

ICLEI welcomes the EU's efforts to foster a just transition



ICLEI welcomes the EU's increasing efforts to foster just transitions, as demonstrated in the EU Green Deal, the EU Pillar of Social Rights and the Porto Declaration.

These are timely developments given the increasing scope and speed of transformation required, which carries with it the risk to exacerbate existing patterns of inequality and exclusion, or to create new ones.

For transitions to be effective, people need to support them and to feel supported by them. In other words, the EU's flagship policies must combine social, economic and environmental dimensions in ways that leave no one behind.

Cities need to lead the just transition

They can do so by:

- Addressing environmental and social issues in concert rather than in isolation;
- Equitably distributing the costs and benefits of ambitious sustainability action;
- Providing for the wellbeing of all inhabitants within the planet's boundaries.

ICLEI's commitments to sustainable & just cities

Globally, ICLEI's [Equitable and People-Centred Development Pathway](#) seeks to foster just, liveable, happy and inclusive urban communities by addressing the systemic causes of poverty and inequality, and safeguarding the natural support systems for human life.

In Europe, ICLEI builds on the [Basque Declaration](#), which outlines pathways for productive, sustainable and resilient cities for a liveable and inclusive Europe, and the [Mannheim Message](#), which responds to the EU Green Deal and calls for systemic changes to bring about a resilient, inclusive and sustainable Europe. These resources strongly support the European Green Deal, while emphasising inclusion and affordability.

Call to Action

Efforts to foster just transitions require the full support of all societal actors across all levels of governance. The EU in its leadership role must support the local level by:

- ★ Supporting and funding Local Green Deals.
- ★ Integrating the EU Pillar of Social Rights and the EU Green Deal.
- ★ Expanding its definition of just transition from a focus on carbon intensity to a broader vision for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable society.

ICLEI is leading social justice and equity projects including **UrbanA - Urban Arenas for Sustainable and Just Cities**.

UrbanA is a Horizon 2020-funded project that synthesises and brokers knowledge for sustainable and just cities generated by prior research and innovation projects, and translates this into action.

Key Results:

- ★ [More than 30 approaches to make cities sustainable and just](#)
- ★ [10 drivers of urban injustice in the context of sustainability](#)
- ★ [Governance arrangements to activate sustainable and just cities](#)

ICLEI Europe's flagship initiatives

ICLEI Europe is engaged in:

- **Localising the EU Green Deal through Local Green Deals**, which aim to bring diverse city actors together to deliberate and participate in the shaping of sustainable and just agendas for their cities.
- **Synthesising solutions for sustainable and just cities** through a number of projects, which engage diverse urban stakeholders.
- **Establishing principles** with European partners to guide EU policy-making on sustainable urban development (to be launched in the autumn of 2021).

More broadly, ICLEI Europe has launched a new work stream on social justice and equity. This means that we have a dedicated team of staff driving justice and equity work forward through projects, and in close collaboration with our Members.

Join us for sustainable and just cities

Efforts to foster just transitions require the full support of all societal actors across all levels of governance. In this statement, ICLEI has called for three clear actions from the EU level. We furthermore invite our Members, partners, other cities and regions, and all those who support this vision to join us in the following ways:

- ✪ **Endorse** the Mannheim Message.
- ✪ **Localise** the EU Green Deal in your own community by implementing a Local Green Deal.
- ✪ **Learn** from peers: engage with networks like ICLEI to discover and replicate best practices in cities across Europe.
- ✪ **Advocate** for justice throughout your sustainability work.

Connect with us:

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ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI Europe provides its 160+ members in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and West Asia with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and national and international partners on a broad range of topics.

This paper reflects the position of the ICLEI Europe network of Local and Regional governments as a whole, and may not reflect the position of every Member individually.

