

Global Partnership of Nuclear Municipalities Adopts Principles for Engaging Communities

Raising the local voice in nuclear matters



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Vienna, AUS, 19 October 2023 – A new global partnership focused on the safe development of carbon-free nuclear power and sustainable radioactive waste management solutions adopted a set of principles for engaging community leaders.

With a shared commitment to raising the local voice in nuclear matters, the Global Partnership of Nuclear Municipalities (Global Partnership) has adopted the following five principles.

1. **Engage municipalities in the process.** Access to expertise and decision-makers is central to ensuring local priorities meet national interests.
2. **Create economic opportunities in the local community.** Work with the local municipality to understand local economic development plans and the potential role of the project.
3. **Provide resources to the community to participate in the project.** Ensure sufficient resources to ensure sustained engagement and address any needs of the region based on the project.
4. **Protect human health and the environment.** Municipal leaders are charged with the health, safety and welfare of their communities, necessitating early engagement in any decision-making processes related to nuclear facilities.
5. **Educate and train the workforce.** Educating and training the workforce is critical for any long-term project.

The Global Partnership currently includes The Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe ([GMF Europe](#)), the United States-based Energy Communities Alliance ([ECA](#)), and Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities ([CANHC](#)).

“Our countries face a range of energy challenges, and as elected leaders it remains imperative that we have direct access to government and industry decision-makers,” said Mayor Adrian Foster, mayor of



Clarington, Ontario and Chair of CANHC. “Providing access helps ensure we can bridge the gap between national interests and local priorities, and together promote long-term solutions,” said Foster.

Project development, the leaders note, necessitates partnering with municipalities to solve the many political and social issues underlying the siting and development of new nuclear reactors and decommission of existing sites. The Global Partnership builds on the work of each organization to focus on education and advocacy in tackling these vital tasks.

At GMF we seek to “raise the voice of local actors, ensuring safety first, improving knowledge, promoting transparency and public engagement, and trying to influence policy and strategy at national and European levels” Gerben Dijksterhuis, GMF’s President. “We are facing a new era where a transition is going to be made to CO2 free energy. This is inevitably going to impact local communities. Therefore, they must have a voice in these developments. By joining forces, the voice of local communities becomes even stronger”.

These parties organized at an October 2022 meeting hosted by the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA). Through that initial engagement and subsequent meetings in both the United States and Vienna, the principles began to define their shared goals and opportunities to partner on a global scale.

As ECA Chairman and West Richland Mayor/CEO Brent Gerry explains, “These five principles align with IAEA’s stakeholder engagement principles: Build trust, demonstrate accountability, promote transparent communication, provide early and frequent consultation, and communicate benefits and risks.” “By working together and adopting strategies to meet community-specific needs, we are better prepared to protect our constituents, support long-term workforce development, and usher in needed energy solutions,” Gerry noted.

The three organizations will continue their individual and joint advocacy for support for local host communities among regulators, current and future nuclear industry, and other members of the nuclear supply chain.

For more information on these organizations:

- Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe (GMF Europe) <https://gmfeurope.org>
- Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) <https://www.energyca.org/>
- Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) <https://www.canhc.ca>

The full statement is attached.

Global Partnership Goal for Governments and Industry

- *Engage municipalities in the project*
 - *Create economic opportunities in the local community*
 - *Provide resources to communities*
 - *Protect human health and the environment*
 - *Educate and train the workforce*
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Global Partnership of Nuclear Municipalities

Wednesday, October 19, 2023

General Statement

Our countries face a range of energy challenges, from seeking energy security to addressing climate change. Leading global businesses and governmental organizations are required to reduce their carbon output or become carbon free. One of the solutions lies within our local communities, serving as the hosts of nuclear projects or candidates to host new nuclear facilities.

The [Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe](#) (GMF Europe), [Energy Communities Alliance](#) (ECA), and [Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities](#) (CANHC)¹ have created the New Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities to realize the untapped potential of working with similar municipal organizations across the globe.

As a coalition of international communities, we work to share information, educate each other, advocate for municipalities in nuclear, and collaborate to assist our communities and other communities hosting or interested in hosting nuclear facilities. Our goal is to provide municipalities around the globe with educational resources, a voice, and a role in nuclear issues.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) for our global partnership and their participation in our recent meetings. The IAEA plays an important role in educating communities, governments, and the nuclear industry on nuclear energy and on the crucial role of municipalities in nuclear matters.

We, along with governments and industry, know that the support from the local community is crucial for the safe development and deployment of nuclear energy projects. The Global Partnership will build on the work of each of our organizations to focus on education and advocacy related to the front and back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. As well as the immediate needs of our communities, including nuclear energy, nuclear fuel, spent nuclear fuel management, clean up and

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¹ GMF Europe, ECA, and CANHC will continue our individual and joint advocacy for support for local host communities among regulators, the current and future nuclear industry, and other members of the nuclear supply chain.

decommissioning and remediation of existing nuclear sites, interim storage and long-term disposal of spent nuclear fuel, and each type of nuclear material and waste.²

This Global Partnership goals include advocating for governments and industry to understand the role of municipalities and to:

a) **Engage municipalities in the project**

- i) All municipalities are treated as partners in the projects (during licensing, siting, construction, operation, closure decommissioning and remediation);
- ii) Municipalities and their communities are educated about the benefits and risks of the project.
- iii) National government and industry senior decision makers and local elected officials meaningfully engage to ensure a unity of purpose that advances mission priorities and the local community priorities.
- iv) Project leadership works with the community to understand the community goals for the site around safety, economic development, regulatory oversight, improved education, improved infrastructure, and role in decision-making.

b) **Create economic opportunities in the community**

- i) Work with the local municipality to understand local economic development plans and the potential role of the project.
- ii) Prioritize local business purchasing to support the local business around the sites.

c) **Provide resources to communities**

- i) Resources are available to the community to work on the project (zoning, public health reviews, risk education, permitting, educating the community, etc.) and
- ii) Ensure there's sufficient resources to address any infrastructure needs of the region based on the project.

d) **Protect human health and the environment**

- i) Publish studies and reports regarding human health and environmental risks of the project and provide public education sessions in the community.
- ii) Provide access to independent experts to respond to questions and concerns and to assist the community in understanding the studies and reports.
- iii) Create a clear emergency response plan that is integrated and implementable in and outside the project site and works with the local emergency responders and medical professionals.

e) **Educate and train the workforce (skills)**

- i) Educating and training the workforce is critical for any long-term project.

² Including spent nuclear fuel, high level waste, TRU waste, low level waste and greater than class c waste.



- ii) Coordinate with industry, government and the local schools, universities and other similar educational institutions on the project needs on a regular basis.

Although the Global Partnership created this outline of general areas for industry and governments working on nuclear, the key to understanding a municipality is to meet with the leadership of the host and affected municipalities, as each community is unique in its goals, needs, and interests in these projects.