



MLGP4Climate

Newsletter

JUNE 2026



MLGP4Climate Turns One

COP31 & London Climate Week

World Environment Day

EU Funding Opportunities

Sustainable Development Report 2026

UCLG Presidency: Türkiye Takes the Helm

Connecting Knowledge. Empowering Cities. Creating Impact.

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TOGETHER, WE TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO CLIMATE ACTION



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**MLGP4
CLIMATE**

Daiva Matoniene
MLGP4Climate voluntary

One Year of Building Capacity, Community and Action

Tune marks an important milestone for the MLGP4Climate community.

This month, we celebrated the first voluntary anniversary of our platform—a year shaped by collaboration, learning, and a shared commitment to accelerating local climate action across Türkiye..

This spirit of collaboration was once again reflected during our **12th Experts Meeting**, where specialists from different countries and disciplines came together to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and explore new opportunities for impact.

June also provided an opportunity to engage directly with broader climate and environmental discussions. Through our participation in the **International Eskişehir Climate Change and Environment Symposium, hosted by Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality**, we joined valuable conversations on the future of sustainable cities, climate resilience, and local leadership.

Through social media and communication activities, we shared funding opportunities, climate and energy transition news, policy developments, and examples of good practice—helping municipalities and stakeholders stay informed and connected to emerging opportunities.

It brings together insights, funding opportunities, expert perspectives, and developments shaping the future of climate action and sustainable urban development. More importantly, it highlights the growing role of municipalities as key actors in delivering climate solutions where they matter most: at the local level. **Direction is clear**

To strengthen local capacity, foster meaningful partnerships, and support cities in **financial attraction**.

Because lasting change is not achieved through isolated efforts. It is built through communities that learn together, act together, and continue moving forward together.

**MLGP4
CLIMATE**

June Focus

June marked an important milestone for the MLGP4Climate community.

As we celebrated the first voluntary anniversary of the platform, one message became increasingly clear: climate action is no longer only about reducing emissions. It is equally about building resilience in the face of growing environmental, social, and economic challenges.

This perspective was reflected throughout the month.

The 12th MLGP4Climate Experts Meeting once again brought together specialists, municipalities, and partners from different countries and disciplines. These discussions reinforced the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and practical solutions that strengthen local capacity and support implementation on the ground.

The same spirit was visible during the International Eskişehir Climate Change and Environment Symposium, where climate resilience, sustainable urban development, and local leadership emerged as central themes shaping the future of cities.

This edition also features the article *"Climate Change, Urban Flooding, and Integrated Strategies for Flood Risk Reduction: A Review"* by **Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir and Ayesha Noreen**. The article highlights one of the most pressing challenges facing cities worldwide: increasing urban flood risks driven by climate change, rapid urbanization, and inadequate planning. More importantly, it emphasizes the need for integrated and forward-looking approaches that combine infrastructure, ecosystem-based solutions, governance, and community preparedness.

World
Environment Day

5 June 2026



The Future We Want Depends on the Choices We Make Today



Circular
Economy



Green
Cities



Resource
Efficiency



Climate
Action

"Environmental responsibility is the foundation of climate action."



World Renewable Energy Day

22 June 2026

The cities that lead the energy transition today will define the world of tomorrow.

“Powering the Future, Sustainably”



Clean Energy



Wind Power



Energy Storage



Sustainable Cities

The energy transition is no longer a vision of the future. It is the foundation of the future.



From Idea to Impact

MLGP4Climate at One

This month, the MLGP4Climate community celebrates its first anniversary together with the volunteer experts who have contributed to its growth and development over the past year. What began as an idea has evolved into a growing international climate community. Over the past year, MLGP4Climate has expanded its network, fostered knowledge exchange and participation efforts, and created new opportunities for collaboration at both national and international levels.



by the numbers

200+

Municipalities

11

Expert
Meetings

1,500+

Resources

4,000

LinkedIn
Followers

Our first year was about building a community. The years ahead will be about increasing its impact.

Happy 1st Anniversary, MLGP4Climate!

Local Leadership, Global Impact

Eskisehir International Climate Change and Environment Symposium



MLGP4Climate was pleased to participate in the International **Eskisehir Climate Change and Environment Symposium**, hosted by Eskisehir Metropolitan Municipality. **Daiva Matoniene**, MLGP4Climate Platform Expert, highlighted the critical role of local governments in addressing climate change and presented the support mechanisms offered through the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the MLGP4Climate Platform.

As climate action moves beyond target-setting, municipalities increasingly require access to knowledge, finance, international networks, and implementation support. Strengthening local capacity and fostering collaboration have become essential components of successful climate governance.

The symposium provided an important platform for bringing together local governments, academia, experts, and international organizations to exchange knowledge and explore practical solutions for a more sustainable future.

We extend our sincere thanks to **Mayor Ms. Ayse Unluce, Eskisehir Metropolitan Municipality**, and all organizers for hosting this valuable event.

Building stronger cities through stronger partnerships remains at the heart of climate action.

**Fatih Birol**

*Executive Director, International
Energy Agency (IEA)*

*"Climate change
must remain at the
top of the global
agenda"*



Repositioning Climate Change at the Top of the Global Agenda

Why COP31 Matters for the Future of Global Climate Action

Climate change is no longer a future challenge. Around the world, we are witnessing its impacts through more frequent heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and extreme weather events.

Geopolitical tensions, security concerns, economic pressures, and regional conflicts have shifted attention away from one of humanity's greatest long-term challenges.

If climate action loses its place among the world's leading priorities, progress toward global climate goals will inevitably slow. Delayed action today will only increase costs and risks tomorrow.

Against this backdrop, **COP31 represents a significant opportunity.**

As Türkiye prepares to host COP31 together with Australia, the conference can serve not only as a platform for negotiations but also as a catalyst for elevating climate change back to the centre of international decision-making.

Energy transition will play a central role in this process. In this context, Turkey's target of increasing the share of electricity in final energy consumption to 35 percent by 2035 represents an important step toward a more resilient and sustainable energy future.

COP31 offers a unique opportunity to strengthen that momentum

Because the decisions we make today will define the resilience, prosperity, and sustainability of future generations.

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, with a large fire and thick smoke plume rising from the right side, symbolizing the impact of climate change.

