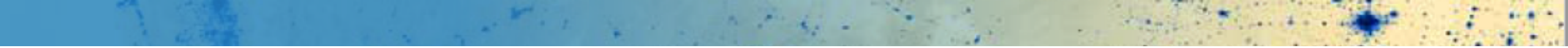


# Mayors: Taking Action on Climate

**October 24, 2018**  
Salt Lake City, UT

- 
1. Where do U.S. mayors stand on climate change?
  2. How can we gauge who is taking action?

# Movement Around the Margins or a Tipping Point?

## Cities lead the way on curbing carbon emissions

**Nearly 30 megacities announce massive cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in defiance of Trump at California summit**

**Cities Are Scolding Countries at UN Climate Conference to Cut Emissions**

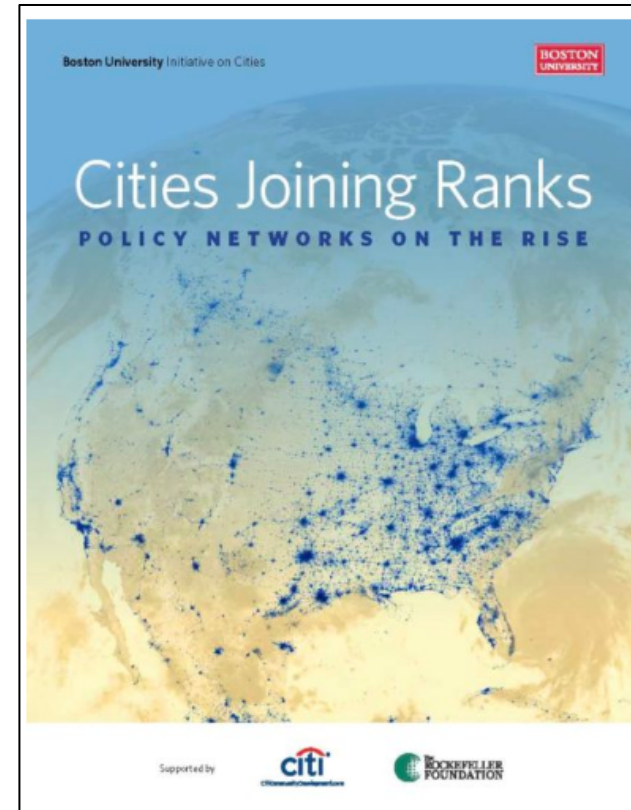
**The US Is Ready For 100% Clean Energy — 10 Cities Model How To Get There**

**On Eve of Global Climate Summit, 19 U.S. Cities Launch Electric Car Effort**

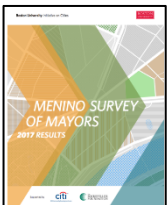


**BOSTON  
CLIMATE  
SUMMIT**  
*Mayor Martin J. Walsh*





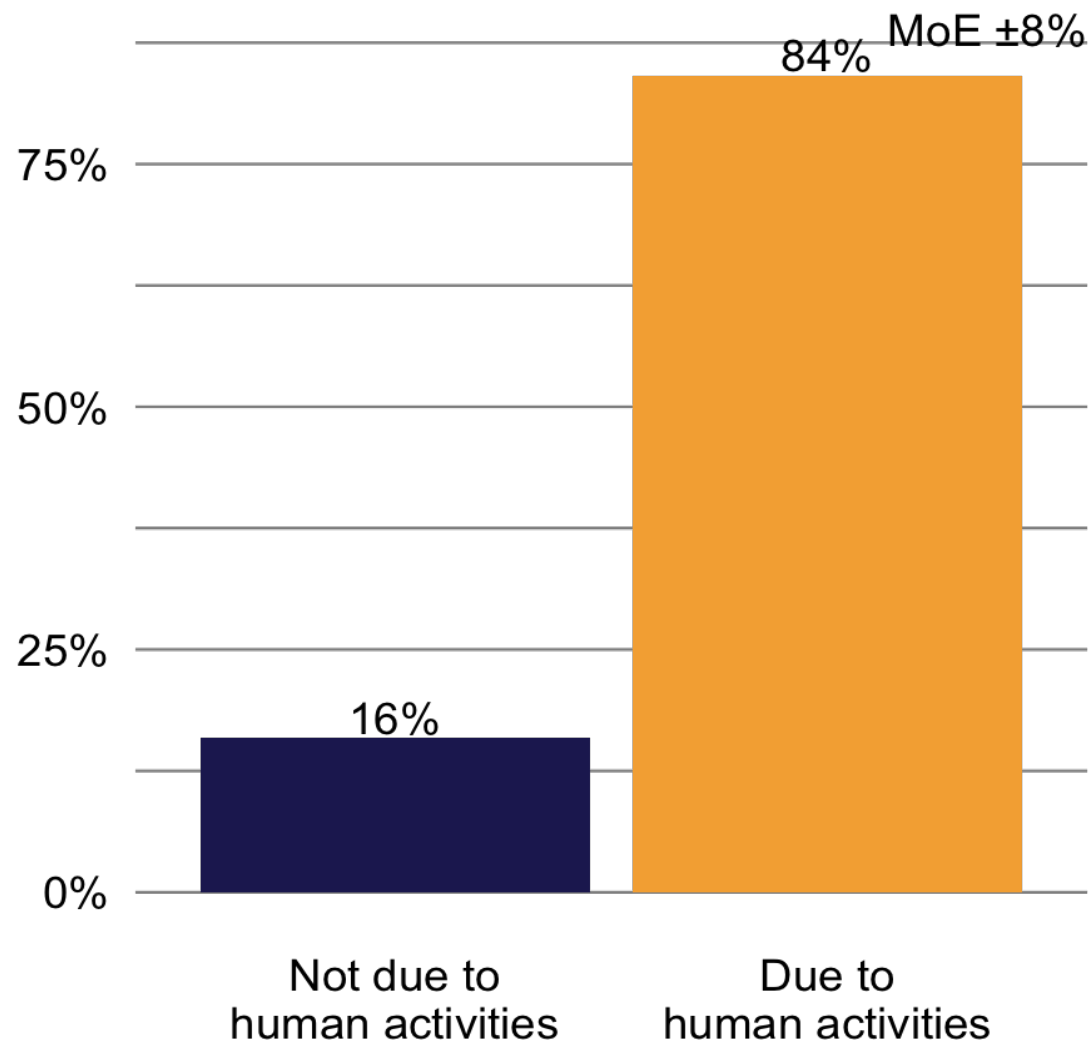
[www.surveyofmayors.com](http://www.surveyofmayors.com)



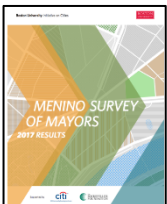
# Climate Change and Human Activities:

84% of US mayors believe that climate change is due to human activities.

Far higher than the general public (68%)



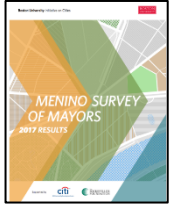
*Do you believe that increases in Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to the effects of pollution from human activities or natural changes in the environment that are not due to human activities?*



