Michael R. Bloomberg
Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies
Mayor of New York City, 2002-2013

Michael R. Bloomberg is an entrepreneur and three-term Mayor of New York City whose innovations in government and philanthropy have made him a global leader on climate change, public health, and other critical issues facing America and the world.

Bloomberg was elected mayor just weeks after the attacks of September 11, 2001, and under his leadership, New York City rebounded faster and stronger than expected. His administration raised high school graduation rates by 40 percent, cut crime by a third, and increased life expectancy by three years. His economic policies, which supported entrepreneurs, small businesses, and emerging industries, helped to create more than 400,000 new jobs. Committed to making New York City resilient, Bloomberg implemented PlaNYC, a groundbreaking strategic sustainability plan. Ultimately, he reduced the city’s carbon footprint by 14 percent while increasing park and pedestrian space, undertaking the planting of over 1 million trees, and restoring large swaths of New York City’s waterfront as a “sixth borough.”

After leaving City Hall, he resumed leadership of Bloomberg LP, the information technology startup he launched in 1981 that revolutionized the investment industry and leveled the playing field for smaller firms. The company has grown from a one-room office into a global organization that employs nearly 20,000 people in 120 countries. Bloomberg LP’s European headquarters in London has been rated the most sustainable office building in the world.

Bloomberg has been strongly committed to philanthropy throughout his career, and he has made climate change a top priority of his foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies. The foundation employs a unique data-driven approach to its five main focus areas: the environment, public health, education, government innovation, and the arts. Bloomberg has given away $10 billion.

He leads a number of coalitions that are taking action on urgent national and international issues like climate change. Bloomberg recently served as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Climate Action, charged with galvanizing the efforts of local and regional governments, businesses, and civil society. He also leads two networks of cities focused on meeting ambitious climate goals, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Global Covenant of Mayors. He is a strong supporter of ocean conservation efforts to promote sustainable fisheries and protect coral reefs in the face of climate change.

In the wake of Congress’ failure to pass a climate bill in 2010, Bloomberg worked with the Sierra Club to launch the Beyond Coal campaign, which has retired more than half of all U.S. coal plants since its inception. Politico called it perhaps the most effective campaign in the history of the environmental movement. When President Trump announced his intention to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, Bloomberg joined former California Governor Jerry Brown to create “America’s Pledge,” a coalition of nearly 4,000 local leaders committed to meeting the goals the U.S. set under the Agreement. He recently launched Beyond Carbon, the largest-ever coordinated campaign to fight the climate crisis in the U.S., which works to accelerate the
retirement of coal plants and stop the construction of gas plants. The investment brings his total investment in the global fight against climate change to $1 billion.

Bloomberg also works to involve the financial community in fighting climate change, serving as chair of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and formerly as chair of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. Both organizations give companies clear standards and recommendations to help guide their disclosures of climate-related risks and opportunities. At the UN Secretary-General’s request, he recently formed the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative with other influential private sector leaders to accelerate investments in clean energy and climate solutions.

Bloomberg is co-author, with Carl Pope, of the New York Times bestseller Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Business School.