



Contact:

media@c40.org

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C40 announces 22 Green & Thriving Neighbourhood pilot projects

- *C40 will support projects in Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States*
- *C40's new Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods Forum will help city practitioners around the world to exchange knowledge and collaborate on people-centred, low-carbon neighbourhood approaches*
- *C40 is joining a coalition of partners, including Nrep and Novo Nordisk, at the UIA World Congress of Architects this week to demonstrate how central urban planning policies and design practices are to accelerating climate action and significantly reducing emissions while improving people's quality of life, health and wellbeing*

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (3 July, 2023) — Today, C40 Cities is announcing new support for cities to create green and thriving neighbourhoods that improve people's quality of life, health and wellbeing.

Cities are at the forefront of our battle against climate change, with 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions generated by cities, but they are also the solution as walkable, vibrant urban neighbourhoods can significantly reduce emissions and bring co-benefits for health and wellbeing. Directly addressing these challenges and opportunities, the efforts announced today aim to develop new, innovate and scalable urban solutions.

C40 will support 22 neighbourhood pilot projects in cities around the globe, and build an international network of city practitioners to exchange knowledge and collaborate on building and expanding green and thriving neighbourhoods that promote community health and wellbeing.

C40 made the announcement at the [UIA World Congress of Architects](#), an event hosted by the city of Copenhagen that brings together thousands of city officials and experts to explore sustainable futures that leave no one behind. Copenhagen is the current UNESCO World Capital for Architecture, and Jernbanebyen, an emerging low-emission neighbourhood being developed in central Copenhagen

around green and thriving principles, is among the projects that will receive C40 support.

C40 will also support pilot projects in **Austin, United States; Barcelona, Spain; Bogotá, Colombia; Chengdu, China; Dakar, Senegal; Guadalajara, Mexico; Istanbul, Turkey; Lisbon, Portugal; Milan, Italy; Paris, France; Qingdao, China; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome, Italy; Santiago, Chile; Shenzhen, China; Stockholm, Sweden; São Paulo, Brazil; Vancouver, Canada; Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; Warsaw, Poland; and Wuhan, China.**

These cities will receive technical assistance, as well as opportunities to exchange knowledge and expertise with one another. C40 will also help cities explore funding opportunities for their neighbourhood projects.

Sophie Hæstorp Andersen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen Municipality, said: “I am thrilled that Copenhagen is part of the Green & Thriving Neighbourhoods programme. With Jernbanebyen as our project, we together with our partners strive to transform one of the last major areas for urban development in central Copenhagen into a reference project that can serve as an inspiration for equitable, healthy and sustainable communities around the world. The project will not only strive for a net-zero objective, it will also ensure inclusion and affordability through a diverse range of housing for people of all ages and backgrounds; it will integrate a mix of uses, including essential amenities and services for the local community; finally, the public spaces will be designed to limit the use of cars and provide more spaces for people, nature and biodiversity.”

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said: “There is an appetite for more liveable, people-oriented cities that has been reinforced by the COVID-19 crisis, driving a surge of interest in the ‘15-minute city.’ A green and thriving neighbourhood should enable residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to meet their daily needs close to home. It should support the local economy and green jobs, provide opportunities to walk, cycle and take public transport, offer better waste management solutions and cleaner energy systems and incorporate green infrastructure – all of which contribute to accelerating climate action while benefiting other critical urban agendas, such as promoting equity, prosperity, resilience and quality of life.”

São Paulo Mayor Ricardo Nunes said: “The city of São Paulo has increased its vegetation coverage from 48% to 54.13% across its territory, resulting in improved air quality, temperature and pollution reduction, as well as increased soil permeability and regulate river flow. The Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods project aligns with other initiatives led by our administration that are helping to enhance the environmental and social condition of the region.”

Chengdu Vice Mayor Lin Nan said: “Chengdu joined C40’s Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods platform, becoming one of the first group of pilot cities in the world. We are striving to find solutions to prominent environmental problems, improve urban living standards and fulfill Chengdu’s responsibility as a world sustainable city. With C40’s international platform and technical networks, we look forward to working with other member cities to explore new ways of responding to climate change and bringing a bright future of harmony between humanity and nature.”

C40’s work on green and thriving neighbourhoods is made possible with funding from [Urban Partners](#), an urban investor seeking to power the progress of cities, and support by [Novo Nordisk](#), a leading global health care company. [Nrep](#), the real estate investment business of Urban Partners, has committed to achieving a net-zero real estate portfolio by 2028.

Hélène Chartier, C40’s Director of Urban Planning and Design, said: “Urban planning and design decisions taken today will have a major impact on our ability to meet emission targets and deliver a good quality of life for an expanding urban population. That’s why C40 is proud to work with partners to support cities around the world as they develop and revitalize their neighbourhoods. We encourage architects, urban planners and other city leaders to join this growing global movement and creating green and thriving neighbourhoods.”

