



#DaringYouth Statement

On Friday 9 October, as part of the Daring Cities 2020 Global Forum over 60 young people from around the world engaged in an event *#DaringYouth: We Dare You To*. One of the outcomes was this **#DaringYouth Statement**, below, which shows the collective aspirations participants have of their cities, to inspire urban leaders to take even more daring action on the Climate Emergency.

In a dozen small groups over Zoom, participants developed these **daring visions** for their home city in response to a major challenge that the city faces relating to the [ICLEI development pathways](#). The strengths of this format allowed participants to form new personal relationships while our facilitators ran dozens of simultaneous conversations between youth and sustainability professionals from a smattering of cities across the globe.

Some of the issues that were discussed included: systemic racism, energy democracy, urban sprawl, land clearing, communities resilience, mental health, a lack of planning and governance failures, equitable distribution of resilience capacity in the community, leadership and leading by example, using the 'neighbourhood scale' to look at strengths in the community, decentralising power and supporting communities that need resources to adapt to climate change, equitable access to transport, reducing plastic waste, reclaiming public spaces, finding alternative more sustainable consumption options, electric and micro-mobility, and much more.

What this shows is young generations are aware of the complexities and the range of issues our cities are facing. But more than that, it shows that our young people are engaged, they are informed, and they are doing everything they can to send this message as clearly as they can to urban leaders, especially those of you who are attending the Daring Cities 2020 Global Forum. We hope that our stories will give you the courage to commit to rapid daring actions in your municipality, because you are the leaders of today - we know it is not easy - but this is what today's challenges demand of you. Rest assured that we will be supporting all the daring decisions you take today, to make tomorrow a more equitable and sustainable world for us all.

We encourage you to read the stories submitted by participants in the *#DaringYouth: We Dare You To* session and [submit your own daring vision](#) too.

—Timothy Shue, ICLEI Oceania and Paul Currie, ICLEI Africa - session organisers (9 October 2020)

City/Country	ICLEI Pathway	Daring Vision	Name/Occupation
Melbourne, Australia	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>Melbourne is a world-leading city in urban forestry, transport connectivity and liveability. But, in recent years Melbourne is becoming a city of the “haves” and “have-nots”, with housing increasingly becoming unaffordable and accessible for those that can afford it.</p> <p>Therefore, I DARE MELBOURNE to take radical steps to reform local planning laws for the provision of sustainable housing developments, which are sensitive to their environmental footprint, strengthen social capital and community, and which adopt progressive rent/buying models that provide housing access to people from low-socioeconomic backgrounds.</p>	Tim, Communications Officer, ICLEI Oceania
Manila, Philippines	Circular	<p>Metro Manila is home to 16 cities in the Philippines and the center of culture, economy, education, and government.</p> <p>But because of rapid urbanization and internal mobility of its people, waste generation is also increasing and became a perpetual problem. This makes the residents more at risk and vulnerable with climate-induced calamities.</p> <p>I DARE METRO MANILA local governments to take radical actions to waste reduction and strengthen implementation of existing policies on climate change, ecological and solid waste management, and renewable energy.</p>	Cheng Pagulayan, ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat
Melbourne, Australia	Circular	<p>Melbourne is a city of diverse ecologies and communities with the resources for innovation and adaptation to a changing climate and changing economy.</p> <p>BUT at times these resources are not utilised as effectively as they should be and we find ourselves running head first into problems that could have been prevented with foresight</p>	Emily, Operations Coordinator

		<p>and environmental stewardship for our rapidly degrading natural environment. This is evident in Victoria's decision to send waste overseas to be dealt with by other countries rather than providing the infrastructure to "close the loop" by viewing waste as a marketable product and process it onshore in Victoria.</p> <p>Therefore I DARE MELBOURNE to take responsibility for our own waste by refusing, reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling at home in Victoria, where waste producers can witness that waste does not simply vanish the second it goes into a bin. I want Victorians to be stewards for our natural environment for the benefit of young people today and in the future.</p>	
Jakarta, Indonesia	Circular	<p>Jakarta is a capital city of Indonesia which provides main facilities to live in from transportation, excitements, and easy lifestyle.</p> <p>However, waste management becomes the main issues since years ago as of no sufficient waste facilities exist in the city, and the government somehow needs our support.</p> <p>Therefore, I DARE JAKARTA PEOPLE to open your eyes and understand that we need to make a significant movement tackling waste issues by committing to apply green lifestyle, and implement the 5R's actions: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. Small actions are really mattered to improve our lovely Jakarta city.</p>	Dian Lutfiana, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
Brussels, Belgium	Low-emissions	<p>Brussels is a small city which is about 7km across. It has a good transport system with a metro system, trams, trains and a bicycle network.</p> <p>However, at present there is very little respect for the bicycle infrastructure. Bike lanes are commonly used as emergency parking for cars and loading trucks. Making cycling a risky exercise as cyclists need to avoid all the cars blocking the way.</p> <p>I dare Brussels to create a separated bike path network which actively protects cyclists from cars and enforces rules to create a culture which respects cyclists.</p>	Steven, ICLEI / Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

