



URBAN POWER



PARTICIPATING CITIES

Cali, Colombia; Cape Town, South Africa; Lagos, Nigeria; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and others

ENERGY RESILIENCE IN CITIES

Achieving urban resilience means designing systems that not only secure cities against future shocks and stresses, but work to redress urban inequity. For our energy systems, this means shaping networks that anticipate future challenges while eliminating gaps in energy distribution and provision.

Today, over 55% of city-dwellers worldwide live in slum-like conditions, experiencing regular electricity outages or lacking electricity access altogether. With urban areas expected to grow by an estimated 2 billion residents by 2050, cities must act quickly to broach gaps in energy access. As cities account for 70% of global emissions, they must also urgently ramp up their efforts to secure a resilient, renewable energy focused recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and a climate-safe future.

URBAN POWER

Cities currently lack the knowledge, data, tools, and partnerships needed to identify, assess, and develop projects that have the potential to reduce carbon emissions and ensure the resilience and equity of urban energy systems. We believe that helping cities enhance their capacity to respond to shocks and stresses while managing the shift to an inclusive, low-carbon economy will be a powerful driver in creating green jobs, promoting social justice and eradicating poverty. Thus, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation via the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and S&P Global Foundation, Urban Power is building assessment and project development tools and working with cities to develop energy projects that help them achieve a green and just energy transition, reach their net-zero ambitions, and deliver multiple resilience co-benefits.

Urban Power will support cities by:

- **Developing assessment and project development tools** to support cities in identifying the vulnerabilities in their energy systems
- **Identifying and adopting renewable energy solutions** appropriate to the local context;
- **Overcoming barriers to the implementation of low-carbon energy solutions**, including financial constraints, lack of technical capacity or insufficient resources;
- **Bringing together key actors in the energy sector** including vulnerable communities, decision makers, industry actors, financial institutions and private sector investors;
- **Working to increase energy-related investment** and help cities translate these investments into long-term socio-economic gains for city dwellers; and
- **Developing materials to guide cities to incorporate an equity perspective in their energy transition projects.**

OUR APPROACH

Under Urban Power, R-Cities will develop a variety of tools, knowledge products and processes to be implemented in and shared throughout the R-Cities network. Our three pronged approach is :

1. Empowering cities through the PowerXChange Series

The PowerxChange series will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange around critical energy themes, creating a community of practice in which cities will be able to ideate around key energy resilience issues. This series will provide a curated platform for peer-exchange between urban actors as well as the opportunity for cities to learn from leading professionals in the energy resilience field.

2. Implementing tools that help cities apply a resilience and equity lens to their energy systems

● **City Energy Resilience Framework**

Based on our City Resilience Framework, we are developing the City Energy Resilience Framework that will allow cities to apply a resilience lens to their capital portfolio and support their decarbonization goals. The framework will support cities that are both in the process of designing a new resilience strategy and/or cities that are currently developing their net-zero approach to identify and develop projects with increased resilience value and emission reduction potential.

● **Resilient Infrastructure Diversity and Equity (RIDE) Scorecard**

The RIDE scorecard (beta version) was developed to support cities in project development of climate-ready infrastructure in a way that centers equity and creates jobs. It recognizes that resilience infrastructure is a critical element of municipal services and must be designed to increase the resilience capacity of communities. We are developing a working version of the tool that will be directly applicable to strengthen projects aimed at accelerating a just energy transition.

These tools and solutions will be co-developed with the cities of Cali, Colombia, Cape Town, South Africa, Lagos, Nigeria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The cities will test the tools in partnership with additional member cities from the Network and technical partners, to ensure they are responsive to city needs, aligned with their resilience practice and work to support their current portfolio of projects.

3. Mobilizing investment for energy projects that yield multiple co-benefits

In partnership with four anchor cities in Latin America & the Caribbean and Africa we are working to develop and design city-specific renewable energy solutions through a three-phases process. These phases include:

● **Phase 1: Data gathering and analysis**

Each program city will produce a City Energy Profile and Gap Assessment which will identify the critical shocks and stresses impacting local urban energy systems as well as barriers to extending energy access and integrating low-carbon energy production. By utilizing the expertise of local implementation partners, cities will be able to develop a comprehensive understanding of their unique energy context and identify opportunities for project development.

● **Phase 2: Design Sprints**

The Design Sprint will facilitate dialogue between city actors and enable them to expose existing bottlenecks to energy capacity and provision expansion. By convening key decision-makers, financiers, and energy experts, cities will be able to develop and refine renewable energy projects that deliver multiple benefits to the urban environment. Cities will be able to utilize curated resilience tools to address the challenges outlined in Phase 1 of the program, and the design sprint will identify opportunities to build out, scale or leverage existing projects, and develop new services, tools, approaches, activities, and products

● **Phase 3: Renewable Energy Project Acceleration**

In this phase, R-Cities will begin the project preparation process, working with our anchor cities to further develop a number of renewable energy projects identified in the previous phase. To leverage the maximum potential for project financing, the program team will link project development to suitable Project Preparation Facilities to increase program viability and impact on the ground.



WHO WE ARE

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) is the world's leading urban resilience network. R-Cities bring together global knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower members to build safe and equitable cities for all. In over 40 countries around the world, R-Cities works with its 97 members to scale resilience and investments in vulnerable communities and to rethink critical urban systems.

OUR PARTNERS



S&P Global Foundation