Climate Change: Not Tomorrow's Challenge, but Today's Reality

*"Climate action is no longer simply a choice.
It is a strategy for resilience."*

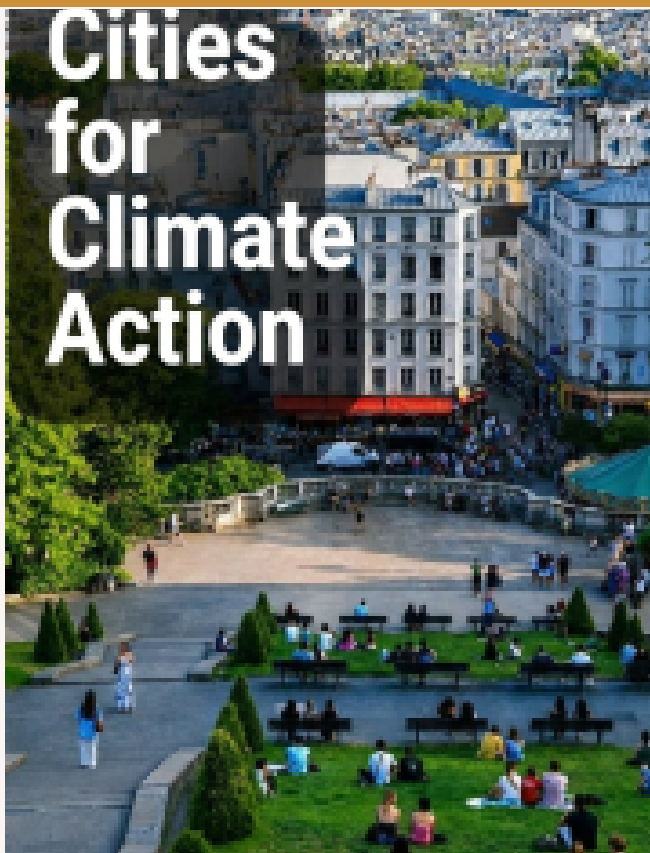
For decades, climate change was discussed as a challenge for future generations. Today, it has become a defining reality of our own. Heatwaves, floods, wildfires, droughts, and rising sea levels are reshaping economies, communities, and cities.

Climate change is affecting food security, water resources, supply chains, public health, and exposing cities to growing vulnerabilities. It is no longer only an environmental issue – it is a challenge for economic development, public safety, and human well-being.

Yet this transition also presents an unprecedented opportunity. Investments in renewable energy, climate-resilient cities, circular economy, and clean technologies are redefining future prosperity.

The question is no longer whether climate change is happening. The real question is whether our policies, institutions, and cities can adapt quickly enough.

Because climate action is no longer simply a choice. It is a strategy for resilience – and a prerequisite for sustainable development.



Cities for Climate Action



What if Cities Reach 50°C?

Preparing Cities for Extreme Heat in a Warming World

For many cities around the world, this is no longer a distant scenario.

Extreme heat is rapidly emerging as one of the defining urban challenges of the 21st century. Alongside floods, droughts, and other climate-related risks, cities are increasingly being tested by rising temperatures that threaten infrastructure, public health, and quality of life.

Recognizing this growing challenge, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the City of Paris have launched the 50°C Initiative, bringing together cities to prepare for a future where extreme heat becomes a regular reality.

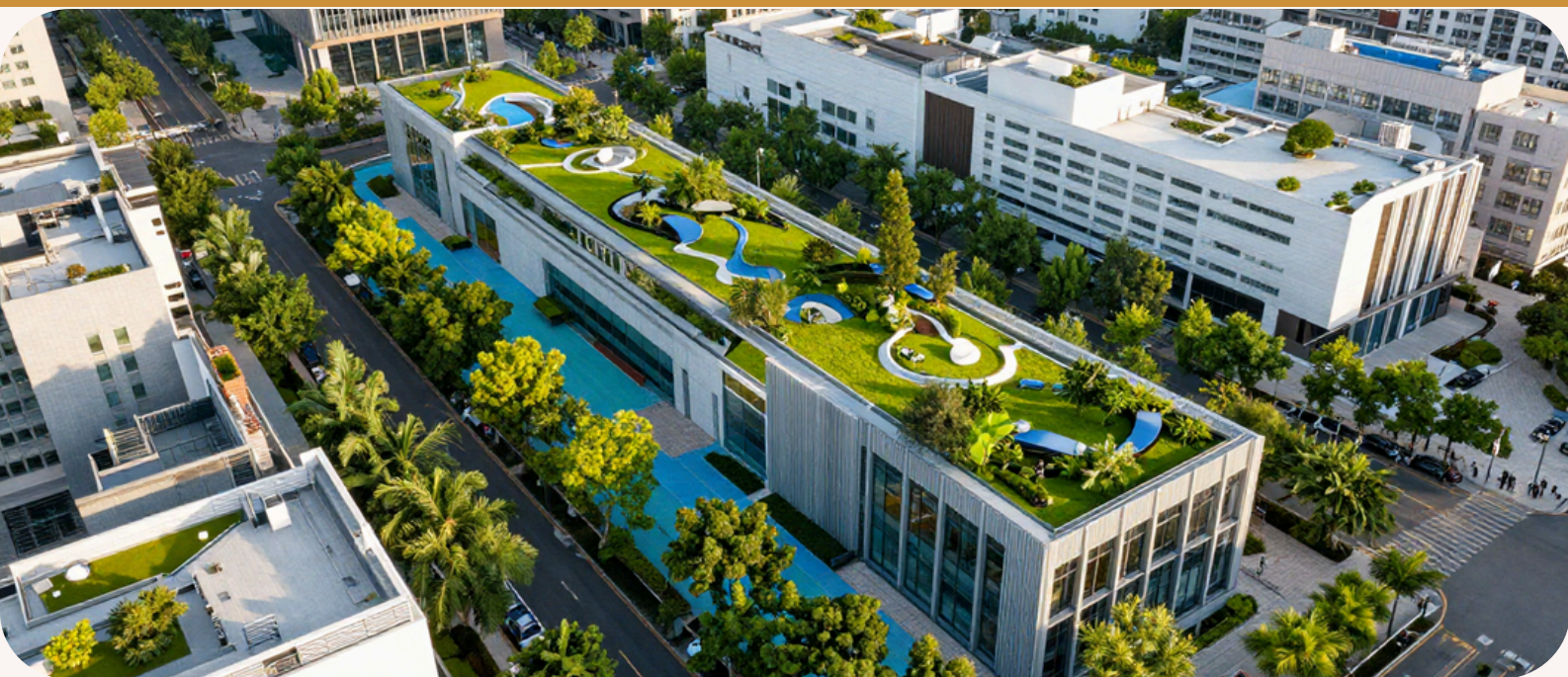
The challenge extends far beyond temperature itself.

Can public transport systems continue operating during prolonged heatwaves? Will public spaces remain accessible and safe? How can cities protect children, older adults, and vulnerable populations? Are health systems prepared for increasing heat-related illnesses?

The reality is that most cities were not designed for a 50°C future.

This is why climate adaptation is becoming a central element of urban planning, infrastructure development, public health, and local governance. Cities are increasingly investing in green spaces, blue-green infrastructure, shaded pedestrian networks, climate-sensitive urban design, and early warning systems to strengthen resilience against extreme heat.

These measures are no longer optional. They are becoming essential components of future-ready cities.



