

DARING CITIES 2025

COMPENDIUM OF GOOD PRACTICES AND RESOURCES



With funding from the



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Federal Ministry
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INTRODUCTION

Cities and regions aren't waiting for climate solutions – they are already implementing them and are ready to scale them to help fulfill the global goals of the Paris Agreement. A decade on – with countries committed to 1.5°C and net-zero by mid-century – local and regional governments remain on the front lines of the climate emergency response, underscoring the imperative for more coordinated action across all levels of governance for ambitious national climate plans.

Under the theme “Stronger national climate plans through multilevel action,” [Daring Cities 2025](#), co-convened by ICLEI and the Federal City of Bonn, Germany, gathered local and regional leaders and national policymakers to shape NDCs 3.0 ahead and beyond COP30.

Building on the momentum of the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership for Climate Action](#) (CHAMP) and supporting the [Town Hall COP Initiative](#), this sixth edition of Daring Cities paired bold climate commitments with tools, finance, equity, and community leadership.

The Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues and subsequent Virtual Forum sessions presented real-world case studies and ready-to-use resources, connecting local solutions to national ambition and global impact. This compendium features them.

As we approach COP30, the COP30 Presidency's call for a Global Mutirão – to move from negotiations to implementation – sets the tone. We invite local and regional governments, communities and stakeholders, national governments, and the intergovernmental community to engage with, and be inspired by, the practical solutions showcased at Daring Cities 2025.



MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND TOWN HALL COPS CAN SHAPE NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

Launched in early 2025, ICLEI's [Town Hall COP Initiative](#) is a powerful model to make climate action truly locally led, transformation-oriented, and, most importantly, nationally relevant. Daring Cities 2025 featured special sessions on the initiative demonstrating how Town Hall COPs can accelerate local action and enrich NDC 3.0 implementation beyond COP30.

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA: LEADING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The city powers all operations with 100% renewable electricity via a [power purchase agreement](#), the first council in South Australia to do so. Since 2020, city assets—from community buildings and EV chargers to pumps, streetlights, and traffic signals—have run on wind-solar energy. This was a key theme at [Adelaide's Town Hall COP](#), which brought South Australian councils together to discuss the state's progress, with renewables already providing about 70% of electricity generation.

CAMPINAS, BRAZIL: ENGAGING YOUTH AS KEY CLIMATE INNOVATORS

Framed within the [2nd ICLEI Southeast Regional Meeting](#), the City of Campinas and ICLEI launched "[Mutirão pelo Clima](#)", a public call for youth-led proposals focused on adaptation and resilience. At Campinas' Town Hall COP, three winning initiatives were announced: [Women who feed cities](#); heat waves health education for the elderly, and tree planting and recycling at schools.

CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA: POWERING SUBNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AHEAD OF COP30

Held under the framework of the International Climate Conference (CCI25), governors from Santa Fe, La Pampa, Jujuy, Chubut, Córdoba, and Entre Ríos signed a [Regional Commitment](#), ratified by environmental authorities from 15 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires, positioning subnational actors at the forefront ahead of COP30. The Commitment sets a shared, ambitious roadmap to accelerate climate action from the ground up.

GREATER SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: KICKING OFF THE TOWN HALL COPS IN 2025

In March, 16 municipalities and their communities met with national government representatives, offering local governments a unique opportunity to present concrete data. One finding showed that Greater Sydney alone could reduce Australia's emissions by up to 15%, demonstrating the importance of embedding local strategies directly into Australia's NDC.

MAKATI, PHILIPPINES: PRIVATE-SECTOR DIALOGUES FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

Two Town Hall COPs hosted by [Container Living Philippines](#) – a social enterprise on modular, circular, climate-resilient housing – spotlighted the gap between the perceived cost of resilient housing and its long-term value, governance bottlenecks, and the need to treat resilience as market transformation tied to livelihoods. Participants called for clearer standards, affordable, scalable innovations, and messaging that connects to everyday realities, recognizing that sustainability and

resilience narratives often fail to reach communities, where housing is still viewed mainly in terms of costs or aesthetics.

