

Programme

Creating Green Cities – European Conference on Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive Cities

Presidency Conference, Malmö 14-15 June 2023

The EU's Urban Agenda and European policies and initiatives towards greener cities form the basis of this conference. Participants will explore links between the green city vision and initiatives such as New European Bauhaus and EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. The emphasis will be on the relevance of integrated approaches towards sustainable urban development, with aim of sharing knowledge and methods, showcasing best practices and discussing next practices.

The conference features prominent international keynote speakers, cross-thematic panel sessions, speculative future workshops, in-depth site visits and much more. This will be an opportunity to strengthen EU ties and networks with participants from the public and private sectors, professionals and academics, who together will influence the creation of beautiful, sustainable and inclusive cities for the future.

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023

Plenary session: Opening of the conference

9.00–9.30

Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, moderators

Andreas Carlson, Minister for Infrastructure and Housing

Anders Sjelvgren, Director General of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, and Christina Lunner Kolstrup, Dean at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö

Plenary session: Creating green cities – challenges, perspectives and leadership

9.30–11.30

Guided by European and International frameworks and policies European cities and communities are undergoing a rapid green transition. The built environment that will be created – in addition to the places and buildings that already exist – will last for generations and affect people and the planet through the design, use, and management applied. This plenary session will focus on challenges, perspectives and leadership in creating the green city.

Keynote speakers:

Green Cities Initiatives: How can the planetary boundaries concept help?

Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, Professor at the University of Ljubljana.

Extreme heat and urban resilience in Europe

Eleni Myrivili, Global Chief Heat Officer, UN-Habitat and the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center.

Coffee break 30 minutes

Sense and sensibility. Leadership in the digital era.

Dr Lars Strannegård, Professor and President of Stockholm School of Economics.

Panel session: Sustainable, inclusive, beautiful

11.30–12.10

The New European Bauhaus inspires a movement to facilitate and steer the transformation of our societies along three inseparable values: sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion. Such living environments need to respond to the needs of humans and animals alike, navigating dynamic forces that rapidly reshape our built and natural environment, while also opening up for people's various engagement with place and community. The panel will take this ambitious vision of the future green city as its starting point and discuss what actions can be employed to achieve it, and how to deal with conflicting interests in the meantime.

Panellists:

Dr Cecil Konijnendijk, Honorary Professor at the University of British Columbia and founder of Nature Based Solutions Institute.

Jessica Segerlund, Head of ArkDes Think Tank.

Veronika Valk Siska, Head of Housing Policy, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

The panel session will be moderated by: **Lena From**, Head of the Art Unit at Public Art Agency Sweden.

Lunch break

12.10–13.10

Break-out sessions: Aspects of green

13.10–14.40

These sessions will run in parallel.

A) Rewilding the city with nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are a widely recognised approach to addressing a wide range of societal challenges by generating climate resilience while providing benefits for human wellbeing and biodiversity. Rewilding is an essential nature-based climate solution. Rewilding restores an area to its uncultivated state but can also incorporate new elements of architectural or landscape design and provide multiple benefits. The session will provide an overview of the current knowledge in the field, from European research projects and practical experiences. The session will reflect the potential of nature-based solutions to become a core component of what can be offered to cities and communities as an aesthetic, sustainable and inclusive way of building a resilient society.

Speakers:

Dr Cecil Konijnendijk, Nature Based Solutions Institute, Professor – Nature-based solutions – towards greener, healthier and resilient cities!

Camilla Anderson, Community planner, Region Skåne, Urban greenery with the 3-30-300 rule - from theory to practice

Julian Dons Henriksen, Biologist, Danish Ministry of Environment – Heading for a wilder Denmark!

Gilles Doignon, Team Leader of Biodiversity and nature-based solutions at the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation – How to accelerate implementation of NBS in Europe and beyond? From research to society.

This discussion will be moderated by **Marcus Hedblom**, Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

The session will be hosted by the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Geotechnical Institute.

B) Circularity and energy savings in the existing built environment of the green city

In light of the ongoing European energy crisis, this panel will discuss how energy and resource-efficiency measures in existing buildings and the built environment can serve the

green city through reuse and renovation practices. How can such ambitions be socially inclusive? And how can they respect aesthetic values? This panel will take you beyond the technical aspects, to strategies and practical examples.

Speakers:

Liene Blancke, Circular economy project facilitator, City of Leuven.

