

C40 Mayors' **Statement for** **a Green and** **Just Recovery**

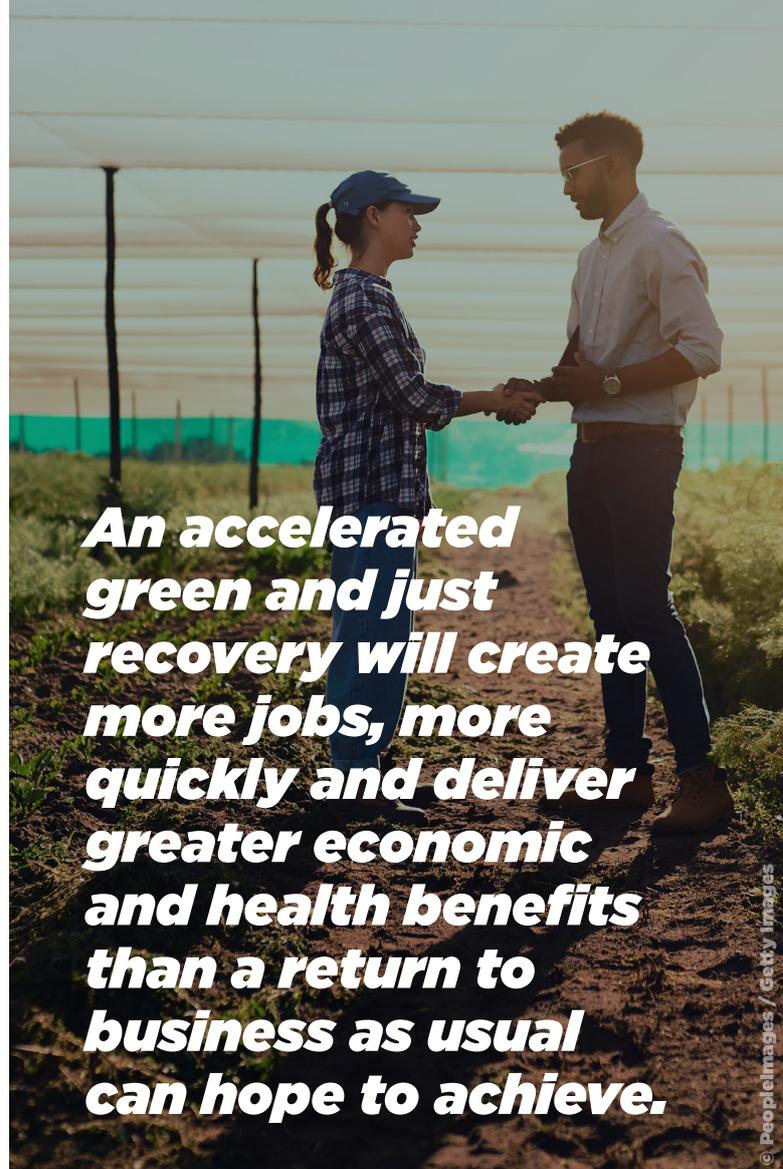


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The most significant test of any government's commitment to climate action right now is where it is directing COVID stimulus funding. As C40 mayors, today we are launching new research which shows that not only will a green and just recovery create more jobs faster and deliver greater economic and health benefits than a return to business as usual, but if done quickly and decisively enough a green stimulus could finally put the world on track to keep global heating under 1.5°C.

We are deeply concerned that, to date, only 3 - 5% of an estimated US\$12 - \$15 trillion in international COVID stimulus funding is committed to green initiatives. This means that almost all of the current COVID stimulus funding is propping up old and polluting economies and will prevent us from keeping global heating below the 1.5°C science tells us is essential.

