



American Cities  
Climate Challenge

RENEWABLES ACCELERATOR

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# AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE: RENEWABLES ACCELERATOR

**Technical support to help cities decarbonize their electricity supply**

Bloomberg Philanthropies' American Cities Climate Challenge is a two-year acceleration program with powerful new resources and access to cutting-edge support to help cities meet – or beat – their near-term carbon reduction goals.

The Renewables Accelerator, an initiative of the Climate Challenge, supports U.S. cities in procuring renewable energy as they seek to meet these goals. Jointly led by Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and World Resources Institute (WRI) and facilitated by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), the Renewables Accelerator offers technical support both to the 25 selected Challenge cities and to over 100 USDN members interested in powering their cities with low-carbon renewable energy.

We facilitate peer exchange among cities and share lessons learned from other large renewable energy buyers while leveraging RMI and WRI's expertise.

## How We Offer Support

The Renewables Accelerator helps cities understand renewables-related procurement options, deployment strategies and best practices, building on successful prior work with cities, corporate energy buyers, utilities and regulators. This encompasses three main tracks:

- **Large-scale, off-site renewable energy procurement**, including municipal direct power purchase agreements (PPAs), virtual PPAs, utility offerings and community choice aggregation (CCA).
- **Local renewables, including deploying on-site renewables at municipal facilities**, accelerating on-site renewables adoption among residential and commercial customers within the wider city community and implementing community solar projects.
- **Support for utility, regulatory and policy engagement**, by helping cities navigate regulatory, policy and institutional barriers by providing analytical support for their engagement with utilities, public utility commissions and state legislatures.

**We bring a range of new and adapted resources to city leaders, including:**

- **Technical resources and tools.** We provide cities access to a library of resources to help guide and accelerate renewables deployment, including procurement guidance, standardized transaction documents and templates, overviews of each state's regulatory environment and primers that synthesize best practices.
- **In-person trainings.** In collaboration with USDN, we are hosting a series of intensive, in-person trainings with an emphasis on facilitated peer-learning. These workshops are jointly led by city faculty and other practitioners with real-world energy procurement experience. Initial trainings include:
  - A "Renewable Energy 101" session that can help cities understand and evaluate all of their renewables options
  - "Deep-dive" boot camps focused on specific renewable energy procurement and deployment opportunities, including both local and large-scale off-site solutions
- **Ongoing peer exchange.** Following each in-person training, we facilitate regular interaction among cities with similar needs and interests to continue the peer-learning process. We provide a venue for cities to share their progress, solve problems, and exchange lessons learned.
- **Individual support.** We offer tailored assistance to the Challenge cities, including help with developing renewable strategies, supporting dialogue within city governments, and reviewing transaction documents.

### Interested in Getting Involved?

To learn more about the Renewables Accelerator, please contact **Ali Rotatori** ([arotatori@rmi.org](mailto:arotatori@rmi.org)) or **Celina Bonugli** ([celina.bonugli@wri.org](mailto:celina.bonugli@wri.org)).



RMI's mission is to transform global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon energy future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables. RMI has offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Washington, D.C. and Beijing.



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
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WRI is a global research organization that spans more than 60 countries, with offices in Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States. Its more than 700 experts and staff work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and human well-being. WRI's Energy Program has in-depth expertise engaging with utilities to shape renewable energy offerings that meet the needs of buyers.



USDN is a group of over 200 cities and counties that are leading the way to a sustainable, low-carbon future by developing, adopting and sharing practices that create equitable and prosperous communities and a healthy environment. USDN's work is member-led and member-driven. Members collectively determine what priorities they will focus on each year and lead the work to carry them out.