MALMÖ, SWEDEN: FROM COMMUNITY PROPOSALS TO ACTION

The Malmö Town Hall COP produced 26 priority initiatives – from expanded green spaces and a 10-minute city to a permanent climate council and climate training for all. Currently, Malmö's Environmental Department is assessing feasibility and has already held a feedback session to update participants on progress and next steps toward possible implementation.

NAIROBI, KENYA: A YOUTH-LED CLIMATE DIALOGUE

Hosted by Ufanisi Research Network – a research and policy think tank dedicated to advancing African youth climate leadership – the dialogue gathered 420+ participants under the Town Hall COP transformation-oriented principle, focusing on three pillars: Knowledge creation, inclusive decision-making, and clear pathways to influence. Using a reverse format – youth leaders speaking to decision-makers – the dialogue produced the Nairobi Youth Declaration on Urban Climate Justice, which fed into the Nairobi Climate Action Plan review process, demonstrating how youth voices can shape institutional action.

RIVERSIDE, CA, UNITED STATES: MAKING CLIMATE DATA UNDERSTANDABLE

Community members and public-private stakeholders met to review local climate goals, especially the city's updated GHG inventory, turning technical documents into clear, accessible information for residents. To broaden this effort, the city will host a regionwide, cross-sector climate conference in April 2026, bringing water, waste, and energy initiatives under one roof to boost climate literacy, showcase the broader ecosystem of local action, and turn community feedback into concrete collaboration.

SAN LUIS DE POTOSÍ, MEXICO: GATHERING COMMUNITY CLIMATE PRIORITIES

The city convened four thematic forums, plus a closing event – each drawing more than 100 participants – and ran an open digital consultation platform that gathered 769 resident contributions. These inputs were systematized into 3,000+ proposals, highlighting top priorities on water scarcity and contamination, as well as waste management.

SOUTH AFRICA: FIRST COUNTRY TO ENDORSE TOWN HALL COPS AS A MULTILEVEL CLIMATE SOLUTION

South Africa endorsed Town Hall COPs as a platform to co-create inclusive national climate plans, boosting mutual accountability, surfacing local challenges and opportunities, and enabling joint action by municipal leaders and national departments. To put this into practice, ICLEI and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) partnered to convene Town Hall COPs nationwide – with six events already hosted (by October 2025) – proving that the global “COP” concept can be localized.

TANZANIA: MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE DELIVERY

Through PO-RALG, the Office of the President of the Regional Administration and Local Government, Tanzania aligns national climate goals with local action via decentralization, capacity-building, and coordinated monitoring. A distinctive “10-cell” unit system, leaders responsible for clusters of 10 households, creates a direct resident-city link, enabling rapid communication and community-level implementation of resilience measures.

TURKU, FINLAND: SETTING AMBITIOUS CLIMATE GOALS

Targeting carbon neutrality by 2029 – coinciding with the city’s 800th anniversary – [Turku’s Town Hall COP](#) convened national, regional, and local authorities, community members, and businesses in Turku’s Climate City Contract network. Participants urged the EU and Finland to maintain high ambition on climate, circular economy, and biodiversity, backed by science-based policy, adequate funding, and research and innovation support for municipalities. Priorities included stronger national backing to cut transport emissions and robust land-use policies, while businesses called for consistent rules that enable corporate sustainability.

SESSION RECORDINGS FROM THIS TRACK

-  9 JULY, 10:00 CEST
Ground up, national impact: Making Town Hall COPs matter for national climate action
-  24 JULY, 10:00 CEST
Local action, national impact: Advancing climate goals through nature and governance
-  10 SEPTEMBER, 17:00 CEST
Climate and sustainability communications: A shifting vocabulary
-  25 SEPTEMBER, 16:00 CEST
From dialogue to equity: Making Town Hall COPs more inclusive with the Malmö Commitment
-  6 OCTOBER, 16:00 CEST
Strengthening national climate plans through multilevel action: Daring Cities & Town Hall COPs

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

THE TOWN HALL COP TOOLKIT

From event guidelines, stakeholder mapping to how to reach the national government, find all the resources to host a Town Hall COP in your community.