Cool Cities, Resilient Futures

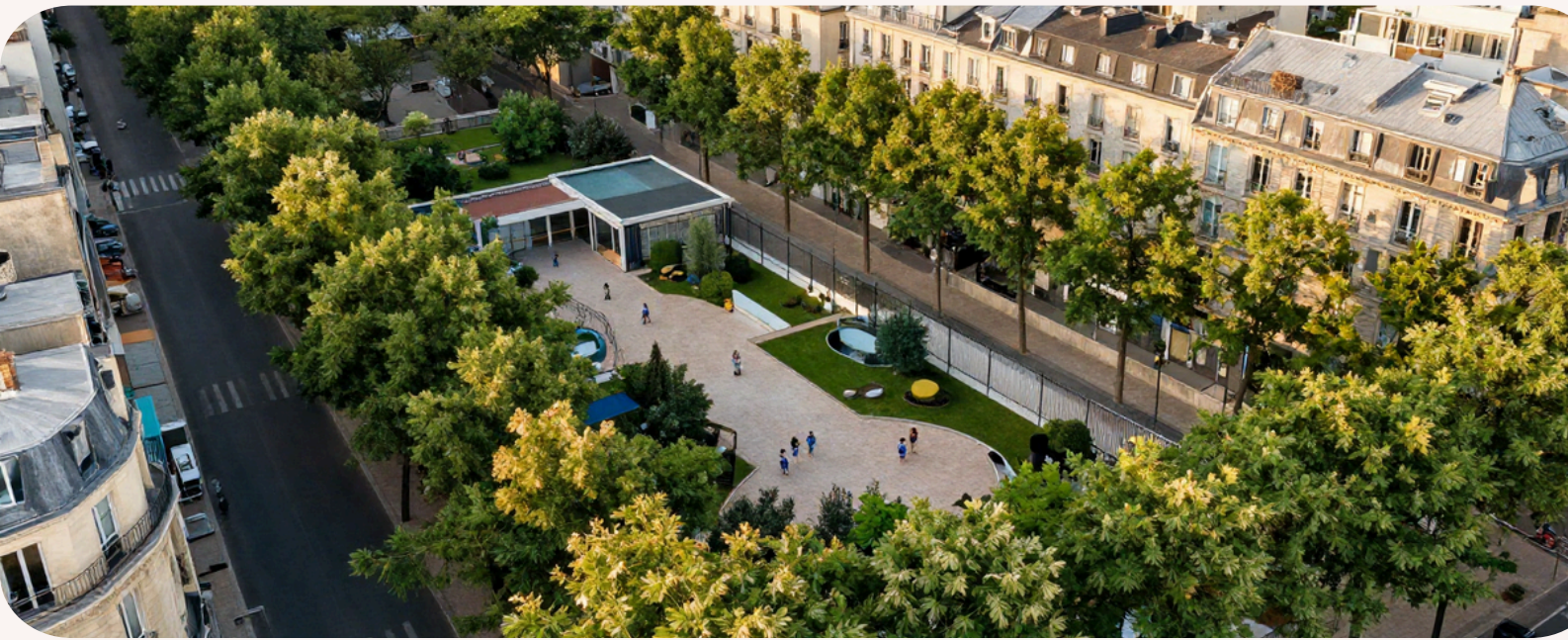
Extreme summer heat is no longer just a weather event. It has become one of the defining challenges for climate-resilient cities.

Dense construction, asphalt surfaces, limited green space, and poor urban ventilation create the urban heat island effect, causing city centres to become significantly hotter than surrounding areas. The consequences are far-reaching from increased energy demand and poorer air quality to heightened health risks, particularly for older adults, children, and other vulnerable groups.

The encouraging news is that cities are also where many of the solutions begin.

Expanding urban forests, creating green corridors, installing green roofs, restoring blue-green infrastructure, using reflective materials, and designing shaded pedestrian and cycling networks can significantly reduce urban temperatures while improving quality of life.

These interventions do more than cool our cities. They improve public health, reduce energy consumption, strengthen biodiversity, and make urban spaces more comfortable and resilient.



Stronger Neighbourhoods, Stronger Cities

Urban resilience is not built through larger cities. It is built through stronger neighbourhoods.

Paris has become a leading example of how climate adaptation, social inclusion, and urban quality of life can be integrated into a single planning vision. Rather than expanding outward, the city is rethinking the places people already use every day.

Initiatives such as the 15-Minute City, nature-based solutions, inclusive public spaces, and the transformation of schoolyards into climate infrastructure are reshaping neighbourhoods to be greener, healthier, and more resilient. One of the most innovative examples is the redesign of schoolyards. Once dedicated solely to education, these spaces now serve multiple purposes—as cooling areas during heatwaves, rainwater management systems, community gathering places, and elements of the city's green infrastructure.

Paris also provides inspiration for the **ReGreenation Project**, which brings together nine European cities to explore how participatory governance and nature-based solutions can accelerate urban regeneration. The project demonstrates that resilient cities are created not only through physical transformation, but also through stronger communities and more inclusive planning.



MITIGATION OR ADAPTATION? THE ANSWER IS BOTH

One of the most common misconceptions in climate action is to treat mitigation and adaptation as competing priorities.

In reality, they are complementary—and both are essential for building resilient communities.

Mitigation addresses the root causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable mobility, and achieving net-zero emissions are all key mitigation strategies designed to slow global warming.

Adaptation, on the other hand, focuses on preparing for the impacts that are already unavoidable. Climate-resilient infrastructure, flood risk management, drought-resistant agriculture, early warning systems, and sustainable water management help communities cope with a changing climate.

A simple analogy illustrates the difference:

Mitigation is applying the brakes. Adaptation is fastening the seatbelt.

Climate change has made one lesson increasingly clear: Mitigation protects our future. Adaptation protects our present. A sustainable future depends on our ability to advance both together, and without delay.



WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2026: ACCELERATING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Held every **two years in Singapore**, the **World Cities Summit (WCS)** has become one of the world's leading platforms for advancing sustainable urban development. Since its launch in 2008, the Summit has brought together government leaders, mayors, urban planners, researchers, businesses, and international organizations to exchange ideas and shape the future of cities.

The 2026 edition, held from 14–16 June under the theme “Liveable and Sustainable Cities: ACT Now!”, emphasized three key priorities: Accelerate, Collaborate, and Transform. Across the Summit, discussions focused on some of the most pressing urban challenges of our time, including climate change, affordable housing, artificial intelligence in city governance, urban regeneration, and resilience. Participants also explored circular economy principles, regenerative urban design, digital innovation, and low-carbon development pathways. A central message emerged throughout the event: cities must do more than continue growing—they must grow sustainably. Climate adaptation, energy-efficient buildings, green infrastructure, smart mobility, and the efficient use of urban resources were highlighted as essential components of future-ready cities. Equally important was the recognition that successful urban transformation depends on collaboration across all levels of government, academia, the private sector, and local communities.



TÜRKIYE TAKES THE HELM OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

A new chapter has begun for local governance on the global stage. **At the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council held in Tangier, Morocco, Ugur Ibrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, was elected President of UCLG for the 2026-2029 term.**

Representing more than 240,000 local and regional governments worldwide, UCLG is the largest international network of municipalities, bringing together cities to advance sustainable development, climate action, resilient governance, and international cooperation. This appointment marks an important milestone not only for Türkiye, but also for the growing role of local governments in addressing global challenges. As cities increasingly stand at the forefront of climate change, migration, disaster resilience, and sustainable urban development, international municipal networks are becoming essential platforms for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, and collective action. In his vision for the new term, President Altay emphasized stronger cooperation among cities, greater participation of local governments in global decision-making, and enhanced collaboration to address shared challenges—from climate change and water security to urban inequality and resilience.

The appointment comes at a significant moment for Türkiye, as preparations continue for COP31, further highlighting the country's growing contribution to international climate governance and local leadership.

