



THE FAB CITY COMMITMENT

March 2018

What do cities joining the Fab City project agree to, if anything?

Cities (and towns), regions and countries, agree to commit efforts and resources in order to achieve the 2054 challenge for cities to produce all the energy, food and products they consume, and to deploy spiral economy strategies for the relocalisation of production, and the technological empowerment of citizens. When a city, region or country joins the Fab City network, this does not imply that it immediately becomes a Fab City. Members make an agreement to partake in the challenge in collaboration with other cities throughout the world. We expect metrics from the Fab City Dashboard to show how cities import a large amount of resources in order to sustain the human life and its associated activities, and those metrics will serve as a tool to measure the impact of the actions taken in each city in the world and to share it globally.

Is a Fab Region any different than a Fab City?

Fab Cities, Fab Regions, Fab Countries, Fab Planets... Generally speaking, Fab Cities, Regions and Countries all have the same goal: to locally produce energy, food and products in order to reduce their environmental and social impact on the planet, and globally share best practices through open networks of labs and communities. We expect strategies to vary from member to member and according to the different scales of operation, even when cities share similar characteristics, such as size, location, or social, geographical, economic and cultural contexts, to mention only a few. Such characteristics will significantly affect the outputs of every member, while serving as an example for the rest of the network.

Are there any written rules and regulations?

Although there are no rules nor regulations for the Fab City initiative, members adhere to core values which are deeply rooted in the Fab Charter: <http://fab.cba.mit.edu/about/charter/>. The Fab City mission is to develop more inclusive and resilient cities by using the power inherent within the Fab Labs' global network (<https://www.fablabs.io/>), its skills and values, and integrate them into society. Member cities work on the topics specified in the Fab City whitepaper: <http://www.fab.city/whitepaper.pdf>, and are invited to participate in global events, publications and projects organised by the Fab City Initiative. Members are expected to attend to the yearly Fab City Summit. Currently there are no cities considered to be a Fab City and the indicators and metrics by which progress towards attaining the Fab City label may be measured are under review.

Are there any signed agreements between governments and Fab Labs?

At this stage there are no formal agreements, although the Fab City initiative is in the process of being established as a legal organisation. This may require additional agreements with member organisations and cities. A pioneering city on such process is Paris, and its Fab City Grand Paris Association.

How can cities officially take part in the Fab City Network?

The process comes from an understanding of the Fab City vision, and the dialogue between the local officials, the Fab City global initiative team and the local community that is leading the process. New cities joining Fab City are announced each year during the Fab City Summit, which gathers the global network of Fab City. This year, it will take place as part of [FAB14+](#) Fab Conference in France. The process starts with a written interest from the applicant city to the Fab City Global Initiative via email: info@fab.city. Cities' applications will be reviewed by the Fab City Collective and will be communicated in advance to confirm attendance to the Fab City Summit, with the requirements stated in this document.





THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT

To join as a Fab City Member, your City/Region/Country must publicly commit to the initiative by completing the following steps.

Before the Fab City Summit

- Produce a signed letter by the mayor and/or deputy mayors establishing they will to join the Fab City initiative, and manifesting the support to the local community promoting it.
- Create a one minute video in which the mayor and/or deputy mayors announce publicly the reasons why the city is joining Fab City. The video will be projected during the Fab City Summit.
- Have a representative of the city present at the Fab City Summit to participate in the public commitment event. This representative could be either a city official, or community members promoting the Fab City initiative.

After the Fab City Summit

- No more than one week after the Summit, the city must send out a press release about the public commitment made at the Fab Conference and the future plans for Fab City. We recommend using social media and tagging the Fab City Global Initiative.
- Work to connect existing strategies in the city (circular economy, open data, open innovation, smart city, etc) with the Fab City initiative locally and globally.
- Develop a strong policy on open data about city metrics, which will help to build the common infrastructure among cities: the Fab City Dashboard. As an example, the current prototype focuses on data from the OECD Regional Well-Being Index (<https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org/>) and the OECD Better Life Index at country level (<http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>). This could be achieved by collaborating on the definition and development of such metrics or by providing data for such metrics as open data.
- Start a process to identify areas of the city that could be experimentation areas for different strategies connected with the Fab City vision, these are often called [Fab City prototype](#); Barcelona and Paris have started this path.
- Logistically or financially support the local community to develop programs, activities, events or projects connected with the Fab City vision.
- Participate in the global meetings such as the Fab City Summit, online networks and actively update the network using social media in order to work with the global team leading the initiative.

Once a member is established, the team will help to access documents, communication tools, branding assets and other resources that will be useful to develop the local Fab City strategy in alignment with the global vision.

What's Next?

To pledge to become a Fab City member at the Fab City Summit this July in Paris, fill in the Typeform via the link below, where you can include basic details as well as the letter of commitment and one minute video. See [Fab City FAQ's](#) for more information or contact Kate Armstrong (Fab City Global Initiative Coordinator) - kate@fablabbcn.org

[Access the Typeform here.](#)