 [Learn more](#)

II EMBEDDING EQUITY FOR INCLUSIVE URBAN SPACES

Climate action is people-centered. Cities must promote equity by engaging diverse voices and collaborating across communities, overcoming technical and cultural barriers to ensure that climate actions meet local needs in sustainable, inclusive ways.

CINCINNATI, OH, UNITED STATES: EMBEDDING CLIMATE MOBILITY PLANNING

With equity at its core, the Green Cincinnati Plan weaves climate mobility into city action, pairing near- and long-term steps to boost preparedness, from infrastructure upgrades to expanded affordable housing and a climate-migration response plan. The city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund powers delivery by subsidizing developers to add homes for low- to moderate-income residents, supporting current residents and welcoming future arrivals.

ESSEN, GERMANY: DESIGNING AN EQUITY-FIRST CARGO BIKE PROGRAM

The city is making everyday trips (school runs, shopping, deliveries) safer, cheaper, and cleaner, while easing traffic and emissions. Since 2022, the city's cargo bike program for families and low-income residents offers the option to lease or pay in installments, and send approved funds straight to retailers so support isn't treated as household income. Supported by the [INCLU:DE project](#), equity is baked through family and social bonuses up to 100% staggered by income, while targeted outreach and partnerships with social services, schools, and neighborhood groups help meet people where they are. To date, the program has subsidized over 400 households.

İZMİR, TÜRKİYE: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

İzmir's [Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan](#) targets a 40% GHG reduction by 2030 while strengthening resilience. With a people-centered approach, the Citizens' Assembly for Climate gathers residents to discuss pressing challenges. In partnership with the Z Zurich Foundation and ICLEI, the [Climate Resilience for Communities project](#) supports vulnerable neighborhoods facing floods and heatwaves by co-designing solutions, from capacity-building workshops to community gardens.

KUSHIA, BANGLADESH: PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Since 2016, Kushia has used a public-private partnership approach to make waste services efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable. The city involves women and vulnerable groups from door-to-door collection to composting and recycling. One operator manages septic tank and pit latrine emptying on a fixed tariff with a royalty; another runs the compost plant producing about 40-50 metric tons per month, strengthening collection, transport, treatment, reuse, and the compost market.

MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA: POWERING WOMEN-LED REUSE SOLUTIONS

Through the GIZ-led [Circular City Labs project](#), Medellín launched [Ecogiro](#), a business accelerator for circular and returnable packaging with a strong gender-responsive lens, training women entrepreneurs and innovators to design and test reuse pilots. With ICLEI's support, the city produced a Reuse & Returnability Roadmap, which became a key input to Medellín's own Circular Economy Policy.

ORLANDO, FL, UNITED STATES: HOUSING FOR CLIMATE-DRIVEN MIGRATION

Orlando's [Climate Action Plan](#) prioritizes housing for climate refugees – especially following Hurricane Maria in 2017 – as well as for veterans and people experiencing homelessness. One proposed solution is affordable, sustainably built tiny-house villages with shared amenities that foster community while providing private, stable homes – an alternative to tents, shelters, or dorm-style public housing.

PROBOLINGGO, INDONESIA: COMMUNITY-POWERED MANGROVE RESTORATION

Since 2010 at Permata Pilang Beach, Probolinggo has centered [mangrove restoration](#) in its climate plan, cutting emissions, protecting coasts, boosting biodiversity, and supporting ecotourism. The city mobilized local and religious leaders, encouraged residents to green vacant land, and partnered with the Regional People's Representative Council to align policy and delivery. It also implemented a digital platform for environmental education and public participation.

QUITO, ECUADOR: NEIGHBOR-LED SECURITY COMMITTEES

To respond to increasing crime and violence, Quito has issued an ordinance inviting residents to form Security and Community Harmony Committees, neighborhood groups that elect a board, register formally within the Municipality, and co-design preventive actions with public institutions to foster trust between residents and authorities, and safer and peaceful streets.

