



Ciudades Bajas en **Carbono** | **Low Carbon City** Forum

Call for Proposals for the First Low Carbon City International Forum

Deadline for proposals: 20 June, 2016

The Low Carbon City Forum

Cities are the drivers of economic development and the major emitters of **GreenHouse Gases (GHG)**, which is why they are the proper place to start implementing low carbon policies with different sectoral approaches, through the participation of all kind of stakeholders.

Inspired by the new sustainable development agenda and by the challenges cities face to reduce their **GHG** emissions, the first Low Carbon City Forum will be held in Medellin, Colombia in October 2016. It will be the first world forum led by citizens, aimed to raise awareness, spread knowledge and promote innovative solutions for Low Carbon Cities. It will be a meeting point for citizens, politicians, academics, entrepreneurs, policy makers, urban leaders and change-makers from all over the world.

Participate in the Low Carbon City Forum!

The Low Carbon City Forum will be an exciting opportunity for sharing your work and knowledge about transitioning towards a Low Carbon City. The Forum will be a venue to learn from and develop new ideas with other participants.

The Low Carbon City Forum is an inclusive forum that seeks participation from a diverse group of stakeholders that are all highly relevant for transitioning towards a Low Carbon City. The event will feature lateral thinking, celebrate creative approaches and initiate innovative solutions.

We are inviting you to submit your proposal and become an active participant of the Low Carbon City Forum. Citizens and change-makers from all sectors and disciplines are welcome to submit their proposals for the program of the Low Carbon City Forum.

The main languages at the Low Carbon City Forum are Spanish and English. For your abstract and contribution you can choose either language.

Themes for the Low Carbon City Forum

The themes for the Low Carbon City Forum show the wide range of work that will have to be done for a low carbon transition. The themes should inspire and encourage creative approaches

for the transition towards a low carbon urban future. They are not exhaustive so if you have an idea that is not described in text or keywords please do not hesitate to submit! For your submission you can choose up to two themes as categories for your proposal so we are able to build the program for the Low Carbon City Forum.

You are invited to actively participate in the agenda by submitting your proposal or idea for a Low Carbon City for up to two of the following thematic categories.

- **Renewable Energy**

- We live in a world that is greatly powered by fossil fuels. In 2012 only about 13.2 percent of the worldwide primary energy use came from renewable sources. If we want to combat climate change and the negative impacts of a fossil energy system, we need to transition our energy system away from fossil-fuels towards renewable energy. The future for renewable energy is predicted to be bright. According to some studies we could already power the worldwide total primary energy use from renewables. What is lacking is political will and the right societal cooperation to organise the energy transition. Yet, will that change be fast enough to be safe from seriously negative climate change impacts and resource depletion? The problem we still face is to mainstream the right technologies and to organize energy production in a more distributed and equitable way. It will be the citizens in cities across the globe who can demand and help to create the transition of our energy system.
- **This category welcomes - amongst others - submissions that show established and innovative pathways for renewable energy production. Such solutions do include technologies, but also new forms of organisation and ownership to integrate renewable energy generation in our cities. We are also looking for clever strategies for how citizens can drive the transition towards renewable energy from the bottom-up.**
- Keywords: renewables, energy, post carbon, peak oil, energy transition, energy equity, solar power, wind power, hydropower, citizen solar power plant, fossil-fuel divestment

- **Food and Agriculture**

- The production and distribution of food contributes significantly to our carbon footprint and climate change. Between 20 to 24 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions are from agriculture, forestry and other land uses. At the same time diets around the world are getting more meat-intensive which implies more greenhouse gas emissions and in many cases also poorer public health. While the richer portion of the global population is wasting increasing amounts of food we face the problem that climate change is starting to threaten the productivity of soils. If combined, the total global food waste would be the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions after the United States and China. Each year a total of 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted, enough to feed all the undernourished people in the world twice. How can we transition towards a healthier and less energy-intensive food supply that is more regional and less detrimental for the global ecosystem?

