

# Cities and Climate Change Science Conference

*Fostering new scientific knowledge for cities  
based on science, practice and policy*

Edmonton, Canada

March 5-7, 2018

**Call for proposals for sessions**

**Call for abstracts for oral session contributions and posters**

**Deadline for submission: October 6, 2017**

The partner organizations of the “Cities and Climate Change Science Conference: Fostering new scientific knowledge for cities based on science, practice and policy” are pleased to announce a call for proposals for sessions and abstracts. The conference will take place between March 5-7, 2018 in Edmonton, Canada (for more info please email [info@citiesipcc.org](mailto:info@citiesipcc.org)).

## **THE GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The conference aims to inspire the next frontier of research focused on the science of cities and climate change. The primary goal of the conference is to assess the state of academic and practice-based knowledge related to cities and climate change, and to establish a global research agenda based on the joint identification of key gaps by the academic, practitioner and urban policy-making communities. The conference seeks to forge stronger partnerships among these communities and catalyze new processes for joint knowledge production; connect existing data platforms and potentially initiate new ones; as well as catalyze funding to meet these goals. It will bring together representatives from academia, scientific bodies, other research organizations and agencies; member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners and policy-makers. The main aims are to improve scientific knowledge and to stimulate research underpinning effective and efficient urban responses to climate change, as well as to provide inputs to the products of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

During the Sixth Assessment Cycle, the IPCC agreed to a stronger focus on cities in all of its reports. Moreover, the first Special Report of the Seventh IPCC Assessment cycle (after 2023) will be on cities and climate change. The new co-produced knowledge from the conference will provide the scientific basis for solutions to implement the international 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in cities globally, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda.

### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the “Cities and Climate Change Science Conference: Fostering new scientific knowledge for cities based on science, practice and policy” are to: identify key research and knowledge gaps with regard to cities and climate change; inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports; co-designed and co-produced knowledge leading to effective and inclusive urban practices; and stimulate research on Cities and Climate Change during the AR6 cycle.

The specific aims of the conference are to:

- i. Take stock of the scientific literature, data and other sources of knowledge that have emerged around cities and climate change since the close of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (i.e. March-October 2013<sup>6</sup>) and build on ongoing work as part of the AR6 cycle.
- ii. Identify key gaps in the scientific literature, in keeping with the emphasis that arises from the scoping of the AR6 and its three Special Reports (SRs) and international, regional and national policy and implementation imperatives that emerge from 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.
- iii. Identify key research and knowledge gaps, with the aim of stimulating new research, the findings of which will be assessed in AR7’s Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.
- iv. Develop novel assessment frameworks that take into account the systemic linkages, synergies and trade-offs between urban systems and climate change, especially action at the local scale.
- v. Bring together key urban and climate change stakeholders to identify priorities for scientific and policy research during the AR6 cycle and to stimulate the co-design and co-production of actionable knowledge.
- vi. Build on established United Nations, member state and research network initiatives, to help define appropriate global, regional and local monitoring systems and data architectures, including quality control, to facilitate scientific research and to help inform evidence-based policy development on climate change and cities.

- vii. Establish a partnership-based platform to systematically accumulate, assess, analyze and disseminate information on science-policy-practice linkages that enable an upscaling and mainstreaming of urban climate actions at all scales.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

### **Theme 1: Cities & climate change (Imperatives for action)**

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are seeking to construct a new development trajectory. These global commitments both require – and will be supported by – addressing climate change in cities. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that specifically aim to exchange knowledge, lessons, and experiences on the impacts of climate change on cities and how cities (their local governments, businesses, and citizens) are adapting and responding to climate change. This theme seeks to map the mitigation and adaptation knowledge needs and the gaps being experienced by cities in the context of realizing global commitments. This Theme could also address the costs and benefits of climate action and inaction; the underpinning of ethics, equity and climate justice in the context of climate change, the role of city residents as agents of change, and the imperatives for actions that achieves low carbon, climate resilient urban pathways, and sustainable development in these contexts.

