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Mayor Sadiq Khan leads mayoral delegation to key climate summit at the Vatican, set to sign crucial climate protocol

Mayor of London and Co-Chair of C40 Cities Sadiq Khan is leading a mayoral delegation of nine C40 mayors to the Vatican today for a critical audience with Pope Francis to discuss best practices of climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience at the ['Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience'](#) summit.

Acting in his role both as Mayor of London and as Co-Chair of C40 Cities, Mayor Khan will join a delegation of leaders who have shown a commitment to tackling the climate crisis, including Mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu; Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo; Mayor of Rome, Roberto Gualtieri; Mayor of Athens, Haris Doukas; Governor of Santiago, Claudio Orrego; Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala; Mayor of Yokohama, Takeharu Yamanaka and Mayor of São Paulo, Ricardo Nunes. The delegation will underscore the work cities are taking to drive forward climate action. Khan will showcase that a positive environment vision has real benefits for city economies and tackling inequalities and is rewarded at the ballot box. C40 Mayors will emphasise the need for greater collaboration between cities and national governments, with stronger focus on the role they can play in meeting national targets.

Other leaders and people of note present at the summit include Governor of California, Gavin Newsom; Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul; Hoesung Lee (IPCC), Former chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Gina McCarthy; Former White House Climate Advisor.

The summit will focus on diminishing climate risks, adaptation strategies and societal climate transformation, with Mayor Khan, who called for a curb on the undue influence of the fossil fuel industry last year, sharing knowledge and insights on the progress London has made with other cities aiming to implement similar programmes elsewhere.

Mayor Wu is a champion of climate action for Boston. The City's leadership has delivered results through growing its PowerCorps green jobs program and Boston's Community Choice Electricity program, transitioning to electric school buses and vehicles, decarbonizing existing buildings and adopting green building standards for new construction, launching networked geothermal energy in public housing, enhancing Boston's green spaces and building green infrastructure to protect against flooding, bolstering electric vehicle infrastructure, and aggressively fighting for federal funding. Mayor Wu has set an ambitious agenda. A key part of Boston's Green New Deal is ensuring that the City's work supports the climate, livability and opportunity of Boston's neighborhoods for residents, taking action to address environmental protection while also

enhancing public health, housing affordability, better public transit options, and access to green jobs. Mayor Wu's commitment to climate action advances sustainability, resilience, and environmental justice.

In Europe, by utilising procurement powers, Mayor Sala of Milan has improved school menus by increasing plant-based options in the 77,000 meals served a day through the city's central kitchens. This has helped to reduce emissions associated with food served by schools by over 38% from 2015 to 2022.

During his visit, Mayor Khan will have an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis - a rare occasion which presents an opportunity for Sadiq as Mayor of London and Co-Chair of C40 cities to share strategies and challenges that London faces in the realm of climate action, and which responds to Pope Francis' urgent call to action in his [Laudate Deum](#).

Following this, Khan and fellow C40 representatives will take the stage to address the assembly, in a global roundtable event. Mayor Khan will focus on "Governance in the Age of Climate Change" outlining pivotal climate governance issues that impact him as Mayor of London, as well as shining a spotlight on C40 Cities and London's innovative strides in climate governance.

Mayor Khan is also due to sign a Protocol for Climate Resilience alongside other climate leaders, aligning London with global efforts to safeguard people and the planet which recognises the urgent need for action on climate change adaptation as well as net zero. The protocol is due to be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to take it forward to all nations.

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "I'm honoured to have been invited by the Pope to participate in this vital summit at the Vatican. Throughout history, one generation has always inspired the next with a great task. For ours, it's solving the climate and environmental crises.

"Our species is waging war on the natural world, which could ultimately lead to our ruin. This is a moment which demands the courage to take tough decisions and meet responsibilities to protect our planet and future generations.

