Industrial legacy cities worldwide are harnessing their industrial identity and cultural heritage to tackle local challenges related to climate risk, environmental degradation and inclusive sustainable development. Industrial decline and subsequent structural changes in these cities has had long-lasting effects which primarily impacted specific population groups and neighborhoods.

Due to their fundamental environmental, economic and social transitions, industrial legacy cities are experts in reinventing themselves and turning challenges into opportunities. Key assets such as legacy infrastructures and a strong civil society help these cities to address global challenges related to environmental pollution, unemployment and social inequality.

The Urban Transitions Alliance is a global network of industrial legacy cities committed to realizing sustainable and inclusive urban transitions, collaborating to address common challenges and find new solutions. Cities in the Alliance are striving to mainstream equity-based approaches in their transition projects. This approach enables them to not only to achieve climate and environmental targets, but also to provide opportunities to local citizens, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

At UN Climate Change Conference COP25, the Urban Transitions Alliance member cities of Dortmund and Essen (Germany), Katowice (Poland), Pittsburgh (USA) and Turku (Finland) will showcase their transition achievements and ambitious targets for inclusive climate action.

Alliance cities will bring key learnings to COP25:

- Industrial legacy cities have experienced a fundamental transition of their environmental, economic and social systems. At COP25, they are at the forefront of ambitious climate action. Alliance cities’ success stories show the scope of change that is possible
- Urban transitions have multiple impacts on local communities. To ensure just climate action, plans need to be designed in an inclusive and participatory way. By exploring how social equity and climate action can reinforce each other, Alliance cities are paving the way for others to follow.
- There is no excuse to hesitate. Industrial legacy cities’ experiences confirm the need to anticipate future trends, act now and embrace the opportunities of new development pathways.
Interested to connect? Get in touch with the Alliance Secretariat at:
Tel. +49-(0)228 / 976 299-52 - urban.transitions@iclei.org

Learn more about the equity angle in industrial legacy cities and see the latest Urban Transitions Alliance Roadmaps Publication:

www.urbantransitions.org

Follow ICLEI’s wider COP25 agenda of local and regional governments uniting for ambitious climate action:

www.iclei.org