	Low-emissions	<p>Calgary is my home and could be considered an emerging sustainable city due to its transit being run on wind power and it's extensive bike routes.</p> <p>But, Calgary is known also for it's cowboy culture, big trucks, sprawl and dependency on motor vehicles.</p> <p>Therefore, I dare Calgary to take radical steps to reform zoning bylaws and traditional housing (especially in the wake of crisis) into more work-from-home and home-to-amenities organized neighbourhoods whereby reducing the need to engage in extensive commuting on a regular basis.</p>	Kat Gajewska, KatCO
Bristol, United Kingdom	Low-emissions	<p>I live in the City of Bristol. Bristol is a large city with a population of 686,000 and many green spaces. Bristol is more environmentally friendly than many areas within the United Kingdom being voted the green city of Europe a few years ago.</p> <p>But there is limited native or natural areas in the city. The large amount of green spaces that are present are pasture lands that don't include native plant species. This has affected the small mammals and birds in the area.</p> <p>I dare Bristol City to promote more native plant species to the community. This includes within peoples back gardens and community gardens. While also actively changing the present landscape to include more natural and native species.</p>	Abigail, Student
Melbourne, Australia	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>There are myriad resources available for people in need in Melbourne offering everything from financial assistance to housing to food.</p> <p>But those using the services are traditionally excluded from decision-making and planning, directly impacting the ability for the services to appropriately respond to the needs of all communities.</p>	Jen Feinstein, Social Impact Consultant - Think Impact

		Therefore, I DARE MELBOURNE to take bold steps to include stakeholders in decisions that impact their lives.	
Sydney, Australia	Resilient	<p>Sydney is a beautiful city situated on a stunning harbour and surrounded by magnificent forests.</p> <p>But, its getting hotter, and the bush is burning. Much of our housing, particularly for those of us in the lower income brackets, is poorly insulated and full of gaps. Last summer, we suffered through 81 days of 'poor' or worse (up to 20 x 'hazardous') air quality because of the terrible bushfires. There was no way to keep this out of our homes. The smoke demonstrated how leaky our housing is: it's not just the smoke that can get in, but the hot air too. Those in the worst quality housing cannot afford air conditioning or air purifiers and these are bad for the climate anyway.</p> <p>Therefore, I dare Sydney to really think about embodied experiences of heat stress and air pollution, and create a city that cares for all the bodies that live here: old, young, yet to come; human and non-human; poor, Indigenous, queer. I dare Sydney to radically and urgently cool, decarbonise, and de-toxify the city and surrounds.</p> <p>As one specific suggestion, I dare Sydney to legislate minimum standards of insulation for all rental properties, and fund a scheme to provide this for all low income earners and retirees. I also dare Sydney to develop cooler, greener suburbs with vibrant public green spaces, especially in the west where temperatures soar.</p>	Blanche Verlie
Aalborg, Denmark	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>I live in Aalborg (Denmark), which is a student city with many young people and different nationalities.</p> <p>But when it comes to integration i feel like we are still very segregated. We don't mingle a lot across cultures and nationalities, which might be key to create stronger community cohesion. I also believe that we need more contact with nature.</p>	Mads Broholm, Student of Applied Philosophy

