

# Creating the circular & climate neutral city

Circular economy is key for cities in reaching carbon neutrality and a sustainable future in line with the Paris Agreement and the UN global goals. A transition that will help us build better, more sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities out of the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The radical changes needed towards carbon neutral infrastructures and lifestyles, in a world of rapid urbanisation, will not come without adoption of circular resource and material flows and circular business models.

In February 2021 a partner group of circular frontrunners will announce an innovation challenge around creating thriving, climate neutral circular cities where we make the most of our resources, and waste is designed out. Cities where businesses, citizens, and local communities work together to create new opportunities through circular business and collaboration models.

*“Meeting climate targets will require tackling the [...] 45% of emissions associated with making products. A circular economy offers a systemic and cost effective approach to tackling this challenge.”*

Ellen MacArthur Foundation Completing the picture, 2019

The Circular Climate Neutral Cities Challenge is made possible through collaboration between the City of Copenhagen, the Glasgow City Council, the Danish Business Authority, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and is facilitated by the Danish Design Centre and Leaderlab. Partnering conversations are ongoing with other cities and organisations from around the world.

The challenge will explore how innovative emerging technologies and data-driven solutions, tools and services within circular economy can drive the needed transformation towards climate neutrality in cities.

Among the key questions the challenge is seeking to address are:

- How to shape thriving communities where business and citizens work together to ensure sustainable use of resources through reuse, repair, takeback, recycling?
- How to design flexible and agile resource and product systems for the inner city that support and empower people and business in sustainable behaviours?
- How to make the most of resources by enabling local loops and resources symbiosis in the inner city around e.g., packaging, building waste, biomaterials and ‘unhandled fractions’?

The ambition is to establish practical collaborations between cities and international innovators around digital and data-driven solutions to each cities’ specific challenges. And to support parring and knowledge sharing between cities and other partners around circularity and climate neutrality solutions and approaches.

During January 2021 we are seeking input and expressions of interest around partnering through <https://challenges.dk/en/challenge/creating-circular-and-climate-neutral-city>.

If you have any questions about the challenge partnership or partnering, you can also contact Markus Bjerre, [marbje@erst.dk](mailto:marbje@erst.dk), Danish Business Authority.



Danish Design Centre

