

### ABOUT THE REPORT

*Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity: How national governments can secure economic prosperity and avert climate catastrophe by transforming cities* is a flagship global report from the Coalition for Urban Transitions. The report is underpinned by a three-year research effort by a coalition of 50 of the world's foremost research institutes, networks of national and city governments, investors, infrastructure providers, strategic advisory companies, non-governmental organisations and social movements.

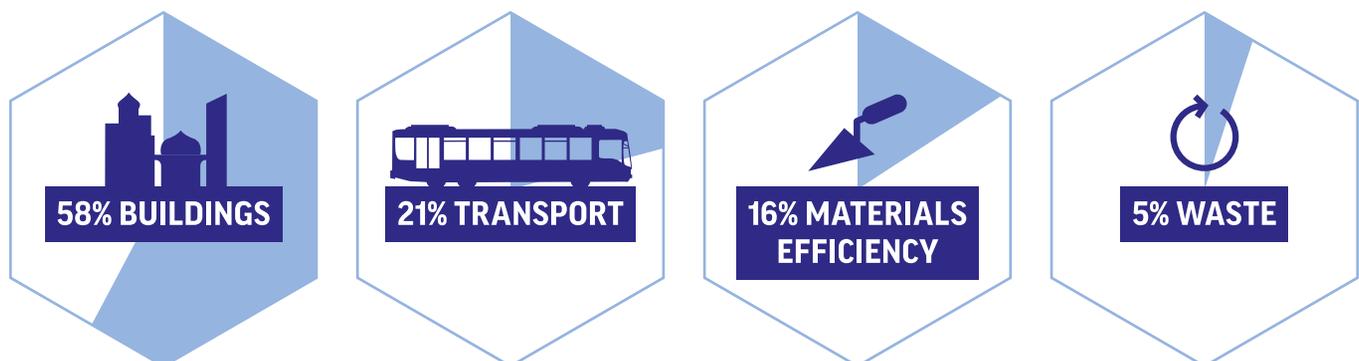
Together, they call for national governments to prioritise compact, connected and clean cities in order to secure economic prosperity and tackle the climate crisis. What happens in cities in the next decade will be critically important to countries worldwide. It is vital that national governments recognise the enormous potential of cities to boost living standards and respond to the climate emergency, as mayors and city governments have already done. With proactive national leadership and meaningful partnerships between national and city governments, cities can become beacons of opportunity, prosperity and resilience.

The Urban Opportunity Report offers a vital resource to mayors and city governments seeking to take bold climate action and secure a prosperous, healthy future for their cities. The robust evidence base in the report can be used to make a compelling political case for national-local collaboration, and to support policymaking at all levels to deliver zero-carbon, climate-resilient cities.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT FOR MAYORS AND CITY GOVERNMENTS

- It is possible to **reduce emissions from cities by almost 90% by 2050** using proven technologies and practices.

**TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE LOW-CARBON MEASURES COULD CUT EMISSIONS FROM URBAN AREAS BY ALMOST 90% BY 2050**



- Ambitious climate action in cities can transform cities for the better, **addressing urgent political priorities** for national and local governments, for example by improving air quality, cutting traffic congestion, reducing road injuries and ensuring key services are accessible to all.

- Zero-carbon cities can be cheaper to build and operate: the investments required to reduce urban emissions would be US\$1.83 trillion per year but would **generate a stream of returns worth nearly US\$24 trillion by 2050**. These low-carbon measures in cities could also support **87 million jobs in 2030** in sectors such as building efficiency and public transport.