		<p>Therefore I would love to see more projects with community gardens to build community cohesion across nationalities and cultures in different parts of the city. This might work in Aalborg because most neighborhoods are very diverse, but it won't help a lot with mixing up people from "well off" parts of town, with people from more vulnerable neighborhoods. But I think that it's more important to strengthen the communities of so called "vulnerable neighborhoods" rather than helping those are already well off.</p> <p>Utilizing the strengths and assets of vulnerable neighborhoods as well as those who are less vulnerable should be focused on going forward though.</p> <p>endnote: I really don't like to refer to a neighborhood as vulnerable, it paints a picture of people without strengths and capabilities. This is never accurate, it's too one sided.</p>	
Melbourne, Australia	Resilient	<p>(And) Our people are Melbourne's greatest asset, bringing together people from different walks of life, and different parts of the world.</p> <p>(But) Our people are feeling less connected, and the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified this, hindering our ability to respond to climate shocks and stressors in a connected and inclusive manner.</p> <p>(Therefore) I DARE MELBOURNE to establish opportunities to better connect our citizens, empowering desired community outcomes which incorporate all voices, to enhance our ability to respond to climate events in a socially cohesive, connected, and resilient manner.</p>	Farema Yazdi, Point Advisory
Melbourne, Australia	Circular	<p>(AND) Melbourne is well know for good quality food</p> <p>(BUT) People are using take-away often, especially after the COVID19 restrictions on public life, and this produces a lot of single-use plastic waste - despite many people not</p>	Eric Höfgen, and Matteo Bizzotto, Communication Officer/ICLEI WS

		<p>wanting that</p> <p>(THEREFORE) We need a better way to (a) deal with plastic waste (downstream approach) and (b) produce take-away packages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standardizing plastic packages and containers for take away food across all restaurants (local regulations would definitely help) so packages could be cleaned rather than melted and re-constructed - opt in paper towels and bags - phase out virgin plastic in favor of recycled/recyclable plastic (especially through regulation and taxes incentives) --> this would also not punish consumers and creating local jobs in the recycling industry (equitable pathway) - incentivize early-adopters restaurants and businesses through subsidies for recyclable take-away packages - incentivize consumers to bring their own containers (if restaurants experience increased costs by switching to the new recycled take-away containers and charge 1\$ for each container, that could already work) 	
Melbourne, Australia	Nature-Based	<p>And: Melbourne is a thriving and growing city with a strong liveability and global reputation.</p> <p>But: However as population booms and continues to grow there is greater pressure for more development, but this is currently being focused on the central business district. This is resulting in loss of public open green space and a concrete jungle that is causing biodiversity loss and urban heat.</p> <p>Therefore: I dare for a radical planning reform to decentralise Melbourne's urban sprawl and development to make a more accessible city for the benefit of people and nature. I dare to strengthen the green wedges policy and regulation to preserve urban biodiversity, community recreation and mental health.</p>	Johnathan Law, Partnerships & Knowledge Officer - Yarra Riverkeeper Association

<p>San Francisco, USA</p>	<p>Nature-Based</p>	<p>San Francisco and the Bay Area hosts progressive residents, a booming economy and strong population demand thanks to the innovation and technology hubs of Silicon Valley and jobs growth.</p> <p>However, in order to meet the demand of the increased population, more high density housing must be built, increasing gentrification and greater environmental degradation and pressure. Exacerbating the pressing issues of sea level rise and wildfires.</p> <p>I Dare to invest strongly into developing local communities, creating strong development policy to blend nature and urban where there are green pockets intermittently throughout the city.</p> <p>I dare to invest in the preservation of public areas of heritage in the city and local environmental education in order for californians to become increasingly aware and to contribute to innovative solutions in order to address such issues.</p>	<p>Peter Pham, University of California, Berkeley Student</p>
<p>Jakarta, Indonesia</p>	<p>Circular</p>	<p>Jakarta is the city I lived in. Jakarta has grown rapidly in the past decade in terms of population and human activities, so it considered as one of the most emerging cities in the world.</p> <p>BUT, as a megacity Jakarta has not been able to responsibly manage its own waste. The city produces about 6000 tonnes waste everyday, whereas there is no waste management available from household to industrial contexts.</p> <p>THEREFORE, I DARE JAKARTA to immediately provide a thorough waste management system for its residents and the environment in general. The city urgently needs to focus on the education, provide support in household level, build waste-processing facility, and implement a policy to create a change in all-levels that eventually can bring a sustainable consumption and reduce its shameful production of waste.</p>	<p>Adhitya Yusuf, Daur Project</p>
<p>Melbourne,</p>	<p>Resilient</p>	<p>Melbourne is a beautiful city with so much to offer.</p>	<p>Reanna, Student</p>

