SmartCitiesWorld SUMMIT
Climate Action • Resilience • Innovation

In-person: 24 June 2026, London
Virtual Agenda: 22-26 June 2026

Summit 2026: Climate Agenda

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE | IN-PERSON DAY

9:25-9:30	**Welcome**
9:30-9:50	KEYNOTE: **The transformative power of local leadership** Cities sit at the front line of climate pressure, social need and technological change, yet they are also where the most agile, ambitious and people-centred solutions emerge. This keynote examines how local governments, working alongside communities and industry partners, can drive long-term transformation through grounded, place-based initiatives. It highlights how neighbourhood-scale action, iterative innovation and cross-sector collaboration can shape healthier, safer and more resilient urban systems. The session underscores why local leadership is indispensable for meeting national and global goals, and how city authorities can unlock sustained change even amid financial and political constraints.
09:50-10:10	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Powering net zero: aligning city energy plans with grid transformation** Cities cannot meet their net-zero ambitions without strong, coordinated partnerships with energy providers and network operators. This session explores how utilities, distribution system operators and local authorities can co-design pathways that balance electrification demand, expand flexibility services and modernise network infrastructure. It will highlight how cities can shape regulatory conversations, influence investment decisions and create shared planning frameworks that accelerate resilient, decarbonised energy systems.
10:10-11:00	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Portfolio financing for climate action: building investable pipelines across sectors** Cities are increasingly seeking funding models that move beyond isolated projects toward integrated, multi-sector investment portfolios. This session explores how local governments can package mitigation, adaptation, nature and resilience initiatives into coherent programmes that attract blended capital and unlock economies of scale. It will examine practical steps for reducing transaction friction, structuring risk, and collaborating with public finance institutions and private investors to accelerate climate action delivery.
11:00-11:40	**Networking break**
11:40-12:00	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Decarbonising mobility systems: integrating electrification, mode shift and logistics** Transport emissions remain one of the hardest challenges for cities, requiring coordinated action across public mobility, freight, infrastructure and urban planning. This session explores how cities can combine electrification, shared mobility, active travel and low-carbon logistics into a unified decarbonisation strategy. Speakers will examine the operational tools, regulatory levers and investment frameworks that help cities shift behaviour, modernise fleets and redesign streets for cleaner, more resilient mobility.
12:00-12:50	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Scaling building retrofits: driving delivery, data accuracy and performance assurance** Buildings represent one of the largest and most complex decarbonisation challenges for cities. This session explores how local authorities can scale retrofit delivery by improving data quality, strengthening supply chains and adopting digital tools that verify performance. It will delve into delivery models that align procurement, contractors and monitoring frameworks across neighbourhoods, helping cities accelerate upgrades while ensuring energy savings are real, measurable and long-lasting.

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12:50-13:10	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Whole-system transitions: aligning transport, energy, housing and planning** This session examines how cities, energy providers, transport authorities and housing partners can move from siloed strategies to integrated, whole-system delivery. It explores governance models that bring together planning, operations and investment so that infrastructure decisions reinforce one another rather than compete. The discussion focuses on practical mechanisms cities can use to convene partners, coordinate long-term forecasting and build shared accountability for net-zero outcomes.
13:10-14:00	**Lunch**
14:00-14:20	KEYNOTE: **Climate-ready development: embedding adaptation into urban growth strategies** This session examines how cities can embed climate resilience at the heart of urban growth, ensuring new housing, infrastructure and regeneration projects are designed for future risk. It explores how climate-risk zoning, strengthened adaptation requirements and resilience-led design standards can shape safer, more robust neighbourhoods. The discussion highlights how planners, developers and utilities can work together to reduce long-term exposure while supporting sustainable growth.
14:20-15:10	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Digital twins for climate-aware urban planning** This session explores how cities are using digital twins to model climate risks, optimise land use and test decarbonisation scenarios. It highlights the value of real-time data, scenario simulation and cross-agency dashboards in guiding evidence-based planning decisions. The discussion focuses on how immersive modelling can accelerate resilient, low-carbon development.
15:10-15:30	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Data foundations for climate delivery: from collection to integrated decision support** This session examines how cities can strengthen their climate-data infrastructure to support more accurate emissions reporting, risk modelling and investment planning. It highlights approaches for harmonising datasets across departments and external partners.
15:30-16:10	**Networking break**
16:10-16:30	FIRESIDE CHAT: **AI for urban climate action: integrating intelligence into planning, operations and resilience** Cities are increasingly turning to AI to strengthen climate planning, improve operational efficiency and support real-time decision-making. This session explores how municipal teams can responsibly adopt AI tools to enhance emissions tracking, optimise energy and mobility systems, and anticipate climate risks. It highlights practical steps for deployment, governance frameworks and approaches to ensure transparency, equity and public trust.
16:30-17:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Clean air cities: data, technology and policy pathways to healthier urban environments** Urban air quality remains one of the most immediate public-health challenges for cities. This session examines how local governments can combine monitoring technologies, regulatory levers and community engagement to drive down pollution. It explores integrated approaches connecting transport policy, building standards and industrial oversight, with a focus on equitable outcomes for vulnerable neighbourhoods.
17:20-17:30	WRAP UP: **Lessons and forward actions**