# Climate Change and Human Activities:

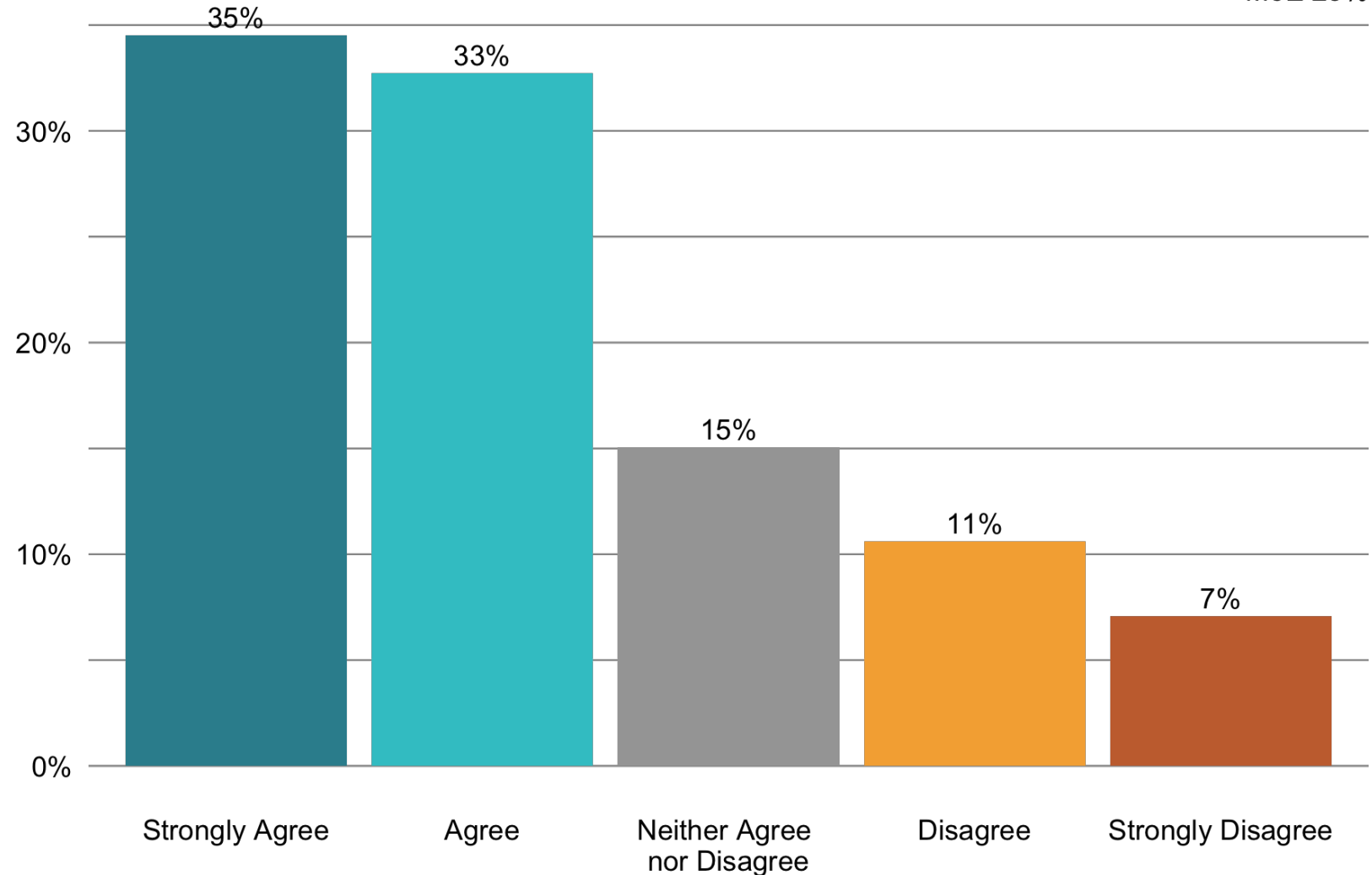
- Perceptions vary greatly by political affiliation
- Republican mayors may be slightly more likely to believe than Republican voters (40%)

	Democrats	Republicans	Others
Human Activities	95%	50%	79%
Natural Changes	5%	50%	21%

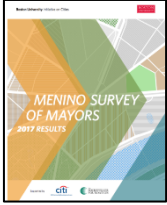


# Climate Change Trade-off:

Large majority of mayors support fiscal sacrifices to address climate change.

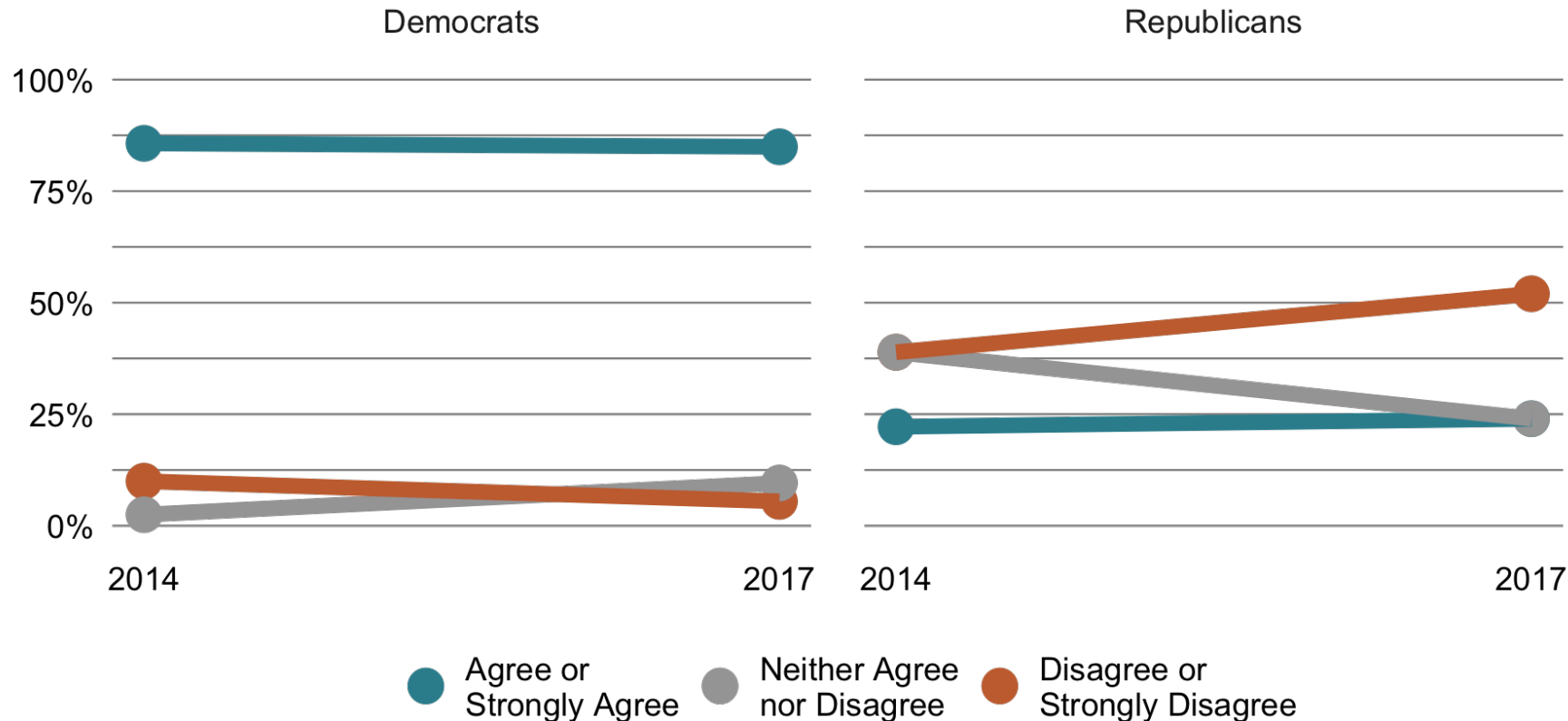


*Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement:  
Cities should play a strong role in reducing the effects of climate change, even if it means  
sacrificing revenues and/or expending financial resources.*

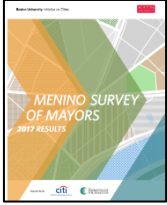


# Climate Change Trade-off:

Republican mayors increasingly likely to disagree that addressing climate change is a top priority.







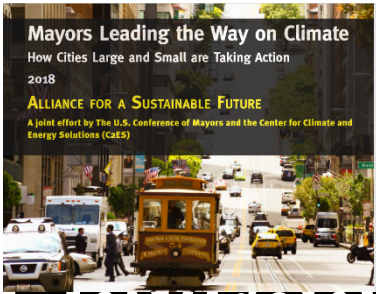
# Environmental Investment Priorities:

Mayors highlight a wide array of environmental programs that their cities are interested in pursuing.

