

Chennai announces mainstreaming of climate action planning through the Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Labs

- *The Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Labs are a strategic partnership between C40 Cities and Community Jameel to explore tangible frameworks for integrating climate action into urban planning.*
- *Chennai will create a sustainable, liveable and low-carbon city space which will serve as a proof of concept of the planning.*
- *City practitioners will be encouraged to share knowledge to inform sustainable and resilient planning measures in other cities in their regions.*

28 March, 2024 (CHENNAI): Chennai announced its commitment today to **mainstream climate action into its master plan**, land use planning policies, and regulations through the establishment of the Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab supported by C40 Cities and [Community Jameel](#).

The Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab aims to help Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) in revising its master planning documents by better integrating climate objectives and adapting to climate risks. CMDA is currently engaged in a process to develop a Third Master Plan (2026-2046) focused on building climate resilience and improving the adaptive ability of the Chennai Metropolitan Area.

The Tamil Nadu government launched Chennai's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) on 13 June, 2023 making it the second Indian city to have a Paris Agreement-aligned CAP. The CAP has been designed to serve as a roadmap for the city to become carbon neutral by 2050, setting targets of 1% by 2030, 40% by 2040 (compared to 2018-19) and achieving net zero by 2050. The climate action planning process led to the development of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, climate risk assessment and mapping, and the identification of strategies and actions for both mitigation and adaptation.

The actions contained within Chennai CAPs clearly demonstrate that an integrated effort by a coalition of departments and institutions will be required. As urban planning is a cross-cutting discipline, affecting land use decisions, green spaces, transport, housing and more, it is a central function for delivering emissions reductions and increased resilience. CMDA recognises this and, in alignment with the National and State Government's ambitions on climate action and with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, aims to develop a Third Master Plan (2027-2046) that embeds key actions from the Chennai CAP.

The Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab recognises the fact that urban planning is a key tool to help cities **realise their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; adapt to the impacts of climate change and deliver wider socio-economic and environmental co-benefits**. For the first phase of work, an updated greenhouse gas inventory that covers the Chennai Metropolitan Area is being produced. This will be accompanied by a comprehensive urban planning and climate action integration baseline assessment report, vulnerability mapping, and identification of priority policy actions for the Third Master Plan.

The Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab is part of a network of climate labs launched as a partnership between Community Jameel, C40, and the [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#), which aim to embed and strengthen policy teams in national, state and city government to drive evidence-based and innovative approaches to tackling the effects of the climate crisis. In addition to the Chennai Lab, a Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab will launch in Amman, Jordan, along with three J-PAL-supported climate labs in Egypt, India and South Africa, which will collectively serve nearly 260 million people.

Cléa Daridan, Senior Curator and Culture Lead at Community Jameel, said:

“Community Jameel is proud to support this pioneering and innovative approach to mainstream climate action at the municipal level alongside C40. The Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Labs will support cities to accelerate sustainable, equitable and resilient urban planning policies serving as a driving force for ambitious and deliverable climate action.”

C40 Managing Director of Regions and Mayoral Engagement and Regional Director of South and West Asia Shruti Narayan said: “Through its political will and leadership, Chennai has led the way by showcasing how decisions in urban planning have significant influence over a city's trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions and its vulnerability to climate risks and integrated planning can mitigate these risks through mainstreaming. This is particularly of importance to the global south, home to cities with the highest climate risk in the world.”

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. We work alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil

society to support mayors to halve emissions by 2030 and help phase out fossil use while increasing urban climate resilience and equity.

The current co-chairs of C40 are Mayor Sadiq Khan of London, United Kingdom, and Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown, Sierra Leone; 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 and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#) or follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Community Jameel:

[Community Jameel](#) advances science and learning for communities to thrive.



An independent, global organisation, Community Jameel launched in 2003 to continue the tradition of philanthropy and community service established by the Jameel family of Saudi Arabia in 1945.

We support scientists, humanitarians, technologists and creatives to understand and address pressing human challenges. The work enabled and supported by Community Jameel has led to significant breakthroughs, including the [MIT Jameel Clinic](#)'s discovery of the new antibiotics halicin and abaucin, critical modelling of the spread of COVID-19 conducted by the [Jameel Institute](#) at Imperial College London, and a Nobel Prize-winning experimental approach to alleviating global poverty championed by the co-founders of the [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#) (J-PAL).

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