Bloomberg
PhilanthropiesCo-funded by
the European Union

INNOVATE4CITIES 2026: WHERE CLIMATE SCIENCE MEETS URBAN ACTION

From 21-24 June 2026, the global urban climate community gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Innovate4Cities Conference (I4C26) - one of the world's leading events dedicated to climate action in cities.

Hosted for the first time on the African continent, the conference brought together researchers, city leaders, policymakers, innovators, and practitioners to bridge the gap between climate science and urban decision-making.

Under the theme of accelerating urban climate action, I4C26 focused on five strategic priorities shaping the future of cities:

- Multilevel Governance & Partnerships
- Housing & Infrastructure
- Digitalization & Artificial Intelligence
- Justice & Equity
- Finance & Implementation



Beyond presenting new research, the conference served as a global platform for launching innovative tools, strengthening partnerships, and exchanging practical solutions that help cities address climate challenges more effectively. A major milestone of the event was its **contribution to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SRCities)**, reinforcing the growing role of scientific knowledge in supporting evidence-based urban policies.



RESILIENT CITIES BEGIN WITH RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Urban resilience is not built by infrastructure alone.

As cities face increasing risks from extreme heat, floods, and other climate-related hazards, resilience is often associated with stronger buildings, improved drainage systems, and modern infrastructure. While these investments are essential, they represent only one part of the solution.

Equally important is the strength of the communities that live within our cities/ Climate adaptation therefore extends beyond engineering.

Nature-based solutions, urban greening, rain gardens, and shaded public spaces achieve their greatest impact when they are embraced, used, and cared for by local communities. Strong public spaces encourage participation, strengthen social cohesion, and improve a city's capacity to respond and recover from future challenges.

The question for tomorrow's cities is no longer simply how to build more. It is how to create places where people can connect, collaborate, and build resilience together.

Because resilient communities are the foundation of resilient cities.

And sometimes, the resilience of a city begins with a conversation in a neighbourhood park.



"First life, then spaces, then buildings" Jan Gehl

THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE WILL BE MORE HUMAN-CENTRED, NOT JUST SMARTER

The quality of a city is not measured by the width of its roads. It is measured by how comfortably people can walk, meet, and live within them.

For decades, Danish architect and urban designer Jan Gehl has championed a simple yet transformative principle: cities should be designed around people not around cars.

Today, many of the world's most liveable cities share this philosophy. They prioritize walkable streets, vibrant public spaces, safe pedestrian networks, accessible squares, and green corridors that encourage everyday interaction and active lifestyles. When streets are designed for people, cities benefit far beyond mobility. Air quality improves, local businesses thrive, public health is strengthened, and communities become more connected.

Perhaps the most important question for urban planners is not how to move more vehicles. It is whether a child, an older person, or someone with limited mobility can move safely, comfortably, and independently through the city. And the cities of the future will succeed not because they are smarter — but because they are designed first and foremost for people.



WHAT IF CITIES COULD ABSORB RAIN LIKE A SPONGE?

As climate change intensifies, cities are facing more frequent floods, heavier rainfall, and longer periods of extreme heat. Traditional urban infrastructure was designed to move rainwater away as quickly as possible. But in a changing climate, this approach is proving increasingly insufficient. This is where the concept of Sponge Cities offers a new vision.

Rather than treating rainwater as a problem, sponge cities view it as a valuable resource. Through permeable pavements, green roofs, rain gardens, wetlands, urban parks, and blue-green corridors, water is captured, stored, filtered, and gradually released back into the environment.

The benefits extend far beyond flood prevention. Sponge cities help reduce urban heat, improve water management, enhance biodiversity, support cleaner air, and create healthier public spaces. They also strengthen the resilience of cities by working with nature rather than against it.

As climate risks continue to grow, urban resilience will depend not only on stronger infrastructure, but also on smarter and more nature-based solutions.



HEALTHY PEOPLE - LIVEABLE CITIES A STRONGER FUTURE

Some of the most powerful urban transformations begin with the simplest daily choices. Walking or cycling for just 30 minutes a day has been shown to improve cardiovascular health, reduce stress, increase physical fitness, and lower the risk of chronic diseases. But the benefits extend well beyond individual wellbeing. Active mobility also contributes to cleaner air, lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduced traffic congestion, and more vibrant public spaces. It strengthens local communities while making cities healthier, safer, and more inclusive.

Across Europe, the adoption of active mobility varies significantly, reflecting differences in urban design, infrastructure, and public policy. The most successful cities are those that make walking and cycling safe, convenient, and attractive parts of everyday life. This is why active mobility is far more than a transport choice. It is a strategy for climate action, public health, urban resilience, and better quality of life.

As cities plan for a low-carbon future, investments in pedestrian-friendly streets, cycling infrastructure, and accessible public spaces will become increasingly important. Because the cities of tomorrow will not be defined by how many cars they accommodate. They will be defined by how many people they encourage to walk, cycle, and enjoy public life. Sometimes, climate action begins with a single bicycle lane.



WALKABLE CITIES, BETTER LIVES.

The most successful cities are not those built for more vehicles. They are the ones designed for more people.

A recent global ranking published by Forbes highlights the world's most walkable cities, placing Florence at the top of the list. Other leading cities—including Riga, Hamburg, Porto, Madrid, Edinburgh, Tallinn, Stockholm, Sydney, and Boston—demonstrate that successful urban environments are designed with people in mind.

Türkiye also has a place on the list, with Istanbul ranking among the world's most walkable cities. But walkability is about much more than tourism. It reflects how easily people can access everyday services, move safely through public spaces, and enjoy a city that prioritizes quality of life. Walkable cities typically perform better in terms of accessibility, air quality, public safety, connectivity, and the overall urban experience.

Increasingly, urban planners recognize that walkability is not simply a transport objective—it is a cornerstone of sustainable urban development. Cities that encourage walking also promote healthier lifestyles, strengthen local economies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create more vibrant public spaces. Investments in pedestrian-friendly streets, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and accessible public spaces benefit both people and the environment.

The most successful cities are not necessarily those built for more vehicles. They are the ones designed for more people. Because the future of urban development belongs to cities where everyday life can be experienced comfortably, safely, and on foot.



HEALTHY OCEANS, HEALTHY PLANET

If global temperatures rise by 2 degrees C, the vast majority of the world's coral reefs could disappear.

The impacts of climate change are increasingly transforming the world's oceans. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events are placing unprecedented pressure on marine ecosystems. Among the most vulnerable are coral reefs and mangrove forests — two of the planet's most valuable natural assets.

Coral reefs support nearly 25% of all marine species, protect coastlines from storms and erosion, sustain the livelihoods of millions of people, and play a vital role in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.

Mangrove forests provide equally important benefits by storing large amounts of carbon, reducing flood risks, improving water quality, and creating essential habitats for marine life.

Protecting these ecosystems is not only a matter of conserving nature. It is an investment in food security, climate resilience, coastal protection, and sustainable development.

CETPARTNERSHIP 2026: POWERING EUROPE'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Clean Energy Transition Partnership -Horizon Europe



Deadline: 8 October 2026

The Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETPartnership) has officially launched its 2026 Joint Call, supporting collaborative research and innovation projects that contribute to Europe's goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050. The programme funds international projects that accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable energy solutions.

Funded Areas:

- Renewable energy technologies
- Energy storage systems
- Energy efficiency
- Smart energy systems
- Sustainable energy ecosystems

Projects require consortia from at least 3 participating countries.

