



TOWN OF DURHAM
8 NEWMARKET ROAD
DURHAM, NH 03824
Tel: 603/868-5571
Fax: 603/868-1858

January 13, 2021

**Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
Commitment of Town of Durham, New Hampshire, USA**

I, Todd I. Selig, Administrator of the Town of Durham, NH, on behalf of the Durham community and with the affirmative recommendation of the Durham Energy Committee, commit to participate in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) initiative, joining thousands of other local governments around the world currently engaged in climate leadership.

GCoM envisions a world where committed local governments and local municipal leaders – in alliance with partners – accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives. Whatever the size or location, the local leaders committed to GCoM stand ready to take concrete measures with long-term impact to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as access to sustainable energy.

To implement this vision, and consistent with the goals of the Durham Town Council to pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs by considering multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, food and drinking water, and energy resources, specifically taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change, I, on behalf of the Town of Durham, pledge to implement policies and undertake measures to: (i) reduce / avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (ii) prepare for the impacts of climate change, (iii) increase access to sustainable energy, and (iv) track progress toward these objectives.

Specifically, within three years of this commitmentⁱ, the Town of Durham will develop, adoptⁱⁱ, use, and regularly report on the following:

- A community-scale GHG emission inventory, following the recommended guidance;
- An assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities;
- Ambitious, measurable and time-bound target(s) to reduce/avoid GHG emissions;
- Ambitious climate change adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change;
- An ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy; and
- A formally adopted plan(s) addressing climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.

The targets and action plans for mitigation / low emission development must be quantified and consistent with or exceed relevant national unconditionalⁱⁱⁱ commitments defined through the UNFCCC (Intended) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The targets and action plans should be in line with National Adaptation Plans, where these exist; and should be consistent with the principles around energy access and urban sustainability embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Durham, NH community will explore the allocation of adequate staff resources and institutional arrangements. This includes governance processes, municipal structures and budget allocations to deliver on this commitment and secure continuity.

We acknowledge that there may be additional regional- or country-specific commitments or requirements that we commit to follow, and that may be agreed through our municipal networks or through our direct engagement with local partners of GCoM.

The Town of Durham acknowledges that continued engagement in GCoM and associated Regional or National Covenants, as established, is contingent on complying with the above requirements within established timeframes.

Name and title of person signing this commitment:

Town of Durham, NH, 8 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824, USA

www.ci.durham.nh.us

Todd I. Selig, Administrator, tselig@ci.durham.nh.us, (603) 868-5571


[16,574 Inhabitants, 24.7 sq. miles

United States of America,

Mandated by the Administrator Todd I. Selig on 1/13/2021

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions regarding this or any other matter.

Very truly yours,



Todd I. Selig
Administrator

ⁱ Flexibility is allowed to suit differentiated local circumstances and needs.

ⁱⁱ According to the city and local government's procedures

ⁱⁱⁱ Many countries have submitted two sets of NDC targets: unconditional targets, to be implemented without any explicit external support; and conditional targets. The latter are more ambitious than unconditional targets and require external support for their fulfilment. The local governments committing to the GCoM are required to commit at least to the equivalent of their country's unconditional targets, but are encouraged to be more ambitious where possible.