Australia		<p>However we throw too many babies out with the bathwater: most people believe our recycling goes to landfill (which perhaps it currently does now that we can no longer ship it overseas), we waste almost a third of our food, and send our organic waste to landfill too.</p> <p>Therefore I DARE MELBOURNE to think in circles. To see our waste crisis as an opportunity for local job creation and value addition that reimagines a new purpose for waste and makes 'landfill' a dirty word. To end the irresponsible use of plastic, knowing that the plastic we use carelessly will outlast our children. To value organic waste for the precious resource it is, and feed it back into growing something new. Through valuing what we have and being creative about what else it could be, our future looks more resilient.</p>	
Sydney, Australia	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>Context: Sydney is a world-leading city in connectivity, diversity and youthful sustainable perspectives.</p> <p>Challenge: But, in recent years Sydney has become a city of divided ethnicities and cultures, that have limited knowledge and education about the unique cultural edifices of each community.</p> <p>Vision: Therefore, I dare Sydney to foster ingenuity and innovative green solutions, bringing together a range of demographics living in or around the city centre. The aim is to implement long-term steps to achieve equitable relationships between each cultural group in the city and its periphery localist areas. Council initiatives could be encouraged that employ musical and on-ground-tasks e.g. indigenous live music played at local gardens led by Indigenous youth groups e.g. seed mob that will teach Australians how to look after their local land. It could be a weekly event on a Saturday or Sunday that helps to deconstruct archetypal conceptions of race and colonialist perceptions of white supremacy that are still extremely imbued in modern city and wider Australian life.</p>	Karen Davids, Geography Major at the University of Sydney

		<p>The ultimate goal is to build ongoing relationships between the traditional landowners of suburban regions surrounding Sydney's CBD. Each suburb e.g. Redfern, Glebe, Newtown, Forest Lodge, Annandale, Leichhardt and many others, each weekend can hold a social gathering that plant seedlings in a public space approved by the local council e.g. a local park, rooftop or in the courtyard of a local cafe. The indigenous landowners can teach the local community, predominately the youth of society about native ways to manage the land. This will give an opportunity for different cultures and demographics to interact and share their history with the land. Over time, if a large proportion of the community supports the weekly Indigenous initiative, education of Australia's colonial history and land management will enter mainstream discourse. In addition, this a great carbon sequestration method, as communities plant floral species throughout the city's landscape over time.</p> <p>Idea can be referred to here: https://www.trendingcity.org/rooftopgarden</p>	
Berlin, Germany	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>I am living in Berlin which is a livable city, prospering through social and cultural diversity. However, we suffer from social segregation that divides communities, enhances stereotypes and hampers solidarity. One consequence is the stigmatisation of social housing which tends to be politically marginalised.</p> <p>Therefore, I dare Berlin to develop an innovative concept of social housing that is truly inclusive and sociable by bringing different socio-economic backgrounds together and fighting segregation.</p>	Pauline, Young Professional
Bristol, United Kingdom	Nature-Based	<p>Bristol has a reputation as an environmentally-conscious city, winning the European Green Capital award in 2015.</p> <p>However, we still have a long way to go if we want to tackle the current environmental and ecological emergency. Particularly, Bristol continues to face a serious issue of air pollution in overly congested areas. This has a great impact on both the physical and</p>	John Wayman, Bristol City Youth Council

		<p>mental health of the city's residents.</p> <p>Therefore, I dare my city to increase accessibility to environmentally-friendly transport methods such as e-bikes, trains and buses. This can be done by investing in cycle networks across the city, as well as improving frequency of public transport. Doing this will not only help to reduce congestion in city-centre areas, it will keep the development of new road infrastructure to a minimum. That way, connectivity can develop alongside schemes to improve biodiversity across the city.</p>	
Melbourne, Australia	Equitable & People-Centred	<p>I live in Melbourne. It's a beautiful city and I feel so lucky to have parks and open spaces to spend time in so close to the city centre.</p> <p>But I know that for people with disabilities, Melbourne is actually a very difficult city to navigate. There are also many tiny things which make it harder to move around if you're not fully able-bodied, and these are often invisible to people who don't live with a disability - like steps where there should be ramps, narrow footpaths and tram stops in the middle of busy roads. Disability is social constructed - it is the way that we design cities which creates barriers for people with disabilities, not the impairments that individuals have. Added to this, cars are so dominant here that it makes it unsafe and takes a lot of time to cross roads and get to where you're headed.</p> <p>Therefore, my vision is to design Melbourne to be accessible for everyone: embed Universal Design Principles into urban design across the city. I dare Melbourne to flip the hierarchy on neighbourhood roads - give pedestrians the right of way, followed by cyclists, then cars! A 'Shared Streets' model will also encourage people to interact on our streets, not just zoom past one another. In a world like ours, we need to find ways to connect and acknowledge that we all share the spaces that make our cities.</p>	Rosina Hawkins, Master of Environment Student
San Francisco, USA	Equitable & People-Centred Development	<p>SAN FRANCISCO, USA, is the city in which I was born and grew up. It is a beautiful and historic place to visit, with iconic structures - like the Golden Gate Bridge - and awe-inspiring views from the seven hills located within the city limits.</p>	Ariel Dekovic, Head of Comms, ICLEI

