



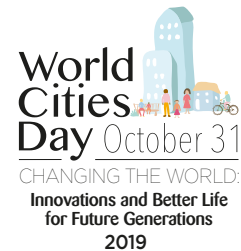
Event Tool Kit



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Frontier Technologies as an Innovative
Tool to Transform Waste to Wealth





31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Urban October 2019

Urban October is a month of exciting meetings, discussions and events focusing the world's attention on urban issues and sustainable development. Individuals, organizations, cities, communities and governments at every level are encouraged to take part in activities that highlight the challenges and solutions relating to cities, towns and communities.

Urban October starts with World Habitat Day and ends with World Cities Day. This year World Habitat Day opens the month-long celebrations on Monday 7 October under the 2019 theme **Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth.**

We end the month with World Cities Day on 31 October with the theme **Changing the World: Innovations and a Better Life for Future Generations.**

UN-Habitat invites everyone concerned with promoting sustainable cities and communities to join in the celebration.



Frontier Technologies as an Innovative
Tool to Transform Waste to Wealth

World Habitat Day

October 7, 2019

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October as the annual World Habitat Day (WHD). This day highlights the state of our towns and cities, as well as the basic right of adequate shelter for all. WHD also reminds us we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities, towns and communities.

This year's theme is **Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth.**

Building on last year's theme "Municipal Solid Waste Management" which focused mainly on managing rubbish/garbage, UN-Habitat is this year promoting the contribution of innovative frontier technologies to sustainably manage a wider range of waste to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. This year's theme includes all waste produced by human activity (solid, liquid, domestic, industrial and commercial) which have a huge impact on climate change, public health and the environment.

Technology has great potential to improve how people work and live, to significantly accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address climate change. Frontier technologies, such as automation, robotics, electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies, biotechnologies and artificial intelligence can transform the social, economic and environmental spheres. They can offer better, cheaper, faster, scalable and easy to use solutions for every-day problems, including waste management.

The task ahead is to harness frontier technologies to achieve sustainable waste management, while mitigating their possible adverse economic, social and political consequences.

Challenges


- The world's cities produce about 7-10 billion tonnes of waste per year.
- Municipalities in low-income countries spend on average 20 per cent of their budgets on solid waste management and under three per cent on sanitation.
- Solid waste collection reaches less than half of the population in cities in low-income countries, and 16 per cent of urban dwellers lack access to basic sanitation services.
- Globally, one third of the generated solid waste is still openly dumped, while only one fifth goes to material recovery, i.e. recycling and composting, and 80 per cent of all wastewater is discharged in the world's waterways.
- Plastics are killing 100,000 marine animals every year.
- The environmental pollution caused by mismanaged waste has considerable economic effects on tourism, fisheries and healthcare costing about USD \$375 per metric ton of solid waste (rubbish).
- It is estimated that every 30 seconds a person dies due to diseases caused by mismanaged waste, such as diarrhea, malaria, heart diseases and cancer amounting to between 400,000 and one million deaths a year.

Opportunities

Frontier technologies can enable city authorities to:

1. Gather accurate data on the waste flows in their city, to understand who is producing, collecting, reusing, and recycling waste and where, giving them the chance to make more informed decisions.
2. Determine the true costs of waste management and disposal including the hidden environmental and health costs.
3. Support the planning and implementation for a circular economy, i.e. moving from a linear production and consumption model to a more circular one that benefits all.
4. Improve operational efficiencies in service provision, including linking the informal and formal waste management sectors.
5. Recover valuable resources in terms of recyclables, energy, water and demand management.
6. Continuously innovate, pilot and seed solutions to improve the city's performance.
7. Turn waste into wealth instead of environmental and social problems, thus supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

From innovating waste management through rethinking, refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling waste (the "5Rs"), cities can resolve not only the challenge, but also create employment, promote economic growth, improve health and ecosystems – which in turn contributes to happier, greener and healthier cities – and can create enormous savings for cities and municipalities.



World Cities Day

October 31

CHANGING THE WORLD:
**Innovations and Better Life
for Future Generations**
2019

World Cities Day

October 31, 2019

World Cities Day aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is **Better City, Better Life** and this year's sub theme is **Changing the World: Innovations and a Better Life for Future Generations**. The main event will be celebrated in Ekaterinburg in the Russian Federation.

Over half the world's population now live in cities. With the number expected to double by 2050, urbanization is one of the world's most transformative trends. Urbanization poses several sustainability challenges related to housing, environment, climate change, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources.