Reducing the number of vehicles on the road	36%
Energy efficiency upgrades to city assets	31%
Green/alternative energy sourcing	27%
Energy efficiency in private buildings	21%
Flood mitigation	21%
Smart traffic lights to help reduce congestion	20%
Increasing city green space	10%
Improved municipal water reuse/reclamation	8%
More efficient/expanded recycling	7%
Water efficiency in private buildings	4%

*Thinking about the environment and sustainability in and around your city, what are the top two areas you would prioritize if you could allocate a significant amount of new money?*

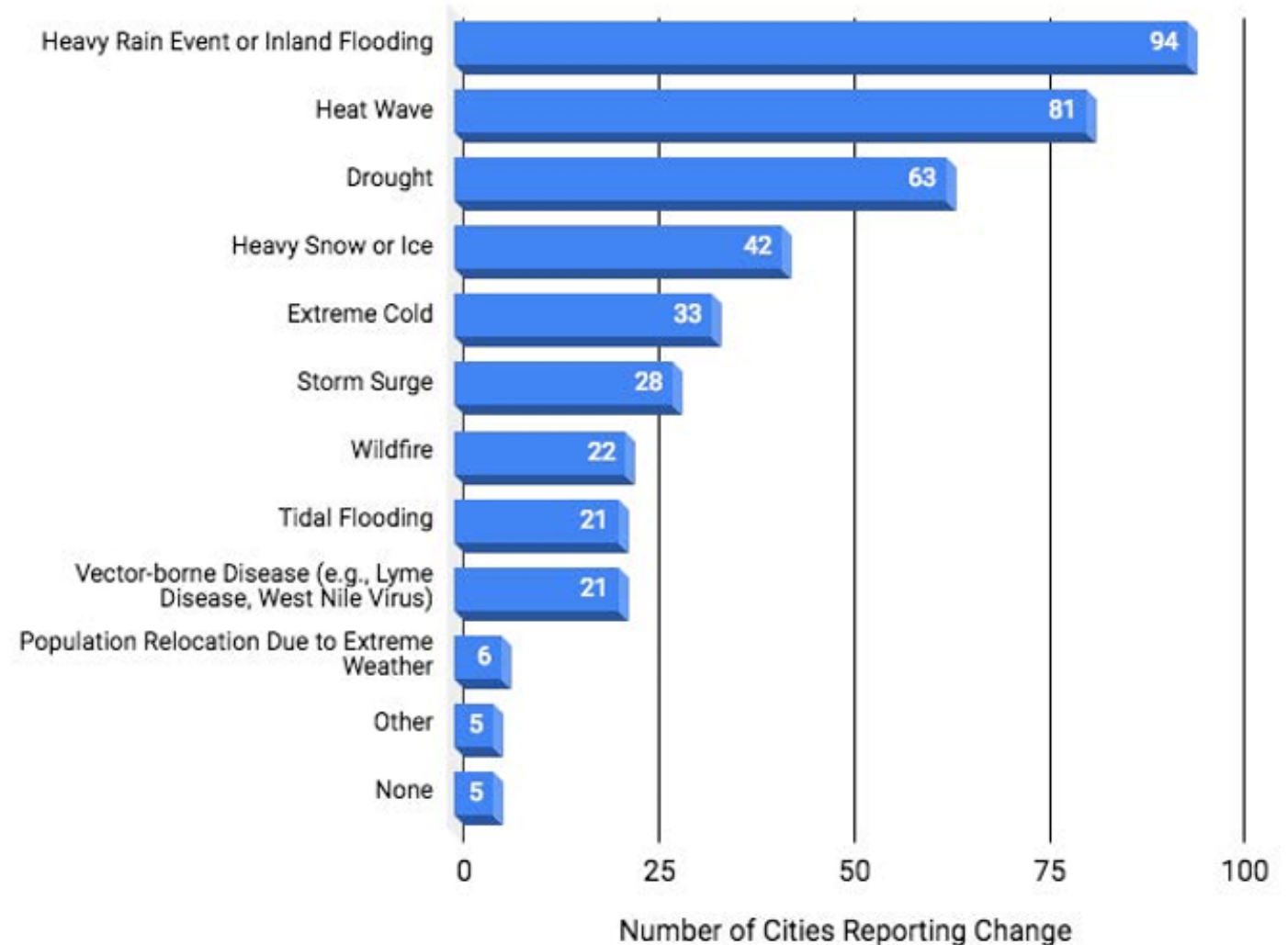




# Environmental Threats:

Flooding, heat waves and drought top list of climate impacts confronting cities, based on recent report

Figure 1. Cities Experiencing Changing Climate Impacts in the Past Five Years  
Changing Frequency, Intensity, or Location





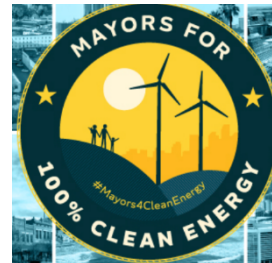
[www.surveyofmayors.com](http://www.surveyofmayors.com)

# Cities Joining Ranks - Methodology

15 active, national and global policy networks with strong US memberships were reviewed, including:

- 10 with a core focus on environmental issues;
- 5 pertaining to different urban policy arenas

Based on interviews with the networks, analysis of member roles and network requirements, and Menino Survey data



# Why do the (many) environmental networks matter?

1. **Politics:** Act as public signals of mayors climate and environmental commitments, and provide basis for cities' advocacy
2. **Fuel Ambition:** Help to create peer pressure and provide forums to share best practices
3. **Sense of Agency:** May be creating a sense of greater agency among mayors that they can actually tackle climate change
4. **Data Demand:** Fueling demand for more and better data on emissions
5. **Data Aggregation:** Being used to track climate actions and emissions reductions at the local level
6. **Procurement:** Provide economies of scale and purchasing power

- 
- **All ten of the largest US cities** have joined **We Are Still In** and **Climate Mayors**. **Eight** participate in the **Global Covenant**.
  - **72 of the 100 largest US cities**, which together represent over 52 million residents, participate in at least one of the ten city to city environmental networks studied
  - About **45% of cities** with population over 75,000 participate in one of the ten
-



## Why Mayors Join

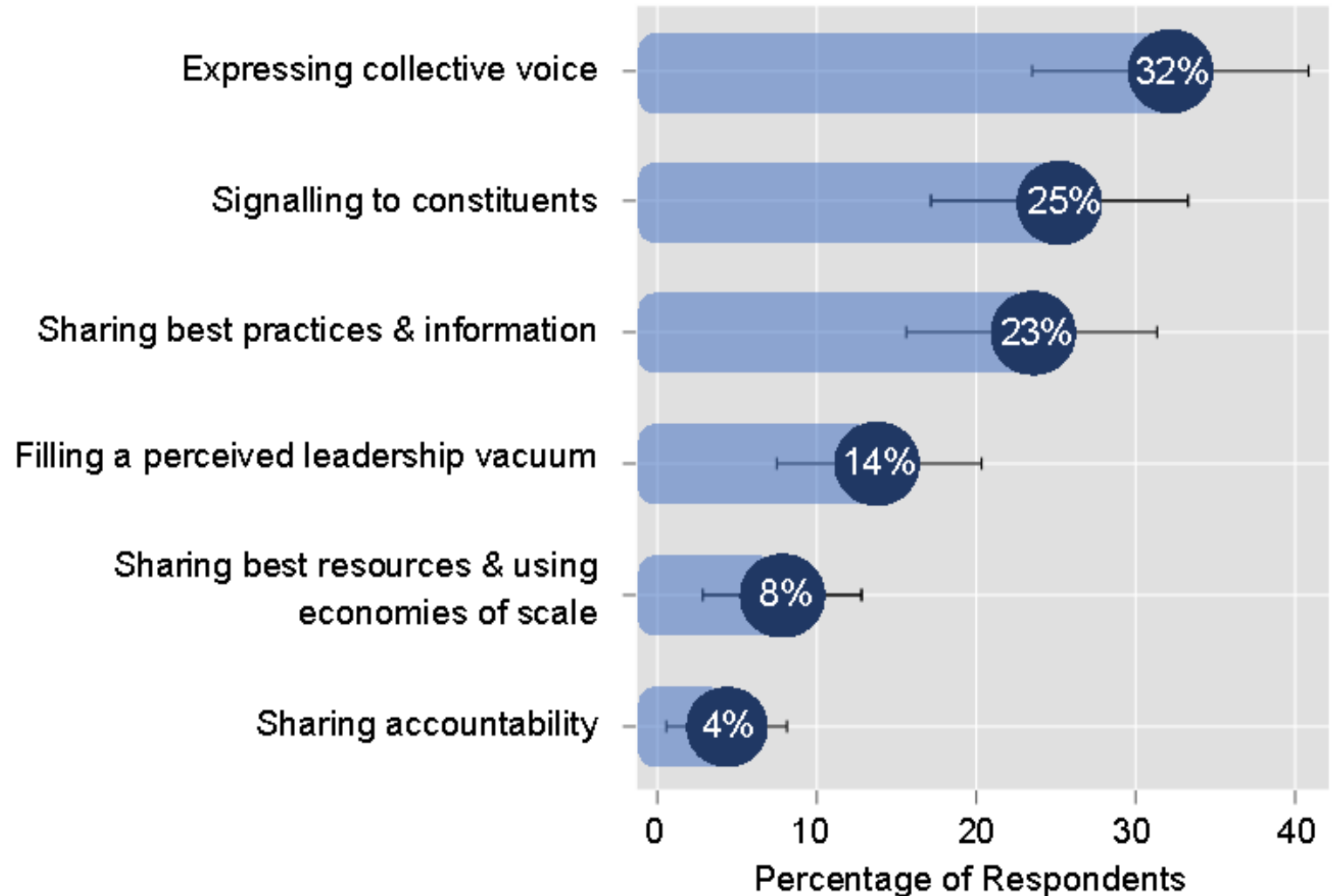
Mayors generally value policy networks as tools to signal priorities and influence national and global issues.

