Connecting Cities to Deliver Climate Action

Created and led by cities, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, now in its 10th year, connects more than 80 of the world’s greatest cities, representing 640 million people and one quarter of the global economy. C40 Cities is focused on tackling climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks, while increasing the health, wellbeing and economic opportunities of urban citizens.

THE POWER OF GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Working across multiple sectors and issues, C40 convenes networks that provide a range of services in support of cities’ climate change efforts. C40 has 17 networks organised under 6 initiative areas covering the mitigation, adaptation and sustainability topics of highest priority to C40 cities and with the potential for the greatest climate impact.

C40 networks help cities replicate, improve and accelerate climate action. These city-only working groups provide for honest knowledge exchange, enabling cities to tap into the global expertise of their peers as well as connect with technical partners. Through networks, cities find opportunities to undertake joint projects in areas of mutual interest and benefit. C40 networks also amplify individual city solutions by providing a global platform for showcasing city successes.

75% of C40 cities have implemented new, better or faster climate actions as a result of participating in C40 networks

A third of C40 climate action is delivered through collaboration

In 2015, C40 cities reported that 30% of their climate actions were delivered as a result of collaboration with other cities. Two thirds of this collaboration occurred through C40 networks.
C40 INITIATIVES & NETWORKS

C40 Networks lead to results

CONNECT
Connecting city officials with their peers around the world to help deliver solutions to climate challenges.

Following connections made between Copenhagen and New York City through the C40 Green Growth Network, the two cities began working together to help promote green businesses. In late 2014, the Danish Cleantech Hub was officially opened in New York City, bringing Danish expertise and technology to help New York City address its climate challenges.

INSPIRE
Inspiring innovation by showcasing the ideas and solutions of leading global cities.

Motivated by the progress of cities in the C40 Sustainable Infrastructure Finance Network, including Johannesburg and New York City, Portland’s City Council unanimously adopted a resolution backing green bond issuance in the City. Portland expects to issue its first green bonds in 2016 to help finance LED retrofits and other sustainability projects.

ADVISE
Advising city peers based on experience with similar projects and policies.

Cities in the C40 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Network reviewed and provided targeted feedback on Addis Ababa’s BRT stakeholder engagement strategy, enabling Addis Ababa to direct resources to the most critical areas, better engage citizens in the design of its BRT, and create a sense of public ownership of the project.

INFLUENCE
Influencing national and international policy agendas and driving the market by leveraging the collective voice of cities.

Cities in the C40 Low Emission Vehicles (LEVs) Network cited the high price of LEVs as a barrier to uptake. In response, led by London and Bogotá, the cities developed a Clean Bus Declaration, demonstrating a potential market of over 45,000 buses by 2020 to manufacturers.

C40 Initiatives and Networks

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The Adaptation and Water Initiative supports C40 cities in meeting their goals in the area of climate change adaptation planning and water management by convening networks of cities facing similar conditions and challenges. With 98% of C40 cities reporting that climate change presents significant risks to their city and 70% of C40 members recording that they are already feeling the negative impacts of climate change, Adaptation and Water is C40's largest initiative. The Initiative is currently scoping a new Water Network.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment Network is working to identify the best ways to gather and manage data on climate, hazards, impacts, infrastructure and communities. The Network also supports those cities looking to begin or improve understanding of climate change risk and vulnerability. The Climate Change Risk Assessment Network is led by Rio de Janeiro.

The Connecting Delta Cities Network brings together delta cities that are active in the field of climate change-related spatial development, water management and adaptation, in order to exchange knowledge and best practice that can support cities in developing their adaptation strategies. The Connecting Delta Cities Network is led by Rotterdam.

The Cool Cities Network is focused on sharing best practice and research to better understand the Urban Heat Island effect (UHI) and develop tools and resources that help cities advance cool roofs, green roofs, pavements and other surfaces. The Network collaborates closely with its partner, the Global Cool Cities Alliance (GCCA). The Cool Cities Network is led by Washington, DC.

