

U R B A N **TRANSITIONS ALLIANCE**



**INDUSTRIAL LEGACY.
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**

Urban transitions for cities with an industrial legacy


JOINTLY DEFINING PATHS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Since the first industrial revolution, extractive and manufacturing industries have formed the backbone of many local economies and led to rapid urbanization of their surrounding areas. This resulted in the rise of industrial cities as a new urban form. Each of these cities had its own spatial development logic, environmental impacts of industrial activities, social structures and cultural identities, setting them apart from non-industrial cities in their region and driving their economic and social success.

However, the industrial city as a model for urban development proved not to be sustainable: The depletion of natural resources, growing environmental pressures as well as globalization coupled with the recent trends of digitalization and automation led to the decline or progressive phase-out of local industries. Many industrial cities around the world have seen their centers of gravity gradually fading away. Others have more recently industrialized but face increasing environmental pressures.

Such fundamental urban transitions are challenging and take time. However, they also provide exceptional opportunities for industrial legacy cities to define their own paths towards more vibrant, sustainable economies, create new local jobs, leverage their heritage for new economic opportunities and improve their local environments and the lives of their residents.

In the process of building sustainable local economies and establishing more resilient urban systems, cities with an industrial legacy around the world have much in common and can benefit greatly from cooperation and knowledge exchange. Each individual transition process is linked to the distinct identity and fabric of the city it takes place in. Some cities have been in transition for decades, others are just now starting the process. However, exchanging good practice and jointly identifying key opportunities for sustainable urban development provides powerful support to industrial legacy cities around the globe. Enabling this peer-to-peer exchange and providing the infrastructure for cooperation is the purpose of the Urban Transitions Alliance.



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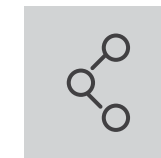
WHAT IS THE URBAN TRANSITIONS ALLIANCE?

The Urban Transitions Alliance, an initiative managed by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and funded by Stiftung Mercator, presents an opportunity for industrial legacy cities across the world to become global leaders in sustainable urban development. The Alliance provides the infrastructure and support cities need to identify common challenges, share knowledge and co-create solutions for their own local action. The Alliance helps cities to forge strong, lasting working relationships with local government peers, experts from the research community and private sector solution providers. Cities shape the Alliance according to their needs and decide jointly on the topics, services and support it provides to them.



DEFINE CHALLENGES

Cities decide on the topics and challenges to be addressed, activities they require support for, and what they want to learn from each other. Cities set the course, the Alliance provides the infrastructure.




SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Cities discuss their work and share knowledge through physical meetings and online. Additional resources, tools and expert knowledge are provided by the Alliance and partners based on the cities' needs.



CO-CREATE SOLUTIONS

The solutions created through the Alliance are condensed into knowledge products such as briefing sheets and solution roadmaps and made available with other resources to be shared and used locally.



The Urban Transition Alliance provides the infrastructure and services for cities to jointly solve common challenges, share knowledge and access expertise to accelerate their individual transitions to a sustainable future.



THEMES
MAY INCLUDE

- Renewable energy and energy transition
- Green buildings and districts
- Green economy and sustainable industry
- Eco-tourism and industrial heritage capitalization through tourism
- Education and creating employment perspectives for young people
- Quality of life for an aging population
- Sustainable mobility and urban logistics
- Resource efficiency and circular economy
- Smart cities and digitalization
- Integrated and participatory urban development
- Green infrastructure and ecosystem services
- Sustainable procurement and finance models

**TURNING CHALLENGES INTO SOLUTIONS,
SOLUTIONS INTO ACTIONS**

Industrial legacy cities identify common challenges, share knowledge and ideas and engage with partners, experts, researchers and solution providers through the Urban Transitions Alliance, launched at the TWINS Conference Ruhr - Cities in Climate Change, in Essen, Germany, and during the first week of the UN Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn, Germany.

Alliance cities decide on the main themes and questions to be addressed in-depth and select the services and support they need to collaboratively advance on solving their challenges. The Alliance supports the cities according to their needs, online and in person.

Cities collaborate in thematic working groups joined by selected experts, researchers and private sector representatives. Each working group answers questions and identifies solutions to the challenges. The results of each group's efforts is condensed into knowledge products such as briefing sheets and solution roadmaps to be shared with all cities in the Alliance.

At the Urban Transitions Forum, Alliance cities and partners discuss the results of the working groups with other local governments, researchers, investors and international organizations. Alliance cities also receive training, tools and frameworks to support the implementation or creation of their own urban transition action plans and ongoing or future projects.

Cities receive support and guidance for implementing existing or developing new action plans for their transition. These action plans can be dedicated to urban transitions or focus on a specific area such as climate mitigation, resilience, innovation, sustainable mobility, etc. based on but not limited to the ideas and solutions developed across all Alliance working groups. The lessons learned from developing or implementing transition action plans and projects are shared across the Alliance.