Türkiye is eligible to participate through TÜBİTAK.

The CETPartnership is more than a funding programme. It is a platform for developing the technologies, partnerships, and solutions that will shape the next generation of sustainable energy systems.

Because achieving climate neutrality will require not only innovation — but collaboration across borders.



DUT CALL 2026: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES



Driving Urban Transitions Partnership — Horizon Europe

Opens: 1 September 2026

Co-funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe and national funding agencies, the DUT Partnership supports collaborative research and innovation projects addressing complex urban challenges. The 2026 Call will officially open on 1 September 2026, with the draft call expected in July 2026.

Three Transition Pathways:

15-Minute
Cities

Circular Urban
Economies

Positive Energy
Districts

Priority topics include adaptive urban regeneration, cross-sector mobility solutions, neighbourhood-scale economic development, innovative management of green and blue infrastructure, circular urban production systems, and integrated energy solutions for resilient communities. Beyond funding, the DUT Partnership encourages international collaboration through its matchmaking platform, helping municipalities, universities, research organisations, and industry partners build strong project consortia.

As an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, Türkiye is fully eligible to participate

The future of cities will not be shaped by isolated projects, but by integrated solutions that combine sustainability, innovation, climate resilience, and quality of life. For cities across Europe including those in Türkiye DUT represents an important opportunity to transform ambitious urban ideas into collaborative action.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EU FUNDING

European Commission — Simplification Platform



The European Commission has launched a call for experts to join its new **Simplification Platform**, an initiative designed to make EU funding programmes more accessible, efficient, and user-friendly. The Platform will bring together professionals with hands-on experience in EU-funded programmes to identify administrative barriers, reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, and propose practical improvements for future funding frameworks.

Applications encouraged from:

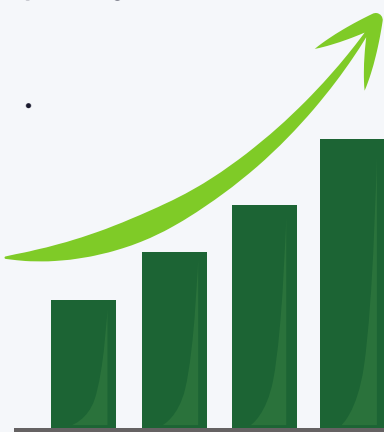
- Local and regional authorities
- Programme managers
- NGOs and civil society organisations
- Business representatives
- Social partners
- Evaluation experts
- Practitioners with direct experience in EU-funded projects



For municipalities and organisations actively engaged in European cooperation, this is more than a consultation it is an opportunity to help shape how EU funds are managed in the years ahead. Insights from those working directly with programmes such as Cohesion Policy, Interreg, ERDF, ESF+, and the Just Transition Fund will contribute to building funding mechanisms that are simpler, faster, and more effective.

Deadline: 10 July 2026

The future of European funding should be designed not only by policymakers but also by those who implement projects on the ground.



€60,000



Funding for Energy Innovation Start-ups & SMEs

ODEON PROJECT — HORIZON EUROPE OPEN CALL

Under the Horizon Europe programme, the ODEON Project has launched a new open call to support innovative SMEs and start-ups developing digital solutions for the clean energy transition. Selected projects may receive up to €60,000 in funding, together with 10 months of technical mentoring, expert guidance, and access to ODEON's cloud, data, and AI infrastructure.

Eligible Innovation Areas:

- Smart charging (V2G/G2V)
- Energy communities
- Demand-side management
- Grid forecasting and flexibility
- AI-powered energy applications
- Distributed energy resources
- Energy data spaces and interoperability

As an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, Türkiye is fully eligible to participate.

Deadline: 9 July 2026

As energy systems become increasingly digital, connected, and data-driven, innovation is playing a central role in delivering cleaner, more resilient, and more flexible energy solutions.

The ODEON Open Call offers an important opportunity for innovators to transform ideas into practical solutions that support Europe's clean energy future.





CLIMATE CHANGE, URBAN FLOODING, AND INTEGRATED STRATEGIES FOR FLOOD RISK REDUCTION: A REVIEW

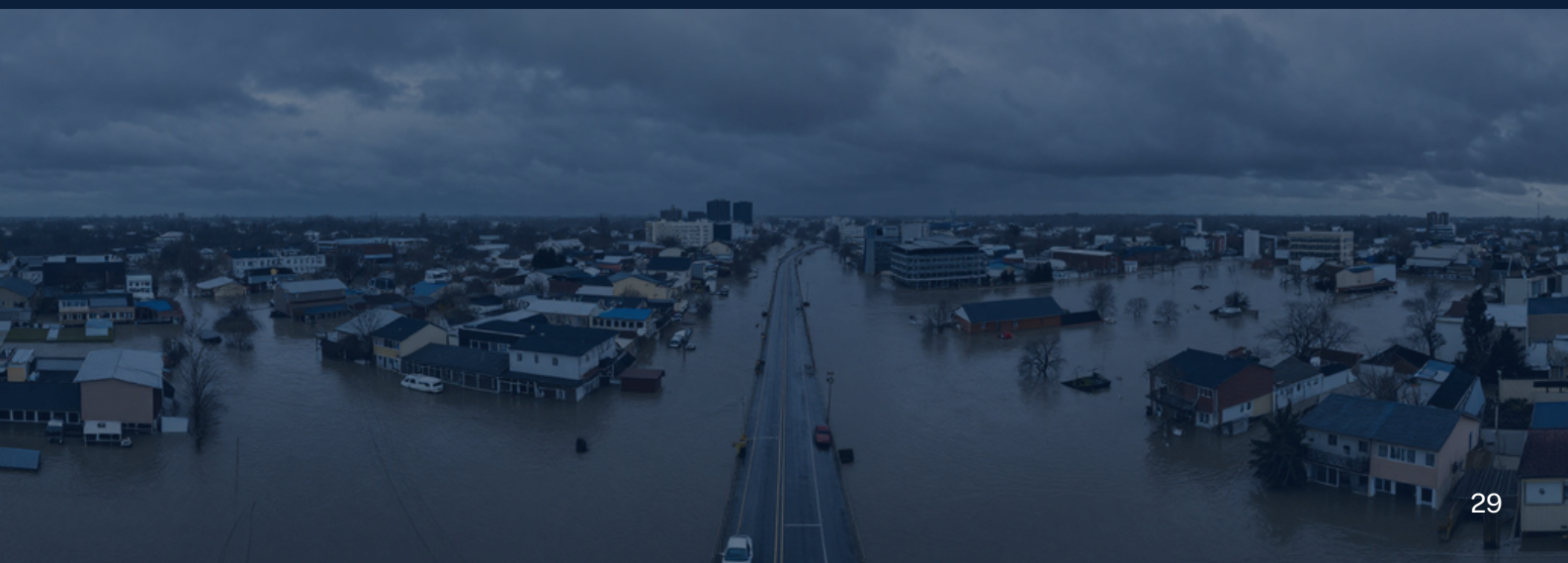
Tuncer Demir & Ayesha Noreen

Professor, Department of Geography | Researcher in Climate Change and Urban Resilience

Abstract

Climate change is fundamentally reshaping the frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of urban flooding. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, rapid urbanization, and the expansion of impervious surfaces are increasing the vulnerability of cities worldwide. Traditional flood management approaches, largely based on historical hydrological records and structural engineering solutions, are becoming insufficient under increasingly uncertain climatic conditions.