If governments use stimulus funding to try to return to 'business as usual' before COVID, emissions will rise and run-away climate breakdown will be locked in. It is only through a green and just recovery based on the principles of a Global Green New Deal - with a particular focus on urban priorities such as mass transit, clean energy, energy efficient buildings and walking and cycling infrastructure - that emissions will start to fall, and if it is an accelerated green and just recovery of the kind we are advocating for with faster investments enabling climate action over the next five years, then there is a real chance to halve global emissions in the next decade. To achieve the necessary scale of emission reduction, stimulus funding not only has to be green but it has to be big and it has to be made available quickly. While all the green recovery scenarios in C40's research out-perform business as usual alternatives, a major programme of green investment and climate action front-loaded for the next five years is our best chance to meet the 1.5°C 'safe climate' target and reach carbon neutrality by 2050.



An accelerated green and just recovery will create more jobs, more quickly and deliver greater economic and health benefits than a return to business as usual can hope to achieve.

By ignoring the opportunity to make rapid green stimulus investments, most national governments and global institutions are likely leading us towards catastrophic climate change. It's time for decisive action to tackle COVID and the climate crisis together as the answer to the threat of global economic and environmental breakdown.

The research commissioned by the C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force demonstrates that an accelerated green and just recovery will create more jobs, more quickly and deliver greater economic and health benefits than a return to business as usual can hope to achieve. To date, these green investments are not happening at the speed and scale needed. We need to begin a decade of ambitious, inclusive climate action to create a new normal at all levels - cities, states, nations and regions - and our research shows that green stimulus investment made right now is the best way to deliver that action.

The time for small steps and half measures is over. The global disruption caused by the COVID pandemic may be our last chance to choose a different path. While we commend the efforts of governments to set strong emissions reduction targets, our research shows that current stimulus spending makes achieving those goals impossible.

As C40 mayors our highest priority remains protecting the health and wellbeing of the residents of our cities who are making strong calls for green and just cities, climate health and better, more liveable communities. It's also on their behalf that we call on national governments, international institutions, businesses and world leaders to take decisive climate action before COP26 by:

1. Immediately delivering a green and just recovery that could put us on track to keep warming under 1.5°C, rather than a return to business as usual that makes runaway climate change almost inevitable.

2. Investing in cities to drive the green and just recovery and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

3. Ending all public investments in fossil-fuels.

4. Joining us in pledging to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century and setting an interim target which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

5. Embracing the principles of the Global Green New Deal coalition of mayors, businesses, trade unions, investors, youth activists and civil society to create the future we want.



The C40 Task Force's analysis has modelled what could happen in the world's cities if we collectively prioritise a green and just recovery consistent with limiting global heating to below 1.5°C, compared to a return to business as usual. The findings of [our research](#)* show that:

- Only a 'green and just recovery' will allow for emission reductions. A 'green and just recovery', especially an accelerated one, could **more than halve greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030, making it possible to deliver on efforts to keep global warming below 1.5°C.
- A return to business as usual will lock-in over-heating above 1.5°C.
- A 'green and just recovery' could **create over 50 million good, sustainable jobs by 2025** across the nearly 100 cities in the C40 network and their supply chains, over a third more than investing equivalent funds into a 'high-carbon recovery'.
- A 'green and just recovery' could save hundreds of thousands of lives by **reducing air pollution as much as 29%** in cities around the world over the next ten years, compared to a return to business as usual. Such improvements could **prevent over 270,000 premature deaths over the next decade** in C40's nearly 100 member cities, and – as demonstrated by [existing research](#) – by reducing habitat destruction make further coronavirus pandemics less likely.
- Improvements in air quality across C40's member cities alone could lead to over **\$1.4 billion savings in health costs** resulting from reduced hospital admissions from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and **wider economic benefits of over \$280 billion** over the next 10 years from the value of premature deaths averted. This is particularly valuable at a time when health care systems and public sector budgets are facing unprecedented pressure.

