

## **Project Summary: Analyzing Drivers of Change in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories**

### **Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (C-LEAP)**

#### **Team Lead**

City of Bellevue, WA

#### **Team Members**

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

Cventure LLC

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

City of Aspen, CO

City of Houston, TX

King County, WA

City of Santa Monica, CA

#### **Project Summary**

In a new project supported by the US Department of Energy's Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (Cities-LEAP) Program, a team of national leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors are developing new data-driven approaches for evaluating "drivers of change" in energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the city-scale. GHG inventories are used by hundreds of cities in the US to provide a snapshot of a city's carbon footprint and enable tracking of emissions trends over time. The new project will enhance this practice by creating methods and tools to attribute changes between two inventories to the impacts of policies and programs along with other external drivers, such as economic activity and weather. This framework will support policy-makers in using data to better communicate about their progress and refine their policy approaches.

The project team is led by the City of Bellevue, WA and the technical lead is ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of more than 250 local governments in the US developing methodologies and tools for greenhouse gas emissions management. Contributing to the project is a Steering Committee comprised of leading local and regional agencies that will serve as test cases for the framework and engage networks of their peers:

- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). MWCOG is the regional planning agency for the National Capital Region. The agency carries out innovative energy and climate initiatives with its 22 member cities and counties, and collaborates with DOE as a member of a select group of White House Climate Action Champions.
- City of Aspen, CO. Aspen is a long-time leader in energy and emissions management, and serves as a Co-Chair of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network GHG User Group and a member of ICLEI's emissions management Stakeholder Advisory Group.
- City of Houston, TX. Houston is the nation's fourth-largest city and an active member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

- King County, WA. King County serves as Co-Chair of the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), which received a 2016 Climate Leadership Award from the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- Santa Monica, CA. Santa Monica adopted an ambitious 15x15 Climate Action Plan in 2013. The City chairs the STAR Communities Board of Directors and serves on the Steering Committee of the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action (LARC)

The team is also supported by consultants from Cventure LLC who carried out New York City's first city-scale "Drivers of Change" emissions analysis while in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability, as well as technical experts in DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

After piloting the new framework with Steering Committee jurisdictions, the team will produce a Drivers of Change Toolkit in late 2017 to support local and tribal governments nationwide in implementing the framework. The project is carried out in association with DOE's Cities-LEAP Program, supporting the widespread implementation of city-sponsored data-driven energy policies, programs, and projects that have the potential to drive a sea change in the national energy landscape.