This review examines the interactions between climate change and urban flood risk while exploring integrated strategies that combine grey infrastructure, nature-based solutions, adaptive governance, technological innovation, and community participation. It argues that future flood resilience depends not only on reducing hazard exposure but also on strengthening the adaptive capacity of urban systems through interdisciplinary planning and climate-responsive decision-making.



1. Climate Change and the New Reality of Urban Flooding



Urban flooding has become one of the most significant consequences of climate change. Across the globe, cities are experiencing more frequent cloudbursts, prolonged rainfall events, river flooding, coastal inundation, and compound flood events that occur when multiple hazards interact simultaneously. These events increasingly exceed the design capacity of conventional drainage systems and expose critical urban infrastructure to unprecedented levels of risk. The challenge extends beyond hydrology. Population growth, uncontrolled urban expansion, land-use change, and the concentration of economic assets within flood-prone areas have amplified both exposure and vulnerability. Consequently, flood risk can no longer be understood solely as a function of rainfall intensity but must be assessed through the interaction of climatic, environmental, social, and economic processes.

2. Moving Beyond Traditional Flood Management

For decades, flood protection has relied primarily on structural interventions such as levees, floodwalls, pumping stations, and engineered drainage networks. While these measures remain important, they are increasingly challenged by the scale and uncertainty of climate-driven extremes. The assumption that future hydrological conditions will resemble those observed in the past is no longer valid. **Climate change has fundamentally altered precipitation regimes, making historical records insufficient for designing future infrastructure.** As a result, urban flood management is evolving from a reactive engineering discipline toward a proactive resilience-based approach that integrates climate projections, adaptive planning, and flexible governance.

3. Integrated Strategies for Flood Risk Reduction

Reducing flood risk requires a combination of structural, ecological, technological, and institutional measures. Nature-based solutions — including permeable pavements, green roofs, rain gardens, wetlands, urban forests, and blue-green corridors — play an increasingly important role in restoring natural hydrological processes while providing multiple environmental and social co-benefits. Integrating expertise with ecosystem restoration, spatial planning, digital technologies, and community participation to build more resilient urban environments.

At the same time, advances in remote sensing, geographic information systems, artificial intelligence, hydrodynamic modelling, and early warning systems enable cities to improve flood forecasting, risk mapping, and emergency preparedness. Integrated flood management therefore combines engineering expertise with ecosystem restoration, spatial planning, digital technologies, and community participation to build more resilient urban environments.



4. Governance, Equity and Urban Resilience

Urban flood resilience depends not only on infrastructure but also on governance. Adaptive governance encourages collaboration among governments, researchers, local communities, and the private sector, enabling more flexible and evidence-based decision-making under uncertain climate conditions. Particular attention must also be given to social vulnerability. Low-income communities, informal settlements, elderly populations, and other vulnerable groups often experience disproportionate impacts during flood events. Climate adaptation strategies should therefore promote equity alongside physical resilience, ensuring that investments benefit those most exposed to risk.

5. Conclusions

Climate change is transforming urban flooding into one of the defining challenges of twenty-first century cities. Future resilience cannot be achieved through conventional engineering solutions alone. Instead, cities must embrace integrated strategies that combine climate science, adaptive governance, nature-based solutions, technological innovation, and inclusive urban planning. The transition from flood control to flood resilience represents a fundamental shift in urban policy. Rather than attempting to eliminate floods entirely, resilient cities are those capable of anticipating change, adapting to uncertainty, and recovering more rapidly from increasingly complex climate risks. Ultimately, strengthening urban flood resilience is not solely an environmental objective. It is essential for protecting public health, economic stability, critical infrastructure, and the long-term sustainability of cities in a changing climate.

Strengthening urban flood resilience is essential for protecting public health, economic stability, and the long-term sustainability of cities.



Being Agile in Projects

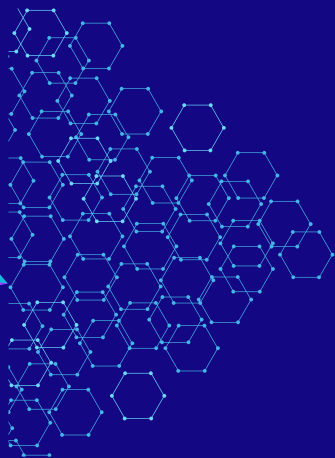
Dr. Arda Deniz Aksular,
PMP



The world is now an agile place. What does that mean?

In short, it's a world where everything changes very quickly. An unpredictable world.

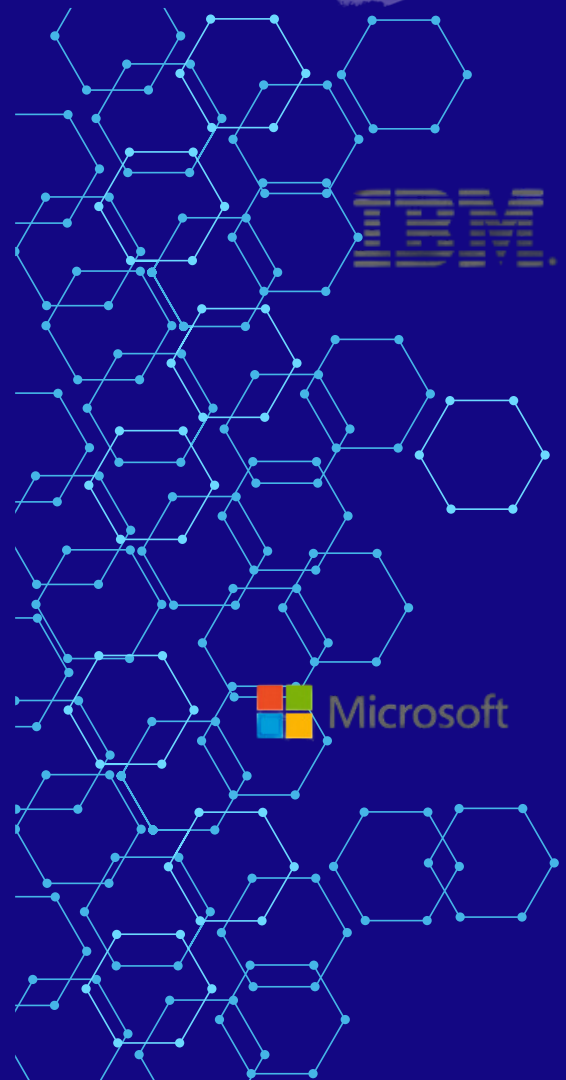
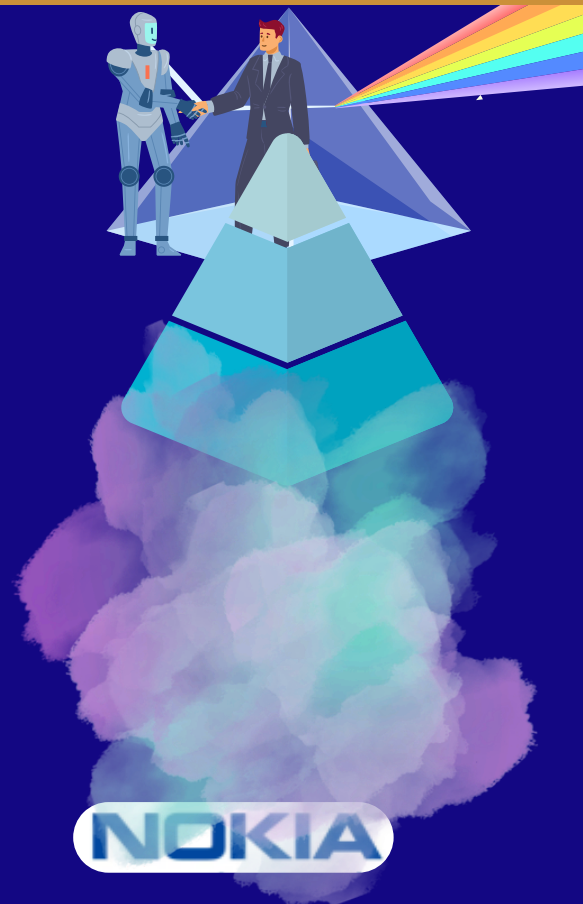
Will the Iran-US agreement succeed? Will the Ukraine-Russia war end soon? Where will gold or currency prices go next year? Do you have answers to these questions? Don't worry, nobody really knows. It's also difficult to predict how much artificial intelligence will affect our lives in the next six months, let alone the next year. For example, while people are crying that "AI will take our jobs," the World Economic Forum is discussing the creation of 12 million new jobs in robotics alone thanks to AI. China has already deployed its first robot soldiers along its borders in the Himalayas. The number of people using subcutaneous chips for simple tasks like accessing doors, vehicles, and buildings has exceeded 100,000 worldwide. Elon Musk, the world's first trillionaire, boasts about implanting Neuralink in 20 people this year, saying "they're working well so far."



