



# **Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award)**

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**C40  
CITIES**

# Introduction to the award

- Aims to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda
- Focus on advancing Sustainable Development Goal 11 and Building a Sustainable Urban Future for All
- Incentivising cities to find systematic solutions for sustainable urban development
- Applications for the third cycle are now open (deadline 10 June 2025)

# Why are cities so important?

Cities include most of the world's people, economic power, investment, energy use, material demand and GHG emissions. Cities are also the places where climate impacts are most concentrated and where the largest populations are affected.

**'The battle to stop climate breakdown will be largely won or lost in cities.'** - *Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General*

**'Cities are at the forefront of climate action. The world must follow.'** - *Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)*

Cities represent the closest level of government to residents and are the first responders in emergencies. They are delivering climate action that works for their residents which bring confidence across the stakeholder spectrum - from businesses to organised labour to civil society

# Themes of the award

**Adequate  
housing for  
diverse needs**

For example:

- Affordable housing
- Public space design
- Informal settlements
- Disaster recovery

**Building people-  
centered smart  
cities together**

For example:

- Urban planning and management
- Smart transport
- Smart municipal infrastructure
- Digital solutions

**Green and  
resilient  
development  
responding to  
climate change**

For example:

- Nature based solutions
- Zero waste
- Disaster risk monitoring
- Protect poor and vulnerable

**Effective  
governance for  
vibrant cities**

For example:

- Stakeholder participation
- Innovation and businesses
- Local action
- Cultural heritage and assets

# The Prize and award

- Third cycle of the award will be given to no more than five cities
- Award ceremony during World Cities Day 2025 where winners will be presented with a plaque and trophy
- Winning cities will be added to the online platform and database
- Winning cities will be invited to attend international events to speak to other cities, share best practice and create new opportunities for local economic development

# Why this award is so important?

- Opportunity to showcase ambitious and inspiring action in cities
- Allows cities around the world to learn from action happening elsewhere
- As a jury member this is a chance to be inspired about new and innovative solutions in cities
- As cities grow and climate impacts intensify, there is a growing need for cities to advance on the Sustainable Development Goals