• The timing of the recovery is key. By modelling the impacts of faster stimulus spending enabling an 'accelerated green recovery' over the next five years, compared to a 'slow green recovery' over the next 15 years, the case for early investment by nimble governments, including cities, is clear:

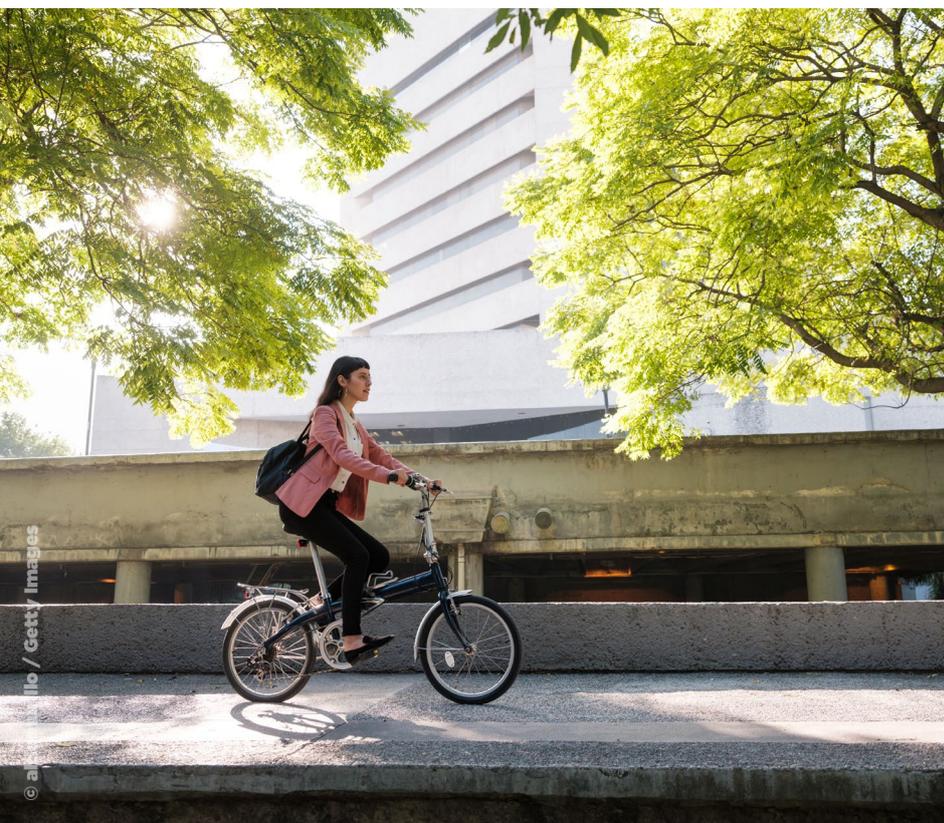
- An 'accelerated green recovery' could create over 80 million good, sustainable jobs by 2023, across the nearly 100 cities in the C40 network and their supply chains, more than double a 'slow green recovery'. At a time of mass unemployment and economic hardship in many parts of the world, generating jobs now will benefit millions of families.
- An 'accelerated green recovery' could avert almost twice the number of premature deaths (over 1.8 times as many) between 2020 and 2030, with associated economic benefits from reduced health costs.
- An 'accelerated green recovery' could lead to half the per capita greenhouse gas emissions of a 'slow green recovery', and approximately a third of the per capita business as usual emissions by 2030.



In July we released the C40 Mayors' Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery defining our vision, putting forward concrete policies and initiatives and calling for action by all governments and institutions to support our efforts. In less than four months, we have made crucial progress, showing what can be achieved when we act quickly, unlock funds and shift to a new green and just paradigm.

Since then, we have taken bold action in our cities, including: the launch of the first city-led Green New Deal in Asia, funding programs supporting green startups and entrepreneurs, additional investments worth millions of dollars in zero-emissions mobility, more livable and affordable housing and resilient infrastructure. We are developing new programs to create thousands of new green jobs, upskill and train workers and have passed temporary protections for gig and essential workers. We have created dozens of kilometers of new, permanent walking and cycling lanes and have accelerated planting new trees and increasing greening in our cities. In addition, 12 cities with 36 million residents are calling on city and pension funds with over US\$295 billion in total assets to divest from fossil fuels.