Claus Mathisen, CEO of Urban Partners, said: “It is our purpose to contribute to a future where cities are an active part of the solution to the climate crisis rather than the problem. As a partner to C40’s Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods platform and the pilot programme, it is my hope that we can both help develop a new urban vision and scale the actual solutions and blueprints for the sustainable and healthy cities of the future.”

Jo Jewell, Director of Cities Changing Diabetes at Novo Nordisk, said: “Novo Nordisk is proud to be a partner of C40’s Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods consortium, which embodies the key principles for driving community health and wellbeing that we have supported through our public-private partnership programme, Cities Changing Diabetes. We believe that inclusive community building that brings prevention into our neighbourhoods is critical to promote physical, social and mental health. With this platform, we want to be part of demonstrating how urban development and public health work can go hand in hand to build healthier populations, setting an example for cities worldwide.”

C40 and Novo Nordisk are working on a tool to help cities model the health and climate benefits associated with people-centred, low-carbon neighbourhoods.

Today's announcement is part of a broader effort by C40 and a coalition of partners to accelerate sustainable urbanism and design, and to support cities in adopting cross-sectoral approaches to neighbourhood planning.

Earlier this month, C40 joined forces with the Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation Chair of the IAE Paris Sorbonne Business School, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to launch the [Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities](#), a knowledge and capacity building platform focused on local initiatives around the world that are helping urban dwellers to meet essential needs without venturing far away from home. Together with Nrep, C40 is building an international [network of practitioners](#) advising cities on ways to build and expand green and thriving urban neighbourhoods. C40 also published a [guide on Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods](#) with [Arup](#), the global collective of designers, advisors and experts dedicated to sustainable development.

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About C40 Cities

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities 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; 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](#).

Green and thriving neighbourhood projects supported by C40

Austin, United States: Austin's pilot project is focused on an area in the northeast of the city, and can be considered an extension of the work undertaken in the nearby Colony Park Sustainable Neighbourhood. Through stakeholder engagement, the city aims to drive investment to the area, ensuring equitable processes and leadership, working towards minimal to zero displacement of current residents, and focusing on the well-being of people in the area.

Barcelona, Spain: Barcelona will increase the number of pedestrian and green areas, create new playgrounds for children and boost the local economy in Sagrera to drive the transformation of the neighbourhood into a green and healthy space that prioritises people's quality of life..

Bogotá, Colombia: Bogotá is creating a network of *manzanas del cuidado* ("care blocks") that allow people, and especially caregivers, to access existing and new care services within a short walking distance. The project will facilitate mobility and access to essential services, equipment and public spaces for urban dwellers.

Chengdu, China: Angong Community is one of Chengdu's first "near-zero carbon emission community" pilot projects. It has built the first community-level bio-organic waste recycling and disposal centre, and is in the midst of a large-scale green space renovation project. With C40 support, the community will increase the utilisation of clean energy by focusing on distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to effectively reduce emissions in public areas, and raise residents' awareness of healthy and low-carbon lifestyles through a Near-Zero Carbon Emission Centre.

Copenhagen, Denmark: Jernbanebyen is one of the last major areas for urban development in central Copenhagen. The city is transforming old railyards into a neighbourhood that is inclusive and affordable, through an integrated approach that promotes a diverse range of housing for people of all ages and backgrounds. Streets will be people-centred with limited access for cars, allowing more space for nature and biodiversity to thrive and putting climate adaptation at the forefront of development.

Dakar, Senegal: Dakar will improve living conditions in the commune of Biscuiterie. The city will expand public green spaces, promote micro-gardening, and build pedestrian and cycle paths to connect public and commercial infrastructure. An integrated solar energy production system will be set up to improve waste management at the household level.

Guadalajara, Mexico: The Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara has promoted the implementation of a polycentric model through its Metropolitan Land Use Plan (POTmet). This approach is based on the development of specific strategies for

each centrality. The plan is currently being updated and, through cooperation with C40, city officials will be seeking to strengthen the metrics and monitoring indicators for each centrality, following a "15-minute city" approach. In addition, will consolidate development financing instruments to carry out strategic climate actions.

Istanbul, Turkey: Istanbul will develop the first phase of its Ayamama Green Valley project, planned along a 7-kilometre stretch of the Ayamama Stream. The project includes the implementation of an uninterrupted network of green-mobility corridors for bicycles and e-scooters, the co-design of playgrounds with children, promotion of public urban agriculture and the creation of sports fields, skate tracks and walking paths.

