

COP P In [MyCity]

COP in MyCity 2013
Executive Summary

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1. Presentation

COP in MyCity is a youth-led project coordinated by CliMates with ambitions to bridge the gap between climate negotiations (a.k.a. the COPs) and the mainstream public, foster **education and action about climate change** locally and create an international community of agents of change committed to global cooperation and dialogue on climate change.

Following the genesis of the “simul-action” born from the MyCity+20 project, COP in MyCity was launched in August 2013. It pushes for young climate agents of change and youth organizations across the world to **"invite" climate negotiations in their cities by running a climate negotiation simulation and mobilizing people** through concrete projects focused on the issue of climate change.

Why does COP21 represent a milestone?

COP21 is the UN climate talk where all parties to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes), including developing countries, should agree to cut their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within an ambitious international agreement in order to maintain the global temperature rise to 2°C. Such an agreement would be a first in the history of international climate negotiations.

Structure

Each COP in MyCity initiatives follows a common method organized in 3 steps.

STEP ONE: Before the COP → Education and awareness-raising

STEP TWO: During the COP → Mobilization

STEP THREE: After the COP → Debriefing

Partners

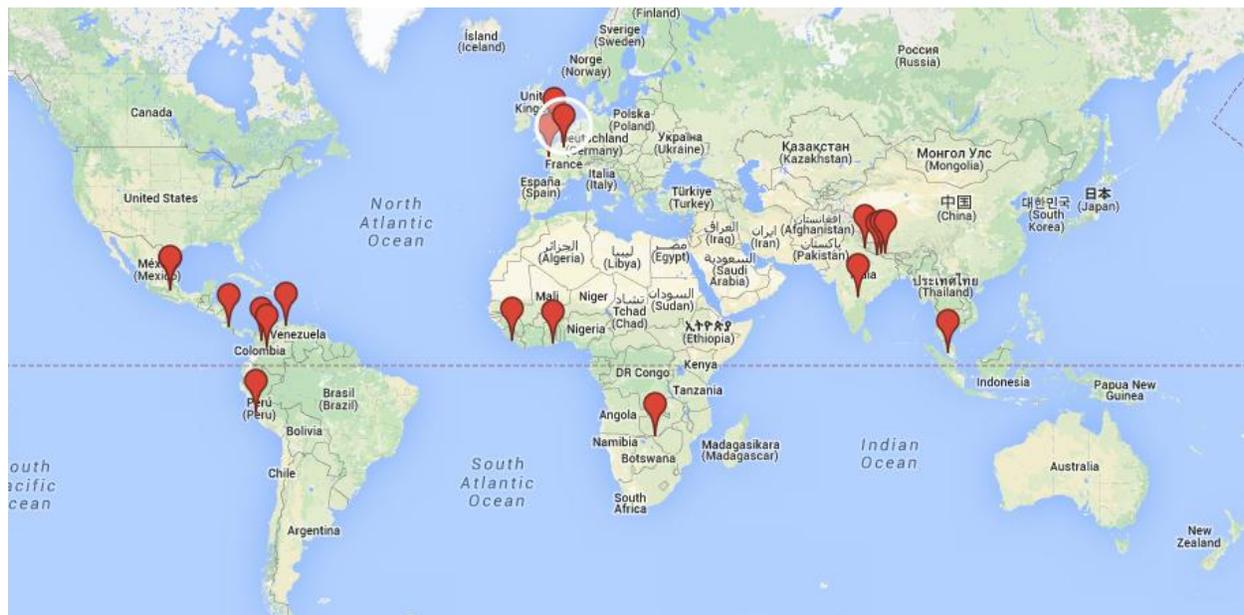
The project is supported by the **Earth Charter International** and **Connected Voices**. Thanks to the partnership with the Earth Charter International, the webinar “Climate Change, Science Policy and Ethics: towards and beyond” was able to be organized. An [article about the Webinar](#) and the [recording](#) can be found on the Earth Charter Website.