As mayors and representatives of many of the world's leading cities representing over 700 million people and 25% GDP worldwide, we know we cannot achieve ambitious climate change goals alone. Therefore, we are committed to working with every citizen, company, government agency and international institution to deliver real outcomes. Our collective prize will be returning to a safer and healthier climate, achieving a more equitable economy, and recovering faster from the pandemic.



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GLOBAL MAYORS COVID-19 RECOVERY TASK FORCE

The statement was developed by the C40 Global Mayors Covid-19 Recovery Task Force and signed by

Mayor of **Los Angeles**
and C40 Chair,
Eric Garcetti;

Chair of the Task Force
Mayor of **Milan**, Italy,
Giuseppe Sala;

Mayor of **Freetown**,
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Yvonne Aki Sawyerr;

Secretary for the Environment
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KS Wong;

Mayor of **Lisbon**, Portugal,
Fernando Medina;

Mayor of **Rotterdam**,
Netherlands,
Ahmed Aboutaleb;

Mayor of **Medellín**, Colombia,
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Mayor of **Montréal**, Canada,
Valérie Plante;

Mayor of **New Orleans**, USA,
LaToya Cantrell;

Mayor of **Seattle**, USA,
Jenny Durkan;

and Acting Mayor of **Seoul**,
Republic of Korea,
Seo Jung-hyup

STATEMENT APPENDIX: UPDATE ON MAYORAL TASK FORCE CITY ACTIONS

This appendix contains updates provided by Mayoral Task Force cities based on their featured actions in the [C40 Mayors' Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery](#). These updates cover the timeframe from the Agenda's launch on 15th July 2020 to late September 2020. We have also included examples of city engagement with National Governments showcasing the wider influence of the Agenda, and that of cities in delivering a Green and Just Recovery.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone

The Mayor of Freetown and the Freetown City Council have implemented an urban greening strategy that will see the planting of 1 million trees by 2021 as well as urban greening work along major and secondary roads and key water sources. This strategy is being implemented in conjunction with the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility and is expected to be completed by July 2021.

Build with nature: Freetown has launched its ambitious #FreetownTheTreeTownCampaign with a goal to increase tree and vegetation cover by 50% from 2018 levels by 2022. Freetown is currently working to stabilize the high slopes of the upper catchment areas through community tree planting and stewardship in public and private planting spaces across 47 target planting and reforestation areas covering 500 hectares. The city is on track to plant and grow approximately 350,000 trees on the Freetown Peninsula by the end of 2020. Freetown is working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including, Western Rural District Council, the Ministry of Environment, EPA, Guma Valley Water Co., and the Environmental Foundation for Africa to name a few, to plant grasses in the natural channels and restore mangroves alongside an area of critical roadways and water sources spanning 500 to 800 hectares by 2021.

Provide fundamental public services for all: This tree planting initiative will mitigate the effects of deforestation, eliminate the recurring risk of flooding and landslides, and threats to the city's water supply. The work will improve air and water quality and will provide access to food for marginalized communities and residents in slum communities through a concurrent urban farming strategy designed to enhance food system access and quality.

HONG KONG, China

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has implemented a comprehensive and coordinated approach that includes various measures and programmes to contain the spread of COVID-19, recover in a sustainable way and protect the health of the community.

Create new, good green jobs fast: The Government of the HKSAR is using part of its anti-epidemic fund to launch the Green Employment Scheme that will create more than 1,000 green jobs; promote electric vehicles by subsidizing the installation of charging infrastructure in residences; strengthen support for community waste reduction and recycling projects (Use Less, Waste Less);

and protect and clean up country parks, the countryside, and the shoreline ('Leave No Trace at Mountain and Sea'). Additionally, the Government is continuing to deliver its 2020-2021 subsidy program for graduates under the Green Employment Scheme. The initiative enables recent graduates interested in environment-related fields to find employment in a constrained job market. The programme provides employers who take on recent graduates with a monthly subsidy and offers graduates training from the government's Environmental Protection Department to help them get acquainted with different facets of the field. With the positive responses received from the relevant trades, the subsidy quota of the programme has been increased from originally about 200 to 550 to benefit more graduates and employers.

