

ITEM 3.3. CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PARIS**FILE NO: S051491****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR****To Council:**

On Monday 23 November 2014, Council endorsed a City delegation to participate in the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which convened in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

In this Minute, I provide a report back to Council about the trip.

I was in Paris for five days (arriving early 2 December and leaving early 7 December). The visit was an outstanding success. I attended eight high profile events and spoke at six of them. Other participants in the events at which I spoke included:

- French President François Hollande;
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon;
- United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg;
- President of COP21 and Minister of Foreign Affairs and international Development, Laurent Fabius;
- Founder and Chairman of the Climate Reality Project Al Gore;
- European Commissioner for Economic Affairs Pierre Moscovici;
- Paris City Mayor Anne Hidalgo;
- London Lord Mayor Boris Johnson;
- Mayor of Rio de Janeiro Eduardo Paes;
- Mayor of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu;
- Mayor of Stockholm Karin Wanngård;
- Mayor of Milan Giuliano Pisapia;
- Mayor of Rotterdam, Ahmed Aboutaleb;
- Mayor of Wuhan WAN Yong;
- Lord Mayor of Copenhagen Frank Jensen;
- Minister of Energy for Morocco Abdelkader Amara;
- Governor of California Jerry Brown;
- Senior Director Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice for the World Bank Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez; and
- Senior Director and Head of Environmental Initiatives for the World Economic Forum Dominic Waughray.

COP21 was a resounding success - I was delighted on Sunday morning to hear that nearly 200 countries had signed a genuinely historic agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Key elements of the deal include agreeing to:

- limit temperature increase to ‘well below’ 2 degrees and ‘pursue efforts’ to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above industrial levels – the threshold that scientists warn we must stay below to avoid dangerous climate change;
- reach peak global emissions ‘as soon as possible’ and achieving net zero emissions in the second half of the century;
- undertake a stocktake of progress in 2018 and every five years thereafter. The review is intended to lead to deeper emissions cut targets and no nation may reduce its commitment; and
- ‘mobilise’ \$100 billion in finance to support developing nations mitigate and adapt to climate change.

FOCUS ON CITIES

For the first time, COP21 included a focus on the work being undertaken by cities to tackle climate change. More than half of the world’s population live in cities and cities are responsible for 70-80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Cities are leading the way with ambitious targets and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, proving that effective action on climate change and strong economic growth are compatible.

We were at COP with 1,000 city delegates, including mayors from over 40 major cities around the world, to encourage national leaders and negotiators to choose ambitious targets that match the climate science.

The main event held to showcase city work - the Climate Summit for Local Leaders - was organised by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. C40 connects more than 80 of the world’s greatest cities, representing 600+ million people and one quarter of the global economy.

The C40 Cities Summit - which was opened by the President of France, François Hollande, and the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo – succeeded in attracting widespread coverage on the work of the C40 cities and their collective call for leadership. On the day it was held, against the backdrop of the huge COP21 meeting at Le Bourget, the C40 Cities Summit was the leading topic across social media in France.

C40 cities have committed to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 3 gigatonnes of CO₂e by 2030, equivalent to the annual carbon output of India.

New research was presented at the Summit, which included the fact that C40 cities have taken nearly 10,000 climate actions since COP15 in Copenhagen – a doubling of action in just six years.

We heard that collaboration is working; 30% of all climate action in C40 cities is taken as a result of city-to-city collaboration, 80% of which is through C40. And that C40 cities are investing in climate action, with 70% of citywide action financed by cities themselves.

70% of C40 cities report that they are already experiencing the impacts of climate change and C40 mayors are setting ambitious targets and long-term strategies. In 2015, cities reported plans to expand nearly all (78%) actions currently underway, up from 30% in 2011.

This is important because urban policy decisions before 2020 could determine up to a third of the remaining global carbon budget that is not already “locked-in” by past decisions.

Other key statistics included that the number of C40 cities taking action on:

- storm water capture systems - risen from 17 to 45;
- district electricity generation - risen from 3 to 21;
- restricting parking spaces in new development - risen from 9 to 31;
- support clean tech/ green industry clusters - risen from 3 to 26;
- cycle hire/ share programs - risen from 10 to 43;
- dedicated cycle lane - risen from 27 to 48;
- shared cycle lane - risen from 21 to 39; and
- commercial waste, disincentives or bans on certain waste (e.g. plastic bags) - risen from 10 to 26.

By showing what cities have already done, are currently doing, and have the potential to do, City Leaders were at COP to say loud and clear that national leaders, too, can and must agree on and deliver ambitious climate action.

PRESENTING THE CITY'S WORK

At each event I attended, I spoke about the City of Sydney's climate targets, progress and initiatives, in particular on our Green Infrastructure Master Plans.

The first event I attended was in the official blue zone at the COP 21 site at Le Bourget, where I joined a panel of Mayors, Ministers, the Rockefeller Foundation and representatives from the World Bank and the UN to talk about building resilience in cities.

I joined an international press conference with six other mayors from Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Vancouver, Milan and Madrid to talk about why national leaders should look to cities for inspiration. At the World Green Building Council Mayors event in the COP site, I announced that our Better Building Partnership members, who own over 50 per cent of commercial properties in the City Centre, have now made savings of \$30 million and reduced their emissions by 45 per cent since they signed up to our 2030 goals in 2011.