Urbanization can also present great opportunities and is a critical tool for sustainable development if it is done right. It is possible to use urbanization to achieve sustainable development by tailoring the way cities are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed.

Cities have always been drivers and incubators of innovation, industry, technology, entrepreneurship and creativity; creating prosperity, enhancing social development and providing employment. It is often said that the battle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will be won or lost in cities. For this to happen, cities will have to continue to drive innovation in ground-breaking ways to achieve a lasting impact in communities and to ensure that "no one and no place" is left behind.

At the same time, innovation can contribute to inequality and needs to be accompanied by appropriate economic and social regulatory policies. Youth and women need the opportunity to participate and contribute more fully to innovation in cities.

The new digital economy, sometimes called 'the fourth industrial revolution' is built on data, reduced transaction costs and sharing platforms and already has a profound effect in many cities. Innovations in mobility, including autonomous transport, electric vehicles and drones will require fundamentally different approaches to urban planning. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual, augmented and mixed reality and the internet of things present efficiency and communications opportunities requiring new governance frameworks. This rapid rate of innovation also puts pressure on urban policy makers and managers to strengthen their capacity when it comes to understanding, procuring and regulating new technologies.

The main goals of World Cities Day 2019 are to:

- Increase awareness of how digital innovations can be used for urban service delivery to enhance quality of life and improve the urban environment.
- Show new frontier technologies that can create more inclusive cities.
- Present opportunities for renewable energy generation in cities.
- Explore how frontier technologies can promote social inclusion in cities.

Join us and organize activities

National Governments, local authorities, the private sector and other urban practitioners are encouraged to mark the day by organizing the following events:

National Urban Forum

A National Urban Forum (NUF) provides a national platform for discussion and dialogue regarding the process of urbanization. A NUF provides the opportunity to bring together stakeholders in an environment that promotes discussion regarding past achievements and the future direction for the city or community. NUF activities include, but are not limited to, consultations at the local, regional, and national levels, including inter-ministerial consultation, capacity building and training, and advocacy and consensus building activities.

Urban Breakfast

An Urban Breakfast aims to create an inspiring dialogue to reflect on challenges facing sustainable urban development, considering the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. It can be held at any time.

Urban Breakfasts focus on introducing and discussing regional urban perspectives, with the participation of key speakers from national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The Urban Journalism Academy

The Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) brings together media professionals who are interested or involved in urban development. They help strengthen journalists' capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as technical expertise in urban data and indicators. The aim is to create a network of urban journalists that work together in advocating principles of the New Urban Agenda.

Raise awareness in your city or community

You can get involved by organizing an event or including the following ideas in your event to raise awareness. Please let us know about your planned event and we will post it on our website <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/>.

Event suggestions include:

- Organize a meeting in your area on how to make your city or community inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Organize an outdoor, picnic style film screening to bring people together in a common space and promote local creativity in existing shared open space.
- Use this occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in urban issues in your community.
Engage a well-known person or local expert to support your event to bring positive attention to World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and Urban October as a whole.
- Organize a public information campaign, use local actors, musicians or poets to create awareness of the issues affecting your city or community.
- Approach local media to write articles or do radio or television pieces on the themes or organize interviews or panels policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.
- Organize a competition to find solutions that can make your city or community resilient, climate friendly and sustainable, or on issues around solid waste management such as recycling.
- Essay writing or painting competition can help create awareness of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in schools and colleges.
- Offer a University lecture on the theme of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day.
- Organize a picture exhibition on how to make your city or community inclusive, safe, and using innovative approaches that are sustainable for future generations.
- Organize a recreational or entertainment activity like a football match, or concert, and use the proceeds to benefit your city or community.
- Brand your Urban October event by using either the World Habitat Day or World Cities day logo or merchandise designs
- Promote and create a web page or a web banner on your website with information about World Habitat Day and World Cities Day.
- Promote Urban October through social media – Tag your posts for Urban October with #UrbanOctober, for World Habitat Day with #WorldHabitatDay or #WasteWiseCities, and for World Cities Day with #WorldCitiesDay or #Innovate4Change .
- Find promotional material to print on: <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/Resources>. Promotional material includes logos in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, logos for T-Shirts, caps, banners, websites and social media
- Find out more information and register your event on this link: <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/>
- After your event, send us photos and any material about the event on: <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/get-involved>

For more information on Urban October, please visit our website on: <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/>, or send us an email on: unhabitat-whd@un.org for World Habitat Day, and unhabitat-wcd@un.org for World Cities Day



**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME**

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