CoM-eea Simplified Process: Implementing Covenant of Mayors Commitments through the European Energy Award Framework

Brussels, 14 July 2026

Simplified Process Description

European local authorities (cities and municipalities as well as county councils, metropolitan areas or greater cities) participating in the European Energy Award (eea) can join the EU Covenant of Mayors (CoM) through a simplified process. Existing eea municipalities which are already CoM signatories may choose to adopt the CoM-eea simplified process. This process is aligned with the eea methodology and its established auditing cycle, allowing municipalities to efficiently integrate CoM principles and the integrated approach to energy and climate planning into the existing eea process without duplicating efforts.

Thanks to their robust energy and climate management systems, as well as the support provided by dedicated eea advisors, eea municipalities are well positioned to scale up their impact within the CoM; Europe's largest movement of local authorities committed to climate and energy action.

The simplified process consists of the following steps:

1

Inform the eea Advisor

The eea municipality informs its eea advisor in good time before the eea audit that it wishes to adopt the CoM-eea simplified process using the Audit Checklist.

1a

Political Commitment

(only required if local authority is not yet CoM signatory or has not updated its commitments since 2020)
The eea municipality adopts the Covenant commitment through a decision of its municipal council (for example at the same time as deciding on the (re)certification with the eea/the activity programme). Afterwards the mayor – or equivalent representative of the council – signs it. By doing so, the municipality commits to:

- Achieving climate neutrality by 2050
- Increasing resilience and preparing for the adverse impacts of climate change
- Tackling energy poverty as a key action to ensure a just transition

2

Regular eea Process plus Additional Actions

The eea advisor, together with the municipality, carries out the regular eea baseline review using the national eea catalogue and jointly develop the activity programme. To implement the CoM commitments via the CoM-eea simplified process, the following elements must be included:

Climate Mitigation

- Report annual territorial CO_2 emissions according to national methodology in the eea Management Tool (EMT): International Gold indicator: CO_2 emissions per year at the territorial level
- Quantify the impact of at least one mitigation action with direct effects on energy savings, renewable energy production or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction in its activity programme

2

Climate Adaptation

- Conduct a qualitative assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities on the municipal territory and integrate the findings into a climate change adaptation strategy/concept.
  This requirement corresponds to the fulfilment of the international eea measure 1.1.3 'Climate adaptation strategy and concept' (slightly different names of measure in the different eea countries).
- Include at least one climate adaptation action in the municipal activity programme.

Energy Poverty

- Report at least one relevant indicator on energy poverty. Examples for energy poverty indicators can be found in the CoM Guidebook on "How to develop an energy poverty assessment". Adding new indicators (related to energy poverty) in the EMT can be requested at the national eea Office.
- Include at least one energy poverty-related action in the municipal activity programme. Examples can be found in the CoM Guidebook on "How to plan mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty actions".

3

Inform the Auditor

The eea advisor informs the eea auditor that the municipality adopts the CoM-eea simplified process.

4

Audit

Within the eea audit, **the eea auditor** uses the dedicated checklist to confirm that the municipality fulfils all requirements of the CoM-eea simplified process.
The municipality is not required to report any additional data beyond what is already collected through this process. By signing the checklist, the municipality agrees that the relevant data will be shared with the CoM. The data is used to create or update the municipality's signatory profile on MyCovenant and on the CoM website, and will contribute to the initiative's overall statistics.

5

Share Documentation

After the audit, **the eea advisor** informs the national eea office that the municipality fulfils the requirements of the CoM-eea simplified process. The following documents are uploaded to the EMT or Territoires en Transitions (in France only) in addition to the normal eea certification documents:

- signed checklist
- adopted and signed Covenant commitment (only if local authority is not a CoM signatory yet)

6

Inform the International eea Office (once a year)

The national eea Office informs the international eea office about all eea municipalities that have adopted the CoM-eea simplified process. They report it as part of the annual status report in February.

7

Annual Data Transfer to the Covenant of Mayors

The international eea Office compiles all documentation of the participating local authorities and initiates an annual data transfer to the CoM. This transfer includes:

- signed Covenant Commitments of all audited eea municipalities joining the CoM through the simplified process
- signed checklists
- indicator data for territorial annual CO_2 emissions and one indicator related to energy poverty



The CoM Office creates/updates the municipality's profile based on the information received. After four years, eea recertification required and the additional CoM requirements must also be renewed. The municipality takes measures to ensure that the adoption of the CoM-eea simplified process is not forgotten over time.

Audit Checklist for eea Municipalities adopting the Simplified CoM-eea Process

European local authorities (cities and municipalities as well as county councils, metropolitan areas or greater cities) participating in the European Energy Award (eea) can join the EU Covenant of Mayors (CoM) through a simplified process. Existing eea municipalities which are already CoM signatories may choose to adopt the CoM-eea simplified process. This process is aligned with the eea methodology and its established auditing cycle, allowing municipalities to efficiently integrate CoM principles and its integrated approach to energy and climate planning into the existing eea process without duplicating efforts.

Within the eea audit, the accredited eea auditor uses the following checklist to confirm that the municipality fulfils all requirements of the CoM-eea simplified process.

Please upload the completed form along with the other audit documents to the files section of the assessment cycle in the EMT.

General Information

Municipality: ☐

Municipality Address

- Street: ☐
- Zip code: ☐
- City: ☐
- Country: ☐

Nuts level 3: ☐

Population: ☐

Municipality Representative: ☐

Audit Date: ☐

Auditor: ☐

Political Commitment

☐ Municipal council adopted Covenant commitment and mayor (or equivalent) signed it

Climate Mitigation

☐ Annual territorial CO_2 emissions are reported

☐ At least one mitigation action is quantified (energy efficiency, renewables, GHG)

Climate Adaptation

☐ Risk and vulnerability assessment conducted

☐ At least one climate adaptation action is included in activity programme

Energy Poverty

☐ At least one relevant energy poverty indicator is recorded

☐ At least one energy poverty action is included in activity programme

Data Sharing Agreement

☐ Municipality agrees to share data relevant for the simplified process through the eea with CoM[1]

Final Result

☐ Aligned with the CoM principles

☐ Not yet aligned with the CoM principles

Reason (if not yet aligned with the CoM principles): Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Signatures

Auditor Signature: _____

Municipality Representative Signature: _____

[1] See the CoM's privacy policy: https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-02109.4