- **This category welcomes - amongst others - submissions that show how we can grow our food and design our diets in a way that is more climate-friendly and helps to reduce our carbon footprints. We seek strategies for producing and distributing food in a more localized way, healthy diets that use significantly less meat, projects for how to reduce food waste or initiatives that use food and agriculture for a healthy relationship between the city and its surroundings.**
- Keywords: food, agriculture, nutrition, climate justice, subsistence farming, urban agriculture, food safety, public health,
- **Circular Economy**
 - Much of our world's economic system is based on a model of linear growth consuming natural resources while leaving waste and pollution as external costs to the environment. Our society's pattern is basically "We buy and throw away", as Severn Cullis Suzuki said at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. In a world constrained by climate change and resource depletion the only way forward towards prosperity for all is to shift towards a circular economy model with truly sustainable businesses that manage limited resources well. The world produces incredible amounts of waste: 2 billion tonnes per year of municipal solid waste and between 7-10 billion tonnes of 'urban' solid waste from households, commerce, industry and construction. Currently about 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from household and municipal waste. And these quantities are likely to increase. It is projected that lower income cities in Africa and Asia will double their municipal solid waste generation within the next 15-20 years. How can we transition into a low carbon world in which a circular economy consumes much less resources, reuses materials in closed-loop systems, integrates recycling and second-life usage as industry standards and where collaborative use of assets is celebrated for efficiency?
 - **This category welcomes - amongst others - proposal aimed at moving from a linear to a circular economy such as efficient prevention and management of waste, the re-use of materials for production processes, solutions that contribute to minimizing the generation and maximize the recovery of municipal waste as well as special waste and hazardous waste management. Share your innovative and truly sustainable business idea, product, campaign or investment strategy to make a circular economy without waste and emissions a reality!**
 - Keywords: circular economy, prosperity, quality of life, Sustainable Development Goals, poverty, climate justice, social justice, natural resources, human resources, externalities, closed loop system, waste management, recycling, corporate social responsibility, sharing economy
- **Transport and Mobility**
 - We all are mobile, want to stay mobile and are moving an increasing amount of distance per person per year. Our personal mobility and the transport of goods that we consume every day is causing a huge carbon footprint. The transport sector currently represents 23% of total global greenhouse gas emissions and is

at this time still almost totally dependent on fossil fuels (96%) while it accounts for almost 60% of global oil use. Therefore the way we move us and the things around us bears a great potential for building a Low Carbon City. How can we still be mobile while using very little to no fossil fuels for it? This future of transport and our new mobility culture will bring new qualities of life, make us walk and cycle more in our cities, make us appreciate local produce and efficient logistics. We may also ask if we need to make each trip with an aeroplane but rather promote the use of public transport and long-distance low carbon forms of travel.

- **This category welcomes - amongst others - submissions that show how transport and mobility can be organized with less or without the use of fossil fuels.**
- Keywords: transport, mobility, walking, cycling, walkability, active transport, transport-oriented development, e-mobility, public transport, transport equity, car-dependence, logistics, freight
- **Public Space**
 - The public spaces in our cities are the face of our cities and can be seen as veins through which urban life is flowing. We interact and live together in public spaces that the public owns in our cities and where we can linger without having to consume a coffee or buy an entrance ticket. Such streets, plazas or parks are public spaces where public life and new low carbon lifestyles are taking shape. When we transition towards a low carbon city we will create new urban realities that do not depend on the input of cheap fossil-fuel energy. Transitioning towards a low carbon lifestyle will greatly increase our quality of life and lead to new configurations of urban space that promote neighbourhood conviviality, active transport, renewable energy generation and include a larger portion of green infrastructure.
 - **This category welcomes - amongst others - submissions that present new ideas and visions for the organisation, design and management of public spaces for a low carbon urban future. We strongly encourage you to share established good practises for how public spaces can support low carbon urban life.**
 - Keywords: public space, urbanism, urban space, urban planning, urban management, green infrastructure, street furniture, open streets, street design, tactical urbanism, urban intervention, urban events, ciclovia, placemaking
- **Built Environment**
 - The built environment around us shows us how we organize our society. We currently build as if we would have endless amounts of cheap fossil fuels available. We live in air-conditioned houses that are built with energy-intensive materials and therefore have large embodied energy and greenhouse gas footprints. The way we measure urban development potentials is based on financial investment cycles rather than ideal lifecycles and flexible usages of buildings. The dream of a suburban home connected to urban life by the means of car-dependent mobility is the ideal for people around the globe. The transition

