



FAQ

1. What is Path to Positive Communities?

Path to Positive Communities is a national initiative that brings together leaders and institutions in cities, towns, and counties across the country committed to advancing climate solutions to protect the safety, security, and vitality of our local communities. We are also working to reduce our own climate impacts in the ways we run local government, from building energy use and power purchasing, to transportation options and smarter land use choices, to contracts and procurement that emphasize sustainable choices.

By joining Path to Positive Communities, we commit to easing our climate impact and working together to prepare and prevent the risks to our communities, residents, and businesses posed by climate change, and to engage and inspire our agencies, staff, and citizens to embrace the local benefits of climate change solutions.

2. Why are local leaders uniquely positioned to foster new levels of support for climate change solutions?

America's mayors, city council members, county leaders, and local governments are on the front line of the increasing impacts of climate change, and are also the leaders for whom climate solutions will have the most immediate and tangible benefits. Across America, hundreds of local communities have enacted thousands of policies and programs that prepare and protect the community from climate impacts, while also preventing millions of tons of additional climate pollution. US mayors, county, and city leaders are recognized globally as among the leaders with the greatest impact on climate solutions, but there is still much work to be done.

3. What is climate change?

Climate change is caused by an overabundance of heat-trapping gases and particles within the atmosphere. These gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and black carbon (soot), are the result of burning and drilling for fossil fuels. This results in shifts in climate and weather patterns, causing more floods, droughts, stronger and more unpredictable storms, rising sea levels, heat waves, and changes to growing seasons and zones. There are also several health and lifestyle impacts with increased air pollution, resulting in rising asthma rates and wildfires, that many Americans are witnessing within their own communities.

For more information, visit the **National Climate Assessment website**.

4. What if we are new to climate solutions?

Many local leaders are new to the role of serving as climate change leaders, but have come to realize that addressing climate is an opportunity to fulfill our oath to protect our citizens, our communities, the integrity of local government, and the economic well-being of our our local businesses.

Path to Positive Communities makes it easy for elected leaders and their key staff to become even more effective as climate leaders by providing tools and resources geared to enhance engagement opportunities within a community of any size, budget, or experience with climate change. Path to Positive Communities will help you lead by example and communicate successfully to get others involved. We welcome you to **join us** as a leader to encourage others to work towards a safe, healthy, and prosperous future.

5. How will Path to Positive Communities support me?

Path to Positive Communities connects local community leaders with a wide variety of resources, other leaders, and a program for use within peer leadership groups to build stronger and healthier communities. Whether local leaders are looking to lead by example in their climate impact or engage others in climate solutions, Path to Positive Communities provides a plethora of effective tools, resources, ideas, guides and **success stories** – all in a comprehensive, easy-to-access collection.

By joining Path to Positive Communities, local leaders can **get on the Path to Positive**. They can make plans, access helpful resources and organize their action steps on www.pathtopositive.org.

In addition to these direct benefits, Path to Positive Communities leaders are linked through the **MomentUs** initiative to other leaders in higher education, business, faith, health care, and other sectors that touch Americans' lives, offering expanded opportunities for collaboration and collective impact.

6. How do I join Path to Positive Communities?

Joining Path to Positive Communities takes less than a minute and is free! You can **join online** at www.pathtopositive.org. By making the **Path to Positive** pledge, you are joining a network of leaders committed to taking action and inspiring others to lead on climate in their towns, cities, counties, communities and homes. You can also choose to join as an individual to stay informed and access resources and tools.