

MRCTI



# State-Side, MRCTI Mayors Urge U.S. to Deploy Natural Infrastructure at Scale

MRCTI’s delegation presented in the United States Pavilion as part of the US official agenda at COP 28. Additionally, Mayors sat-down with Counselor to the President John Podesta. During both the presentation at the U.S. Pavilion and in high-level discussions, MRCTI Mayors urged U.S. and White House officials to scale-up IRA and Jobs Act funded projects.

Meeting the current U.S. NDC will take more than just the energy sector; land management and agriculture will have to be included at broad scale. Thus, Mayors announced 100,000 acres of natural infrastructure projects along the Mississippi River implicating 9 states and 45 cities. US officials acknowledged that the Jobs Act and IRA both need to select broader projects with more mitigation potential pointing to the MRCTI announcement as a possible model.

“We came to COP to better equip our corridor with climate resilience resources. I think we achieved that,” said Mayor Mitch Reynolds of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair.

## Mayors of Middle America Bring the Mississippi River to the Persian Gulf for COP 28

(Pic L to R above) Mayor Mitch Reynolds of La Crosse, WI (MRCTI Co-Chair); Mayor LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans, LA; Mayor Errick Simmons of Greenville, MS (MRCTI MS State Chair); and Mayor Brad Cavanaugh of Dubuque, IA represented the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative (MRCTI) in Dubai during the United Nations global climate conference—COP 28.

Mayors brought major announcements on climate ambitions for North America and played a leading role in building a subnational voice to influence the negotiations taking place among nations that carry forward the Paris Accord.



## Bezos Earth Fund Considers Mississippi River Corridor



At COP 28, MRCTI leaders met with Bezos Earth Fund executives to demonstrate climate projects at watershed scale. Due to the Mississippi’s global role, the Fund agreed to consider a large profile of support.





United Nations  
Climate Change



COP28 UAE

DUBAI 2023



## MRCTI MAYORS SUPPORT PRIORITIZING FOOD- PRODUCING RIVER BASINS

MRCTI Immediate past Co-Chair, Mayor Errick Simmons of Greenville, MS announced at a press conference in Dubai hosted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute that Mayors along the Mississippi River support the *loss and damage provision* being funded within the Paris Accord as long as major food-producing

river basins are prioritized in the awarding of resources. Given that river basins produce and move the world's food supply, it only makes sense that loss and damage resources should go to where the most globally, wide-ranging impacts would be felt.

Additionally, all land sector climate project resources governed by the Paris Accord should prioritize for major food-producing river basins going forward in order to prevent disruptive food migration and the breakdown of the world's food supply in the face of climate impacts. The projects announced at COP by MRCTI could be exported to other basins and funded by this provision.



## MRCTI Mayors Sign Agree- ment with Indi- an River Cities

The Indian Ministry of Environment has launched the Indian River Cities Alliance which is comprised of all the cities in India along a river. MRCTI and the Alliance signed a memorandum of common purpose at the Rotary Pavilion to exchange climate projects. MRCTI plans a first visit to India as an overture to this exchange in November 2024.



## Global Plastics Treaty Update

In Dubai, MRCTI leaders connected with French President Emmanuel Macron on the global plastics treaty. MRCTI will play a significant subnational role at the next treaty negotiations in Canada, April 2024.