Lisbon, Portugal: Lisbon is creating hubs of innovation in historic neighbourhoods to foster culture-led urban regeneration. The hub in Colina Do Castelo is pioneering a model that uses the value of cultural heritage as an asset for climate action. The "Sprout Tank" initiative will explore ideas for creating climate-neutral neighbourhoods. 15-minute city principles will be applied to improve the quality of life while addressing climate change.

Milan, Italy: Milan will focus on designing people-centred public spaces and increasing local access to amenities, while enhancing community resilience to flood and heat risk. The city will work with local communities and stakeholders to co-develop projects that improve the quality of urban spaces and reduce vulnerability to climate for all.

Paris, France: To address heat islands, Paris will work with residents to enlarge green spaces and create cool shelters, water points and gardening opportunities, among other recreational activities. The city will renovate nearby social housing and take steps to promote local commerce.

Qingdao, China: Qingdao Sino-German Ecopark is the first ecological park jointly built by the Chinese and German governments. With the vision of "Idyllic Environment, Green Development, Beautiful Life," it is taking innovative actions on sustainable development, focusing on ecological standards, low-carbon industries and sustainable city. 100% of buildings in the park are built according to Chinese green building standards, and passive ultra-low energy buildings are built using various types of architecture. The Future City D2 cluster in the park is targeted to become the first zero-carbon zone in China, with a "passive" building cluster of more than 1 million square metres to be constructed.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Rio de Janeiro's project will focus on Osvaldo Cruz, a residential neighbourhood in the suburbs. The city aims to strengthen community by connecting local landmarks like Madureira Park, Portela Samba School and Osvaldo Cruz train station with green spaces and accessible pathways.

Rio plans to expand existing green infrastructure and turn streets and public areas into living spaces that promote social interaction and preserve the cultural, historic and environmental heritage of the neighbourhood.

Rome, Italy: Rome recently unveiled a 15-minute city plan to improve access to essential services in each of its 15 municipalities with 15 different projects. C40 will support these efforts which, taken together, are expected to reduce socio-economic, civic and service disparities within the city.

Santiago, Chile: The regional government of Santiago will take steps to strengthen existing neighbourhood initiatives on water and energy efficiency, mobility, biodiversity and waste management, and transform Alameda Providencia, one of the city's main thoroughways for cars.

Shenzhen, China: The Dameisha Community is a coastal neighbourhood located in the east of Shenzhen Yantian District. To build a near-zero carbon emission and eco-friendly neighbourhood, it will take a series of actions to cut down greenhouse gas emissions and conserve nature, including by raising public awareness and participation through activities such as Nature Observation Year, promoting the use of black gadfly in waste management and creating zero-waste tourist attractions. The community will also apply "sponge city" construction principles to improve the climate resilience.

Stockholm, Sweden: Stockholm's inner city is situated in a confined space, on islands surrounded by valuable green areas. The city will develop a strategy for logistics and goods management, and explore how new work practices may affect the need for office space in Stockholm Royal Seaport, a new development designated by the City Council with the task of testing and developing new solutions and processes for a more sustainable future.

São Paulo, Brazil: São Paulo's City Hall is committed to improving the quality of life for the local population in the Sapopemba district, an area that has one of the highest temperatures in the municipality. The project aims to implement actions that will substantially enhance environmental comfort and promote active mobility, and propose innovative solutions to improve connections among open public spaces, green areas and social facilities.

Vancouver, Canada: Vancouver's pilot project focuses on the typology of urban villages, identified in the city's new land-use strategy. These urban villages are areas developed around small commercial centres. Vancouver will explore a variety of planning and regulatory interventions to transform lower-density neighbourhoods into more "complete" ones.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain: Several superblocks will be created, according to the Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan and the Urban Green Infrastructure of

Vitoria-Gasteiz. The project will adopt a cross-sectoral perspective, addressing mobility, green infrastructure, economic activation and climate change mitigation. Implementation will be carried out in phases, and include the co-design of necessary tactical urban planning measures together with neighbourhood social partners and citizens.

Warsaw, Poland: Warsaw will improve the Vistula riverbank by improving public transport, pedestrian walkways and cycle paths, and creating a network of public spaces to accommodate the needs of people of all ages and backgrounds. With this project, Warsaw aims to integrate its city centre with the Praga district on the other side of the river, resulting in more people-centred neighbourhoods that improve quality of life for all.

Wuhan, China: Based on the characteristics of economic prosperity and a large population in a central urban area, Wuhan's Beihu Street pilot has been promoting green transformation of the neighbourhood through low-carbon renovation of old urban areas, energy trusteeship of public institutions, and green finance and consumption. Beihu Street is committed to setting an example on green and low-carbon development for other central urban areas to follow. With C40 support, Beihu Street will carry out a series of pilot projects on residential life and commercial consumption to achieve a net-zero and thriving neighbourhood.