

# Ensuring that sustainability goes hand-in-hand with social equity & justice

Each facet of sustainable urban development needs to be just, ensuring equitable access to our limited resources, and ‘leaving no one behind’. This is critical for a number of reasons, including to gain community support and acceptance. It thus follows that transitions towards sustainable cities must be governed and organised with justice always at the forefront.

ICLEI Europe supports cities to integrate social equity and justice across their plans and policies. This includes working with local leaders to consider equity and social justice across all sectors through the development and implementation of Local Green Deals.



ICLEI aims to work with our vast network of local leaders to ensure that phasing out fossil fuels and reducing the consumption of natural resources is organised in a just and equitable way for all.

We support cities to develop and implement Local Green Deals, which help speed-up integration of social equity and justice into cross-sectoral plans and policies. This includes fostering the skills and capacities needed to usher-in just transition locally.

Zooming in on specific sectors, ICLEI works to ensure that energy transition is driven by communities, is just for all, and fights energy poverty. Its longstanding sustainable procurement network trains public buyers to leverage their procurement of goods and services so that these purchases contribute to socially-responsible supply chains.

And, its projects help connect funders and researchers to grass-roots community groups that are building more sustainable and just communities across Europe.

*“Transitions will never be sustainable – able to be sustained long-term – unless they account for vulnerable groups. Plus, ensuring that cities are just is simply the right thing to do, and even a moral obligation.”*

**Tom Meeuws,**  
Vice-Mayor,  
Antwerp  
(Belgium)



## ICLEI'S STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT

- ✦ ICLEI Europe is a member of the [European Alliance for a Just Transition](#), joining forces with about 30 other Alliance members to “call for immediate, bold, and transformative action... to build a sustainable and safe future for all.”
- ✦ ICLEI Europe is a member of [ECOLISE](#), the European Network for Community Led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability which include justice in its core approach.

## IMPACT

**Supporting cities in implementing the European Green Deal** through participatory processes, for example in the [Fair Local Green Deal](#) project.

Supporting a growing community through **peer learning opportunities and micro-grants**, including in the [UrbanCommunity](#) project.

**Taking part in an ever-growing number of research and innovation projects** on how to include vulnerable groups in just transition. Get a glimpse at just two of those projects: [ACCTING](#) and [EC<sup>2</sup>](#).



## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✦ Sign up to receive ad hoc email updates from [ICLEI's Sustainable and Just Cities newsletter](#).
- ✦ Join our events on sustainable and just cities, including Community Conversations. We share registration information on the Sustainable and Just Cities social media channels, primarily: [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- ✦ Learn from and connect to more than 2500 local and regional governments worldwide who work on social equity and justice. Sign up to become an ICLEI Member!

## RESOURCES

- ✦ Make use of an [ICLEI guidance document](#), which helps cities implement Local Green Deals, and spells-out how such a process complements City Climate Contracts.
- ✦ Unlock the keys to a sustainable just city: <https://sustainablejustcities.eu/keys>.
- ✦ Learn how city-makers from across Europe are creating more sustainable, just cities in practice by watching the [recordings of our Community Conversations](#).

## Connect with us:

- ✉ [JustTransition-Europe@iclei.org](mailto:JustTransition-Europe@iclei.org)
- 🌐 [www.iclei-europe.org/topics/social-equity-justice](http://www.iclei-europe.org/topics/social-equity-justice)
- 🐦 [twitter.com/ICLEI\\_Europe](https://twitter.com/ICLEI_Europe)



## ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.