of our built environment towards a low carbon city is very urgent because of the long time scales needed to change built structures. New policy approaches for urban development will be needed to prioritise low carbon urban development and support designers, architects and urban planners who are already working on creating the built environment of a low carbon city. We as citizen will play an active role in shaping that future via increasingly important participatory processes and bottom-up initiatives that seek urban change. How can we build future cities that will allow us to use less energy while living together more closely with a smaller carbon footprint?

- **This category welcomes - amongst others - urban strategies, designs and best practise projects for the built environment in a low carbon city. We seek urban planning solutions for multi-use urban layouts that reduce the need for travel and enable low-carbon lifestyles, participatory projects and citizen-driven projects that deal with low carbon urban development. Share your projects for energy-efficient or energy positive buildings. In the context of the upcoming Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador we are also very interested in new policy approaches that enable and support the building of a low carbon city.**
- Keywords: built environment, urbanism, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, urban management, public policy, regenerative city, biophilia, zoning, land management, project development, urban finance, urban policy, Habitat III, urban strategy, participatory planning, commons
- **Education and Campaigning**
 - A transition towards a low carbon city will require a change of mindset, new paradigms for living together and working with the World's limited resources. Such awareness can be built in various forms, from classical education to creative campaigning. We will need to educate ourselves, our friends and our families about the need the need for change towards a low carbon city and the positive effects such a shift will have for all of us. Over the recent years the role of citizens has transformed into a more proactive role demanding urgent change towards a low carbon world. This global movement of citizens does already work with wonderful methods to raise awareness for the need for climate action and the beauty of a low carbon lifestyle. How can we educate, communicate and advocate for a low carbon city of the future? Share your ideas, innovative strategies and best practise communication methods for how to create awareness about climate change and the urgency of building a Low Carbon City!
 - **This category welcomes - amongst others - examples for education and awareness raising projects across age, gender or cultural background. Share your experiences about how we can transfer knowledge about low carbon transition. Tell us your creative strategy for advocacy work and share your knowledge about campaigning and activism.**
 - Keywords: education, public opinion, campaigning, communications, media, printed matter, information design, graphic design, social media, advocacy, activism

- **Technology and Innovation**
 - A low carbon city will integrate many new technologies and innovations. We strongly believe in technological innovation and the imaginative power it has on us. Technology is increasingly important in an urban context and will be a major factor to be successful in building a low carbon city. If we are going to live in a smart city it should be a city of smart citizens that are using technology in an educated way. We believe that technology and innovation is not limited to machines. Digital technology bridges the gap between machines and our social life. For the future low carbon city we need innovation in technology, digital realm but as well for our society where social technologies can empower us to understand society in new ways and enable us to share resources or act in a collaborative fashion. How can we mainstream innovations across the globe and allow a productive flow of know-how for a swift shift towards a low carbon city? We invite you to share your innovations with the world.
 - **This category welcomes – amongst others - urban innovations that are facilitating the reduction of emissions engaging citizens, government and companies. We seek cost- effective and creative technological solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or other means for carbon sequestration. You can submit your prototypes, products, apps, or future projects. We are especially interested in technologies and prototypes that could be scaled-up in cities potentially contribute to social challenges. We are interested in technologies that could be developed in the future, with reasonable effort and cost**
 - Keywords: technology, innovation, digital application, social innovation, social technology, carbon sequestration, carbon sink, urban prototyping,
- **Other**
 - This open category is free for proposals that do not fit into any of the above-described themes.
 - **This category welcomes – amongst others – innovations in public policy, administration or the private sector. These include strategies and experiences from cities that incorporate different sectors and actors to reduce their carbon footprint. As this is the open category for submission we seek what you think is relevant for building a low carbon city.**