2. General Results in 2013

In 2013, COP19 was held in the City of Warsaw, in Poland. In a few months, **19 cities** joined the COP in MyCity community: **3 in Africa, 3 in Europe, 7 in the Americas and 6 in Asia.**

In this year's edition, **46 events** were organized, including 39 in the month of the COP itself, and **17 simulations** of international climate negotiations were held in different cities. For 12 of those cities, **about 1300 people** attended COP in MyCity events, whether conferences or simulation.



Support for simulations

Based in the United States, **Climate Interactive** helps decision-makers and development agents understand what actions work to address climate change and pressing challenges in fields like energy, water, food, and disaster risk reduction. Many of COP in MyCity initiatives used Climate Interactive [C-ROADS](#) simulation software – an award-winning climate policy tool already used in more than 70 countries.

Results of simulations

Simulations (role-gaming) help people to understand the long-term climate impacts of decisions made at any COP to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is a powerful tool to bridge the gap between the COPs and civil society, learn more about climate issues and encourage people, like youth, to get involved. Here are the major talking points where **outcomes were achieved** by the COP in MyCity initiatives (based on [C-ROADS](#) software):

Rise in global temperatures

People taking part to COP in MyCity in Europe are aware that if no concrete commitments are taken by countries towards 2020, it will be almost impossible not to exceed the limit of 2°C by 2100. Indeed, Warsaw in Paris did not manage to not exceed this limit, reaching an increase in average global temperatures close to +2,85°C and +2,05 °C.

Average annual rate of emissions reduction

Those participating to COP in MyCity in Americas seem more cautious than COP in MyCity in Europe about the rate of emissions reduction presented by the U.S. Indeed, South American initiatives announce an annual reduction rate of 0.8% for the U.S. whereas COP in MyCity in Europe are more optimistic about the U.S. position, announcing 2 to 4% annual reduction. Moreover, there is a consensus about 2% annual reduction for Europe, proposed by COP in Lima, Bogota and Paris.

Green Climate Fund

COP in MyCity in Africa emphasizes the role of developing countries in the international negotiations. African initiatives are the only ones where some contributions to the [Green Climate Fund](#) have been done by developing countries (40 billion US\$). Those part of COP in MyCity in Europe maintain a traditional position that aims to divide the contributions to the Green Fund by country, developing countries being the main beneficiaries of aid. For instance, India is not a contributor to the Green Climate Fund. Entrants in COP in MyCity in Americas attest that the participation of emerging powers to the Green Climate Fund like China and India is still debated. COP in Cuernavaca (Mexico), however, has the ambition to make China contribute up to 80 billion US\$. This effort is really bigger than the one supported by COP in MyCity in Europe who announced a participation of China of only up to 10 billion US\$.

Afforestation and reforestation

Unlike COP in MyCity in Europe, initiatives in Africa and South America appear to be more sensitive to the potential of reforestation and afforestation, conservation of forest carbon stocks and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Indeed, COP in MyCity in Africa preferred afforestation rather than reforestation, giving the result of 40% afforestation and 5% contribution to [REDD+](#) program, by developing countries. Initiatives in South America choose reforestation as a way to restore the cover of existing forests by planting new trees. In this scenario, China contributes to 7% and developing countries to 10% for reforestation.

General comments

COP in MyCity facilitators around the world have announced their **perspectives for 2014-2015**:

- **Asia** will focus on youth representation, networking and education to climate change;
- **Africa** will encourage the dissemination of information, local actions and fundraising;
- **Europe** will organize a simulation of [YOUNGO](#) meetings, inform about the presence of youth at the UNFCCC and prepare COP 21 in Paris;
- **Americas** will work to implement more projects with CLIC, a youth climate movement in Latin America, and COP in MyCity, and to create more interaction between the different movements.

As regards to mobilizing people for COP in MyCity, the different initiatives recommended to launch the COP in MyCity recruitment and training campaign further in advance, ahead of the official COP: at least 2 months prior. Solutions for the projects were also imagined for those without easy access to Internet or computers. The different COP in MyCity initiatives also pinpointed the need to further detail the tutorials to train about the C-ROADS software. Ways to financially support the projects were conceived; Finally the need to promote a exchange of experiences between countries was underlined.

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“Climate cooperation is in our hands”

