Workshop: Building systemic climate resilience in cities

7 July 2022 | 13:30-16:30 CEST | Online (Zoom webinar)

■ Background

Climate change is an ongoing, non-linear systemic challenge that manifests itself in different ways on a number of dimensions, including time, space and the extent of their consequences. Climate phenomena range from rapid onset events (e.g. floods and storms) to medium-term events (e.g. drought, loss of ecosystems and species) and longer-term tipping points in the earth system (e.g. sea-level rise, ocean acidification). The complex and interconnected nature of climate events means that failures in individual elements can result in a cascade of failures in social, economic and environmental systems. Adopting a "systems approach" is therefore essential to help promote cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary collaboration in the process of policy formulation, taking into account the linkages between issues generally treated separately within different specialisations and scientific and institutional "silos".

The systems approach to climate shocks is even more relevant at the city scale. Cities are places of concern due to the increased exposure to risk, but are also places of opportunities and solution. They play a pivotal role in climate action and national governments should enable and support local action.

This workshop will bring together researchers, national and local governments and OECD experts to exchange experiences on leading practices to build systemic resilience in cities. It is organised by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) in collaboration with the OECD Environmental Directorate (ENV). It is part of the *OECD Horizontal Project on Building Climate and Economic Resilience in the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy*.

■ How to join

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K6yIP_LQSkiMscQZUPdQrg

■ Contact

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■ Preliminary agenda

13:30-13:40	**Opening remarks**
	Soo-Jin Kim, Acting Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD
13:40-13:50	**Setting the scene: Underlining the urgency and transformative role of cities for building systemic climate resilience in cities**
PRESENTER	**Tadashi Matsumoto,** Head of Sustainable Development and Global Relations Unit, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD
13:50-14:35	**Session 1: Understanding and addressing complex and systemic risks in cities**
	The first session aims to better understand complex climate risks in cities, including asymmetric impacts across places and people, and to discuss how to address them. Although significant progress has been made in adopting risk assessment frameworks in cities, there is still a lack of understanding of the direct, indirect, cascading and compound impacts of climate change, keeping most cities 'unprepared'. More comprehensive risk assessments that consider complex and systemic climate risks in cities can help increase preparedness, to which, in turn, can enhance climate resilience in cities. Systemic resilience in cities also means better understanding of asymmetric impacts across urban residents and well-designed frameworks to address their specific needs. The geographical scale is critical in designing policy frameworks that apply a systems approach, since climate shocks hit differently across places and people.
PRESENTERS	**Mark Pelling**, King's College London **Mauricio Rodas**, Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania; Senior Fellow, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center; and Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador **Anna Brown**, Founder and Principal, Aequita Consulting LLC
DISCUSSANT	**Paolo Veneri**, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Statistics and Territorial Analysis Unit, Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division, CFE, OECD
MODERATOR	**Catherine Gamper**, Co-ordinator of the OECD Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation, Environment Directorate, OECD
14:35–14:45	**Break**
14:45–14:50	**Interactive poll**
	A couple of questions will be asked on-line to exchange with the audience and collect their views on building systemic resilience in cities.
14:50–15:35	**Session 2: Synergies and co-benefits with other systems in cities**
	The second session will explore effective policy strategies and instruments to build systemic resilience in cities, with a focus on climate actions to achieve multiple urban policy objectives across systems. Climate resilient development is a key concept to generate synergies and co-benefits, rather than trade-offs. Nature-based solutions in cities can lay the groundwork for greater systemic resilience to extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding, address water scarcity and water security, while reducing carbon emissions and producing a number of well-being and environmental co-benefits. Green rooftops defuse humidity, help cool buildings faster and lower energy bills. Urban green space may also serve as a home for some animal species, including endangered ones. Green recovery strategies from the COVID-19 pandemic offer a unique opportunity to align their investment with climate goals and use it for transformative adaptation in cities.
PRESENTERS	**Aromar Revi,** Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements **Yann Francoise**, Deputy director and Head of the Climate Department, Paris Climate and Ecological Transition Directorate **Lina Liakou,** Regional Director, Europe and Middle East, Resilient Cities Network
DISCUSSANT	**Oriana Romano**, Head of Water Governance and Circular Economy Unit, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD
MODERATOR	**Jose Enrique Garcilazo,** Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, CFE, OECD

15:35–16:20	**Session 3: Co-ordination and engagement among diverse urban actors**
	The third session will focus on multi-governance coordination and engagement of diverse multi-level actors for systemic climate resilience. Diverse urban actors – not only governments, but also the private sector, the civil society, local communities, etc. – play a role in the complex interaction of climate and other economic, social and health systems. This is why vertical and horizontal co-ordination is particularly required. For example, a lack of vertical policy coherence may obstruct the implementation of national policy frameworks at the local level. At metropolitan scale, co-ordination among municipalities within functional urban areas is crucial to leverage the spatial continuity and functional relationships to bridging climate objectives into territorial planning and development. Engaging economically and socially vulnerable and marginalised populations from the earlier stages of climate risk assessment and policy design will help ensure targeted support to specific needs of the population. Engaging them will also help ensure inclusiveness and encourage a broader culture of disaster risk management.
PRESENTERS	**Eugenie L. Birch**, Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Weitzman School of Design, and co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania
	Tennille Parker, Director of Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States
	David Jacome-Polit, Senior Officer Resilient Development, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
DISCUSSANT	**Isabelle Chatry**, Head of Unit Decentralisation, Subnational Government Finance and Infrastructure, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, CFE, OECD
MODERATOR	**Catherine Anderson,** Team Lead, Governance for Development, the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
16:20-16:30	**Conclusions and closing remarks**
	Andrew Prag, Senior Advisor, Environment Directorate, OECD