

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 11/3/2025 6:08:33 PM

Subject: EMBARGOED UNTIL NOVEMBER 4: C40 Cool Cities Accelerator and Urban Planning Accelerator News Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL NOVEMBER 4

Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the below news release on November 4 regarding Vancouver becoming a founding member of the C40 Cool Cities Accelerator and Urban Planning Accelerator.

Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 11 a.m.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱ ḵ y̱ m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ wxw̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and s̱ lilw̱ ta̱ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of
Vancouver

News Release
November 4, 2025

Vancouver joins global initiatives to address extreme heat and build climate-resilient communities

The City of Vancouver is proud to join the C40 [Cool Cities Accelerator](#) and the C40 and UN-Habitat's [Urban Planning Accelerator](#). Both initiatives were announced this week at the [C40 World Mayors Summit](#) in Rio de Janeiro.

"C40 has been an incredible partner for cities around the world," said Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim. "Through many of our City's major initiatives, we're taking meaningful steps to make Vancouver a

greener, safer and more resilient city. We're proud to work alongside other leading C40 cities to keep pushing this important work forward."

Cool Cities Accelerator

The C40 Cool Cities Accelerator is a new global coalition of cities taking urgent, coordinated action to tackle one of the most dangerous impacts of the climate crisis: extreme heat.

Extreme heat is already the deadliest weather-related hazard worldwide, responsible for an estimated 489,000 deaths annually. Without decisive action, the number of people exposed to life-threatening urban heat is projected to increase fivefold by 2050.

"Extreme heat is a silent killer and an increasingly urgent global threat," said Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities. "The number of days that major capitals experience temperatures above 35°C has increased 54% over the past twenty years. Cities like Vancouver are showing real leadership by taking practical steps to protect communities, safeguard economies and create more livable urban environments. By aligning with the UN Secretary-General's call to action on extreme heat, these cities are helping to set a global standard for what bold, collective climate leadership looks like."

As part of its commitment under the Cool Cities Accelerator, Vancouver will advance actions to:

- Strengthen early warning systems and expand access to cooling solutions during heat emergencies.
- Update building codes, increase shade and tree canopy and future-proof critical infrastructure.
- Identify near-term ways to provide indoor cooling for existing buildings that are most at-risk to overheating.

Urban Planning Accelerator

The Urban Planning Accelerator is a joint initiative by C40 and [UN-Habitat](#) aimed at helping cities around the world transition to climate-responsive urban planning model by 2035.

C40 and UN-Habitat will work closely with signatory cities, fostering city-to-city knowledge exchange, documenting best practices, and monitoring progress toward the Accelerator's targets through consistent follow-up and reporting.

Through the [Vancouver Plan](#) and the [Vancouver Official Development Plan](#) (ODP), the City is integrating sustainability and climate-responsive design into how Vancouver grows. The Urban Planning Accelerator strengthens these efforts and complements the Vancouver Plan and the ODP's Three Big Ideas:

1. Equitable housing and complete neighbourhoods
2. An economy that works for all
3. Climate protection and restored ecosystems

The City of Vancouver is implementing the Three Big Ideas through initiatives such as [multiplex zoning](#), the [Villages Planning Program](#) and citywide emissions-reduction efforts.

Vancouver joins a diverse group of cities representing over 143 million people, working together to save lives, strengthen resilience and create thriving, affordable, climate-resilient communities for generations to come.

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About C40

[C40](#) is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere, can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to limit global heating in line with the Paris Agreement and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. We work alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to support mayors to halve emissions by 2030 and help phase out fossil use while increasing urban climate resilience and equity.

About UN-Habitat

[UN-Habitat](#) is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.