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*“You have strength in numbers and a united front. When we’re all standing together, we’re more of a force to be reckoned with.”*

— SMALL CITY WEST COAST MAYOR, 2017  
MENINO SURVEY OF MAYORS

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# Role of Politics in Joining Behavior

- Most active joiner cities tend to be majority Democrat
- Exceptions led by Democratic mayors or have history of environmental leadership

Figure 8: Cities' Environmental Network Memberships by Democratic Population

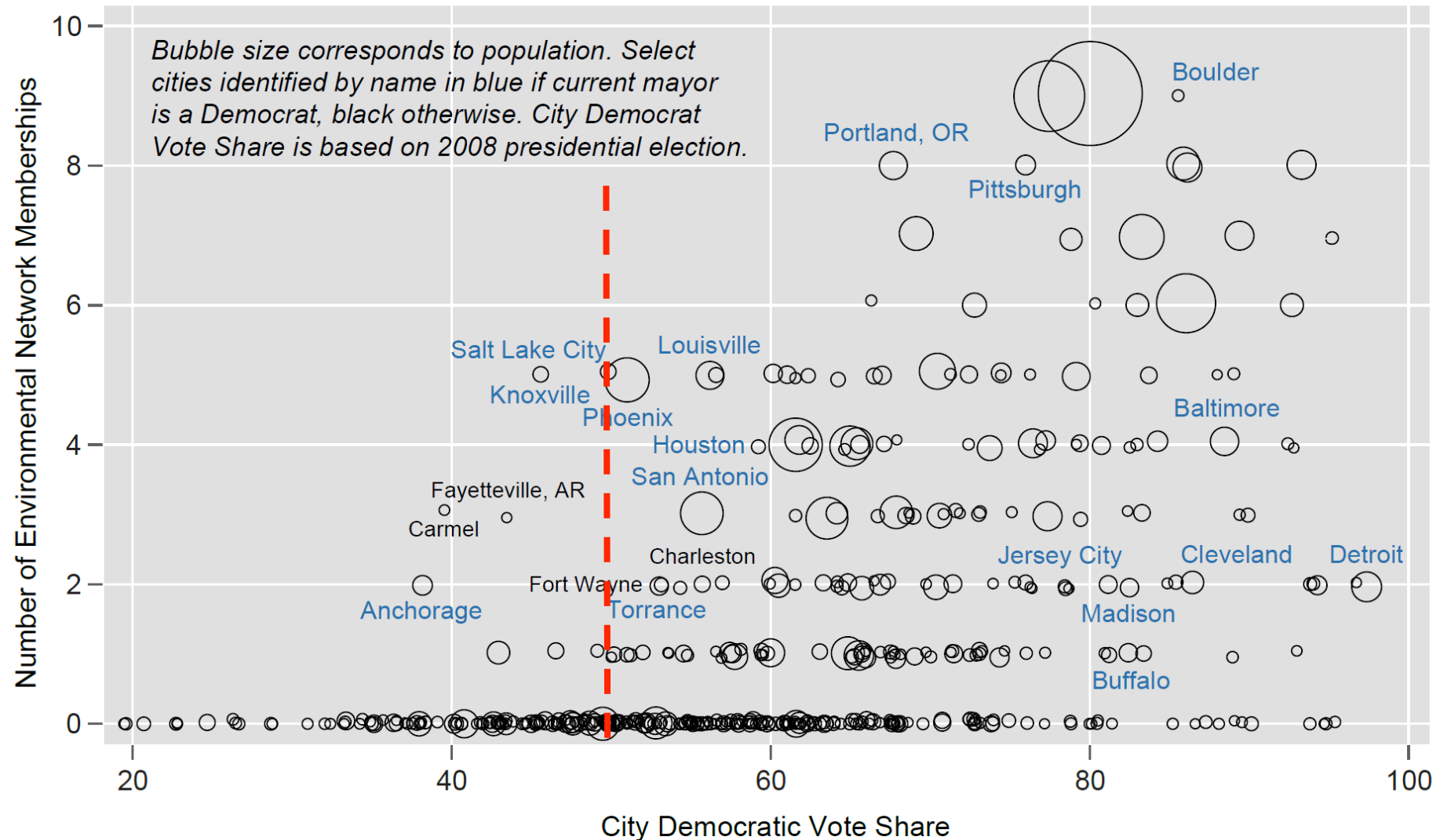
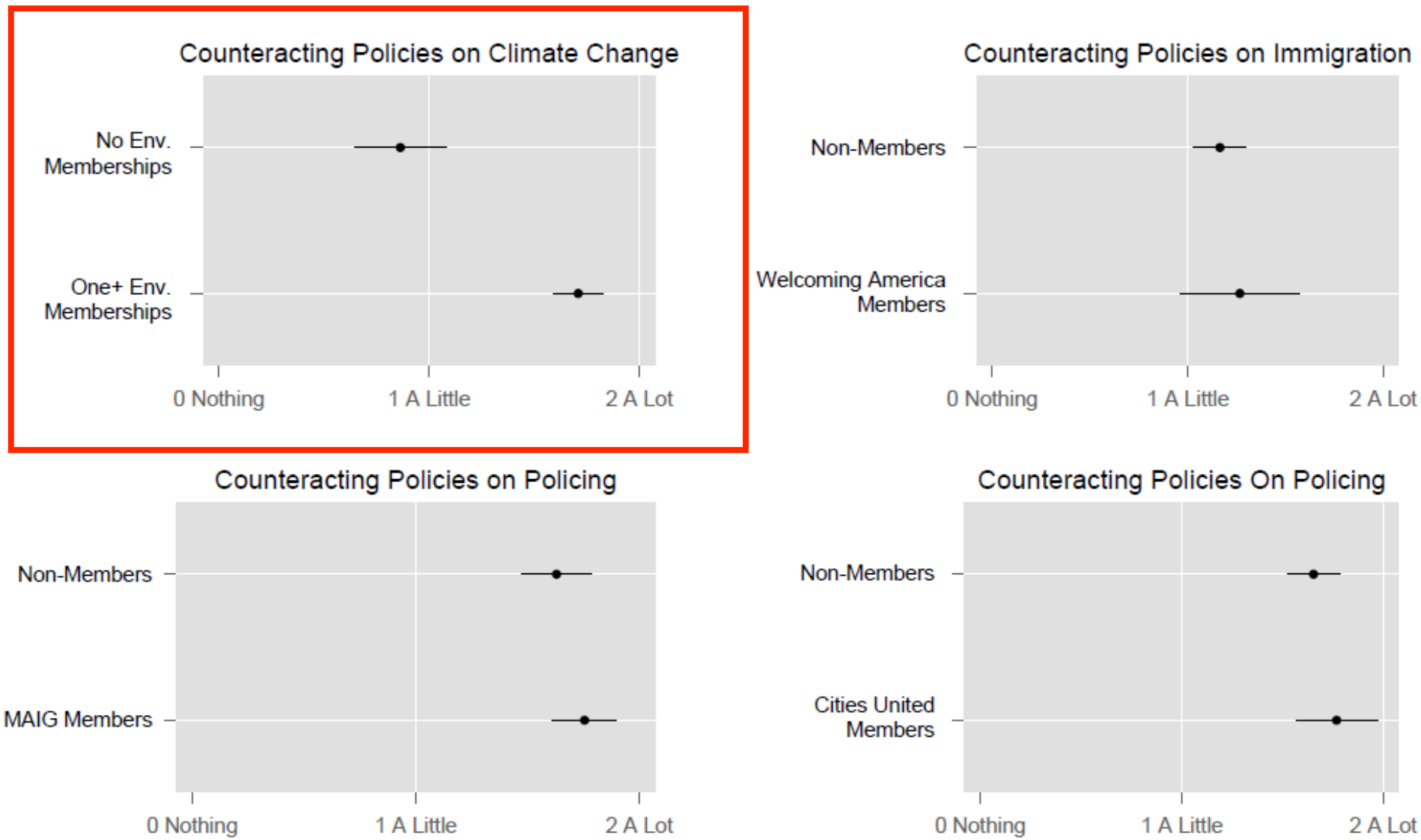




