated at least once in the OPCC.

THE SIX STAGES OF THE OPCC CYCLE



Data submission to CDP-ICLEI Track

1. Assessed GHG emissions and risks from climate change
2. Mitigation targets and adaptation goals (inclusive, integrated, and science-based)
3. Climate action plans
4. Implementation of strategies and/or actions
5. Results-based monitoring

Up to 3 finalists per country
In-country checks

STAGE 1: REGISTRATION AND REPORTING

Cities and other local governments wishing to participate in the OPCC are asked to:

1. Register their interest via their local WWF office or via email to opcc@wwf.se.
2. Join the OPCC through CDP-ICLEI Track. Once you have logged into the system, you can choose the option to join our Challenge. It is listed among the available initiatives. For further information please visit the CDP Help Center or email your relevant CDP regional inbox: CDP North America – citiesna@cdp.net, CDP Europe, Middle East and Africa – citiesEMEA@cdp.net, CDP Asia Pacific – citiesapac@cdp.net, CDP Latin America – reportecer@cdp.net. More information can be found here.
3. Enter data on CDP-ICLEI Track 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 Technical Document here. The deadline for the initial submission is **31 August 2023**. Cities that meet this deadline will receive initial 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 submitted data is evaluated using the OPCC's Assessment Framework and its scoring criteria. These focus on the assessed GHG emissions and risks from climate change, mitigation targets and adaptation goals (inclusive, integrated, and science-based), climate action plans, implementation of strategies and/ or actions, and results-based monitoring. The scoring criteria are found in our Technical Document here.

STAGE 3: FEEDBACK ON YOUR CLIMATE JOURNEY

Each participant receives a feedback report with an assessment of whether their city's climate targets are aligned with their fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, whether mitigation actions align with main emissions sectors and whether adaptation actions map effectively to climate risks. OPCC participants have the opportunity to engage in several capacity building initiatives both at the local/ regional level, and at the global level.



STAGE 4: EVALUATION BY THE OPCC JURY

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

- Ambitious, integrated mitigation and adaptation targets, both mid- and long-term.
- Evidence-based action planning and implementation 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.

Additionally, in this round of the OPCC, the jury is also invited to select an All Stars winner. *All Stars Cities* consist of any 2022 OPCC National Winner that has maintained its 2022 standards, the winner will have shown the most progress or improvement on their 2022 results.

1 The OPCC Expert Jury is made up of leading urban sustainability and climate experts from a wide range of countries, representing leading international institutions working with urban issues, scientists and researchers, city networks, and more. Find out more about the jury at: www.panda.org/opcc.

STAGE 5: PROMOTION AND GLOBAL AWARDS

Once the winners are identified by the jury, national and global leaders are 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 sustainability, resilience, and 1.5 °C alignment.

STAGE 6: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Up to 3 finalists per country are 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 also submit their suggestions to further accelerate change. 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 citizens and their local governments.

ALIGNING CITIES WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S AMBITIONS

In 2015, a 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 global warming of 2 °C compared to 1.5 °C would cause to human and natural systems. The report 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.

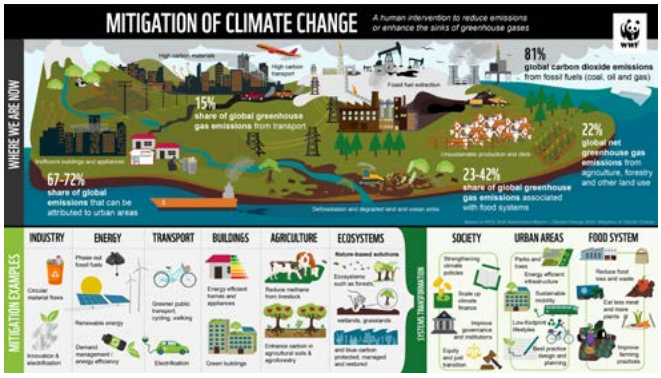
SCIENCE-BASED TARGET SETTING

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 GHG reduction targets.

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.


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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 checks whether mitigation actions align with the main sources of emissions and with IPCC strategies that can provide efficient climate mitigation. It also checks whether climate actions are sufficient in relation to estimated climate risks.

STRATEGIC FEEDBACK REPORT

The OPCC assessment results in a tailor-made feedback report, named 'Assessment of your City's Climate Journey', for each participant, where scores are determined based on set criteria. Our Technical Document can be found on our information for participants page here for details on our scoring and evaluation.

Our results are shown in two key dimensions:

'VISION' REPRESENTS A CITY'S COMMITMENT AND ABILITY TO DRIVE CHANGE (I.E., ASSESSED GHG EMISSIONS AND RISKS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE, MITIGATION TARGETS AND ADAPTATION GOALS, AND RESULTS-BASED MONITORING).

'IMPACT' REPRESENTS THE REDUCTION POTENTIAL OF A CITY'S CURRENT CLIMATE ACTION (I.E. MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION ACTION PLANS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION).

Cities accumulating the highest combined score are 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.

You can find an example of our report, as well as other information, here.


