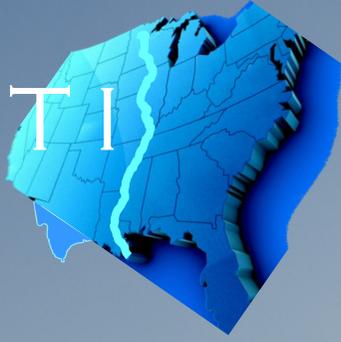


MRCTI



U.S. Mayors of the Mississippi River Announce Climate Ambition Projects at River Corridor Scale.

Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative
United Nations Climate Talks
Dubai 2023



AMERICA IS ALL IN



Mayors of the Mississippi River come to COP 28 with Announcements that forward SDGs at watershed scale. Join city leaders as they secure the planet's most crucial working river corridor with innovative natural infrastructure deployments that reduce climate impacts for the world's most vulnerable.



"I'm honored to be part of the MRCTI delegation to COP28 where we are announcing the deployment and protection of climate action projects across 45 cities and 9 Mississippi River States. I look forward to continuing to work with the MRCTI delegation to improve water quality, decrease carbon emissions and create good paying 21st century green jobs."

-LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans, LA



Munich RE

How do we protect 40 percent of the world's food supply from climate impacts? *Cities and the Reinsurance Industry have an answer*

Infrastructure that makes the \$500 billion in annual revenue along the river possible is hosted by cities.

Thus, if we concentrate on cities in the development of a river-wide risk pool where exposure to climate disasters is reduced, then we can systemically cover the entire corridor through innovative risk transfer solutions (e.g. parametric facility model) funded by revenue generated from realizing climate ambitions throughout the urban and rural landscape. A parametric solution can offer two types of coverage for the corridor including recovery and risk mitigation throughout the 5,000 km area.

Additionally, parametric coverage would address multiple hazards (drought, intense heat, named storm events, flooding, and wildfires) as the region experiences climate extremes including sporadic precipitation and long hot periods.



Errick Simmons
Mayor
Greenville, MS
MRCTI MS Chair



Mitch Reynolds
Mayor
La Crosse, WI
MRCTI Co-Chair



Raghuvver Vinukollu
Head—Climate Insights
Munich Reinsurance US

The Problem

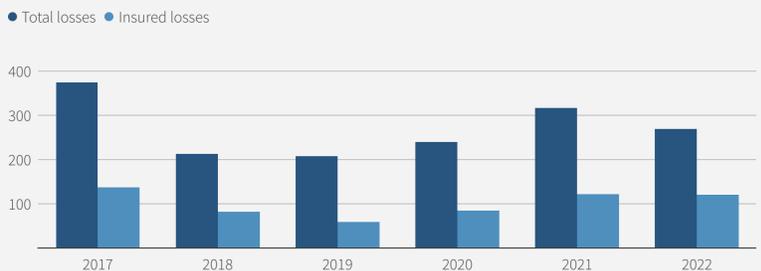
One in twelve people on Earth consume commodities grown in the Mississippi River Basin. Over 90 percent (90%) of all U.S. grain moves on the Mississippi River. Nearly \$1 trillion in products is transported on the Mississippi River. Yet, the Mississippi River corridor is not immune to the impacts of climate change with actual losses exceeding \$245 billion since 2005.

The Solution

Cities along the Mississippi River bare the most significant costs of climate impacts since most of the built in-

Damages from natural catastrophes

Insured losses from natural catastrophes in 2022 were well above the average for the previous five years. Losses, in billions of U.S. dollars:



Note: The hurricane-ridden year of 2017 was a record for losses.
Source: Munich Re

MRCTI is an official UNFCCC Observer Organization

Mississippi River Mayors and Global Conservation Authority Ducks Unlimited



Announce 100,000 acres of Climate Infrastructure



Local Projects for Global Good

At COP 27 in Egypt, MRCTI and DU announced a pipeline of natural infrastructure that includes eight American states, and thirty cities to mitigate climate impacts at a new level of subnational cooperation sequestering over 166,000 tons of carbon in the near-term through the deployment of wetlands, forests, marshes, and reconnected floodplain.

Now, this partnership comes to COP 28 to announce nearly a 70 percent (70%) increase to this project pipeline confirming an additional 40,000 acres added to the cohort sequestering over 230,000 tons of carbon and further securing the world's largest food-producing river basin from climate impacts.

The projects are concentrated in the mid-continent confluence zones shown above where the most vulnerable communities and some of the most vital ports reside including 9 states and 45 cities.

How Can Cities Mitigate for \$240+ Billion in Climate Losses? *Mayors Announce Global Challenge*

Mayors of cities along the Mississippi River are partnering with the Resilient Cities Catalyst through a grant from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to design a global climate infrastructure challenge that will partner the world's most capable resilient infrastructure expertise with cities that need it most and are most critical to the planet's food supply.

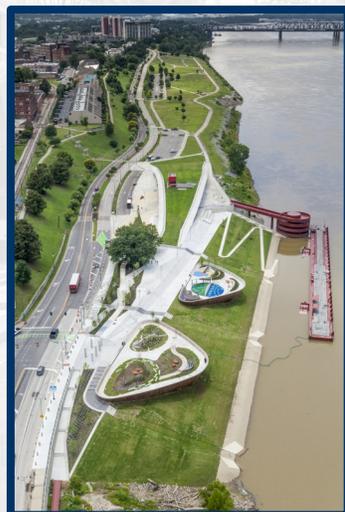
A cohort of ten cities in each of the three major regions of the Mississippi, as shown here, will compete to host global infrastructure firms for planning and implementation of some of the most advanced climate infrastructure in the world. This infrastructure will work to reduce risk and take cities plus their surrounding landscapes in some cases to carbon negative. The goal is to reduce the disaster exposure of these cities by at least 25 percent (25%) over the life of the newly deployed infrastructure.



Hon. Brad Cavanaugh
Mayor of Dubuque, IA
MRCTI Member

What does climate-ready infrastructure look like?

Shown here are two strong examples from Memphis (left) and Dubuque, IA (right). The Memphis Beale Street Landing project links low-impact design with riverfront development. Dubuque renatured a tributary that connects the Mississippi to the midst of the city.



10 Cities in the upper river basin from the headwaters region to the Quad Cities

10 Cities in the mid-river region from the Quad Cities to Memphis.

10 Cities in the lower river region from Memphis to New Orleans.



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