KICK OFF

TWINS CONFERENCE RUHR / UNFCCC COP23
ESSEN & BONN, GERMANY / NOVEMBER 2017



**DEFINE
CHALLENGES**

Cities decide on main themes and define central questions and support needs

- ▶ Decide on main themes of the Alliance
- ▶ Identify common challenges
- ▶ Share ideas and experiences with peers
- ▶ Define key questions and support needed to adress cities' needs

WORKING GROUP I

WORKING GROUP 2

WORKING GROUP 3



**CO-CREATE
SOLUTIONS**

Cities engage with peers and experts to co-develop solutions

- ▶ Engage in working groups to jointly answer common questions
- ▶ Benefit from expert input from researchers and the private sector
- ▶ Aggregate knowledge and ideas in briefing sheets and solution roadmaps
- ▶ Share solutions and knowledge with peers



**URBAN TRANSITIONS
FORUM**

ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS
MONTRÉAL, CANADA / JUNE 2018



**APPLY
KNOWLEDGE
TO PRACTICE**

Cities receive support to translate knowledge and solutions into practice

- ▶ Receive guidance, tools and frameworks for urban transition management
- ▶ Make use of contacts gained through the Alliance
- ▶ Apply knowledge to improve existing projects, plans and strategies
- ▶ Develop or implement action plans and projects for urban transitions

RECEIVE SUPPORT

DEVELOP CAPACITY

IMPROVE LOCAL ACTION

EXCHANGE IDEAS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CITIES



BENEFITS

What do I get out of the Alliance?

Alliance cities

- ▶ Gain access to solutions and knowledge to power their transition towards sustainability
- ▶ Gain access to new ideas and examples of best practice from other industrial legacy cities
- ▶ Attend international events and networks to be visible on the global stage
- ▶ Receive international recognition for their commitment to sustainable urban development
- ▶ Receive support from the Alliance secretariat in finding answers to their questions and needs
- ▶ Receive tools and training on managing urban transition processes to inform their strategy and action plan development and implementation
- ▶ Receive guidance in developing the story of their city and their transition to sustainability
- ▶ Build strong and working relationships with peer industrial legacy cities committed to sustainability
- ▶ Work with inspiring experts from around the globe on improving their city
- ▶ Shape the Alliance to their needs and set the topics and targets of the Alliance
- ▶ Become pioneers for sustainable transitions and pave the way for other industrial legacy cities to follow

What do I have to pay to join the Urban Transitions Alliance?

Nothing. The Urban Transitions Alliance is funded by Stiftung Mercator and does not charge any fees. However, joining events and meaningfully engaging in the Alliance does require staff time and may incur other costs, e.g. covering travel and accommodation. Deeply committed cities will be given priority for available support.

Who decides on the main themes?

All cities in the Urban Transitions Alliance will have a say in theme selection. Join the Alliance to make sure your challenges are answered.

I am hesitant to commit deeply and would rather observe or engage on a case by case basis. Is that OK?

Yes. Join the Alliance and get access to all the knowledge, contacts, work results and events without committing to major obligations. A minimum of work is needed to provide the Alliance with information about your city and your projects and interests.

I want to get the most out of this opportunity – what should I do?

Ensure political support of your city, engage actively and regularly in the working groups - physically and online, suggest colleagues or experts from your network to join, and participate in the Alliance events. This places you at the center of knowledge sharing and solution development and increases support for your projects or the development and implementation of strategies and action plans.

Exactly how much time and engagement is needed for Alliance Membership?

The exact amount of time commitment varies from case to case but eight to ten hours per month is a realistic estimate. Physical meetings for milestone events such as the Urban Transitions Forum may require intercontinental travel for several days. Cities which chose to develop action plans, engage in content creation or implement new projects may have an increased voluntary work load.



CITY ENGAGEMENT

What do cities have to commit to?

All Alliance cities need to

- ▶ Provide a letter of endorsement to confirm Alliance membership and political commitment
- ▶ Appoint a liaison who will be the point of contact for Alliance matters and who will disseminate information and outputs to other relevant city officials
- ▶ Participate in milestone events such as the Urban Transitions Forum
- ▶ Provide information for an Alliance city profile including the city's challenges and actions towards a sustainable transition
- ▶ Tell their transition story, including their industrial legacy, where they are today and where they want to go in the future

To participate meaningfully, cities need to

- ▶ Appoint a dedicated practitioner to actively engage in a working group
- ▶ Ensure that the chosen practitioner possesses working knowledge of the English language
- ▶ Confirm that the chosen practitioner is available to join milestone events and physical or virtual working group meetings
- ▶ Ensure that the chosen practitioner has relevant thematic knowledge relevant to one or more working group topics
- ▶ Apply the knowledge, tools and support gained through the Alliance in practice, e.g. in ongoing or new projects, revising your cities strategies or developing an urban transitions action plan

Join the Alliance to gain access to knowledge sharing, valuable contacts, work results and events, and set an agenda to meet the most pressing shared challenges of cities with an industrial legacy.

ABOUT ICLEI

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of over 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. By helping the ICLEI Network to become sustainable, low-carbon, ecomobile, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, we impact over 25% of the global urban population.

CONTACT

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
World Secretariat
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
53113 Bonn, Germany

urban.transitions@iclei.org

www.urbantransitions.org

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