Interaction formats at the Low Carbon City Forum:

- **Presentations:** We believe in the power of simple and concrete talks that present your ideas to the point. Thus, the format for presentations will be of 10 minutes, followed by a discussion with the panelists. You will be united in a panel format with other experts from your area.
- **„PechaKucha“-style Talks:** This refers to a short, inspiring format of 20 slides of 20 seconds each (6 minutes and 40 seconds in total). The slides are automated and you

have to keep the timeframe for the short talk. This is a very good format to present your work in an inspiring and engaging setting.

- **Workshops:** This format gives you the opportunity to engage more in-depth with an audience of city-changers and allows you to share and further develop your knowledge. Workshops at the Low Carbon City Forum will be 2-4 hours long and selected upon their impact for the participants and the host city. Please indicate how much time you want to use for your workshop and if in case you want to run your workshop during for more days. Please make sure that the workshop is geared towards a usable and applied result. We appreciate workshops that seek positive change by creative and innovative methods.
- **Urban Interventions:** During the Forum we will stage several interventions directly in the city. These will be tactical urbanism activities, workshops taking place as urban laboratories in the city or lectures in public space. If you have a specific topic where you want to stage an action in the city or share your knowledge on the spot please choose this category. You are free to propose the urban intervention, as you would design it. Please note that we typically cannot provide a budget to execute sophisticated interventions.
- **Artistic Interventions:** These are interventions that are of artistic or cultural nature. These range from theatre, performance to photography or film used during a workshop or performance to transport your viewpoints. Artistic interventions can be powerful tools to sensitize the public for usually rather heavy topics. We are very interested in this interaction format as we aim to make the forum very colourful!
- **Speed Dating:** During this format you will share your knowledge with a wide audience. The Speed Dating features a large number of presenters that show their projects at the same time each hosting their own table. There will be several periods of interaction and the audience can change the table that they visit between these periods. Speed Dating formats are usually very efficient to directly interact and network with other conference participants.
- **Movies / Documentaries:** Submit your movie, documentary, animation movie for the Low Carbon City cinema program.
- **Open Air (Exhibitions):** During the Forum we will have space to feature exhibitions that relate to the theme of low carbon cities. These exhibitions can be of planning, arts or other projects that deal with the subject. Share your work on a large and immersive scale!
- **Book Publications:** If you have a book written about the topic of low carbon cities we are happy to provide a venue for you to share a lecture and do a book presentation. This format would include a brief introduction of the book, a discussion about its content and a session where books are signed and sold.
- **Other:** If you have any other interaction format that you want to bring to the forum please don't hesitate to submit your own innovative interaction format.

The Forum opens up for proposals of workshops, engaging talks and innovative solutions. We also welcome submissions for tactical urbanism and urban interventions.

Timeline

- January 2016: Call for proposals opens
- 20 June: Deadline for submission of all proposals
- July: Announcement of selected proposals

Contact

Please send your proposal, as well as any questions or inquiries, to the following email: proposals@LowCarbon.City

More information about the Forum: www.LowCarbon.City

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Low Carbon City Forum in Medellín, Colombia!

Terms and Conditions for Participation

Presentations in English or in Spanish will be accepted during the Forum. See the submission form for detailed information.

The evaluation committee will only accept works related to Low Carbon Cities. Both individual papers and session proposals are welcome.

The authorship and copyright of any work submitted to this call remains with the authors. The Low Carbon City Forum asserts that the person submitting has full copyright over the material submitted to the Call for Proposals. The Low Carbon City Forum reserves the right to publish the author's work in the conference program and the event's documentation, but in no other form.

Low Carbon City Forum is a citizen-lead event that aims to scale up ideas and mobilize multiple actors towards concrete changes within the city. We don't provide support for travel or accommodation, but the event is free of charge. If needed, we can provide an invitation letter when your proposal has been accepted.

The Forum is organized by [La Ciudad Verde](http://LaCiudadVerde.org), a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable cities.