Figure 9: Network Memberships and Views on Counteracting the Federal Administration



Data from Menino Survey Question: Many mayors have publicly stated they would take actions to counteract President Trump's policies. Regardless of whether you agree with these mayors, for each of the following policy areas, how much can mayors do to counteract the administration's policies? Bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

# **Not all networks are created equal**

**Vary by....**

- 1. Size and geographic reach**
- 2. Requirements: Signaling and cooperation vs. hard commitments**
- 3. Programming: Advocacy vs. best practices/knowledge sharing**
- 4. “Uses”**



A network of 412 US mayors launched in 2014 that organizes and amplifies the collective voice and power of city halls in the media and encourages its members to develop voluntary, city-level GHG reduction goals.

**W  ARE  
STILL IN**

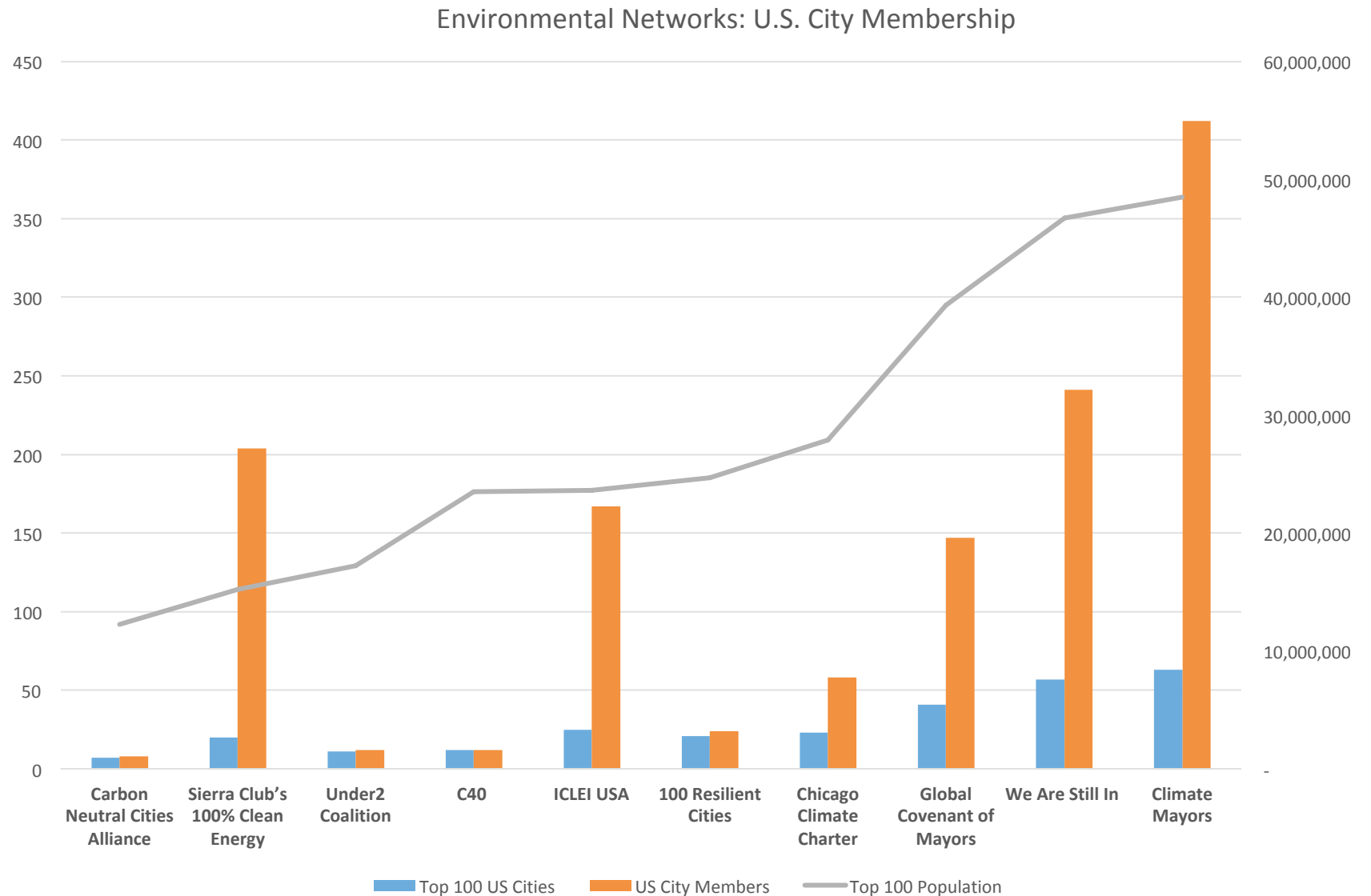
A North American network of networks launched in 2017 that brings together 241 cities, as well as counties, states, regions, tribes, universities, faith organizations, and businesses that pledge to uphold the Paris Agreement within their jurisdictions.













A global city and local government network that includes 147 US cities, committed to meet or exceed national mitigation goals by following a process of planning, target-setting, and outcome reporting. [US-based Compact of Mayors launched in 2014.]