For more information on the C40 Adaptation and Water Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, Amanda Ikert at aikert@c40.org.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHT: Working with Connecting Delta Cities Network, Ho Chi Minh City established a Climate Change Bureau under the People’s Committee Climate Change Steering Board (and in consultation with academics, businesses, and sector representatives). This institutional body was inspired through discussions with other Connecting Delta Cities’ members as to how they administer their climate work and through Rotterdam’s direct assistance. Ho Chi Minh City was able to secure funding from the Dutch government and technical assistance from Dutch consultants and companies to complete their Climate Adaptation Strategy.
The Energy Initiative supports C40 cities to improve building energy efficiency and develop district energy systems by convening targeted city networks. Building energy consumption constitutes nearly 50% of emissions in C40 cities on average and heating and cooling accounts for a significant portion of building energy use. The Initiative is currently scoping a Low-Carbon Energy Supply Network.

The Private Building Efficiency Network supports city efforts to improve the energy efficiency of existing commercial and residential buildings by sharing experience and collaborating on data management, engaging multinationals and policy development. The Private Building Efficiency Network is led by Sydney and Tokyo.

The Municipal Building Efficiency Network works to improve the energy efficiency of buildings that cities own, lease and manage, sharing city knowledge and best practice in priority areas such as financing, technology and behaviour change. The Municipal Building Efficiency Network is led by Cape Town.

The District Energy Network serves as a platform for cities to share experience in reducing emissions by promoting the use of low-carbon district heating, cooling and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems. The District Energy Network is led by Vancouver.

For more information on the C40 Energy Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, Zoe Sprigings at zsprigings@c40.org.
Finance and Economic Development Initiative

The Finance and Economic Development Initiative supports C40 cities on a range of issues related to financing sustainable infrastructure development and delivering a prosperous green economy. By providing a platform for city exchange and collaboration and partnering with experts, the Initiative helps cities overcome some of the most significant barriers to achieving their low-carbon goals.

The Sustainable Infrastructure Finance Network supports cities to share best practice and find new solutions for financing green infrastructure. Key topics for the network include green bonds, city climate funds and business models that make use of all available climate financing mechanisms through a partnership with Citi Foundation and the World Resources Institute (WRI). The Sustainable Infrastructure Finance Network is led by Boston.

The Green Growth Network is focused on sharing city experience and expertise in engaging with the private sector to support green companies to startup and grow, as well as helping cities to use data on the economic and social benefits of green policies to make the case for taking climate action. The Green Growth Network is led by Copenhagen.

For more information on the C40 Finance and Economic Development Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, James Alexander at jalexander@c40.org.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHT: Following a series of calls through the Sustainable Infrastructure Finance Network, London identified ways to reduce the fund manager fees it pays for new green funds. London is adopting an element of Amsterdam’s fund manager fee model, which is expected to reduce overheads and free up additional capital for green loans.
C40 INITIATIVES & NETWORKS

Solid Waste Initiative

The Solid Waste Initiative works with C40 cities to accelerate a worldwide transition to more effective municipal solid waste management. With the support of the Initiative, C40 cities are pursuing methane abatement, a 24 times more potent gas than CO2, through landfill gas capture and avoidance to deliver short-term, measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The Initiative works closely with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to provide tools and technical expertise to C40 cities.

The Sustainable Solid Waste Systems Network supports cities in moving up the waste hierarchy by improving collection efficiency, recycling and disposal (e.g. managing landfills and landfill gas), including developing community projects for composting and recyclables management. The Sustainable Solid Waste Systems Network is led by Delhi and Durban.

The Waste to Resources Network supports cities committed to shifting the way materials and resources are handled throughout the product lifecycle, prioritising action at the top of the waste management chain, through waste minimisation and increased resource recovery, as well as food waste management and avoidance.