YOUR CITY'S FAIR SHARE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

In this report, your targets have been assessed and compared to your 'fair share' of the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

FAIR ALLOCATION PRINCIPLES

There are three principles that dominate the global debate on fair allocation of carbon budgets:

- **Equality** - all people should have equal rights to emit emissions, regardless of level of development.
- **Responsibility** - for contributing to climate change, both historically and in future, which links to the 'polluter pays' principle.
- **Capacity** - for solving the problem (also described as 'capacity to pay') should be considered.

The OPCC assessment takes this into account by using the Human Development Index (HDI) to require a deeper mid-term (2030) emissions reduction target for cities in countries with a higher HDI. Cities are assessed against 2030 emissions reduction targets ranging between 25% and 65%.

The One Planet City Challenge method is recognized by the Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN) as a method that can enable cities to set GHG emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement.

A new guide for science-based climate targets for cities has been developed by SBTN. Backed by months of technical research and testing, the guide assesses and explains the OPCC methodology.

You can read more about our method here.

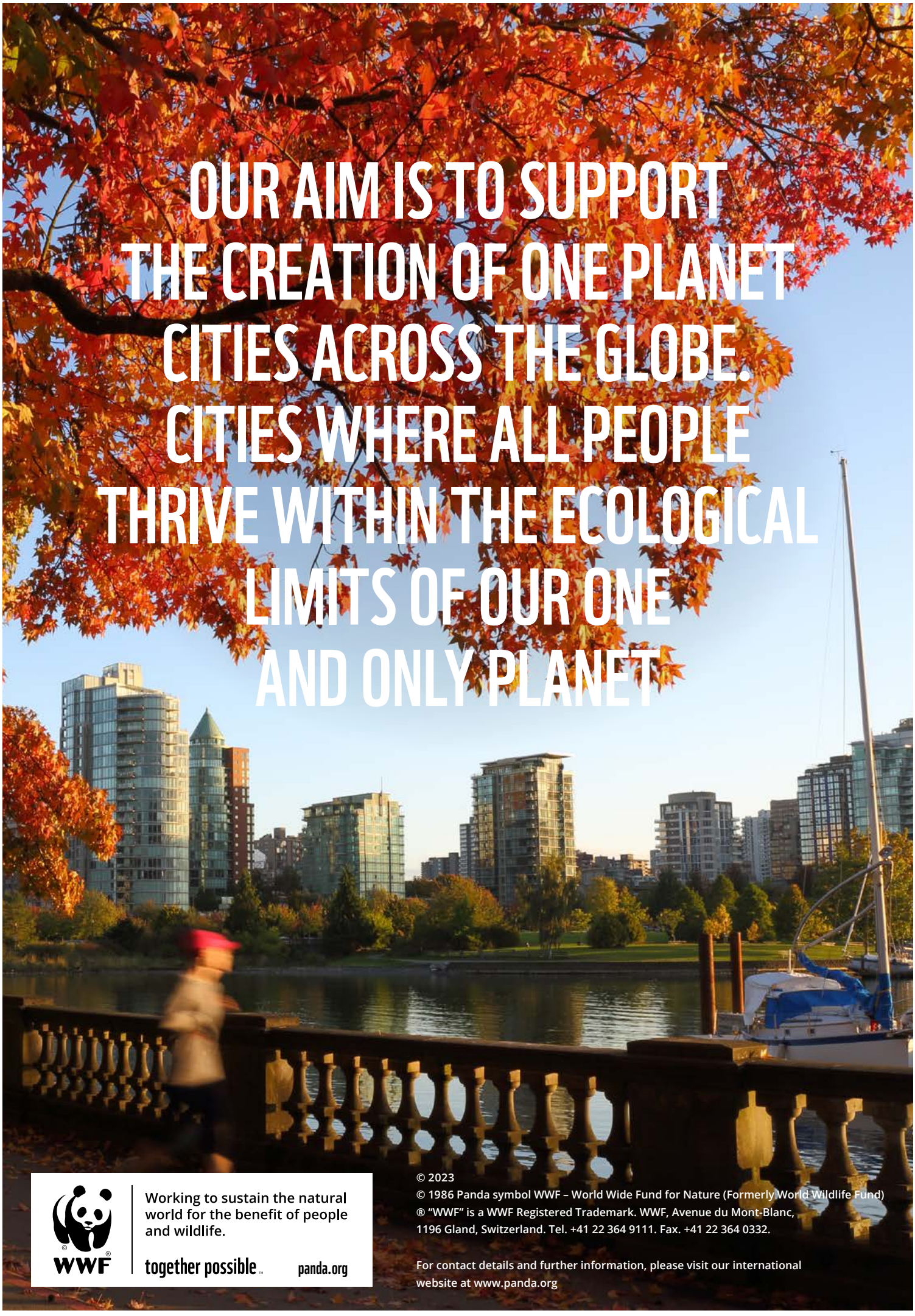
ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE: FEEDBACK ON 1.5°C ALIGNMENT 1

YOUR CITY'S FAIR SHARE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The graph shows our assessment of your GHG targets compared to science-based targets.

- Your city is aligned with a science-based interim target for 2030
- Your city has reported a Net Zero Emissions target for 2050 at the latest
- Your city is therefore fully aligned with Science-Based Targets

ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE: FEEDBACK ON 1.5°C ALIGNMENT 1



WWF

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