# Network Comparisons: Size of US City Membership

- Networks US member bases vary tremendously in size and composition
- “Big” networks do not necessarily = big cities



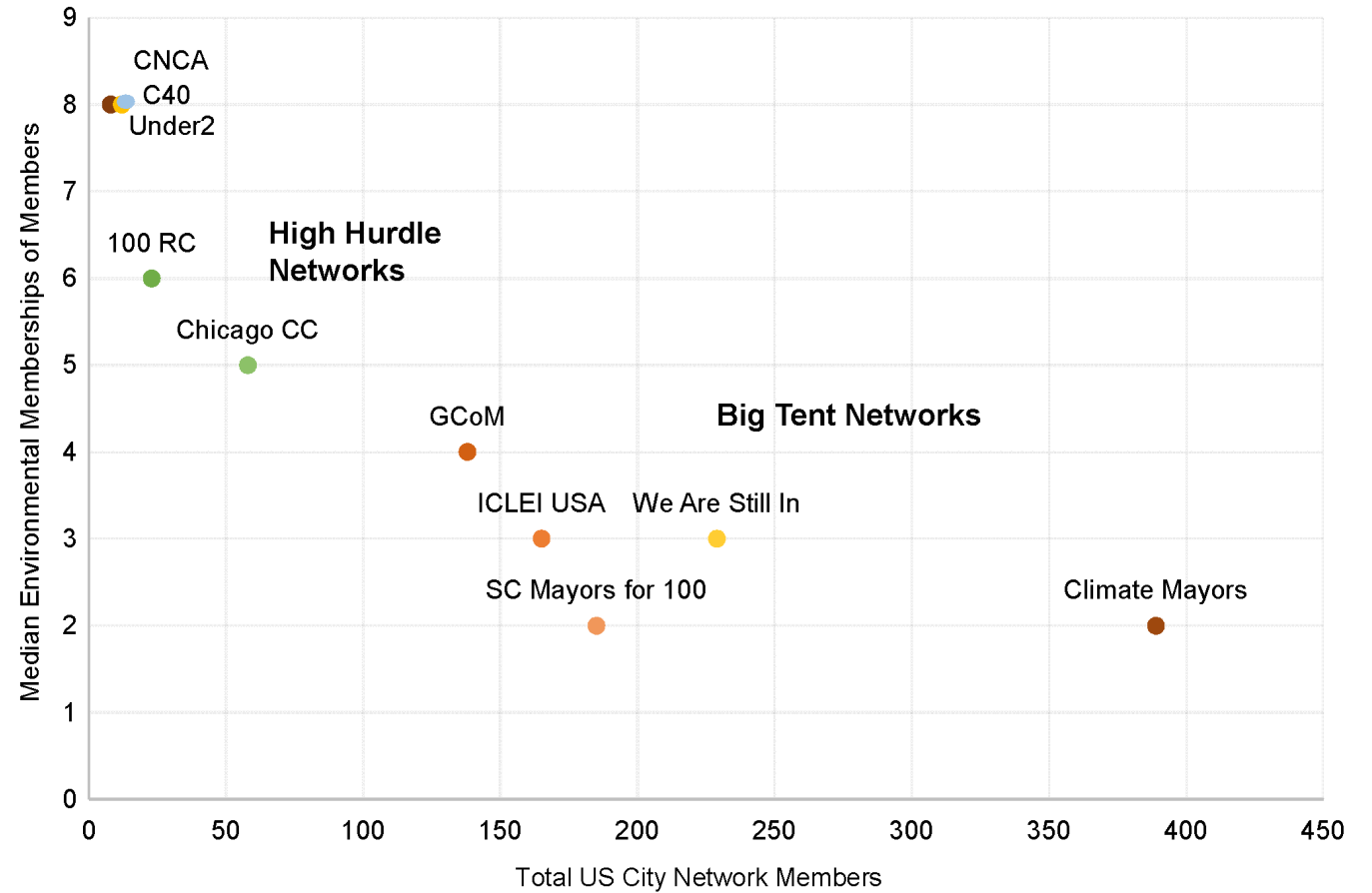
# Network Comparisons: Member Obligations

										
Pay dues								X		
Participation standards	X			X		X			X	
Commit to a specific, quantified network target	X	X	X				X			
Commit to own, quantified target									X	
Develop plan	X								X	
Report baseline publicly	X	X								
Report progress toward goals	X		X	X						

# Network Comparisons: Member Composition

## Network Typologies

- **High-Hurdle Networks** have smaller member rolls mainly made up of highly networked cities with ambitious environmental targets.
- **Big Tent Networks** draw in many cities of varying size, policy maturity, and network activity.





# Common Reporting Framework, Sept 2018

## Members pledge to:

- Reduce/limit GHG
- Prepare for impacts of climate change
- Increase access to sustainable energy
- Track progress

Must account for emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O

## **GHG Inventory: Submit every two years**

Stationary Energy: W/in boundary emissions from fossil fuels & grid supplied energy for

- Residential Buildings
- Commercial Buildings
- Institutional
- Plus – industry, ag, forestry, fisheries
- Fugitive emissions

Transportation: W/in boundary emissions from fossil fuels & grid supplied energy for

- On-road & Rail: Municipal, public, private and commercial
- Water, Aviation, Off-road excluding transboundary

Waste

- Waste & wastewater, excl energy gen

Energy

- W/in boundary grid-supplied energy, and outside boundary where owned by local government

# Networks Not a Perfect Proxy for Mayoral Commitment

**Why? Republican mayors are less likely to use networks to signal commitment to climate and environmental concerns**

Network Skeptics: 72% of Democratic mayors vs. 26% of Republican mayors believe binding compacts are critical to addressing climate change

29 of the 100 largest US cities are led by Republican mayors

- Just seven participate in an environmental network, however....
- Fifteen have or are developing climate action plans or sustainability plans with quantified targets





# **APPENDIX**

# 2017 Menino Survey of Mayors

- Interviews with 115 mayors of cities > 75,000 residents
- Nationally representative sample

**Table 1: Demographic Comparison of Menino Survey Sample Cities to All US Cities with Population >75,000**

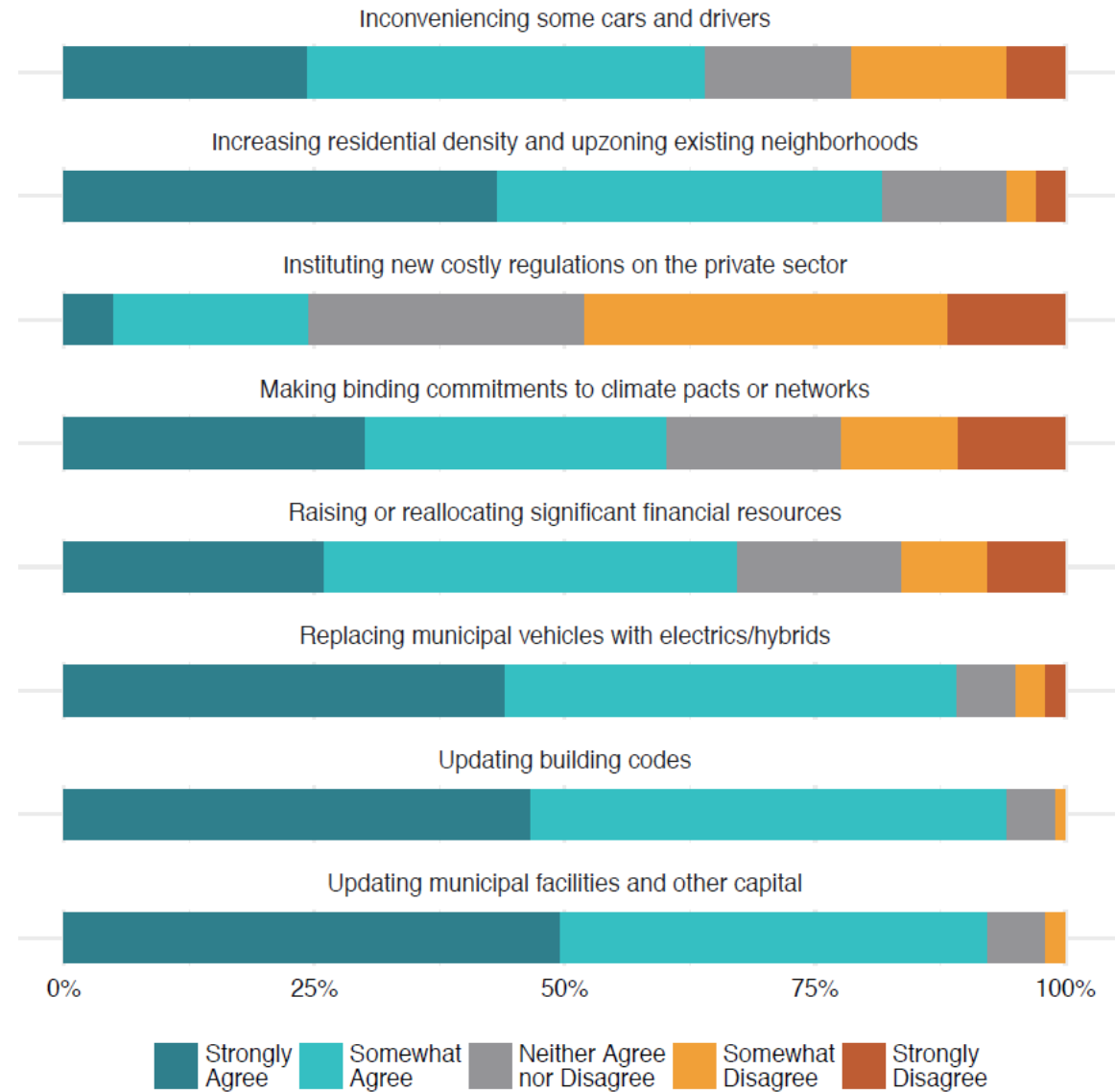
	Survey Sample	All Cities
Number of Cities	115	467
Average Population	233,086	224,762
Average Percent White	55%	50%
Average Percent Black	16%	14%
Average Percent Hispanic	19%	25%
Average Median Housing Price	\$238,719	\$245,783
<b>Region</b>	<b>% of Sample</b>	<b>% of Cities</b>
Northeast	9%	10%
Midwest	25%	16%
South	27%	33%
West	39%	40%