TERESINA, BRAZIL: PLACING THE MOST AT RISK AT THE CENTER

Through the [Agenda Teresina 2030](#) – an innovation hub linking open government and smart-city strategies – the municipality prototypes solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while tackling climate change. The city has secured funding from the [United Nations Population Fund](#) to conduct a research on how extreme heat affects maternal health, focusing on Afro-descendent and pardo pregnant women, to connect heat exposure with health risks and socioeconomic vulnerability and inform targeted public policy.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

THE MALMÖ COMMITMENT ON INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

[!\[\]\(34b4f260a8587d2e97eeaee361cc357b_img.jpg\) Learn more](#)

A pledge to action that embeds social equity at the core of local sustainable development. It empowers local and regional leaders to foster safe, vibrant cities, towns, regions, and communities where everyone can live, work, and thrive.

INCLU:DE CLIMATE EQUITY TOOLBOX

[!\[\]\(96cc62f861fdd6e50510c0224a756dff_img.jpg\) Download](#)

Four steps for more equitable municipal subsidy programs: outline, design, roll-out & communication, assessment & review.

CITY WORKS: LOCALIZING GLOBAL AGENDAS

[!\[\]\(e8fb589d58dad1692debababa5e928b6_img.jpg\) Learn more](#)

This digital toolkit helps cities understand and connect global agendas with local realities.

THE AALBORG CONDITIONS: TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL, EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT EUROPE

[!\[\]\(d8ab143e904bfa3467271eec5af75a9b_img.jpg\) Learn more](#)

Built on 30 years of the European sustainable cities movement, the Conditions call for shared governance, integrated finance, and a cohesive just transition.

EQUITABLE TRANSITION GUIDEBOOK

[!\[\]\(e3f255517d37bb309a3a931ec4849e6a_img.jpg\) Download](#)

A methodology to map the social equity outcomes of local sustainability plans across three dimensions: access, participation and opportunity.

CITY PRACTITIONERS HANDBOOK: REUSE STARTER KIT FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGES

[!\[\]\(9db214d549b9aeebe72aa11d3a5c4b1a_img.jpg\) Download](#)

A step-by-step guide to help local governments kickstart reuse systems. It draws on experiences from the ICLEI network and its Circular Development pathway, and learnings from the Circular City Labs project.

SESSION RECORDINGS FROM THIS TRACK



30 JULY, 17:00 CEST
How cities are planning for climate-driven migration



27 AUGUST, 16:00 CEST
How can cities shift from single-use to reuse?



7 AUGUST, 9:00 CEST
Universal risks, universal resilience: How inclusive local disaster responses can inform national adaptation



4 SEPTEMBER, 16:00 CEST
Hands-on strategies for socially just climate subsidies



22 AUGUST, 16:00 CEST
Resilient cities, safer communities: Confronting climate-linked insecurity



2 OCTOBER, 14:00 CEST
From principles to practice: How to guide the Just Transition in your community

III LEVERAGING FINANCE AND DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Innovation in climate data tracking and sustainable finance generates co-benefits for economic and social goals, helps overcome governance and resource constraints, and enables informed, evidence-based decision-making.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM, UNITED STATES: REAL-TIME UTILITY TRACKING

The [Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network](#) (B.R.A.I.N.) is a citywide platform that provides real-time information on utility use across facilities to help the city quickly address issues and save on electricity, natural gas, and water. Since going live in 2023, it has delivered USD 6.2 million in combined energy and water savings. For instance, one early water-leak alert alone saved USD170,000 in a single month.

CLEVELAND, OH, UNITED STATES: TRACKING CLIMATE PROGRESS

In partnership with ICLEI USA's ClearPath 2.0, Cleveland launched an interactive [Climate Dashboard](#) that centralizes GHG data, climate strategies, and key actions, making it easy for residents and decision-makers to monitor progress toward the goals in the updated [Cleveland Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP).

MALMÖ, SWEDEN: SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Malmö's [Green Bond Framework](#) sets clear environmental criteria for city investments and is paired with an annual green outcomes report to identify which projects deliver the strongest climate benefits. In parallel, a [Social Bond Framework](#) channels capital to initiatives that prevent, reduce, or solve social challenges for vulnerable groups, advancing equality and improving quality of life across all residents.