For more information on the C40 Solid Waste Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, Ricardo Cepeda-Márquez at rcepeda@c40.org.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHT: The City of Addis Ababa is currently in the midst of an ambitious plan to transform its solid waste management, collection and disposal systems. Through engagement with the Sustainable Solid Waste Systems Network and support from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a C40 partner, the city has received guidance on waste processing technologies and improvements to their waste management practices. The city is now responsibly closing down its 50-year-old dump site at Repi and converting it into a public park. Addis Ababa is opening the city’s first sanitary landfill in Sendafa and designing an improved waste management system.
Transportation Initiative

The Transportation Initiative works to facilitate and accelerate C40 cities’ efforts to combat emissions from the transportation sector, where global greenhouse gas emissions are rising the fastest. The Initiative focuses on moving journeys to more efficient modes of transport and improving the efficiency of public and private fleets through a shift towards cleaner vehicle technologies. The Initiative works collaboratively with partners such as EMBARQ, ITDP, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

Mobility Management Network supports cities in delivering strategies and measures to improve integration across transit modes, make public transit more attractive and easier to use, as well as reduce and re-distribute travel demand to help unlock the capacity of transport systems. The Mobility Management Network is led by Paris.

The Bus Rapid Transit Network works with cities around the world to support them in introducing, improving and transforming their cities’ Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRT) and enabling best practice and technical exchange on issues such as road safety, finance and stakeholder engagement. The Bus Rapid Transit Network is led by Buenos Aires and Johannesburg.

The Low Emission Vehicles Network serves as a platform for cities to share best practice and policies, and aims to accelerate the adoption of low emission vehicles globally through city collaboration as well as by working with key industry stakeholders. The Low Emission Vehicles Network is led by London.

For more information on the C40 Transportation Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, Gunjan Parik at gparik@c40.org.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHT: Cities in the Low Emission Vehicles Network collectively forged the Clean Bus Declaration of Intent, demonstrating their commitment to reduce emissions and improve air quality by incorporating low and zero-emission buses in their fleets. To date, 26 C40 cities have signed the Declaration, while 11 non-C40 cities and regions have also supported it. A clear statement of intent by these cities has sent a strong signal to bus manufacturers, and is acting as stepping stone to facilitate price reductions for low emission buses. As a result of the Declaration, London has already secured a 10 percent reduction in the average price of a hybrid bus.

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The Urban Planning & Development Initiative works with C40 cities to develop land use plans and utilise integrated planning to create more compact, connected and ambitious low-carbon cities and neighbourhoods, which is essential for meeting local and global emissions reduction goals and managing climate risks.

The Land Use Planning Network supports the creation of best practice in land use planning to advance cities’ climate mitigation and adaptation goals with a focus on increasing density, containing urban growth and preserving land. The Network will also support collaboration with regional and state planning efforts and the integration of risk assessment and land use planning.

The Transit Oriented Development Network supports cities to become more compact and connected, minimising vehicle miles travelled and improving access to economic activity through housing and mixed-use pedestrian friendly development near public-transit. The Transit Oriented Development Network is led by Tshwane.

The Low-Carbon Districts Network helps cities meet the dual challenges of rapid urbanisation and climate change by supporting cities in delivering ambitious low-carbon, district-scale development projects. The Network also works closely with the Climate Positive Development Program, a performance based framework that recognises leading new-build and regeneration projects that are striving for and delivering net-carbon negative outcomes. The Low-Carbon Districts Network is led by Stockholm and Melbourne.

The Food Systems Network helps cities achieve solutions to their most pressing food systems challenges, by enhancing food security, enabling local low-carbon food production and distribution, developing integrated programmes to promote sustainable diets and address diseases associated with poor diets and obesity, and promoting food systems options that result in carbon reduction and health equity.

For more information on the C40 Urban Planning & Development Initiative, please contact the Initiative Head, Zachary Tofias at ztofias@c40.org.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHT: As a result of a facilitated peer-to-peer information sharing via the Land Use Planning Network, and using materials and best practice provided by Washington, DC, Barcelona developed a new training programme for the urban planning department on how to integrate elements of sustainability into their work as planners in the city. In addition, using Washington, DC’s successful structure of a Green Team, Barcelona is creating a similar group to ensure continuous engagement and education of Barcelona’s urban planning staff.