Roxana Apostol, Senior Project Manager at Trans Europe Halles.

Tor Broström, Professor in Conservation at the Department of Art History, Uppsala University.

Björn Wallsten, Senior Research Officer at FORMAS.

Christoph Gollner, Coordinator for the Positive Energy Districts Transitions Pathway of the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership.

Jonas Byström, Lead Engineer at the European Investment Bank.

This conversation will be moderated by **Andreas Jäger**, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).

The session will be hosted by FORMAS, Driving Urban Transitions and the Swedish National Heritage Board.

C) The 15-minute city – new forms of mobility to increase urban accessibility and quality of life

The 15-minute city is an urban planning concept in which most daily necessities and services are available within a 15-minute walk or bike ride from any point in the city. This approach aims to reduce car dependency, promote healthy and sustainable living and improve wellbeing and quality of life. The 15-minute city has gained international interest, and this session aims to develop deeper knowledge about the concept through international and Swedish examples. Participants will share knowledge and insights on the 15-minute city concept and address the potential in increasing urban accessibility and quality of life, and the challenges in implementation and inclusion of users.

Speakers:

Maximilian Jäger, Coordinator at Driving Urban Transitions: A concept for the green city? Perspectives on the 15-minute city concept.

Josephine Darlington, Head of the Alliance for Sustainable E-commerce (ASTER): Sustainable urban logistics – e-commerce in the 15-minute city

Malin Andersson, program manager SIP Drive Sweden. Shared mobility in the 15-minute city – learnings from “Rådslaget” - what is the next step for public transport and mobility services.

The conversation will be moderated by **John Hultén**, Director of K2 – Sweden’s national centre for research and education on public transport.

The session will be hosted by Vinnova and the Swedish Transport Administration.

D) Art and architecture - creating lasting values for the green city

The green city as a sustainability concept will have to be materialized into living environments for people and habitats. The quality of that generated built environment, as well as the quality of the process through which the implementation happens, is an important part of the realization of the green city and the European Urban Agenda and New European Bauhaus framework. Art and architecture can be empowering perspectives in mission, opening up for criticality, creativity and co-creation that deliver long-standing results beyond conventional solutions. This session explores the leveraging effect of integrating art and architecture in the emergence of the green city.

Speakers:

Dr. Katarina Bonnevier, Designer, Architect and Artist, MYCKET, Sweden.

Dr. Markus Vogl, Professor, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Alexander Römer, Architect, Designer and Carpenter, Constructlab.

Jessica Segerlund, Head of Arkdes Think Tank, Sweden.

The conversation will be moderated by **Dr. Per-Johan Dahl**, Associate Professor Architecture, Lund University.

The session is hosted by the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design, and Public Art Agency Sweden.

E) Impact by collaboration for green cities

The societal challenges we face are numerous and complex. They cannot be solved in isolation without considering related aspects. To make a real difference and impact, we need to transform policies, behaviours, technologies and processes, infrastructure and business models. And for this to happen, the actors who can have an influence must be involved and collaborate in the transformation process. This session will provide participants with an overview of transition work in light of the Urban Agenda for the EU. What radical changes are needed for the Green City to become a reality? The aim of this

session is to pique curiosity about some of the key factors of our future work towards the Green City.

Speakers:

Johan Holmén, PhD in Physical Resource Theory, Chalmers' Technical University.

Sara Palo, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Linda Gustavsson, City of Umeå

Sebastian Marx, Green City Accord,

The session will be moderated by **Jessica Andersson**, Senior Advisor Urban and Regional Planning, RISE

The session will be hosted by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Vinnova.

Coffee break 30 minutes

Plenary session: Creating green and climate-neutral cities through Climate City Contracting

15.10-16.30

The EU Cities Mission is one of the five EU Missions and aims at mobilising actors and authorities across Europe, nationally and locally to deliver 100 climate neutral cities by 2030. This is part of the European Green Deal, the roadmap for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. Integrating green and blue infrastructures for climate action is key both for mitigation and adaptation in accelerating the climate transition of cities as part of the Cities Mission. Within the Cities Mission, the Climate City Contract will be used as a tool for multi-level governance to accelerate climate transition in practice. This is a learning journey to build collective capacity, in a multi-level perspective, to transform the way we shape and live in cities for a climate-neutral, sustainable and resilient continent. This is also aligned with the New European Bauhaus initiative – beautiful, sustainable, together.

