



The Global Urban Data Centres Pact

A mayoral vision for a sustainable,
affordable, digital future.

C4O
CITIES

THE GLOBAL URBAN DATA CENTRES PACT

Data centres are the backbone of our digital world - inherently urban infrastructure that powers every facet of modern life. Yet, without proper planning and clear standards, data centres can have a disproportionate impact on our cities' electricity and water use, as well as temperatures, air quality and energy costs. Well planned growth of data centres presents our cities and the industry with a unique chance to harness the potential of the digital economy while protecting our environment and serving our people and the communities they live in.



Through this Pact, we are establishing the global city vision for the sector through four key pillars, setting a clear standard for sustainable urban data centres, grounded in equity and community benefits that meet local residents' needs. In delivering data centres which meet these standards, we believe that development will then not come at the expense of natural resources, energy prices, or climate targets, but instead drive resource efficiency, equitable access to affordable, clean sources of energy, local development, and better city services.

Recognising that data centres are an integral and growing part of our landscape, we, as mayors and responsible business leaders are committed to working together to ensure that residents' clear concerns about this sector, from energy costs to public health, serve as a catalyst for change. A unified, innovative vision can help the sector to enable community support and build urban data centres that are truly sustainable, equitable, and locally beneficial.



THE GLOBAL URBAN DATA CENTRES PACT

In signing this Pact, I join my fellow mayors in setting a vision for urban data centres which are:

01

Strategically integrated into cities

Prioritising brownfield regeneration and adaptive reuse, respect local communities by avoiding displacement, sited in collaboration with local governments to minimise public health burdens (air quality, noise, temperature) and align with city planning and climate targets.

02

Sustainable and resource-efficient

Meeting energy demand—for both primary and backup power—without building new, extending the operation of existing, or reopening decommissioned fossil fuel plants. Committing to not using fossil fuels for on-site power and securing new and additional renewable energy generation and/or storage to meet, at a minimum, equivalent power demand and consumption. Reducing the environmental impact and reliance on shared resources by achieving best-in-class sustainability standards for emissions and water use (avoiding reliance on non-renewable water resources, including potable water) and actively capturing and using waste heat for community benefits

03

Accountable and community-focused

Publishing measurable benchmark data on sustainability and public health metrics, engaging directly with the local community, and delivering tangible local economic benefits by prioritising procurement from local businesses and supporting the creation of good, green jobs through investment in local programmes.

04

An engine for cost-security and shared prosperity

Ensuring fair cost coverage by directly funding any necessary infrastructure upgrades (energy, water and network), utilising fair share pricing tied to sustainability performance, and actively investing in local communities by directing the surplus revenue generated said pricing into dedicated revolving funds to support local sustainability and social infrastructure.

THE GLOBAL URBAN DATA CENTRES PACT

In joining the Pact, mayors commit to the following:

In joining this vision, I join my fellow mayors in putting forward this vision for what a sustainable, locally beneficial data centre should be. We call on the industry more broadly to join us to convert this ambitious vision into action, for the wellbeing of our residents and climate futures.

Register your interest in endorsing the Pact
c40.me/urbandatacentres

Read the white paper
c40.me/urbandatacentres-whitepaper

