10TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS

#Aalborg2024 programme teaser
# Conference snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>30 September</th>
<th>Day 1: Tuesday</th>
<th>1 October</th>
<th>Day 2: Wednesday</th>
<th>2 October</th>
<th>Day 3: Thursday</th>
<th>3 October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AALBORG SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ZERO Pathways Conference / side events</td>
<td>09:00-10:30 Opening &amp; Plenary 1</td>
<td>09:00-10:30 Plenary 3</td>
<td>coffee break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00-12:30 Deep Dives</td>
<td>11:00-12:30 Workshops</td>
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<td></td>
<td>lunch break</td>
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<td>14:00-15:30 Workshops and Mayors Session</td>
<td>14:00-15:30 Workshops</td>
<td>coffee break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:00-17:00 Plenary 2</td>
<td>16:00-17:00 Plenary 4</td>
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<td>18:30 Welcome reception</td>
<td>19:00 30 Years Celebration Dinner</td>
<td>19:00 A night out in Aalborg</td>
<td>09:00-13:00 Mobile workshops</td>
<td>lunch to go</td>
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Plenaries

Plenary 1
BREAKING THE SPIRAL OF INACTION

The clock is ticking! How much time do we have left, and why aren’t we moving faster?

The window for action to address urgent crises like climate change and biodiversity loss is closing. Are we ready to break free from the spiral of inaction? Now is the time for bold actions, immediate investments and addressing fears of overburdening among certain societal groups and individuals.

Join us for a plenary session that outlines the state of play and explores how to unlock and empower local governance in the democratic transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, equitable, and resilient Europe.

Speaker: Sandrine Dixson-Decleve (Co-President of Club of Rome)

Plenary 2
THE AALBORG CONDITIONS: NEW ERA, NEW CONDITIONS

Where do we come from? And where are we going?

Join us as we reflect on remarkable steps made and chart our course for the future. Prepare yourself as we explore the pivotal moments and impacts from the past 30 years. The European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns is returning to its roots, where it all began in 1994 with the groundbreaking Aalborg Charter.

Since then, we’ve witnessed monumental milestones like the Aalborg Commitments (2004) introducing local targets, the Basque Declaration (2016) promoting systemic change, and the Mannheim Message (2020) calling for Local Green Deals, each shaping the landscape of sustainability in cities. Whilst none of these documents have lost their relevance, the conditions for cities to continue navigating the transformation have evolved. Now is the time for the next steps.

What are the new ‘Aalborg Conditions’ and how can they be a catalyst for positive change guiding us forward? Find out in this plenary!

Speaker: Minna Arve (Mayor of Turku)

Plenary 3
GETTING THE FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS RIGHT

Who’s best at what? And how can we join forces?

Cities are pioneering ambitious climate and sustainability strategies, forging partnerships with businesses and civil society, and empowering local stakeholders to drive transformative change. Together, they’re not only transforming their communities but also creating markets for clean industries and fostering job growth while enhancing Europe’s resilience and competitiveness.

However, action remains patchy at best. The key to European wide transformation is a collective effort from all levels of government to overcome regulatory barriers and advance policies, funding programmes and actions that are tailored to local needs and realities. Can European institutions, national governments and cities co-create the optimal framework conditions?

Dive into discussions on fostering a robust and trusting collaboration and explore actionable changes at both national and EU levels that can truly make a difference.

Speaker: Minna Arve (Mayor of Turku)

Plenary 4
URBAN NARRATIVES UNLEASHED

EU’s Green Deal 2.0 Amidst Political Flux: Public discontent against the green transition is rising and populist movements are catalysing it.

Delve into the pivotal role of cities in working with key stakeholders and communicating Europe’s democratic shift towards climate neutrality and sustainability.

Listen to compelling narratives that connect with policymakers, businesses, and citizens, aligning sustainable urban initiatives with key political objectives like the economy, industrial policy, and human health. Additionally, acquire actionable insights to bolster the implementation of the EU’s Green Deal 2.0 and emphasise the advantages of sustainable urban development for economic growth, job creation, and social well-being.

Leave inspired to mobilise support and further push for sustainable development in a changing political landscape.

Speaker: Martin Horn (Mayor of Freiburg)
Deep Dives

Jump into the deep end: let’s tackle the big topics we need to systemically rethink in order to achieve our sustainability goals!

Deep Dive 1

**SHARED GOVERNANCE**

Common sustainability agenda!

Get ready to explore the potential of shared governance! Join us as we delve into the mechanics of multilevel governance and collaboration and the role it can play to effectively address society's most pressing challenges.

From national to local levels, discover how co-defining and re-defining legislation, and aligning targets, can ensure that policies, funding programmes and actions are more effective.

Speakers: Birgit S. Hansen (Mayor of Frederikshavn Municipality), Jakub Mazur (First Deputy Mayor of Wrocław)

Deep Dive 2

**INTEGRATED FINANCE**

More efficient, more private!

To transform their infrastructure and urban landscape towards climate neutrality and sustainability, cities need to make enormous investments.

