Overview

The NEMS Network
- 20 municipalities across New England
- Representatives are municipal staff working on initiatives related to sustainability

Project Goals and Objectives
- Demonstrate collective impact of the Network
- Identify common themes and key priorities
- Increase visibility
- Build cohesion and areas for collaboration
- Assess the Network’s progress in meeting the Global Covenant of Mayors Framework and recommend next steps

Global Covenant of Mayors (GCM) Framework
1. Commitment
2. Inventory
3. Target(s)
4. Action Plan

Findings
NEMS Network Progress Toward GCM Through 2019
- Official Commitment: 45%
- GHG Inventory: 70%
- Target: 70%
- Plan: 80%

Discussion and Next Steps
The NEMS Network is steadily working toward GCM compliance. Currently 8 out of the 20 municipalities are officially registered for the Covenant, though each community is dedicated toward making progress. Interestingly, 15 of the 20 communities, or 75% are currently involved in both mitigation and adaptation efforts, which the GCM highly encourages. In terms of the 4 different steps of the GCM, there is the lowest percentage of communities making progress toward official commitment.

The representatives of the 8 municipalities that are officially committed cited several reasons for doing so, including demonstrating leadership on the local level, sending a message to the rest of the world, and obtaining access to resources such as reporting software. Of the 12 communities that are not yet officially committed, many barriers were discussed as limiting their progress, including funding, staffing capabilities, political will, time constraints, and the fact that they had signed onto other frameworks already.

In order to make continued progress, I would recommend for the 3 communities that have not yet completed GHG inventories to apply for a UNHSI Fellow next summer. This would also be a recommendation for the communities that have plans or inventories with outdated data.

If a Fellow continues this work next summer, I would recommend analyzing the data from the interviews based on community size and size of sustainability staff. I would also suggest factoring in the size of the community in measuring the overall impact, such as through total emission reductions or percent reductions by sector. In order to update the timeline of compliance with GCM, I would suggest checking all of the “in process” steps to hopefully include projected years of completion. The GCM is currently updating the requirements for compliance as well and this information should be clearly conveyed to the member municipalities. Appropriate changes should also be made to the NEMSN GCM compliance materials. Finally, it might be useful to write additional case studies about the work of the newly developed working groups.

Methods
- Using existing literature and reports, update sustainability profiles and GCM matrix
- Conduct interviews with member municipalities
- Analyze data for key priorities, case study areas, and total Network impact
- Produce marketing materials and final assessment with findings and compliance with GCM

References