"My election earlier this month was a choice of whether Londoners wanted to see their city strive forward or be dragged backward. Now, more than ever, I'm determined to continue putting London at the vanguard of the climate movement. As Mayor I am proud to have turned London into a beacon of climate and environmental progress – our air is now dramatically cleaner, half a million new trees have been planted, we have begun a rewilding revolution, invested millions in green jobs and have led the way in turning our capital into a global centre for green finance."

“Cities are where over half the world’s population lives and where over 75 per cent of global energy is consumed. Through the C40 network of cities – our global coalition of the willing – we’re demonstrating the true gap in both ambition and achievement between cities and nations. We are at a critical juncture. Our future is not yet written and if nations follow where cities have led, we can turn this moment of maximum risk into a moment of maximum opportunity. A better future is now visible - our cities and regions are tracing the outline.”

Mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu said: “I’m thrilled to join UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Governor Maura Healey, Mayors and leaders from around the globe at the Vatican for this important climate summit led by Pope Francis. As a coastal city known for our climate leadership, Boston serves as proof of what’s possible through focused planning and determined coordination. I’m grateful for the opportunity to share Boston’s progress on climate action and learn from other mayors and leaders taking needed action for our brightest future.”

Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala said: “In the complex architecture of global climate action, the Vatican summit emerges as a poignant catalyst for solidarity and shared commitment. Milan, alongside our fellow members in the C40 network, emphasises the pivotal role cities play in crafting sustainable pathways and testing innovative models. Through pioneering urban regeneration, public space for people and sustainable mobility, Milan remains steadfast in leading inclusive climate action. Together, we are embarking on a journey towards a redefined era of advancement, resonating with Pope Francis’ clarion call for transformative change.”

C40 Executive Director, Mark Watts said: “Mayor Khan’s presence - leading a delegation of C40 mayors for a critical audience with Pope Francis - highlights the leading role played by cities in the global climate response. With London as a beacon of progress and C40 cities leading on science-based climate action, Mayor Khan is once again reiterating his dedication to creating green, resilient and equitable cities.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Members of the media can watch the livestream of the event here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CasinaPioIV>

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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. 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.

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 Mayor Sadiq Khan

Mayor Sadiq Khan has served as the Mayor of London since 2016, with a strong focus on making London a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable city. He is a leading advocate for climate action, spearheading initiatives to improve air quality, expand green spaces, and enhance public transportation. Mayor Khan has been chair of C40 since 2021.

- London now boasts the largest electric bus fleet in Europe and an extensive network of public electric vehicle charging points.
- The implementation of the Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), now the largest clean air zone in the world, has drastically reduced harmful emissions from road transport, setting a high standard for cities globally.
- Air pollution has been reduced London-wide, with nitrogen dioxide concentrations decreasing by 65 per cent in central London, 53 per cent in inner London, and 45 per cent in outer London since 2016.
- The Mayor's policies have driven London's air quality to improve faster than the rest of the UK, by accelerating the uptake of cleaner vehicles and reducing air pollution beyond what would have otherwise happened.
- In addition, the Mayor has planted more than half a million trees, started a rewilding revolution, invested millions in green jobs and led the way in turning our capital into a global centre for green finance.

Notable C40 highlights include:

- 89 cities have adopted Paris Agreement compliant climate action plans, demonstrating a united front in achieving global targets.
- 75% of C40 cities are surpassing their respective national governments in per capita emissions reduction, showcasing the power of local action.
- Cities are leading the transition to clean energy, with nearly 50 C40 megacities accelerating efforts in energy efficiency.

- Urban climate action has generated over 14 million green jobs in 53 C40 cities, illustrating the economic benefits of sustainability.
- The recent CHAMP initiative, with 72 countries on board, underscores the crucial role of cities in national climate strategies.
- C40 cities are committed to ambitious targets, such as 28 cities procuring only zero-emission buses by 2025 and establishing zero-emission areas by 2030.
- A notable shift towards active travel and public transport is evident, with 41% of trips made by these means across C40 cities.