Data from 2015 American Community Survey (ACS), published by US Census Bureau

# 2020 Climate policies Mayors

Majority of mayors agree that combatting climate change requires:

- Increasing residential density;
- Updating building codes;
- Updating municipal facilities and other capital; and
- Replacing municipal vehicles with electrics/hybrids



*In recent years, many mayors have pledged to fight climate change at the municipal level. A serious and sustained effort to make a meaningful impact in my city would require . . .*

**Table 12. Fighting Climate Change: Agree or Strongly Agree, by Party**

	Democrats	Republicans
Inconveniencing some cars and drivers	71%	33%
Increasing residential density and upzoning existing neighborhoods	84%	79%
Instituting new costly regulations on the private sector	26%	5%
Making binding commitments to climate pacts or networks	72%	26%
Raising or reallocating significant financial resources	74%	63%
Replacing municipal vehicles with electrics/hybrids	93%	89%
Updating building codes	96%	84%
Updating municipal facilities and other capital	96%	89%

*In recent years, many mayors have pledged to fight climate change at the municipal level. A serious and sustained effort to make a meaningful impact in my city would require . . .*

# Why Cities Matter: New Momentum

**1988:** [IPCC](#) – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program

**1990:** [ICLEI](#) - Global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future

**2005:** [C40](#) – C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Network of the world's megacities (et al – 90 total) committed to addressing climate change

**2013:** [100 Resilient Cities](#) –100 cities committed to becoming more resilient to physical, social, and economic challenges

**2013-2014:** IPCC releases **Fifth Assessment**

**2014:** [GPC](#) - Final version of the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) published by WRI, C40 and ICLEI

**2014:** [Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#) – Collaboration of twenty leading global cities focused on deep decarbonization; Working to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% or more by 2050

**2014:** [Climate Mayors](#) – U.S. mayor to mayor network committed to reducing GHG emissions and supporting binding federal and global-level policymaking

**2014:** [Compact of Mayors](#) (merged with **Global Covenant of Mayors in 2016**) - Global coalition of mayors and city officials committed to reduce local GHG emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change and tracking progress publicly.

**2017:** [We're Still In, America's Pledge on Climate](#) created, underwritten by Michael Bloomberg, in response to Trump administration decision to withdraw from Paris Agreement

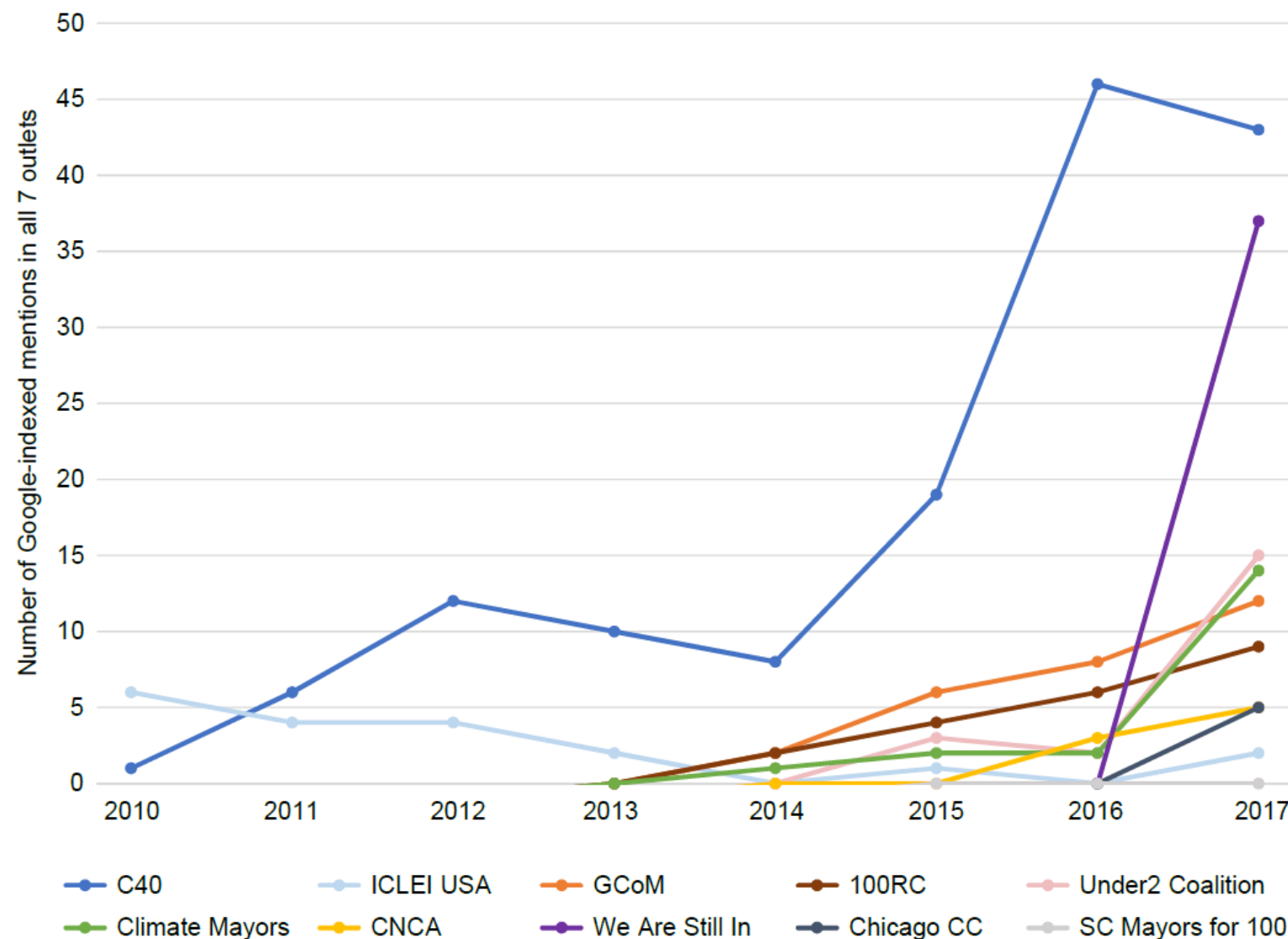
**2018:** Bloomberg launches [American Cities Climate Challenge](#), pledging \$70 million competition for 100 largest US cities to tackle climate change. Cities must sign on to We Are Still In or a similar pledge.

# Why Mayors Join: Visibility

## Media Profile

Environmental networks have enjoyed an uptick in media coverage in recent years.

