C40 and Arup announce new support for innovative climate action in cities

13 February, 2022 – C40 Cities and Arup today announced new efforts to help cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more resilient to climate change.

Sustainable development consultancy Arup will invest up to US$300,000 a year to help C40 drive resilience and decarbonisation in cities around the world. Arup will provide research, advocacy and technical support in areas such as green shipping corridors, green and thriving neighbourhoods and climate resilience. Much of the investment will come from pro-bono staff time in support of projects that align with C40’s mission and draw on Arup’s global technical and advisory skills. This will include projects that leverage specific technical expertise from Arup to overcome barriers to climate action in cities, and the development of new and innovative approaches to reduce emissions, increase climate resilience and improve the wellbeing of C40 cities.

Arup has more than 17,000 members and offices in 46 of the 97 cities that make up C40’s global network. C40 and Arup have collaborated for more than a decade on foundational pieces of research on the climate crisis, including Deadline 2020 and, more recently, Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods, a guide published by C40 and Arup for creating people-centred net-zero neighbourhoods has become a recognised tool for city and national governments as well as private sector developers and community leaders. The new 3-year partnership was signed in Amsterdam, with Arup’s Chairman Alan Belfield and C40’s Executive Director Mark Watts.

Arup Chair Alan Belfield said: “We know that the next decade is critical for addressing climate change. Cities will be at the front line, feeling the impacts, but they’ll have the ability to take bold and innovative action. We are committed to working alongside C40 Cities, bringing our expertise, to help cities shift from ambition to delivery at scale.”

C40 Executive Director Mark Watts said: “It’s remarkable what cities are achieving, particularly given the multiple challenges of recent years. Cities are able to move quickly due to their capacity to work with one another, whether that’s technical collaborations, such as Beijing and Copenhagen swapping expertise to slash fuel consumption in district heating, or Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur’s collaboration to decarbonise the building sector. We need to continue making ambitious progress to be truly on track to halve emissions by 2030 in line with a 1.5°C trajectory. We are pleased to be continuing to support cities to accelerate climate action in partnership with Arup, building on our 10-year collaboration.”
About Arup

Dedicated to sustainable development, Arup is a collective of 16,000 designers, advisors and experts working across 140 countries. Founded to strive for humanity and excellence in everything that we do, we collaborate with our clients and partners, using imagination, technology and rigour to shape a better world.

For more information, visit www.arup.com. Follow Arup on Twitter and LinkedIn.

About C40 Cities

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world’s leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a Global Green New Deal, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before.

The current Chair of C40 is Mayor of London Sadiq Khan; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40’s work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit our website, or follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.