Science for 1.5C Cities: Actions towards 1.5°C from a Global Network of Scientists, Practitioners, and Decision-Makers
A session by the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN)

Saturday, 21st of September – 11:30am to 1:00pm
Conference Room 12, UN HQ, New York City

Co-Sponsored by The Earth Institute at Columbia University and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

The Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action coalition and the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) are inviting governments, subnational representatives, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and businesses to a discussion on how cities are using science to take action towards reaching the 1.5°C goal. Urban climate change researchers and city decision-makers will come together to share concrete actions that have been taken and are planned.

There is now a unanimous consensus that cities are on the front lines of the battle against climate change impacts. Not only are they disproportionately located in areas that are highly exposed to a variety of disturbances such as coasts and rivers, they also contain large populations of vulnerable people. Enhancing the resilience of urban areas requires action and all of these critically depend on insights from climate science. Understanding the expected and uncertain impacts of climate change on urban centers and deploying effective measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability requires effective collaboration between scientists, practitioners and policy makers.

This pre-Summit event will discuss the opportunities and challenges of deploying climate science to influence decision-making on adaptation and resilience in urban centers. This is the mission of Urban Climate Change Research Network (the UCCRN), a consortium of over 1,000 individuals dedicated to the analysis of climate change mitigation and adaptation from an urban perspective. UCCRN recently released its Second Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities (ARC3.2), an ongoing compendium of global, science-based reports to examine climate risk, adaptation, and mitigation efforts in cities. The 850-page Assessment Report will be launched on the UCCRN website (www.uccrn.org) during this Side Event.

The pre-Summit event will look at the following aspects critical to urban areas utilizing climate science to prepare for mitigation and adaptation to climate change:

1. What are the most pressing climate information needs for urban decision-makers going forward?
2. What factors enable the effective use of climate science in policy-making for enhancing urban resilience?
3. What are the challenges in ensuring that climate science informs urban policy and decision-making, and how can we address them?

A short report will be issued following the event, which will identify actions and solutions to be presented at the SG Climate Action Summit.
# Agenda and Speakers

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>11:30am to 11:35am</td>
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- Cynthia Rosenzweig (NASA GISS/Columbia University; Co-Director, UCCRN; Co-Chair, New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC))  
- William Solecki (CUNY Hunter College; Co-Director, UCCRN; Co-Chair, NPCC) |
| 11:35am to 11:50am | Keynotes |  
- Daniel Zarrilli (Chief Climate Policy Advisor and OneNYC Director, NYC Office of the Mayor)  
  Climate Change Science-Stakeholder Interactions in New York City  
- Gavin Schmidt (Director, NASA GISS)  
  Climate Change Insights from NASA Models and Missions |
| 11:50pm to 12:45pm | Panel Discussion - Science for Actions towards 1.5°C in Cities: Insights from Researchers and City Leaders (45 mins) | Moderated by Andrew Revkin (Director, Initiative on Communication Innovation and Impact, Earth Institute at Columbia University)  
1. Sean O’Donoghue – eThekwini Municipality; Director, UCCRN African Hub (confirmed)  
2. H.E Hon. Lee Kinyanjui – Chair of the Urban Development Committee and Governor of Nakuru County, Kenya (confirmed)  
3. Minal Pathak – Ahmedabad University; Director, UCCRN South Asian Hub (confirmed)  
4. Mayor Lisa Helps – Mayor of Victoria, Canada (confirmed)  
5. Martha Barata – Instituto Oswaldo Cruz; Co-Director, UCCRN Latin American Hub (confirmed)  
6. Mayor Mauricio Esteban Rodas – Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador (confirmed)  
7. Mayor Minna Arve – Mayor of Turku, Finland (TBC)  
8. Maryke Van Staden – Manager, Low Emissions Development Program, ICLEI (confirmed) |
| 12:45pm to 12:55pm | Discussion with Audience | Led by William Solecki |
| 12:55pm to 1:00pm | Summary and Closing |  
- Cynthia Rosenzweig and William Solecki |
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