

LOCAL POWER, GLOBAL CHANGE

U.S. Mayors Leading on Climate

PREPARED BY CLIMATE MAYORS FOR LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK: JUNE 20-28, 2026

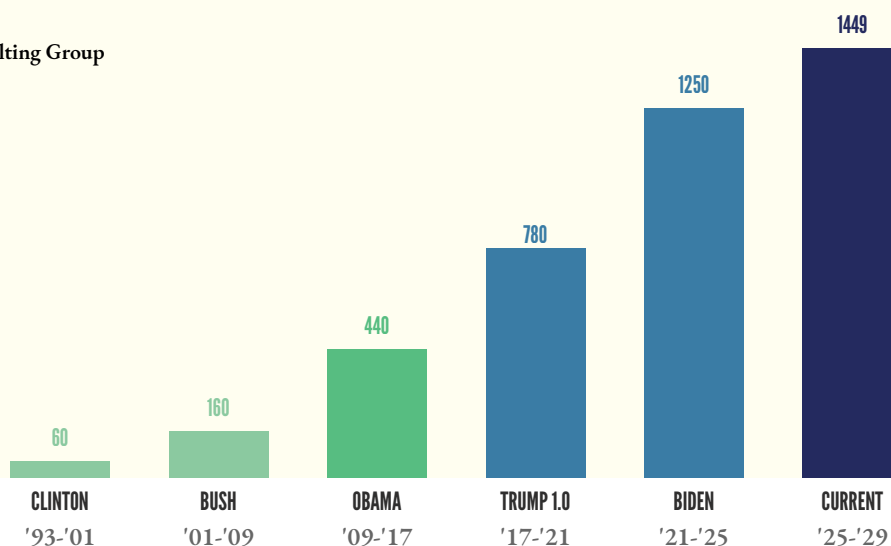
CLIMATE MOMENTUM IS SPEEDING UP

U.S. Mayors and cities are delivering on climate, providing a powerful source of hope for the people and places we love. Climate Mayors represents a network of 350 mayors, across 48 states, who are committed to taking action on climate change. Over the past 10 years we've seen that Climate Mayors members are taking bolder and more sustained action on climate, even while support at the federal level wanes.

THE PROOF: LOCAL ACTION KEPT CLIMBING, UNDER EVERY PRESIDENT

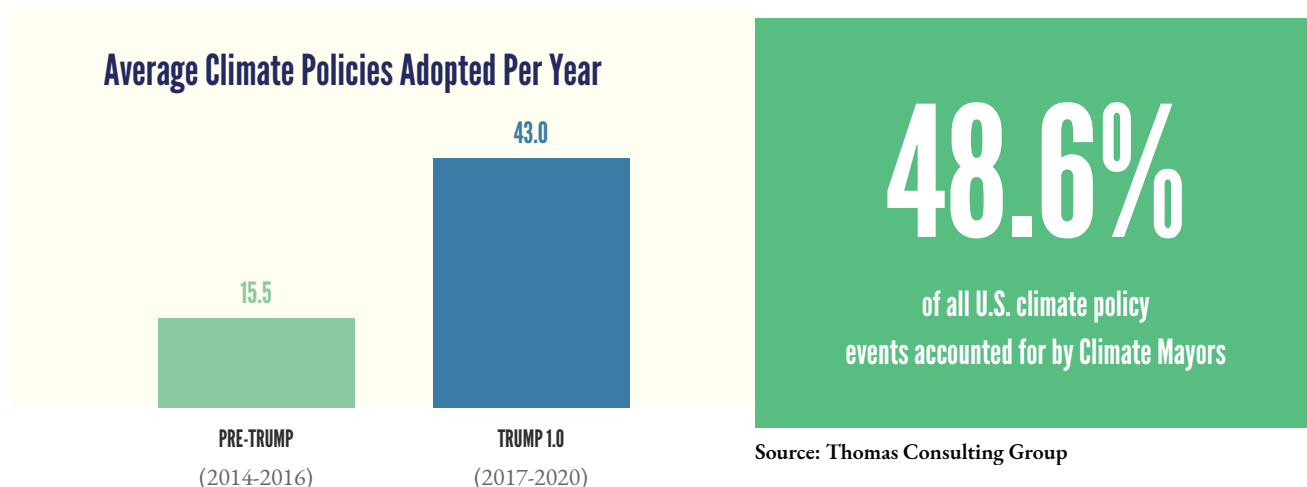
Under every presidential administration over the last decade, climate momentum has sped up—the number of city climate and clean energy policy adoption has increased under every administration. Cities are among the most effective and consistent climate actors we have, turning commitments into implementation on the ground, where people live, and serving as the backstop when Washington retreats.

Source: Thomas Consulting Group



Peer learning networks like ours helped accelerate that leadership—Climate Mayors in particular—sped up, from about 15.5 climate policies a year to nearly 43 under the first Trump Administration. In a recent study of 1,130 climate policy events across 628 jurisdictions, **our members accounted for nearly half — 48.6% — of all U.S. climate policy events in that era (even though we make up 20% of cities).**

THE PROOF: CLIMATE MAYORS SPED UP UNDER TRUMP 1.0



The market has already chosen as well. Clean power is the cheapest and fastest new electricity to build—30 to 60% below new gas. Ninety percent of new U.S. capacity last year was clean. Last month, solar power overtook coal as an electricity source in the United States for the first time, according to Ember, an energy research firm. Solar supplied 12.8 percent of U.S. electricity in May, edging out coal, which supplied just 12.2 percent.