PORTUGAL: MONITORING CLIMATE ACTION ACROSS CITIES

[Cities for Climate](#) (Cidades pelo Clima) unites 47 municipalities – about 40% of Portugal's population – to pursue climate neutrality by 2030 under the EU Cities Mission. The network coordinates political and technical teams and has adopted a single, international GHG inventory methodology, creating a level playing field for comparable data and a shared monitoring framework to support City Climate Contracts and action plans.

SCOTLAND: A CONSISTENT NATIONAL DATASET TO TRACK CLIMATE PROGRESS

The [Scottish Climate Intelligence Service](#), jointly funded by the Scottish Government and all 32 local authorities, uses the [ClimateView](#) software to model, track, and deliver their transition, aligning policy, investment, and execution in a single system. By standardizing terminology, targets, and datasets, and by using ClimateView's [Transition Elements Framework](#) (a modular translation of IPCC methods that models shifts like cars to walking/cycling or gas boilers to heat pumps), Scotland

now has a one-stop platform for climate data tracking that aligns local delivery with national goals, enables comparison and sharing of good practice, and maps clear, evidence-based pathways to net-zero.

FINLAND: NATIONAL MUNICIPAL GHG MONITORING

The [Finnish Environment Institute](#) (SYKE) provides free, standardized GHG inventories for 300+ municipalities. The system spans 90+ emission sectors, follows the GHG Protocol, and aligns with the national inventory, so municipal totals aggregate to Finland's national figures, enabling consistent, comparable tracking across the country.

SESSION RECORDINGS FROM THIS TRACK

- ▶ 16 JULY, 13:00 CEST
Launch of ICLEI carbonn Academy Series: Empowering subnational governments for sustainable change
- ▶ 4 SEPTEMBER, 18:00 CEST
Keeping up with tech shifts for local climate action
- ▶ 10 SEPTEMBER, 14:00 CEST
Catalyzing change: Innovative finance for the local energy transition
- ▶ 10 SEPTEMBER, 17:00 CEST
Climate and sustainability communications: A shifting vocabulary
- ▶ 17 SEPTEMBER, 15:00 CEST
Accelerating action for the climate emergency: Cities Mission in focus



HELPFUL RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

ICLEI CARBONN ACADEMY SERIES

Starting in 2026, the Academy will offer practical online training for local and regional governments to unlock climate finance and accelerate action through proven tools, peer exchange, and global best practices. The first series focuses on green finance, featuring lessons from the Nordic model, a global benchmark for sustainability, merging a strong welfare state with environmental ambition, collective action, and strategic use of market mechanisms.

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BLENDING FINANCE FOR NET-ZERO, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE CITIES

Developed by the Urban Transitions Mission Centre and drawing on global case studies, this resource offers recommendations to unlock finance for urban climate transitions.

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E-MOBILITY FINANCING IN BRAZIL, ECUADOR, AND INDIA

The TAP-TUMI Investor Brief offers a practical guide for unlocking investment in sustainable urban mobility and scaling climate-smart transport solutions in the Global South.

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EU CITIES MISSION

The initiative aims to deliver more than 100 climate-neutral, smart cities by 2030. At its core is the Climate City Contract (CCC), a governance innovation tool that helps local, regional, and national stakeholders to identify and co-create key actions to climate neutrality, and the ways and means to implement them.

[!\[\]\(7453c0f29ed3a7dcecf77fe714fbbf84_img.jpg\) Learn more](#)

DESIGNING FOR DELIVERY: HOW CITIES CAN STRUCTURE FUNDABLE CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

Launched by ClimateView, this resource introduces the Dual Lens of Transition Planning, a method to help cities translate multilevel governance and systems thinking into trackable, fundable climate actions

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GOOGLE ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS EXPLORER (EIE)

Freely available data and statistics that use exclusive data sources and modeling features to help cities and regions measure emission sources, conduct analyses, and identify strategies to reduce them.

[!\[\]\(007bb571fc5331b364ae27ddf8a1c148_img.jpg\) Learn more](#)