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11:55-12:45	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Building resilient cities: integrating climate, social, and infrastructure risks** This session examines why cities need to replace siloed risk planning with integrated resilience approaches that recognise how climate pressures, infrastructure systems and social conditions interact. Speakers will explore strategies that strengthen whole-city resilience, highlighting governance models, investment priorities and community-centred approaches capable of addressing multiple, compounding risks at once. The discussion will outline how city leaders can embed this thinking into daily operations and long-term planning.
12:45-13:10	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Adaptive infrastructure for a changing world** This session explores how cities can redesign and upgrade essential systems so they remain reliable under increasing climate pressures, operational shocks and evolving social needs. Speakers will discuss strategies for strengthening the resilience of transport, energy, water and digital networks, with a focus on future-ready design, redundancy, flexible operations and risk-informed investment. The panel will highlight how cities can balance long-term adaptation with the need to maintain continuity of service today.
13:10-14:10	**Lunch**
14:10-14:30	FIRESIDE CHAT: **From data to decisions: risk modelling for resilience planning** This panel examines how cities can turn growing volumes of climate, infrastructure and social data into actionable resilience strategies. It will explore the use of digital twins, forecasting tools, early-warning systems and scenario modelling to guide investment decisions, prioritise interventions and improve operational readiness. Speakers will discuss how to embed these tools into everyday planning while ensuring insights are trusted, timely and accessible across departments.
14:30-15:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Community-centred resilience: protecting vulnerable populations** This session explores how cities can place equity at the core of resilience planning by identifying the people and neighbourhoods most exposed to climate impacts, infrastructure disruptions and social stresses. Speakers will discuss approaches that strengthen local networks, improve access to essential services and ensure preparedness and recovery measures are shaped around community realities. The panel will highlight how inclusive engagement, partnerships and data can support more just and effective resilience outcomes.
15:20-15:40	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Financing resilience: unlocking long-term investment for adaptation** This panel focuses on how cities can secure the capital needed to strengthen infrastructure, safeguard communities and prepare for future shocks. The discussion will explore financial instruments such as resilience bonds, blended finance, insurance solutions and regional risk-pooling models. Speakers will examine how cities can quantify risk reduction, communicate long-term value and build investment cases that resonate with both public and private funders.
15:40-16:20	**Networking break**

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16:20-16:40	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Resilient utilities: safeguarding water, power, and digital systems** This panel examines how cities and utility operators can work together to protect the essential networks that sustain daily life. It will explore the vulnerabilities facing water, power and digital systems as climate risks intensify and cyber threats evolve, and will highlight strategies for strengthening infrastructure, securing operations and coordinating response. Speakers will discuss how shared planning, data integration and joint investment can increase reliability and reduce cascading failures across interconnected utility networks.
16:40-17:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: **The resilient city of the future: digital innovation meeting community needs** This panel explores how cities can harness digital technologies – such as AI, IoT, and data analytics – alongside social policy to enhance resilience. Speakers will discuss strategies for rapid adaptation, efficient recovery, and improving equity and safety for residents. The session highlights the integration of innovation and community-focused planning to create urban environments that are both smart and resilient.

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11:55-12:45	PANEL DISCUSSION: **AI for urban systems: technical integration for core services** Cities are moving from experimentation to real operational deployment of AI across transport, permitting, safety and infrastructure workflows. This session explores what it takes to integrate AI into core city systems, from traffic optimisation to automated inspections and digital permitting. It focuses on the practical steps needed to connect real-world data, edge processing and legacy systems while safeguarding reliability and public trust.
12:45-13:10	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Urban data architecture and interoperability** Effective climate, mobility and infrastructure strategies depend on data that flows seamlessly across city departments. This session examines how cities can build unified data architectures, APIs and governance models that break silos and unlock cross-sector insight. It explores both the technical frameworks and institutional agreements required to create actionable, secure and interoperable urban data ecosystems.
13:10-14:10	**Lunch**
14:10-14:30	FIRESIDE CHAT: **AI-enabled urban asset management: predictive maintenance at scale** As infrastructure ages and budgets tighten, cities are turning to AI-powered monitoring to extend asset life and reduce unplanned failures. This session explores how predictive models, condition-based alerts and automated inspections can strengthen maintenance programmes across roads, bridges, buildings and utilities. It highlights both the technical enablers and the organisational shifts required to embed AI into daily operations.
14:30-15:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: **Digital twins for infrastructure optimisation** Digital twins are becoming essential tools for planning, resilience, asset management and crisis response. This session looks at how cities can build and maintain asset-level and system-level models for utilities, transport and energy infrastructure. It examines the data foundations, modelling approaches and organisational capabilities needed to turn twins into operational decision tools.
15:20-15:40	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Data-driven buildings: intelligent controls for energy and operations** Public and commercial buildings offer significant potential for operational efficiency when paired with AI-enabled controls and sensor networks. This session explores how cities can deploy intelligent building systems to reduce energy use, optimise occupancy patterns and streamline facilities management.
15:40-16:20	**Networking break**

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16:20-16:40	FIRESIDE CHAT: **Digital public services 2.0: automated workflows and resident-first design** Cities are accelerating the shift from manual, paper-based processes to automated, intelligent public services. This session examines how workflow automation, conversational interfaces and identity platforms can streamline interactions from permitting to benefits administration. It focuses on reducing friction, improving accessibility and integrating services across departments.
16:40-17:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: **From pilot to platform: scaling digital innovation citywide** Many cities struggle to move beyond successful proofs of concept toward system-wide adoption. This session explores the organisational, procurement and leadership models that enable digital innovations to scale reliably across departments and districts. It focuses on building sustainable platforms, long-term funding frameworks and operational cultures that support continuous improvement.