Climate Mayors Kate Gallego (Phoenix, AZ), Eileen Higgins (Miami, FL), and Barbara Buffaloe (Colombia, MO) are part of the delegation of principals participating in London Climate Action Week 2026. This brief elevates their work, as well as that of other members mayors from across the country, who are implementing bold actions to address energy affordability, climate resiliency, climate financing and sustainable transportation and mobility. Highlighted here are examples of work led by US mayors within these four areas:

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison, WI, runs a rental rehabilitation loan program offering property owners \$10,000–\$200,000 in low-interest financing for upgrades like energy-efficient appliances, solar, weatherization, HVAC, and window replacements. In exchange, landlords must keep rents at fair-market levels. By making weatherization core to the program, the City is helping residents lower utility costs and energy use while preserving affordable, safe, and healthy housing citywide.



Mayor Van Johnson, Savannah, GA, is advancing clean energy and climate resilience through a \$1.9 million citywide energy efficiency initiative. Upgrades to 29 municipal buildings—community centers, fire stations, and offices—with LED lighting, weather sealing, and window upgrades are expected to save \$129,000 a year, cutting emissions across all six aldermanic districts, advancing Savannah’s 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and renewable energy by 2050.



Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston, MA launched the Boston Saver Program to help renters, homeowners, and small businesses reduce energy costs through building upgrades. Free one-on-one consultations connect residents to rebates, weatherization, heat pumps, induction stoves, and energy bill check-ups guard against overcharges. Since launching in March of 2025, the program has served over 350 people, installed 1,500 heat pumps and directed over \$48 million in utility investment to decarbonize small buildings, lower bills and improving building performance.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



DELEGATE: Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix, AZ, launched the Shade Phoenix plan, a \$60-million, multi-year initiative to plant 27,000 native trees and build 550 shade structures—with a sharp focus on equity. Created in response to rising temperatures, more frequent extreme heat events, and stark disparities in neighborhood shade coverage, the plan targets a gap where shade can mean a 30°F (about 17°C) difference—protecting residents during extreme heat.



DELEGATE: Mayor Eileen Higgins, Miami, FL, is investing \$192M in Sea-Level Rise Mitigation and Flood Prevention to lessen the impact of severe current and future sea-level rise, flood risks and vulnerabilities through strategic infrastructure. The city is also building more affordable housing near reliable transit and creating more density around transit hubs. *Miami Forever’s Carbon Neutral Plan* is delivering on the ongoing implementation of EV adoption and building efficiency.



DELEGATE: Climate Mayors Vice-Chair, Mayor Barbara Buffaloe, Columbia, MO, advanced climate resilience through Show Me the Relief, an expansion of the Show Me the Heat campaign that engages residents most affected by extreme heat. Using community mapping and lived-experience surveys, the city identified its most heat-vulnerable neighborhoods and co-designed local cooling strategies with residents. New trees—funded through collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation—will shade homes, lower utility costs, and restore green space where it has historically been lacking.



Climate Mayors Chair, Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise, ID, is rallying the community to plant one tree for every household and one seedling for every resident. With more than 19,000 urban trees and 235,000 forest seedlings already planted, the effort is improving air quality, lowering energy costs, leaving a greener, healthier city for future generations.



Mayor Regina Romero, Tucson, AZ, is building a cooler, more resilient city through its award-winning Heat Action Roadmap, strengthening preparedness, response, and recovery during extreme heat to save lives. During the heat season, the City provided relief through cooling centers, distributing heat relief kits, and expanding worker protections that cut reported heat-related incidents by over 75%. In 2025, Tucson planted 15,000 new trees to cool neighborhoods, focusing on low-income communities.

CLIMATE FINANCING



Mayor Jennifer Arndt, Fort Collins, CO, is advancing the city's climate goals through its voter-approved 2050 Tax. In 2024, the City allocated \$3.8 million to 16 projects, including energy-efficiency upgrades for mobile home residents, fare-free public transit, and the expansion of the electric bus fleet. These investments cut emissions and operating costs while keeping climate action equitable and affordable for all residents.



Mayor Keith Wilson, Portland, OR, oversees the voter-created Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, which invests in energy efficiency, regenerative agriculture, transportation decarbonization, and workforce development—prioritizing communities most affected by climate change. The Fund has committed hundreds of millions of dollars to projects like Friends of Tryon Creek's forest restoration and Morning Star Church's green infrastructure, building a more just, inclusive, and climate-ready Portland.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY



Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, WA, is a regional leader in transit-oriented, sustainable growth. Last year the city opened four new light rail stations linked to safe biking and walking networks, and adopted transformational zoning updates—including mandatory inclusionary zoning and a multifamily tax exemption, expanding affordable housing near transit, jobs, and services. New green building standards require EV-ready parking and strong energy and embodied-carbon performance, while the city's residential decarbonization program completed 126 heat pump upgrades.



Mayor Martha Guerrero, West Sacramento, CA, celebrated a major climate milestone with its Via West Sacramento on-demand transit program. Since 2018, the service has provided over 1.1 million rides, replacing more than 100,000 car trips, and avoiding over 200 metric tons of CO₂ a year. By expanding clean, affordable transit in disadvantaged communities long divided by rail lines, highways, and the ship canal, the program is advancing climate resilience, equity, and economic vitality.