I spoke about our work co-leading the C40 Private Buildings Efficiency Network, along with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. A key aim of the network is to give cities a platform to learn about the wide range of policies and projects that other cities have implemented.

During a key panel discussion at the C40 Summit, I discussed building a bike network with the Lord Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, who said '*Stick at it – it's the right thing to do.*' And I presented the City's work encouraging more sustainable transport options on a panel on Ecomobility at the COP conference site.

I spoke about our plans to power our city with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

I also joined Paris City Mayor Anne Hidalgo for a moving memorial to honour those killed in the recent terrorist attacks.

My participation raised the international profile of Sydney as a progressive, green city, generating over 270 items in international, national and metro media about the City of Sydney's environmental policies – including in The Economist, Bloomberg, Le Monde, The Australian Financial Review, CNN and BBC News.

FORUM PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

As a finalist nominated for the Residential Apartment Sustainability Plan, I attended the C40 awards event on behalf of the City of Sydney. We learnt about a range of innovative projects from the 10 winners of C40 awards including:

- the Climate Positive Stockholm Seaport initiative - a 'negative emissions' urban renewal project designed to be resilient to rising temperatures, sea-levels and precipitation in an exposed coastal location;
- the first use of green bonds by a C40 city, the City of Johannesburg, to raise funds for climate initiatives;
- the climate adaptation strategy by Rotterdam and its philosophy of learning how to 'live with water' and integrating adaptation with economic and liveability initiatives;
- a power purchase agreement negotiated with a wind farm by the District of Columbia, Washington, at a rate 20 per cent lower than fossil fuels to supply electricity equivalent to 17.5 per cent of emissions; and
- the Greenest City Action Plan by Vancouver - the Action Plan includes a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33 per cent by 2020 following consultation with 35,000 people, a requirement for all buildings to be carbon neutral from 2020 and a range of transport, water and energy initiatives.

Staff will consider these projects in the design of relevant initiatives within the City's Master Plans.

One of the major themes across most forums was the inter-relationship between climate initiatives and wider socio-economic outcomes, especially within the Resilience in Urban Areas and Eco-mobility in Cities forums.

The World Bank observed that the impacts of climate change threatened to reverse efforts to reduce poverty in developing nations, pushing up to 100 million people back into poverty.

A series of cities presented on initiatives demonstrating positive outcomes and community support for climate initiatives that were successfully integrated with wider socio-economic objectives, such as transport initiatives to reduce racial and class divisions in Johannesburg, transforming streets to reduce vehicle use and increase activation in New York and access to public transport and poverty alleviation in Bogota.

These are important principles which the City also seeks to implement and will be embedded through the resilience strategy under development by the Chief Resilience Officer in partnership with other councils in Metropolitan Sydney.

SUMMARY OF MEDIA

While in Paris, I strongly advocated for the City's work on sustainability, complementing my speaking invitations with sustained media and social media engagement.

An analysis of the coverage found over 270 items across a range of metro, national and international media reaching over one million people.

High profile outlets included The Economist, The Australian Financial Review, The Sydney Morning Herald, BBC News, SBS World News, Nature, The Huffington Post, Le Monde, Le Figaro and Gizmodo. I was interviewed live on Bloomberg TV, French radio, France 24 TV and CNN.

The City's successful rollout of energy saving LED lights was reported by The Economist, BBC News, Gizmodo, Le Figaro and Le Monde. There were domestic stories on the visit in The Sydney Morning Herald ('Clover tells Paris the grass looks greener down here'), The Australian Financial Review ('Sydney office towers slash carbon emissions'), Central Magazine ('Clover Moore puts Sydney centre stage in Paris climate talks'), and Australian Associated Press ('Sydney shows way on climate change').

On social media, I reached around 250,000 people while in Paris across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Periscope.

The changed context for cities and other 'subnational actors' was picked up by the Vancouver-based Georgia Straight newspaper, which reported, "*Now the focus is less on what national governments should strive to achieve and more on what cities and markets are actually doing. These messages were reinforced by a diverse range of people from Sydney mayor Clover Moore to American rap artist Akon, who is working to bring more and better lighting to Africa.*"

As Sydney Morning Herald journalist Peter Hannam reported, I was proud to have a positive story to tell in Paris - that the City's operations are already carbon neutral and deep emissions cuts are under way as business and green groups get on with taking action.

BUDGET

C40 is covering most of my travel and accommodation costs and some costs for accompanying staff. During the Council meeting on 23 November, Council endorsed a budget of approximately \$13,000 per person from funds available within existing operational budgets.

While final incidental costs are still to be reconciled, the trip will come in under the budget approved by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the success of the City's visit to Paris for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (B) note that the City of Sydney joined an unprecedented alliance of cities in Paris to advocate for stronger national targets and action on climate change;
- (C) note the historic agreement reached at COP 21, the first universal climate change agreement under which almost 200 countries agreed to:

- (i) achieve peak global greenhouse gas emissions 'as soon as possible' and net zero emissions in the second half of the century;
 - (ii) limit global temperature increases to 'well under' 2 degrees and 'pursue efforts' to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees; and
 - (iii) review progress against these goals in 2018 and every five years thereafter; and
- (D) ask the Chief Executive Officer to review the City's current environmental policies in light of the new COP21 agreement and recent achievements, research and targets of other relevant cities to ensure the City continues to demonstrate environmental leadership.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: COP21 PARIS - Program of Events

Attachment B: COP21 PARIS - Media Summary