

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF AARHUS AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH
ABOUT
CLIMATE ACTION**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed by and between the City of Aarhus and the City of Pittsburgh (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party”)

Climate change constitutes one of the greatest challenges to our societies today, environmentally and economically, globally as well locally. In accordance with the Paris Climate Accord, the City of Aarhus and the City of Pittsburgh are both committed to take national and global leadership by contributing with significant carbon emission reductions over the coming years.

Within the past 10 years, Aarhus has successfully cut the municipality’s carbon emissions in half – a mission that Pittsburgh has equally set forth to accomplish by 2030, whereas Aarhus is further committed to be a fully decarbonised by 2030. The City of Aarhus and the City of Pittsburgh believe that ambitious carbon reduction targets are not impediments to economically thriving and liveable cities, but rather that they can be used as a significant driver for innovation, economic growth, and social coherence.

The City of Aarhus and the City of Pittsburgh are equal in population size and share a history as industrial cities. Today, both cities have a large share of manufacturing jobs while simultaneously they serve as higher education hubs attracting a young and educated workforce and creating an innovative business environment. Aarhus and Pittsburgh are both growing and aiming to accommodate this development by creating healthy and liveable cities and transforming old industrial areas to attractive urban spaces.

Recognizing the Parties’ mutual interest in taking transformational actions to achieve their 2030 carbon reduction targets and create attractive, resilient, and liveable cities of the future; Recognizing the importance of finding efficient and lasting methods to manage decarbonisation that are compatible with the need for job creation, economic growth, and access to affordable energy, housing and transportation options;

On the basis of existing friendly relationships between the City of Aarhus and the City of Pittsburgh;

The Parties believe that an ongoing and robust exchange of information and experience regarding climate action and urban solutions will help the Parties in successfully achieving the two cities’ ambitious 2030 carbon reduction targets. Accordingly, in order to establish a mutually beneficial cooperation, the Parties have agreed to the following Memorandum of Understanding, as described hereafter.

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to enhance cooperation between the Parties and to establish a framework for exchanging experience to develop sustainable, economic, innovative, and effective solutions to achieve the Parties' 2030 carbon reduction targets. The Parties will involve both academic institutions and businesses in this work as they see relevant.

Section 2 – Priorities

The cooperation between the Parties include:

- Climate mitigation and adaptation planning and implementation, with special focus on District Energy systems and integration of renewable energy

Climate Mitigation Planning and Implementation

Specific areas for cooperation:

- Reducing carbon emissions from City office/Municipality's own operation
- Engaging private and public stakeholders and reduce overall emissions for the city/municipality

District Energy Systems and Renewable Energy

Specific areas for cooperation:

- Strategic energy planning: Timely and efficient transformation of cities to renewable energy. Cooperation with utilities and major energy users. Integration of energy planning in overall strategic planning.
- District heating and cooling: Increasing feasibility and governing district heating projects
- Energy efficiency in building: Retrofitting and using data to optimize energy use of large building stocks, both in public sector and partnerships with large private building owners.

Section 3 – Forms of Cooperation

Forms of cooperation to accomplish the goals established by this MOU may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exchange of information, documentation, and technical practices in the fields of cooperation outlined above;
2. Visits and exchanges involving city government, policymakers, academic institutions, businesses, and technical staff;
3. Co-creation and implementation of projects and sustainable solutions in the fields of cooperation outlined above;
4. Joint organization of and participation in seminars, workshops, videoconferences, webinars and meetings to share information and practices;
5. Cooperative research projects, joint studies, and joint training;
6. Establish working groups consisting of representatives from the Parties; and

7. Draft a yearly work plans commencing in 2020.
8. Evaluate cooperation and benefit on a yearly basis;
9. Establish a report mechanism to for example the City Council;

Sections 4 – Responsibilities of the parties

The Parties will each provide a primary coordinator, who will be responsible for project supervision and planning in relation to this MoU. The coordinators are expected to initiate specific yearly work plans with suggestions to specific goals and projects of the cooperation within the given year. The coordinators are expected to conduct regular meetings to discuss key tasks, objectives, and information exchange. The City of Aarhus’ “Teknik og Miljø” and the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning are intended to provide primary coordinators respectively. The primary coordinators can establish working groups or allocate responsibility more specifically for each priority area set forth in Section 2.

The Parties will engage in specific activities to effectuate the objective of this MoU as set forth in Section 1.

The Parties will share information relevant to the objective of this MoU as set forth in Section 1.

Upon request, the Parties will review and comment on drafts of proposed projects, rules, or other documents provided by the other Party.

The activities undertaken under cooperation between the Parties shall be in accordance with the Parties respective applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and policies.

The parties may, consistent with their respective policies, request the support and participation of other entities, including other levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, and academic institutions. Involvement of other entities in joint activities between the Parties shall be based on mutual agreement.

Information provided by a Participant shall remain the property of that Participant. Any information deemed confidential by a Participant shall be so marked. Use or disclosure of such confidential information by any of the other Participants shall require the written consent of the Participant with whom such confidential information originated. Information (e.g., reports, documents, etc.) developed jointly by two or more of the Participants shall be jointly owned by the developing Participants.

Section 5 – Costs

Each Party shall cover its own costs connected to organizing and participating in the planned activities.

The Parties will cooperate on attracting external funding.

Section 6 – General Provisions

This MoU shall enter into force as of the date of full execution by the both Parties below and, unless terminated pursuant to subsection (b) below, shall expire on December 31, 2023 unless extended or terminated prior to date.

- a. The Parties may agree to extend the term of this MoU upon mutual written agreement.
- b. Either Party may terminate this MoU at any time, for any reason 30 days' written notice to the other Party.

This MoU may not be amended or modified except by written consent of the Parties hereto.

This MoU represents an understanding between the Parties and does not assume any legal or financial obligations of the Parties.

This MoU is non-exclusive, and each Party reserves the right to enter into similar agreements with other Parties.