



3rd OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth

How can smart cities boost the net-zero transition?

3 JULY 2023

OECD Headquarters, Paris

9:30-18:00 (Hybrid)



About this meeting

Global warming may reach 1.5 C as early as 2030 at current greenhouse gas emission trajectories, with climate change impacts worsening as emissions continue to increase. Reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 has become an imperative to reach the Paris Agreement target. Cities have a pivotal role to play in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Cities are home to almost half of the global population, account for around two-thirds of global energy demand and generate 70% of energy-related global CO₂ emissions. These shares will only increase over the coming decades as the share of the global population living in cities is expected to reach 55% by 2050. Cities are also at the forefront of implementing ambitious climate action, with many adopting more ambitious targets than their national governments.

Smart cities represent a key opportunity to help cities reach their climate objectives and drive the global net-zero transition. While digital innovation and new technologies can foster considerable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across many urban sectors, such as buildings and transports, their take-up or impacts on emission reduction have so far remained limited. The implementation of smart city initiatives can also bring challenges and risks, such as risks to data privacy and security, but also importantly create environmental negative externalities. **How can smart city initiatives boost the net-zero transition? What can national and local governments do to leverage smart city solutions more effectively and navigate potential risks? How can the contribution of smart cities to the net-zero transition be measured?**

The [OECD Programme on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth](#) seeks to support national and local governments by promoting knowledge exchange and by providing recommendations to help leverage digitalisation and new technologies to foster inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities. The [1st OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth](#) (2019) emphasised that smart cities are a means to an end to improve well-being for all, and that a wide range of stakeholders including national governments, the private sector, academia and citizens, play a crucial role in implementing smart city initiatives. The [2nd edition of the Roundtable](#) (2020) focused on how the performance of smart cities can be measured. Based on the discussions, the OECD proposed the [OECD Smart City Measurement Framework](#) which aims to assess not only the degree of digitalisation in cities, but also the level of stakeholders' engagement and how both contribute to improving the well-being of all urban residents and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. It provides policy makers with a comprehensive, multi-dimensional and flexible tool that can be adapted to different city contexts.

This [3rd edition of the OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth](#) will build on previous achievements, and bring key stakeholders from cities, national governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organisations to:

- **Share** the innovative solutions smart cities have implemented to reach their net-zero objectives
- **Understand** the risks and barriers hindering the roll-out of smart city initiatives to boost the net-zero transition
- **Identify** the enabling factors that can help smart cities meet their net-zero objectives
- **Advance** the strengthening of the net-zero objective in the OECD Smart City Measurement Framework

AGENDA

3 July 2023 | 9:30-18:00 CET
 OECD Headquarters Paris (CC6) | Hybrid

09:00 – 09:30	Registration Welcome coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Opening remarks
10:00 – 11:45	<p>Session I: Smart cities and the net-zero transition: How can smart city initiatives boost the net-zero transition?</p> <p>Cities are at the forefront of climate action and play a pivotal role in achieving net zero by 2050. Many cities around the globe have set net-zero objectives. How are new technologies helping cities reach their net-zero targets?</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can smart city initiatives help cities reach net-zero objectives and become climate neutral? • What is the share of carbon emissions by sector in areas such as buildings, energy, and transport in cities? What are the areas with the largest potential for each sector? • What are the limitations or negative side effects of smart cities initiatives, and how can they be overcome?
11:45 – 12:15	Family photo
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session II: Enabling factors for smart cities to meet their net-zero objectives</p> <p>While many smart city initiatives can help cities meet their net-zero objectives, their take-up or impacts have sometimes remained limited. Furthermore, the implementation of smart city tools can come with challenges and risks. What can national and subnational governments do to further the use of smart city solutions and ensure that they help cities reach their net-zero objectives?</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to build the technical and financial capacity of cities to implement smart city initiatives that contribute to the net-zero transition? • What kind of partnerships between tiers of government and with various stakeholders, such as the private sector, academia and citizens, are needed? • How to identify and manage trade-offs and protect citizens' privacy?
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Session III: How to measure the contribution of smart cities towards net-zero objectives?</p> <p>The extent to which smart cities contribute to net zero objectives needs to be properly assessed. Measuring the performance of smart cities towards net-zero objectives is critical to deliver policies that are grounded in evidence, track progress vis-à-vis their goals and adjust them for greater effectiveness.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to measure the contribution of smart cities towards net-zero objectives, and what indicators should the OECD smart city measurement framework include? • What type of challenges can cities meet in measuring the contribution of smart cities towards net-zero objectives, and how best to overcome them? • How could the measurement framework be implemented in practice?
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Session IV: Shaping the way forward for sustainable smart cities: next steps for the Programme on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth</p>
18:00 – 19:30	<p>Cocktail</p>

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Registration application

Your application to register at the conference can be submitted at: <https://forms.office.com/e/iAhDHqyAKw>. Kindly note that the Secretariat will review all requests and provide a confirmation of the registration afterwards. Registration deadline is **26 June 2023**.

Conference venue

The entrance is located at **2, rue André Pascal – 75016 Paris**

More information at: <https://www.oecd.org/conference-centre/>

Contacts

Hyunjoon Cho | Senior Policy Analyst, Project Coordinator
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
Hyunjoon.CHO@oecd.org

Andrés Fuentes Hutfilter | Head of Environmental and Land Use Economics Unit,
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
Andres.FUENTES@oecd.org

Rene Peter Hohmann | Senior Economist,
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
Rene.HOHMANN@oecd.org

Camille Viros | Economist/Policy Analyst,
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
Camille.VIROS@oecd.org

About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

Website: www.oecd.org/cfe **Twitter:** @OECD_local #SmartCities