In such a situation, where the landscape is a kind of positive-negative chaos, if you are not an actor who directs reality or can obtain inside information, the importance of thorough planning, long-term analysis, and building grand solutions—in other words, classical project management—does not work. Because you base your plans on predictions made using existing variables. However, in the long run, these variables don't turn out as you expected, and some variables even lose their meaning. Because in chaos, it's not the planner who wins, but the doer. Or, in other words, "the fool crosses the river while the wise man is still thinking."



In such a situation, designing and implementing a project becomes a separate art and skill. This is where “agility” comes in. Being agile means designing smaller, simpler, predictable, expandable, and modular projects instead of large, cumbersome, ambitious, and often “perfectionist” projects. Although it may seem simple on paper, it's not a simple task because the work isn't just about design; implementation is also important. Instead of hierarchical systems, building small, horizontal teams, maintaining eye contact with team members, outsourcing some tasks to AI instead of producing numerous meetings, reports, and paperwork, and being able to cancel and add activities as needed are among the first steps to take. More importantly, transforming human resources is necessary for agility. This is the most difficult part. While training is always a key factor, corporate transformation takes time and isn't always successful. The world is full of giant companies like General Electric and IBM that tried agile transformation but lost the battle. There are many more examples of companies like Sony, Ericsson, and Nokia that tried agile transformation but achieved only partial success. Microsoft is a succeeding one in this area. Companies like Meta, Google, and Spotify were essentially born agile, yet they are experiencing growing “agile pains” as they expand. The issue isn't just knowing how to do it, but constantly adapting.



On the other hand, another obstacle to agile transformation in projects is the often rigid and cumbersome nature of existing funding systems. Unannounced funding calls in a year, lengthy scheduling, procurement and evaluation processes, complex monitoring procedures, and never-ending invoice and document processing all boil down to classic approaches and the wall of accountability.

So what needs to be done at this point? The answer is simply to “being as agile as possible.” Yes; you can’t be agile in every aspect. Sometimes, due to your organization’s structure or the rules you need to follow, you can’t run a project with complete agility, but you can still do some. For example, track the flow of your activities with Kanban boards, meet daily with your team, don’t view meetings as a work or project output, simplify tasks that aren’t really outputs—in other words, eliminate them entirely. Digitize paperwork, finish the basic structure of tasks first and leave the perfection for later. Don’t plan very simple tasks at all; do them immediately. Get used to using AI for reporting. But most importantly, start with yourself: develop your personal agility. For example, don’t be too “rigid.” Let your “non-negotiable” red lines soften a little. Try to accept risk-taking and making mistakes as natural; strive to see, acknowledge, and come to terms with your mistakes, learn from them, and build upon them with new solutions. Seek some consensus in these solutions. Know when to abandon ideas that, even if they seem good, don’t work, and always try new ones. In short, instead of taking the easy way out and saying “I know best,” be ready to “give something of yourself,” sometimes making compromises, learning, and innovating. But really do it. Because in the long run, life rewards not the most intelligent and perfect planners, but those who learn to live with chaos, accept changing circumstances and adapt quickly, seek compromise, and constantly try—in other words, the “agile” ones.



USD 2.15 TRILLION



GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT IN 2026 MORE THAN DOUBLE FOSSIL FUEL SPENDING

Clean Energy Takes the Lead: A New Era in the Global Energy Transition

According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Investment 2026 report, global investment in clean energy is expected to reach USD 2.15 trillion, compared with approximately USD 1 trillion for fossil fuels.

This shift is taking place at a time when energy security has become a strategic priority for governments worldwide. Countries are accelerating investments in renewable energy, expanding electricity grids, strengthening energy storage, and advancing electrification to build more secure and resilient energy systems.

This transition is redefining the relationship between energy security, economic resilience, climate action, and sustainable development.

For cities and local governments, renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, smart grids, and distributed energy systems are becoming essential components of resilient urban development and long-term competitiveness. The future belongs to countries and cities that not only consume energy but produce it sustainably, diversify their energy sources, and invest in resilient, low-carbon systems.



BONN CLIMATE CONFERENCE SETS THE STAGE FOR COP31

8-18 June 2026, Bonn, Germany | Preparing for COP31 in Türkiye

The latest round of UN climate negotiations concluded in Bonn, Germany, bringing together representatives from nearly 200 countries to advance implementation of the Paris Agreement and prepare for COP31, which will be hosted by Türkiye later this year.

Negotiators made progress on several key issues, including just transition, climate technology, transparency, and climate finance, while reinforcing international cooperation to accelerate climate action. A major outcome was the renewed emphasis on translating the results of the first Global Stocktake into concrete national and local actions. Discussions also highlighted the growing importance of attracting private investment, strengthening national climate finance systems, and improving resilience through practical implementation.

Türkiye's incoming COP31 Presidency presented its priorities, placing implementation and practical solutions at the centre of the conference agenda. Among the initiatives introduced was the proposed "35x35 Electrification Target", signalling an increased focus on accelerating clean energy deployment. The Bonn Climate Conference reaffirmed the importance of transparency and international collaboration in delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement. With Türkiye preparing to host COP31, Bonn has sent a clear message: The success of COP31 will be measured not by new promises, but by the ability to turn existing commitments into tangible climate action.