**INVESTMENTS REQUIRED TO REDUCE URBAN EMISSIONS**

**US\$1.83 TRILLION (ABOUT 2% OF GLOBAL GDP) PER YEAR**

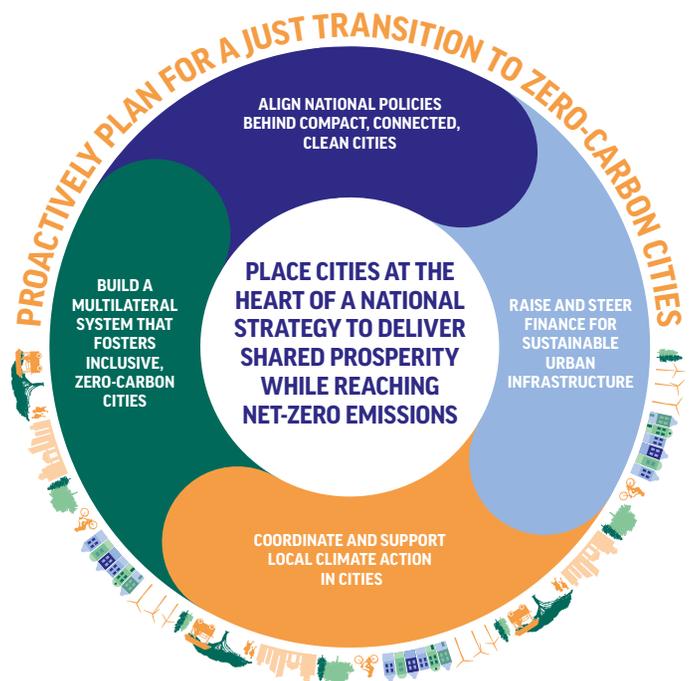
**US\$2.80 TRILLION RETURN (PER YEAR) BY 2030**

**US\$6.98 TRILLION RETURN (PER YEAR) BY 2050**



- Compact, connected and clean cities can also **enhance productivity and stimulate innovation**. Together with the benefits described above, zero-carbon, climate-resilient cities would be more attractive places to live and work, offering a national competitive advantage in the global race for talent and investment.
- Delivering the full mitigation potential of cities depends on **proactive leadership** from national governments and **meaningful partnerships** with city governments and other tiers of government. Worldwide, city governments have primary responsibility over nearly a third of the emissions reductions potential, while national and state governments have primary authority over another third of urban mitigation potential (excluding decarbonisation of electricity), and another third depends on collaborative climate action among national, regional and local governments.
- The report sets out a **six-part action plan for national governments**, which city governments can use to advocate for ambitious, coordinated climate action. Delivering this action plan and seizing the urban opportunity depends on **placing inclusive, zero-carbon cities at the heart of long-term economic and social development plans**. Today, fewer than two in five countries have an explicit national strategy for cities, and only a handful of these prioritise emission reductions. Only 14% of Nationally Determined Contributions prioritise urban mitigation.
- There is a **short window of opportunity** open now. Decisions made in the next few years will propel a city towards prosperity and resilience – or decline and vulnerability. Transformation is possible: the report offers ten case studies that show how cities can be rapidly and profoundly transformed for the better through successful multi-level action.

**SIX PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO ACHIEVE INCLUSIVE, ZERO-CARBON, RESILIENT CITIES.**



## HOW CAN MAYORS AND CITY GOVERNMENTS USE THE REPORT?

**Make the case to national governments to prioritise compact, connected, clean cities.** The report offers compelling evidence of the economic, social and environmental benefits available from more inclusive and sustainable models of urban development. City leaders and officials can use the analysis and case studies to engage national governments.

**Encourage and support national governments to deliver on the six priorities for national action.** The report clearly lays out a set of policy options that could simultaneously support inclusive development, climate mitigation and climate resilience. These measures would directly impact emission reductions, as well as empowering city governments to go further and faster. This should include placing cities at the heart of the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**Develop meaningful partnerships with national ministries, including Ministries of Finance.** The Report shows that 37% of the identified mitigation potential in cities depends on collaborative climate action among national, regional and local governments. National governments also have an important role in supporting cities to finance sustainable infrastructure and services. Reaching net-zero emissions in cities will therefore depend on genuine multi-level partnerships grounded in a shared vision for cities.

**Continue to raise city-wide ambition and support for innovation.** The report should give confidence to mayors and local leaders to continue to raise ambition given the significant economic, social and environmental dividends that can accrue. The report shows that city-level climate commitments have also raised global ambition, while city-scale experiments have produced new and attractive low-carbon measures. Mayors and municipal officials can draw on the report to help make the political case for local action, as well as to identify attractive low-carbon options that might suit their cities.

**Raise awareness about the need to seize the urban opportunity.** The report celebrates the potential of zero-carbon, climate-resilient cities to both deliver economic prosperity and tackle climate change. Mayors and city governments are already powerful advocates for this cause, both within their communities and on the global stage. They can use the evidence base in this report to add new urgency and new examples to their calls to action.

## ABOUT THE COALITION FOR URBAN TRANSITIONS

The Coalition for Urban Transitions is the leading global initiative supporting national governments to unlock the economic power of inclusive, zero-carbon cities. The Coalition equips national governments with the evidence base and policy options to prioritise more compact, connected, clean urban development. Founded in 2016 and guided by an Urban Leadership Council, the Coalition is comprised of 36 diverse organisations across five continents. A special initiative of the New Climate Economy, the Coalition is jointly managed by the World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.