### **Theme 2: Urban emissions, impacts and vulnerabilities (Science and practice of cities)**

As centers for population, infrastructure and economic activities, cities are key contributors to global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) as well as key hotspots of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities. Understanding the processes and interlinkages of climate science, emissions, impacts, risks and vulnerabilities are central for co-producing strategies and alternatives to adapt to and mitigate climate change. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that aim to provide a better understanding of current and future urban emission drivers and pathways, urban climate impacts, and risks and vulnerabilities in cities. This Theme focuses on how the science of cities can guide the reduction of GHG and SLCP emissions, climate vulnerability, differential risks and help improve resilience. The analysis of social processes driving the construction and reconstruction of urban space, of urban form, design and typology are key considerations. This theme will also include lessons learned from exposure to climate variability, extreme climate events and related responses, and focus on means to improve urban climate detection, attribution and climate information.

### **Theme 3: Solutions for the transition to low carbon and climate resilient cities (Science and practice for cities)**

It is evident that cities need transformative solutions given the scale of the climate change problems. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that engage with deep decarbonization pathways for cities and regions; transformative adaptation and resilient

urbanization, and the links between the two. This Theme will address sustainable cities from the viewpoint of mitigation-adaptation linkages, as well as the development-linkages (including poverty and inequality) of mitigation and adaptation pathways. Promises of disruptive technologies and innovations; urban infrastructure and design; political leadership; technical, social, policy, governance and institutional innovation and behavior changes are key to such pathways.

#### **Theme 4: Enabling transformative climate action in cities (advancing science and advancing cities)**

Climate action in cities will take place in a context of a diversity of social, environment, economic, and development objectives. The transformative climate change action required in the short and long term, needs enabling - both through knowledge and actions. In this theme, we invite session proposals and abstracts that share innovative practices, suggest new approaches or develop theoretical and methodological framings of transformative climate action in cities. Transformative climate actions should address poverty and inequality, re-shaping of power relations, and re-conceptualizing visions of what cities are, could be, and should be. Sessions and papers in this Theme may address innovative policies and practices (including policy instruments and insurance), governance and institutions, and leadership and political will. The sessions and abstracts may cover technological, institutional, and social innovation, technology transfer, and climate finance and investment including the issue of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework.

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS**

You are invited to submit a proposal for a complete 90-minute session. Sessions with innovative formats that best foster the delivery of the unique conference objectives and expected outcomes identified above are especially welcome. In order to meet the conference objectives, all sessions must incorporate a clear and visible element of knowledge exchange or co-generation among the scientific community and the practitioner and/or policy-making communities. You are encouraged to focus session proposals on the themes identified in the conference outline, but sessions with foci that cut across several themes are also welcome. Sessions are encouraged to draw on contributors from various world regions, especially the Global South; and to involve early career scientists and consider gender balance among contributors. Proposed sessions will be assessed by the Scientific Steering Committee based on the Conference objectives.

For instance, your session(s) could take any of the following formats:

- A science-practice-policy session: sharing knowledge from interactions amongst scientists, practitioners and policy makers, co-creation, boundary work, joint evaluations, etc.;
- A science session with practitioner/policy-maker as discussants: taking stock of the academic knowledge in a specific topic of interest in order to identify or address the key gaps in research that are relevant to practitioners and policy-makers, or vice versa;
- “World Café” type session to do a deep dive into a specific sub-theme from the perspective of a knowledge stock-take; knowledge co-generation; identification of key knowledge gaps and research agendas to address these.
- Other innovative session formats and concepts that support the conference outcomes are encouraged.
- workshop style / small breakout groups that come back together to synthesize material within session
- Stories showcasing experiences of cities, activists, policymakers, communities, individuals etc.

### SUBMISSION OF SESSIONS

In your proposal, please:

- Identify which conference theme(s) your session relates to
- Provide session title
- State the aim of the session
- Describe the session concept in the context of the theme(s)
- Provide the name(s) of the organizer(s), their affiliation and contact information
- All contributors (with affiliation) and their roles in the session
- Describe the session format and the working methods
- Elaborate how the session design and content contribute to delivering the conference objectives and outcome(s).

