



Urban Challenges

The city-driven approach to innovation

Climate-KIC's Urban Challenge programme helps our city partners to define the challenges they face, for entrepreneurs to respond to these challenges at a competitive innovation pitch event, and for solutions to be tested and implemented to meet real world needs.



Climate-KIC is supported by the
EIT, a body of the European Union



When it comes to climate change, cities and metropolitan regions are key actors. Climate change and the demands of booming urban populations pose major challenges for infrastructure, buildings, energy supply, water systems and drainage, sanitation, waste management, housing and mobility. Cities need to be able to deal with climate risks and impacts and move to more sustainable, zero-carbon and resilient 'circular' pathways.

Climate-KIC's Urban Challenge programme supports cities to turn these challenges into innovation opportunities.

The Urban Challenge process

The Urban Challenge is divided into two phases:

Phase I – Define challenges and identify solutions:

1. Identifying project objective and challenge areas
2. Identification of solutions
3. Innovation boot camp
4. Match making event

Phase II (optional) – Test and implement solutions:

1. Technical due diligence
2. Implementation roadmap of the solution
3. Pilot the solution
4. Launch of solution

Success story City of Copenhagen

Being part of open innovation processes is important and inevitable for cities today. The technical development is moving very fast and as a municipality we have the possibility and responsibility to actually create real change and co-develop green solutions in close collaboration with start-ups, universities and our citizens.

Per Boesgaard – Coordinator of partnerships & innovations, Climate Unit, City of Copenhagen

Climate-KIC support

Climate-KIC can support you by providing assistance with the following activities:

- Articulating the urban challenge(s) your city faces
- Running an open innovation call
- Sourcing solutions that are innovative and scalable from across Europe and beyond
- Preselecting a final list of solution providers and prepare them for pitching their solutions for your challenges
- Providing transparent and expert assessment of solution providers
- Organising a pitching event
- Seizing PR and branding opportunities

Contact information

If you would like to receive more information or if you want to join our programme, please contact Urban Transitions (urban.theme@climate-kic.org) or visit: climate-kic.org/themes/urban-transitions/