		<p>But in my lifetime, housing has become affordable for only a scant few, driving people further and further outside the city. Coupled with a lack of decent public transport infrastructure, those who do have work in San Francisco must commute sometimes up to three hours by car.</p> <p>Therefore, I dare San Francisco to rethink how and where work gets done. COVID-19 shows us that some work can be done from anywhere. We recognize that the economies connected to workplaces - such as the service industries located in thriving downtowns - are social and interconnected. Pure remote working doesn't protect these service industry workers and promotes social isolation for other workers. Localized working spaces, distributed throughout the Bay Area, and subsidized by government to incentivize companies and individuals to use these spaces, with space for thriving community spaces, can relieve the burden for so many who spend so much of their day in cars.</p> <p>I dare San Francisco to think of public transportation as an important - and central - investment in making the city desirable for future visitors and residents, not as a system that should limp along, continuously underfunded and patchily maintained.</p>	
	<p>Equitable & People-Centred Development</p>	<p>Tampico is my home, and it is an important city where one of the main ports of Mexico works, as well as it has a great diversity of flora and fauna.</p> <p>But, the problem lies in the fact that a large part of its water bodies are contaminated on a daily basis, causing the loss of diversity. Mainly because of the lack of environmental education and also because many poor communities illegally live near them without the resources to lead a proper life.</p> <p>Therefore, I DARE TAMPICO, to make a campaign to raise awareness about these problems, to get the communities involved and to put pressure on the government to take action NOW, to invest in the education and the services of the city, to reinforce, or in case create, the laws that can help the population move in the right way. We need them to provide us with the necessary resources so that is easier for us citizens to make a bigger impact and help each other.</p>	<p>Paloma, Student at University ITESM Mexico</p>

Sao Paulo,	Nature-Based	<p>Sao Paulo is the largest city of South America and is one of the fastest-growing cities around the Globe.</p> <p>But, the rapid urbanization and the focus in developing infrastructure that prioritizes automobiles while hiding more than 300 rivers underground, has increasingly made the city more vulnerable to floods resulting from heavy rainfalls. Vulnerable communities located at the edges of the city are most affected by it, further exacerbating the city's existing problems of lack of proper and affordable housing.</p> <p>Therefore, developing integrated green and blue infrastructures while re-thinking rivers as fundamental parts of the city dynamics, in collaboration with local communities, are pivotal to ensure an equitable resilience.</p>	Tatiana Coelho de Oliveira, International Network of Green Agents
Copenhagen, Denmark	Low-Emissions	<p>The city of Copenhagen is a bicycle paradise and has several outstanding initiatives when it comes to mobility.</p> <p>However, there is always room for development, especially when it comes to commuting with cars. Even though several people commute daily with their bicycles and choosing public transportation, the city center and commuting roads from suburban areas are crowded with cars in peak hours.</p> <p>Therefore, I DARE COPENHAGEN, to eliminate the car-transportation within the inner city and develop better connections and suitable alternative for car-lovers and suburban commuters, too.</p>	Green Agent Consultant, International Network of Green Agents
Melbourne, Australia	Low-Emissions	<p>Melbourne is projected to be the fastest growing city in Australia, posing a challenge to Melbourne's current urban form capacity whilst aiming to reduce emissions from the built environment sector.</p> <p>But, the current energy performance requirements of new residential builds is low in</p>	Rebecca Micallef, ESD Consultant/Sustainable Systems Engineering Student

		<p>comparison to other countries with similar climates, hindering the ability of Melbourne's built environment sector meeting energy reduction targets.</p>	
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Therefore, I dare local and state governments to raise minimum energy rating requirements of new builds. This will improve housing energy performance, reduce operational energy use and running costs for occupants as well as improve occupant thermal comfort, resulting in reduced emissions from the housing sector and a better-quality built form.