Figure 2: Environmental Network Visibility in Online News Media\*, 2010-2017

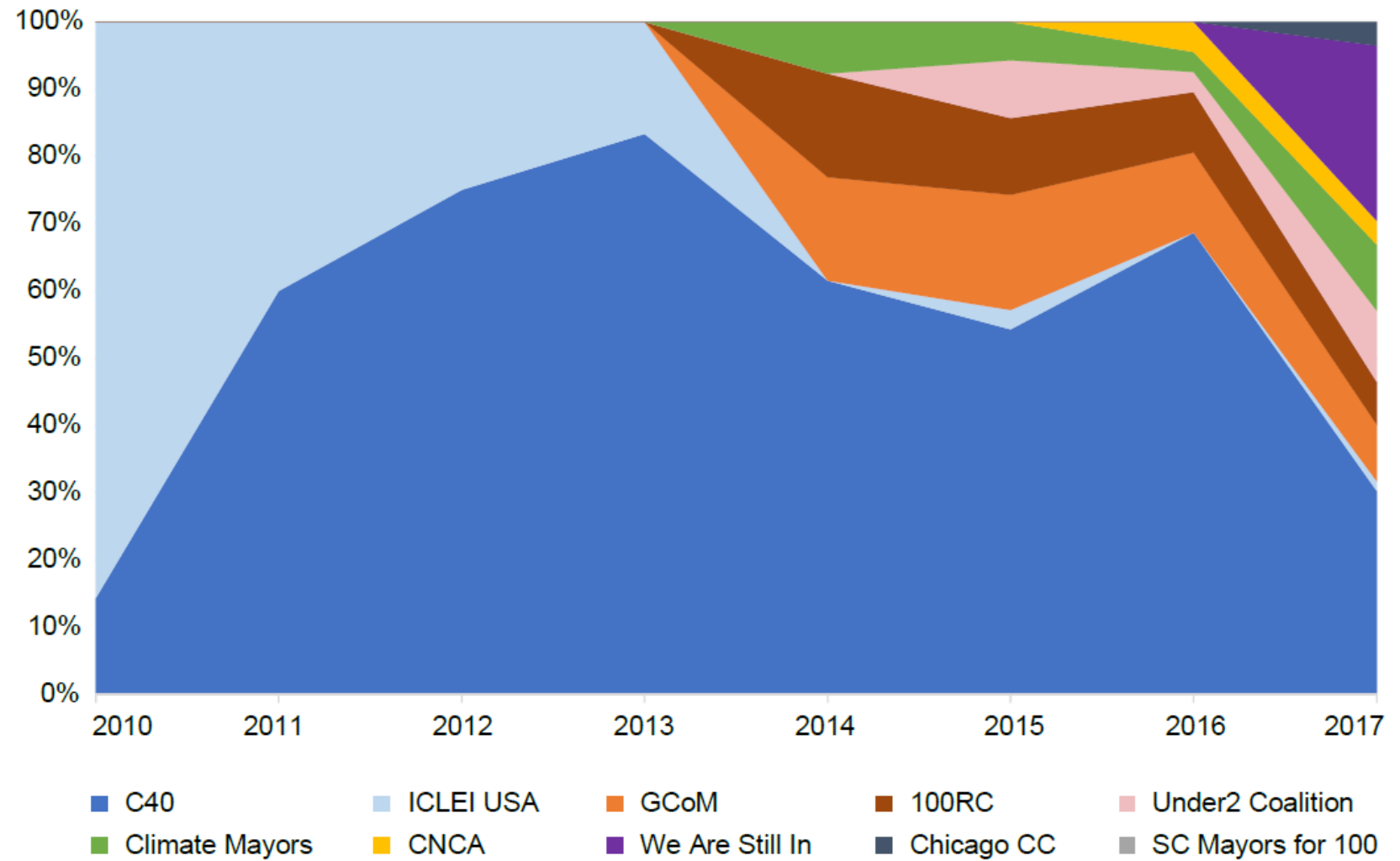


\*Outlets: Huffington Post, CNN, New York Times, Fox News, NBC News, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal

## Media Profile

The C40 is featured most frequently among all environmental networks—garnering one of every three related references in online media outlets in 2017.

Figure 4: Share of Online News Media Visibility by Environmental Network\*, 2010-2017



\*Outlets: Huffington Post, CNN, New York Times, Fox News, NBC News, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal

# Members: Domestic vs. International, Other Members

	Top 100 US Cities	US City Members	Total City Members	Other Members
Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance	7	8	20	
Under2 Coalition	11	12	23	States, regions, counties
Chicago Climate Charter	23	58	72	
C40	12	12	96	
100 Resilient Cities	21	24	100	
ICLEI USA	25	167	167	Regions, counties, universities
Sierra Club's 100% Clean Energy Initiative	20	204	204	
We Are Still In	57	241	241	States, regions, counties, tribes, universities, faith organizations, businesses, cultural institutions
Climate Mayors	63	412	412	
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy	41	147	9,168	Counties



## Commitments/Actions Associated with Network

Pay Dues	Members have to pay membership dues (one-off or regularly).
Participation standards	Members pledge to participate actively in the network activities (can be an explicit number of required interactions or a more general pledge).
Commit to specific network target	Members pledge to achieve a quantified target under a deadline, which are both set by the network (e.g. GHG emission reduction of 80% by 2050).
Commit to own target	Members pledge to achieve a quantified target under a deadline, which every member sets for themselves. If a network-wide exists, this category is not displayed even if some cities decide to set a more stringent target for themselves.
Develop plan	Members agree to design a plan (e.g. climate action plan, strategic plan) as a condition of membership. Plans may have to be created immediately or as part of a specific membership level requirement further down the road.
Report baseline	Members are required to make an inventory (e.g. of emissions in context of climate networks) at onset of their membership and report it publicly. Baseline data can be shown on network web pages or on third-party platforms. The member not the network staff needs to perform this activity.
Report progress	Members need to periodically report on their performance as it pertains to network goals or activities.

### Activities/Benefits of Network<sup>A</sup>

Direct assistance	At least some members have received financial or in-kind financial assistance (includes sponsored personnel) in the past. Access to funds may be competitive.
Technical assistance	Network assists members with hands-on programmatic advice and/or planning, measurement, development and implementation of policies.
Conference & convenings	At least twice a year the network organizes conferences, summits, convenings or forums that have members (staff and/or mayors) as primary audience.
Routine peer exchanges (staff, mayors or both)	Network connects members (staff and/or mayors) on specific network issue through regular calls, working groups, subnetworks or similar channels.
Public/Private partnership facilitation	Network engages in active matchmaking between members and private companies and/or has private companies as "preferred network partners".
Aggregated reporting/Projections	Network periodically publishes report that stacks up member activities or members' progress towards network goals (e.g. in form of annual member activity report that goes beyond spotlighting work of some members). Alternatively, network makes more generalizable projections based on members' activities that can apply to non-members as well.
Best practices/Case studies	Network regularly publishes best practice guides, case studies, blueprints or similar material that is accessible to members and/or the general public.
Advocacy (subnational, national and/or global)	Network reaches out to elected officials or bureaucrats in an effort to implement network agenda. This also includes elevating the voice of cities in subnational/national/global decision-making around the network's topic (e.g. through writing joint letters by mayors that oppose or support certain policies).
Media outreach	Network regularly publishes press releases and/or keeps social media feeds up-to-date. Website maintenance alone does not suffice here.
Accreditation	Network provides accreditation to members, which reflects different tiers of performance or levels of involvement in the network activities.
Awards	Network awards prizes to high-performing members. Form of prizes does not matter (cash money, trophies, labels), but it needs to go beyond being featured in brochures or once in the network's newsletter.

# America's Pledge?



- **Bottoms up tally of actions by cities, states, businesses, universities** (“real economy actors”) and others that could fulfill on the US commitment to the Paris Agreement.
- **Sept 2018 Report: Just under halfway there**
- City level tally is based on actions of cities that have joined either **We Are Still In** or **Climate Mayors**



# America's Pledge: 10 Actions

## Climate Action Strategies:



#1: Double down on renewable energy targets



#2: Accelerate the retirement of coal power



#3: Encourage residential and commercial building efficiency retrofits



#4: Electrify building energy use



#5: Accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption



#6: Phase down super-polluting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)



#7: Stop methane leaks at the wellhead



#8: Reduce methane leaks in cities



#9: Develop regional strategies for carbon sequestration on natural and working lands



#10: Form state coalitions for carbon pricing