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Press release

COP19: “It’s an opportunity for national governments that we, cities agreed to do the job”

Climate mitigation and adaptation efforts at local level were at the center of the [Warsaw Dialogue](#) held in the framework of the COP19 this week, with Covenant of Mayors signatory cities showing their frontline experience in designing Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and cooperating with all levels of government, private sector and civil society to move from rhetoric to actual change on the ground.

“It’s an opportunity for national governments that we, the cities agreed to do the job, as we clearly state in the [Nantes declaration](#). We know how to reduce CO₂ emissions in our territory”, said Ronan Dantec, Advisor of Nantes, spokesman for the world organization United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Member of the French Senate.

Cities’ role in the fight against climate change is often underrated and many initiatives are in place to prove so. The Covenant of Mayors is one of them, with over 5,300 cities committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% in 2020. So far, 3,200 SEAPs have been submitted by cities and regions across Europe highlighting the concrete actions to be implemented to reach the 20% CO₂ objective.

In light of this, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Christina Figueres both called for a greater involvement of local governments in international negotiations.

The Conference host city Warsaw itself was recently featured in a Covenant of Mayors video which highlights the measures the capital is undertaking to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020. These include replacing its outdated lighting system with LED lighting using energy performance contracts, the construction of a new metro line, and the retrofitting of public buildings. The video is available [here](#).



The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency in their territories. To date more than 5,300 cities and regions have committed to meet the European Union 20% CO₂ reduction objective by 2020 and some 3,200 cities have submitted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

More information: <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

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