



UN Climate Change Conference COP25 -- 2-13 December 2019 | Madrid, Spain

Industrial legacy cities emphasize the urgency for inclusive climate action

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.

Alliance event recommendations @COP25

Saturday, 7 December, 9:00-10:00

**Local Governments and Cities Day | 2nd Capacity-building Hub:
High Level Opening Session ([Agenda](#))**

Venue: Capacity Building Hub

Host: UNFCCC | Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

Alliance participation: **Ms. Simone Raskob**, Deputy Mayor, City of Essen, Germany



Saturday, 7 December, 10:30-11:30

Integrating biodiversity, climate and land management: Examples from the GPSC ([Agenda](#))

Venue: NDC Partnership Pavilion

Host: Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)

Alliance participation: **Ms. Simone Raskob**, Deputy Mayor, City of Essen, Germany





Saturday, 7 December, 15:00-18:00

**Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action | Human Settlements Event:
Climate emergency - time to act for zero carbon cities and buildings** ([Agenda](#))

Venue: Torres del Paine (Blue Zone)

Host: Human Settlements Group

Alliance participation: **Mr. Sebastian Schlecht**, Project Manager, City of Essen, Germany



Monday, 9 December, 11:30-13:00

NDCs and the Climate Emergency of Cities - Collaborative Climate Action to Ratchet-up Ambition and Capture Urban Opportunities ([Agenda](#))

Venue: UNFCCC Room 5

Hosts: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability | GIZ

Alliance participation: **Mr. Bill Peduto**, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, USA



Monday, 9 December, 12:30-13:45

Smart urban transitions: innovative and efficient mobility solutions ([Agenda](#))

Venue: German Pavilion (Hall 6, Stand 6A36)

Hosts: Urban Pathways

Alliance participation: **Mr. Ullrich Sierau**, Lord Mayor, City of Dortmund, Germany



Tuesday, 10 December, 10:00-11:30

High-level circular economy roundtable: Cities and buildings as agents of climate action ([Agenda](#))

Venue: Pedro de Atacama Climate Action Room (Hall 4, Blue Zone)

Hosts: ICLEI | UN Environment

Alliance participation: **Ms. Minna Arve**, Mayor, City of Turku, Finland



Tuesday, 10 December, 17:30-19:00

De-Carbonization and SDGs Localization: Challenge of Local and Regional Governments to achieve circulating and ecological economy ([Agenda](#))

Venue: Japan Pavilion

Hosts: ICLEI Japan Office | International Strategy Division, Global Environmental Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Alliance participation: **Ms. Minna Arve**, Mayor, City of Turku, Finland



Interested to connect? Get in touch with the Alliance Secretariat at:

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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