We will delve into the crucial questions: what changes are needed in the public and private financing systems to mobilise and manage these investments? What is the potential of structural changes in the public financing system to overcome the fragmentation of investment funding and support programmes? How can we evolve from a practice of project financing into comprehensive and strategic financing frameworks? And what measures are required to significantly increase the share of private investments in this transformation?

Speaker: Niels Bang-Hansen (Head of Business Customers, DK)

Deep Dive 3

**COHESIVE TRANSITION**

More inclusion, more consensus!

How can local communities unite for change? What democratic strategies drive transformation? How can we counteract the simplistic, populist political messaging and reactions that are fuelled by misinformation?

Join us for a dynamic session focused on the vital role of societal cohesion in driving the transformation towards climate neutrality and sustainability. Let's dive deep into the benefits of modernising our societies! Together, we can empower citizens and communities through transparency and participation, ensuring a just and fair transition for all without additional bureaucracy.
Workshops

In our 30+ workshops, we will breakdown the Deep Dive topics to discuss the issues that cities are dealing with every day – with special attention to those relevant across departments and sectors.

Examples include:

- Driving climate action through the circular economy
- Local energy transitions & the building stock: from roadblock to driving force
- Resilience through the transformation of food systems
- Bridging digital divides for inclusive and resilient urban environments
- Local, regional, and national governments together for Climate Neutral Cities
- Joining forces with youth for climate action
- Diving into the Urban Greening Plan Framework
- The Future of heating & cooling in cities

- Accelerating climate action through city-business collaboration
- Creating healthy cities
- Financing and investment solutions for climate resilience
- Unlocking the economic potential of a nature positive economy
- The role of Local Green Deals in the recovery of Ukrainian cities and towns
- Better together: local governments and communities collaborating for just, resilient cities
- Renovation of public buildings: from aesthetics to high performance
- Powering RES and Sustainable Waste Management
- ...
Mobile Workshops

Urban transformation through sustainable public transport
- Tour through the city and hop on board the Bus Rapid Transportation system (BRT).

Innovating the local food system
- Experience Aalborg via a 3-stop journey of its sustainable food system – from farm to fork.

Using nature to support climate goals
- Explore nature conservation and climate mitigation through the bogs and willow fields of Aalborg.

Lowering climate footprint from constructions through Local Green Deals
- Visit local construction sites and learn about emission free work machines and sustainable buildings.

Hydrogen – the corner stone of Power to X products
- Get a glimpse of Denmark’s hydrogen production at ‘Hydrogen Valley’ and stop by two gas storage facilities.

Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage in Aalborg
- Become enlightened on the carbon capture technology at Aalborg Portland and learn about the Port of Aalborg’s role in carbon and storage potentials.

District heating/cooling and CCUS at Aalborg Utility and Nordværk
- Learn about the supply of energy in Aalborg, utilization of its surplus heat, and plans for production of e-fuels for the aviation sector.

GreenLab Industrial Symbiosis Park – home of tomorrow’s green technologies
- Experience the technology needed to reach Denmark’s goal of quadrupling offshore renewable energy production by 2030 at Østerild Test Center.

Utilization and circulation of resources
- Discover how local, green, and circular companies work together on sustainable energy and transform it into heat, e-fuels, and other green products.

Kickstart Aalborg East: New European Bauhaus
- Learn how circular economy is put into practice at the local waste management company Nordværk and how resources are circulated at the socio-economic company Råt & Godt.

District heating/cooling and CCUS at Aalborg Utility and Nordværk
- Experience the supply of energy in Aalborg, utilization of its surplus heat, and plans for production of e-fuels for the aviation sector.

Veterans in the blue and green structure of the city center and solve climate challenges.
- Listen to the story of Aalborg’s central waterfront and how it has developed from industrial sites to livable urban spaces for all.

Kickstart Aalborg East: New European Bauhaus
- See how Aalborg is transforming a vulnerable neighborhood into a winning project.

Stigsborg – state of the art city planning of a new urban district
- Dive into one of Denmark’s largest coastal urban transformation projects and see how it’s focusing on sustainable construction, mobility, and climate adaptation.
**Fees**

The registration fee includes:

- admission to the conference
- participation in all sessions, including Mobile Workshops
- lunches, coffee breaks, evening events (incl. conference dinner)
- conference materials

Unsure which fee applies to you? Get in touch: aalborg2024@iclei.org

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<tr>
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<th>Early bird until 30 June 2024</th>
<th>Regular until 31 August 2024</th>
<th>Late from 1 September 2024</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participant from public sector / NGO / non-profit</td>
<td>560 €</td>
<td>660 €</td>
<td>710 €</td>
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<td>Participant from private sector</td>
<td>860 €</td>
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<td>ICLEI Members and Partner fee</td>
<td>485 €</td>
<td>585 €</td>
<td>635 €</td>
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<td>Student Fee (a total of 150 student tickets are available)</td>
<td>135 €</td>
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<td>Delegations of 5+ participants from same organisation – public sector</td>
<td>460 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delegations of 5+ participants from same organisation – private sector</td>
<td>760 €</td>
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Show off what you've got: become an exhibitor

Want to promote your project or organisation? Book a booth in our exhibition space! Get in touch with us for more information: aalborg2024@iclei.org