"The global climate agenda is moving from commitments to implementation."





SCIENTISTS: CLIMATE CHANGE MADE EUROPE'S RECORD HEATWAVE POSSIBLE

World Weather Attribution (WWA) | June 2026

3.5°C

cooler 50 years ago

A new scientific assessment has concluded that the record-breaking heatwave affecting Europe in June 2026 would have been virtually impossible without human-induced climate change. Europe, already the fastest-warming continent, continues to experience more frequent, earlier, and more intense heatwaves. Researchers warn that rising temperatures are significantly increasing the likelihood of dangerous heat stress. Nearly half of the European cities analysed either broke or were expected to break their historical heat stress records during the June heatwave.

Beyond public health, prolonged extreme heat affects energy demand, water resources, urban infrastructure, transport systems, and overall city resilience. These findings reinforce the growing need for climate adaptation measures such as urban greening, nature-based solutions, heat action plans, and climate-resilient urban design. Scientists emphasise that rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains essential to limiting future temperature increases and avoiding even more severe climate impacts.

Climate change is no longer shaping the future - it is shaping today's cities.

LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK BUILDS MOMENTUM FOR COP31

Methane, Super Pollutants & the Road to Antalya

As preparations for COP31 in Türkiye continue, London Climate Action Week 2026 highlighted a growing international consensus: reducing methane and other super pollutants is one of the fastest and most effective ways to slow global warming. Bringing together world leaders, ministers, international organisations, researchers, and city representatives, the high-level discussions placed implementation at the centre of the climate agenda.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described methane as the "super super-pollutant", calling for stronger action across the fossil fuel, agriculture, and waste sectors. Representing the incoming COP31 Presidency, Murat Kurum reaffirmed that COP31 will be an implementation-focused conference, with methane reduction, circular economy, and the Zero Waste approach forming key pillars of the COP31 Action Agenda. The discussions also showcased practical solutions already being implemented worldwide - from satellite-based methane monitoring and clean cooking technologies to city-led clean air initiatives and innovative climate finance mechanisms.

KEY VOICES

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General |
H.E. Murat Kurum, COP31 President | CCAC

Reducing super pollutants is no longer only an environmental priority - it is a strategic pathway to cleaner air, stronger public health, and accelerated climate action.

TÜRKİYE ADVANCES LOCAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE WITH NEW CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING INITIATIVE



Türkiye has taken an important step towards strengthening local climate governance. **Following the adoption of the Climate Law (Law No. 7552), the Directorate of Climate Change under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change has initiated preparations for Local Climate Change Action Plans (YİDEP) by requesting comprehensive climate-related data from metropolitan, provincial, district, and local municipalities across the country.**

As part of this process, municipalities have been asked to provide 139 datasets at provincial and district levels. These data will support climate risk assessments and establish a standardized evidence base for developing local climate action plans.

The initiative represents one of the first nationwide implementation steps following the Climate Law, which requires all local governments to prepare their Local Climate Change Action Plans by 31 December 2027.

For municipalities, this marks a significant transition from voluntary climate initiatives towards a more structured and integrated planning process. Climate risk assessment, greenhouse gas mitigation, adaptation planning, implementation, monitoring, and inter-institutional coordination are expected to become core components of local governance.

For the MLGP4Climate community, this development reinforces the strategic importance of capacity building, knowledge exchange, and technical support for municipalities as local climate governance continues to evolve across Türkiye.





Sustainability & Carbon Glossary

A Practical Guide to Understanding the Language of the Green Transition

Abdulahap Sevim

As sustainability regulations, carbon markets, climate finance, and ESG reporting continue to reshape both public and private sectors, understanding the terminology behind this transformation has become increasingly important.

Written by Abdulvahap Sevim, this bilingual (Turkish-English) reference brings together more than 70 essential sustainability and carbon-related concepts in a single practical guide designed for practitioners, researchers, students, policymakers, and business professionals.

Unlike conventional glossaries, this publication explains each concept within its international policy context while examining practical implications for Türkiye. Topics range from greenhouse gas accounting and corporate reporting standards to carbon markets, climate finance, circular economy, and nature-based solutions.

Organised thematically rather than alphabetically, readers can understand how concepts relate to one another and how they are applied in real-world climate and sustainability governance.

Author: Abdulvahap Sevim | **Language:** Turkish & English (Bilingual) |
Publisher: MLGP4Climate, 2026

Title: Sustainability & Carbon Glossary - Sürdürülebilirlik & Karbon Terimleri
Sözlüğü

**MLGP4
CLIMATE**

Implementing Climate Action in European Cities

**INTERESTING TO READ**

URBAN ADAPTATION IN EUROPE: WHAT WORKS?

As climate change accelerates, European cities face heatwaves, floods, water scarcity, and growing risks. The European Environment Agency (EEA) addresses a critical question in its report: What actually works when implementing urban climate adaptation?

The report explores key ingredients of success:

- Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration
- Climate-resilient urban planning and governance
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Sustainable financing mechanisms
- Citizen participation and community engagement
- Data-driven decision-making



Drawing on case studies from European municipalities, the report demonstrates that effective adaptation goes beyond infrastructure. Long-term political commitment, cross-sector collaboration and active citizen involvement are essential drivers of resilient urban development.

Climate adaptation is not simply about responding to extreme weather. It is about transforming cities into places that are healthier, safer and more resilient for future generations.

Publication: Urban Adaptation in Europe: What Works?

Publisher: European Environment Agency (EEA)

Report: EEA Report No. 14/2023

Recommended for: Local governments, urban planners, climate practitioners

Sustainable Development Report 2026



Implementing Sustainable Development: 2030 and Beyond



Beyond

Eight strategic priorities for accelerating sustainable development through 2030 and beyond

Findings from two new global SDSN surveys on governments' SDG efforts and public perceptions

Guidance for policymakers, local governments, businesses and civil society on translating global commitments into local action

Emphasis on governance, investment, policy coherence and international cooperation

Eleven years after the adoption of the SDGs, this report provides one of the most comprehensive assessments of global progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Prepared by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and led by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, it evaluates how countries are advancing across all 17 SDGs while identifying major barriers to implementation.

With only a few years remaining until the 2030 deadline, the report delivers a timely reminder that achieving the SDGs requires coordinated implementation, evidence-based policymaking and sustained investment. For cities, municipalities and climate practitioners, it reinforces the importance of integrating climate action, social inclusion, economic resilience and good governance into long-term development strategies.

Authors: Jeffrey D. Sachs, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller & Gleb Iablouovski

Published by: UN SDSN & Dublin University Press

Date: 23 June 2026

Recommended for: Sustainability practitioners, urban planners, policymakers, researchers

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Visibility creates awareness. A growing
community creates greater impact

Announcements from MLGP4Climate July 2026



- Summer Climate Academy
- Registrations Now Open!
- New EU Funding Opportunities
- Partner City Spotlights
- Updated Resource Library





Every **city** we connect,
every **story** we share,



brings us closer to a
climate-resilient world.



MLGP4Climate

MLGP4Climate Bulletin

JUNE 2026

*"Where knowledge meets
action, resilient cities rise."*

From Knowledge to **Action**

Supporting cities in Türkiye
to plan, finance and implement
climate action.



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