



Porto driving societal changes and bringing everyone on board

Porto, Portugal

IN A NUTSHELL

The Porto Local Climate Pact aims to create a diverse community working towards climate neutrality by 2030. Porto focuses on achieving this goal through voluntary and meaningful participation by a broad range of stakeholders to bolster actions at the national and local levels that manage to create a more equal, sustainable and respectful city for all.

Why a local climate pact?

In 2008, Porto set the objective of cutting 45% of its emissions by 2030. In this line, the local government is now developing a new SECAP that will aim to achieve an 85% GHG emission reduction and 15% offsetting target by 2030. In Porto, 50% of GHG emissions come from the construction, residential and service sectors, while the transport sector accounts for 40% of the total offsets. These are the areas that Porto is prioritising in its Energy and Climate Plan, underpinned by the Porto Climate Pact launched in January 2022. The initiative supports the city's ambition to become climate neutral by 2030 by challenging citizens and other organisations to assume leadership of the transition in a collective and participatory manner, while also catalysing support and cooperation from central government.

The Climate Pact will boost initiatives taken by both individuals and groups of stakeholders aimed at increasing energy efficiency, energy production and storage, and invest in offsetting actions for the residual emissions. The Pact will also establish a community of practice that will support the Climate City Contract and investment planning of Porto as part of its work as one of the 112 selected cities in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission.

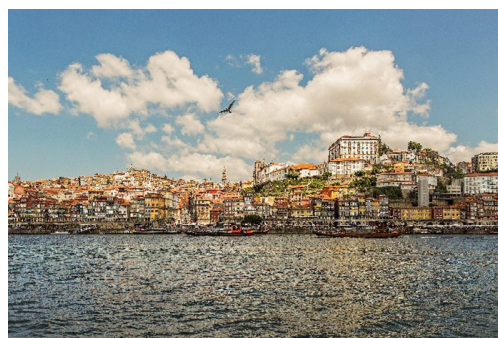
Bringing together the main actors behind the Porto climate pact

By the end of May 2022, the Climate Pact already had 145 signatories. The vast majority are private companies, universities and research institutes headquartered or active in Porto's territory.

The city designed a communication strategy to attract signatories based on acknowledging the highest-emitting sectors in the city. It compiled a database of key stakeholders with the potential to impact Porto's overall GHG emissions. Construction, residential, services and transport were identified as the main sectors of activity from which stakeholders were invited to join the Local Climate Pact. Porto also set up a website to explain



PORTO



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Population:

238,954

Area:

41.42 km²

**Signatory to the
Covenant of Mayors
since:**
2008

**GHG emission
reduction:**
60% by 2030

the initiative to citizens and organisations. In addition, the city has been continuously promoting the Pact model through events, conferences and active outreach.

Beyond knowledge sharing, networking and training, the main objective of the Climate Pact is to develop specific targets that will be adopted by Pact signatories. The targets will require signatories to reduce emissions in their own operations, thus contributing to the city-wide climate targets. To keep track of their actions and results, signatories will have to conduct monitoring and reporting, and announce the results in regular meetings.

Co-creation and active participation as the key to success

The city is currently aligning its work with the creation of an in-house Climate Mission Structure. It aims to dynamise the Porto Climate Pact while optimising the opportunities offered by the European Commission's 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. The in-house Mission structure is formed by the municipality, the main municipal companies and the signatory municipal organisations. Each of these actors assumes responsibility for reducing carbon emissions in their specific area of influence in a collaborative manner. For instance, while the Porto Digital Association is responsible for innovation and data analytics processes, the Porto Energy Agency reports annually on energy consumption and GHG emissions. The in-house Climate Mission Structure is also developing a coordinating team that will oversee aligning the sustainability goals with actions taken at a municipal level and the signatories' objectives.

At the same time, the local authority is working on its revised SECAP establishing an 85% GHG emission reduction target by 2030. The revision will be participatory and will require every Pact signatory to commit to specific actions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Out of these commitments, the municipality will draft its own Climate City Contract based on the model chosen in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

One of the ways in which Porto is supporting Pact signatories is via its Energy Hub, a one-stop-shop to help organisations and citizens implement energy efficiency measures and invest in the appropriate renewable energies for each specific context. The city has financed this initiative through Horizon 2020 funds, and in parallel it is establishing new financial incentives for renewable energy. At the same time, Porto is diving deeper into produce energy through photovoltaic panels installed in private buildings. In exchange, the city offers property tax discounts.

Keeping signatories involved and next steps

The communication and outreach strategy followed by Porto to attract signatories is working to get more stakeholders to commit to the Local Climate Pact. To secure long-standing commitment, the city empowers and informs signatories via meetings and calls, as well as updates on policies and opportunities through the Porto Local Climate Pact website. Another method Porto plans to use to attract citizens and simplify the signup process is the development of an app that will also act as a means of communicating with the public.

A major focus of the municipality's work is to forge a direct connection between the initiative and the 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission. The Council is pushing for the engagement of local actors in the co-design of Climate City Contracts. With the establishment of Porto's in-house Climate Mission Structure, Porto intends to intensify relationships between the signatories, a key aspect to building a strong foundation and achieving Porto's ambition.

KEY FIGURES

500 stakeholders to join the Climate Pact

145 signatories (May 2022)

3-year Action Plan

85% of GHG emissions – target reduction

2030 as target year for climate neutrality



FINANCING THE PROJECT

- + **Financing sources:**
Municipal budget
Private investment
HORIZON Europe
National funding
- + **Total amount:**
EUR 850,000 for the period 2022–2025

USEFUL LINKS

- » **Porto Local Climate Pact**
<https://pactoparaoclima.porto.pt>
(includes English version)
- » www.portoenergyhub.pt



CONTACT

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