



# **City Panels**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**



## Disclaimer

The content of this document reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

## Frequently Asked Questions: City Panels

### **What are the requirements for applying to the Practitioners Panel?**

You are working in a municipality that is eager to advance in climate neutrality. You are directly employed at the municipality as policy or technical officer. Your work in the municipality focuses on supporting the technical or regulatory implementation of actions towards climate neutrality. By engaging in the panel, you will be asked to participate in evaluating services and solutions brought forward in this project via the Mission Platform (One-Stop-Shop Portal and Platform). You will be expected to participate in online meetings.

### **What are the requirements for applying to the Strategic Panel?**

You are a mayor, deputy mayor, department chair/senior-level city or regional official. Your municipality has ambitions to achieve climate neutrality before 2050, moving the target date to 2030, and is eager to engage and exchange with other municipalities for mutual learning. You will be expected to participate in (online) meetings and give feedback on Climate City Contracts (CCC) as an instrument to achieve climate neutrality.

### **Do I need to be a member of one of the city networks involved in the project?**

No.

### **Can my city be represented in all NetZeroCities panels?**

Yes.

### **Can my city be represented in one of the panels and still become a pilot or twin city at a later stage?**

Yes.

### **Does my city have to have an existing ambition towards climate neutrality?**

Yes.

### **What are my responsibilities when being selected for the Practitioners Panel?**

As a Practitioner Panellist, you are expected to actively participate in online meetings starting in Spring 2022 for a period of two years. During the first year, meetings will be more frequent and from there, on an ad hoc basis as the Platform is developed. You will be asked to participate in evaluating services and solutions brought forward in this project. You will be expected to share relevant information within your city to enhance the exchange.

### **What are my responsibilities when being selected for the Strategic Panel?**

The Strategic Panel will convene annually, except during the first year, when it will convene in Spring 2022 (March/April) and Fall 2022 (October/November) - before and after the Cities Mission CCC launch. The two year commitment requires participation in four online meetings: Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023 and Spring 2024.

The meetings will focus strongly on informing the Climate City Contract (CCC) process as a multi-level governance instrument to support climate action throughout Europe. Ideally, your municipality is interested in or plans to use the CCC as an instrument to accelerate the climate transition. Your advice, input, and experience will help embed climate neutrality in local, national, and European policies and actions.



## **How often will the Practitioner Panel meet and how much time will my contribution require?**

During the first year of the project (Spring 2022 – Spring 2023), you can expect to participate in four to six ad hoc online meetings. In the second year (Spring 2023 – Spring 2024), the number may reduce to two to four online meetings. Each meeting may take two to three hours and will require some preparatory work (e.g., reading, briefing). The specific number, frequency, timing, and format of the meetings will depend on emerging project needs and capacity of the panellists.

## **How often will the Strategic Panel meet and how much time will my contribution require?**

The Strategic Panel will convene twice in the first year, and then annually, depending on the needs of the project related to policy advice and the development of the CCC.

## **Will the meetings be in-person or online?**

Meetings will be conducted online to reduce costs and carbon emissions. However, there may be opportunities to convene meetings at in-person events connected to the project, like NetZeroCities Conferences, or other European events.

## **Will there be financial support for the work on the panel?**

Currently, no funds are foreseen to compensate costs for participation.

## **Who will select the panellists?**

Based on the assessment (vis-a-vis specific criteria) of the applications, the selection will be done by NetZeroCities project city networks: EuroCities, ICLEI, Resilient Cities, Viable Cities, as well as ERRIN and Climate-KIC.

## **Who will be my main contact?**

ICLEI Europe will be the main contact point.

## **When will the Practitioners Panel start working?**

The Practitioners Panel will first convene in March/April 2022 to inform the development of the Climate City Contract and the beta version of the Mission Platform and Portal.

## **When will the Strategic Panel start working?**

The Strategic Panel will first convene in March/April 2022 in order to provide feedback on the Climate City Contract framework and the strategy around policy instruments.

## **What are the benefits of participating in the Strategic Panel?**

You will be able to advise directly the development of services and solutions proposed in the platform and the overall project outcomes:

- Be part of and contribute to shaping the practicalities of a key initiative that will help to deliver the objectives of the European Green Deal, notably a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.
- Influence the design of the Climate City Contracting process, the One Stop Shop Platform, and the range of services that will be available to help cities achieve climate neutrality by 2030.
- Take part in an opportunity to network and learn from other cities who are committed to climate neutrality.

## **What are the benefits of participating in the Practitioners Panel?**

With your contribution, you will be able to shape the NetZeroCities project outcomes and the approach to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. You will be able to advise directly the development of services and solutions proposed in the platform:

- Be part of and contribute to shaping a key initiative that will help to deliver the objectives of the European Green Deal, notably a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.



- Influence the conceptual design of the Climate City Contracting process, the One Stop Shop Platform, and the range of services that will be available to help cities achieve climate neutrality by 2030.
- Take part in an opportunity to network and learn from other cities who are committed to climate neutrality.

**For the Practitioners Panel: Who in my city needs to authorise my time as an advisor on this panel?**

Please make sure that you receive authorisation by your supervisors/superiors to participate. Your contributions on the panel will benefit from exchange happening within your organisation and we recommend that you regularly communicate within your organisation about your work on the panel.

**Does my city have to be part of the Cities Mission in order for me to participate?**

No.

**What is the objective of these City Panels?**

City Panels are meant to work as a consultation platform to engage cities in the development of a range of support services that will be offered through the NetZeroCities project. The members of these panels will review and test the services during the design phase, as well as help ensure that services are useful and user-friendly and respond to cities' needs.

**What happens if a city representative doesn't comply with rules/role (e.g. doesn't attend the meetings)?**

Being part of a panel requires attendance to meetings. If a city representative does not attend two (or three) meetings in a row, first there will be a notification and the city official would be asked to rectify the situation (i.e. To either attend upcoming meetings or find a replacement). If the city official doesn't attend the following meetings or provide an alternative solution, we would suspend the panel membership until the situation is rectified (i.e. find a replacement).

**What is the duration of the commitment?**

Approximately 20 months, with the possibility to renew.

**I am a senior official for city X. Can I apply to be part of the Practitioners Panel?**

In principle, this is possible. However, the Strategic Panel will be more appropriate, as it will be composed of senior officials, Vice Mayors, and Mayors.

**We are not ready/don't have the capacity to commit to participate in these panels. Are you going to do another round of selection?**

In principle, we plan to offer at least one more instance (in around 20 months) for other cities to apply to be part of the City Panels.

**Will factors such as geographical balance, gender balance, city size, progress towards climate neutrality, etc. be considered in the assessment of applications for the panels?**

Yes. We aim for a diverse composition of the City Panels.

**Will I, as a member of the panels, represent my city's interests and priorities, or am I supposed to be a neutral advisor?**

As a member of the practitioners and strategic panel we want to integrate your experiences. In some cases that might require to be "just" the expert that you are. However, in other cases it will require you to indicate the position of your city, since the solutions should not only be technically feasible, but also in line with the governance system in which they will be embedded.