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS AND POSTERS

In addition to complete sessions, proposals for individual contributions (oral presentations in sessions as well as posters) are also invited. Accepted oral presentations will be organized into sessions by the Scientific Steering Committee to complement accepted sessions from the call above and in order to best meet the conference objectives. Posters will be presented in specific poster sessions during the conference. Contributions need to relate to the conference themes, and can take several forms in order to help achieve the conference objectives, including scientific presentations, oral elaboration of lessons learned from case studies/best practices, or posters. Posters may be shown through interactive electronic displays. Submit an abstract summarizing your proposed contribution under one or more of the conference themes (see above).

**SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

In your proposed abstract, please provide:

- Names of the presenting author, their affiliation and contact information
- Names of the co-author(s) and their affiliation
- Which conference theme(s) your abstract addresses
- What type of contribution you wish to make (oral or poster display)
- 350-word abstract summarizing the key aspects of your contribution. The abstract needs to make it clear how the contribution will help in delivering the conference objectives and outcomes.
- A short comment on how the contribution will help in delivering the conference objectives and outcome(s).
- If you are proposing a poster, please indicate if you would like to take advantage of interactive electronic displays

**AVAILABILITY OF TRAVEL SUPPORT**

The organizing partners would like to encourage extensive participation of a diverse group competent scientists, urban practitioners, and policy makers. There is limited funding available to support the travel of selected applicants from developing countries. Additional funds may be mobilized specifically for the participation of early career scientists and professionals. Please indicate in the session proposal or abstract submission if travel support is needed for any of the conveners, contributors, and the presenting author of an abstract.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Calls for both sessions and abstracts need to be submitted on [www.citiesipcc.org](http://www.citiesipcc.org) that will be active from September 1, 2017. Questions about the submission can be addressed to [info@citiesipcc.org](mailto:info@citiesipcc.org).

**MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE**

- *Co-chair:* Shobhakar Dhakal - Asian Institute of Technology
- *Co-chair:* Seth Schultz - C40
- *Co-chair:* Diana Ürge-Vorsatz - Central European University
- Xuemei Bai – Australian National University
- David Dodman - International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Lykke Leonardsen - City of Copenhagen
- Helen Cleugh - CSIRO Climate Science Centre
- Megan Melamed - International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC)
- Debra Roberts - EThekweni Municipality, Durban South Africa
- Aliyu Barau - Bayero University Kano, Nigeria

- Valerie Masson-Delmotte - LSCE
- Richard Dawson - Newcastle University
- Gian Carlo Delgado - National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Roberto Sanchez Rodriguez - Colegio de la Frontera Norte
- Cynthia Rosenzweig - NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- Karen Seto - Yale University
- William Solecki - CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities
- Maryke van Staden - ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) & Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting (carbonn Center)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2017

October 6	Call for abstracts and sessions closed
December 1	Notification of acceptance or rejection of proposals

### 2018

January 10	Publication of draft programme
January 31	Publication of final programme
March 5-7	Conference

## Social media

Join the conversation! Follow us on Facebook, twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #CitiesIPCC

Visit our website: [www.citiesipcc.org](http://www.citiesipcc.org)

**If you have any questions, please contact us at:**

[info@citiesipcc.org](mailto:info@citiesipcc.org)

## ORGANIZING PARTNERS

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference was approved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2016 and is supported by a diverse group of

organizations: C40, Cities Alliance, Future Earth, ICLEI, SDSN, UCLG, UN-Habitat, and WCRP. It is hosted by the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, Canada.



**Cities Alliance**  
Cities Without Slums



**futureearth**  
research for global sustainability



**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON  
climate change



**UCLG**  
United Cities  
and Local Governments

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**UN environment**  
United Nations  
Environment Programme

**WCRP**  
World Climate Research Programme