



THE ROAD TO **RIO +20**



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Why is Rio+20 important for North American cities?

- Conventional urbanization in the next few decades would exacerbate global climate change.
- Urbanization on a new, resource-efficient path will create markets.
- Political commitments at Rio+20 for strengthening the role of cities can build support for cities in North America.
- North American cities can benefit from shared practices from the developed and developing world.



Themes of the Conference

- A **green economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- The **institutional framework** for sustainable development.

Potential Outcomes

- **Negotiated high-level document**
 - Language on complements to GDP, subsidies, oceans, energy, food security, cities?
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- **Voluntary public-private initiatives and partnerships**
 - Energy Access For All
 - Global Cities Partnership
 - Compendium of Commitments
 - Other?



Rio+20 and Sustainable Cities – Negotiated Outcomes



Cities in the Rio+20 zero draft -

- Identified as a priority issue

“We commit to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities through support to local authorities, efficient transportation and communication networks, greener buildings and an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response and increased climate resilience.”

- Acknowledged as a key driver for sustainable development policy

“We recognize the need to integrate sustainable urban development policy as a key component of a national sustainable development policy and, in this regard, to empower local authorities to work more closely with national governments. We recognize that partnerships among cities have emerged as a leading force for action on sustainable development. We commit to support international cooperation among local authorities, including through assistance from international organizations.”

- A component of Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs)

“We propose that the Sustainable Development Goals could include sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as priority areas such as oceans; food security and sustainable agriculture; sustainable energy for all; water access and efficiency; **sustainable cities**; green jobs, decent work and social inclusion; and disaster risk reduction and resilience.”

More? (e.g. specific commitments on local authorities, finance?)



Multiple Actors



Green City Index





UNEP: A Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities

Objective: To enhance the quality of life in urban areas, in particular in rapidly growing cities in developing countries, while minimizing resource extraction, energy consumption and waste generation, and while safeguarding ecosystem services



Three Components of a Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities:

1. **Knowledge Hub** – information to facilitate decision making and provide access to information for decision makers in various fields related to resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.
2. **Enabling Framework** – capacity building for decision makers on policies and tools and advice on public and private funding
3. **Network Platform** – a mechanism for decision makers to exchange experiences, share best practices and establish a peer-review process.



Elements of a Global Initiative

- Platform for sharing best practices among city managers/urban planners.
- Developing common indicators (e.g., for GHG emissions, city environmental performance assessments, Common Carbon Metric in the building sector, etc).
- Providing technical expertise and support for important dimensions of resources efficiency (e.g. supply chain management, life cycle analysis, etc).
- Support the dissemination of good practices and new technologies in key sectors (e.g. energy generation, buildings, transport, waste, water and urban planning).
- Support the development of clear goals and targets (e.g. reducing energy consumption in buildings) and assist cities in accessing the resources needed to achieve them.
- Peer review





Next Steps?

For further information, please visit:

UNEP RONA: <http://www.unep.org/rona>

UNEP's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative:
<http://www.unep.org/sbci/>

UNEP's Urban Environment Unit:
http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/

