Cities are ambitious. Cities are consistently demonstrating their will to take inspiring climate action through widely adopted initiatives such as the ‘Net Zero Carbon Building Commitment’ or ‘One Planet Charter’, radically cutting their emissions and strengthening resilience against the impacts of a warming climate. However, cities are finding that traditional funding sources are insufficient to meet the demand for high-quality sustainable infrastructure which meets the needs of their citizens. Simultaneously, financiers have the desire and capital to invest, but are finding a lack of financially viable projects to invest in.

The C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) bridges this gap between cities and finance, providing support to cities in developing and emerging economies to develop finance-ready projects. The CFF supports cities to develop financially sound business proposal’s for projects that they have identified as priorities and ensures that the skills and structures are retained with the city administration to enable cities to develop a pipeline of low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure projects.

The CFF wants to change the landscape of climate and infrastructure finance – empowering cities to be able to independently prepare infrastructure business proposals which have undergone a robust process with globally shared knowledge on how to source finance from a host of innovative and conventional sources.

The CFF is a collaboration of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The CFF is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Support to the city is focused around a dedicated in-city expert, who identifies critical areas of support for the effective delivery of the project, and opportunities to deliver transformative action based upon our 3 pillars of support:

1. Technical Assistance – National and international experts work alongside implementation departments to prepare a full business case for the project including: feasibility studies, cost benefit analysis, financing option assessments, and procurement processes.

2. Capacity Development – Training and strategies are implemented to ensure cities learn best practice from existing cities around the world to develop institutional skills and be able to independently produce sustainable infrastructure projects in the future.
3. Knowledge Sharing – Lessons and experiences both positive and constructive are shared with other cities and other urban practitioners to catalyse national and international action, and to maximise resource input.