Keynote speakers:

The Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission from a multi-level governance perspective – Philippe Froissard, Head of Unit Future Urban & mobility Systems, Directorate General Research and Innovation.

The Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission – Viable Cities as a role model for national platforms – Olga Kordas, Viable Cities Programme Director.

Facilitating the climate transition in cities, from a national perspective – Darja Isaksson, Director-General of Vinnova and **Elisa Rivera Mendoza**, Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary General for Innovation at the Spanish Science and Innovation Ministry.

Governance innovation to accelerate climate transition in cities – Allan Larsson, former Chairman of Viable Cities and former vice Chairman of the EU Mission Board for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.

European and national mobilisation for climate-neutral cities – from a local perspective Anders Almgren, Municipal Commissioner in Lund, and **Jordi Peris**, Coordinator of Urban Strategies and Sustainability in Valencia.

Day 1 conclusion

16.35–16.45

Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, moderators

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023

Plenary session: Green Cities in Practice

8.30–9.30

Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, moderators

European cities and communities offer an immense wealth of cultural heritage in their buildings, parks and open spaces, urban morphology and day-to-day life. Nevertheless, the urban fabric needs to be transformed to better cope with challenges arising from climate change and loss of biodiversity, while also upgrading the quality of life of everyday environments. This plenary session offers learning outcomes on how to create synergies for people through added values when transforming the urban fabric.

The superblocs model – the case of Barcelona – Salvador Rueda, former Director of the Urban Ecology Agency in Barcelona.

Digital training sessions broadcast from Malmö Live

10.00–12.00

A) Climate City Contracting including climate investment planning

Within the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, a number of tools have been developed to drive the transition process. The Climate City Contract is a tool for multi-level governance to accelerate climate transition in practice. This is a learning journey to build collective capacity from a multi-level perspective to transform the way we shape and live in cities for a climate-neutral, sustainable and resilient continent. Two other key tools that support work on the Mission are the local climate transition arena and climate investment planning.

Climate city contracting as a multi-level governance tool for accelerating climate transition - Olga Kordas, Viable Cities Programme Director,

Julio Lumbreras, Programme Manager for CitiES 2030, Universidad Politécnica de

Madrid (tbc).

Mobilising stakeholders in a local climate transition arena

Gabriella Doci, KTH Royal Institute of Technology (tbc)

Ana Escario Chust, CitiEs 2030, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV), Universitat Politècnica de València.

Climate investment planning as a tool for accelerating climate transition –

Fedra Vanhuyse, Viable Cities/Stockholm Environment Institute

Representative from a city (tbc).

B) Malmö by Movie

The City of Malmö, a once successful industrial city that fell on hard times has since reinvented itself as a dynamic knowledge centre built on cultural diversity, youth and sustainable development. A member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) since 1998, Malmö hosted the triennial ICLEI World Congress in 2021-2022, with a focus on creating sustainable development with equity and people-centred development. In this session, participants will take a virtual guided tour through Malmö and see some of the city's current successes. This is a possibility to get draw inspiration from the best practices in local sustainable development and learn from the Malmö's many sustainability initiatives.

The session is moderated by **Agneta Persson**, Project, Process and Programme Host of the City of Malmö.

Lunch break

12.00–13.00

Lunch will be served in a room adjacent to the conference venue.

Panel session: Futuring Green Cities

13.00–14:15

Transition and transformation of our cities and communities require a lot of decision making. Amongst those decisions is valuing what artefacts and narratives to keep and what to discard, but also how to orchestrate change. This invites interpretation and speculation regarding what the future might become. Speculating about the potential future is also a way to better understand the present. But the present is not a single fixed thing – neither is the future. They are ever shifting realities made up of individual and collective experiences. Therefore, it makes no sense to define what the future will be, but through constant conversation about possible, plausible, and probable futures we can make sure to be open to multiple opportunities.

Panellists:

Anab Jain, Architect and futurist. Co-founder of Superflux and Professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

Dr sc. Philipp R.W. URECH, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich / Future Cities Laboratory Global

Stelina Chatzichristou, Expert, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop.

The panel session will be moderated by **Caroline Dahl**, Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Longer break

Plenary session: Creating Green Cities – Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive

16.10–16.45

Speaker:

Helena Bjarnegård, Sweden's national architect and Chair of the Council of Sustainable Cities, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

Closing the Conference: Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, moderators.