

# MEMORANDUM



## Public Works Department

---

**Date:** May 26, 2016

**To:** Tempe City Council

**From:** Don Bessler, Public Works Director (350-8205)  
John Kane, Chair - Sustainability Commission

**Subject:** Compact of Mayors  
June 2, 2016 Issue Review Session

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform the City Council of the recommendation made by the Tempe Sustainability Commission to request that the City of Tempe join the Compact of Mayors Program.

### BACKGROUND

At the November 2015 Sustainability Commission meeting, a presentation was made on the Compact of Mayors Program. The commission intensely discussed, along with city staff, the pros and cons of the pact and how it aligned with the goals established by the City Council for the commission, the City Manager's strategic planning initiative, city services and programs and City Council Priorities. In December, the Tempe Sustainability Commission unanimously approved a motion to recommend that the City of Tempe join the Compact of Mayors Program.

Launched at the [2014 United Nations Climate Summit](#), the Compact of Mayors is the world's largest coalition of city leaders addressing climate change by pledging to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, tracking their progress and preparing for the impacts of climate change. In summary, here is what the Compact strives to accomplish:

“The Compact of Mayors is an agreement by city networks—and then by their members—to undertake a transparent and supportive approach to reduce city-level emissions, to reduce vulnerability and to enhance resilience to climate change, in a consistent and complimentary manner to national level climate protection efforts. The Compact of Mayors builds on the ongoing efforts of Mayors that increasingly set ambitious, voluntary city climate commitments or targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and to address climate risk; report on progress towards achieving those targets by meeting robust, rigorous and consistent reporting standards (as established through City Networks); and make that information publically available by reporting through a recognized city platform.”

This common platform will capture the impact of cities' collective actions through standardized measurement of emissions and climate risk, and consistent, public reporting of their efforts.

Upon making an initial pledge to the Compact, the City of Tempe will receive an official "Compact of Mayors" seal, which may then be displayed publicly on web and print materials. **The City of Tempe will then have up to three years to meet a series of requirements to fully comply with the Compact, including greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement and target setting. This culminates in creating a full climate action and adaptation plan which can be implemented over time and must align with the Council's budget priorities.**

The completion of a greenhouse gas and carbon footprint inventory for City of Tempe facilities, services and business practices is a critical step in informing the Council for any future goals they may wish to establish, consistent with other goals like waste diversion, renewable energy consumption and water conservation. Joining the Mayors Compact is a commitment to, among other things, completing this baseline inventory. While the cost to complete such an inventory is unknown, depending on the scope it could be expected to be in the range of \$15,000 to \$50,000. Coordinating this program should the City Council want to pursue it, as well as helping coordinate the inventory would both be a huge help and productive work effort for the Sustainability Program Manager that the City Council recently authorized. This position, while currently being formulated, aligns nicely with the timing for the Mayors Compact and the ability to consider a lower cost option for the carbon inventory, by using ASU resources.

#### **COMMITMENT**

If the city pursues this Compact we can expect the following costs:

- Register, Join ICLEI and Secure the ClearPath Software \$1750
- Complete a GPC Inventory - \$15,000 to \$50,000
- Update GPC Inventory every 4 years \$ 5,000 to \$25,000
- Operationalize the commitment ongoing staff attention

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

In support of the Commission's request, Staff recommends joining the Compact. This program offers an exceptional opportunity at integration and alignment without duplication of effort. Specifically, the City Council continues to reinforce its collective commitment to sustainability at the neighborhood and community level, and it is imperative that departments integrate stewardship practices that reflect this value. Additionally, the City Council's Priorities individually and collectively embody the principles of stewardship, sustainability and resiliency. The Mayors Compact gives us a common platform to actualize the City Council Priorities using the City Manager's Strategic Initiative as the conduit to identify best practices, measure our success, and report through a collaborative of other cities in order to gain insight into the cumulative effect that cities have on our global condition.