LISBON, Portugal

Lisbon has actively promoted a green and just recovery by working with the central government to increase financial support for more active and sustainable mobility (increasing infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists) and providing affordable housing to support residents live within the city and withstand sudden unemployment or dramatic changes in income without incurring high debts.

Deliver a safe and resilient post-COVID mass transit system: Lisbon will invest 440 million Euros into constructing a 24.4 km New Light Rail Transit Line (LIOS, Sustainable Intermodal Line) that will connect three of Portugal's most populated cities - Lisbon, Loures and Oeiras. Lisbon is also currently expanding its underground network by developing an inner circle line and two other metro lines. Over the next 7 years, Lisbon will develop several LRT/BHLS lanes to ensure adequate coverage of dedicated public transport services for a significant part of the population.

Provide fundamental services for all: Lisbon has implemented new initiatives that will more readily enable development of affordable housing by working with private investors to provide housing at reasonable prices set and regulated by the municipality, directing municipal investment into retrofitting public office buildings, and offering a secure rent scheme to incentivize property holders to sublet their homes at affordable prices. As an adaptation measure to mitigate water scarcity, Lisbon is developing a recycled water network that will ensure freshwater resources are exclusively secured for human consumption. Lisbon is also rolling out its first Municipal School Food Plan that will see students until K12 receive healthy and nutritious Mediterranean meals in schools.

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MEDELLÍN, Colombia

The Economic Development Secretariat of the City of Medellín has worked with the national government to ensure a safe staged reopening of the city's economic sectors. The city has focused its attention on supporting and strengthening local businesses to help facilitate the social and economic development of the city, while also helping businesses improve and adapt their production processes and business models to operate effectively in this new global reality.

Create new, good green jobs fast: To confront the crisis and stimulate the economy, Medellín implemented its Medellín Me Cuida platform, which offers health, social, and psychological care and services for families to fight malnutrition and facilitate access to education. In December 2020, Medellín will launch its Software Valley Centres that will bring together community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and private sector actors to create 20,000 jobs in 4.0 industries. Additionally, Medellín joined efforts with the central government to jointly fund a new fully electric metro line that will result in the creation of thousands of greener jobs and the elimination of 5 million tons of CO₂ per year.

Train and upskill workers to enable a just transition: The city has also designed a massive training strategy for the people who have lost their jobs. As of October 15, we had 16,032 people registered on the platform and it should be noted that 10,995 are unemployed and 8,559 are women. This data indicates that unemployed residents of Medellín have found the initiative attractive and that we are also reaching women, which is quite encouraging, since closing the gender gap in terms of access to technology is a must if we want to create more opportunities for women.

MELBOURNE, Australia

Melbourne City Council recently endorsed a COVID-19 Reactivation and Recovery Roadmap. The roadmap, inspired and shaped by the Sustainable Development Goals, includes a list of infrastructure projects for stimulus support from the State and Federal Government. Specifically, it will deliver 40 km of additional bike lanes, repurpose the City's Little Streets initiative to prioritize walking, cycling, and outdoor dining; use nature based solutions to enhance biodiversity and cool the city; support businesses to become more sustainable, and facilitate rapid adoption of renewable energy through innovative purchasing models that ensure economic stimulus delivers on climate objectives.

Build with nature: The City of Melbourne created a specific stimulus project in response to COVID-19 to fast-track implementation of the City Council's Response to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and to further green the city. The project will see the planting of 150,000 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to improve biodiversity and the collection of tree growth data of 49,000 trees to inform urban forest modeling. As of today, 77,000 plants (51%) have been planted and 29,000 plants (60%) have been measured. Melbourne will

continue to implement nature based solutions to enhance biodiversity and cool the city in the lead up to COP26 and beyond, by increasing the city's canopy cover, supporting private realm greening, integrating water management practices, and expanding city open spaces and parks.

MILAN, Italy

Milan has actively promoted a green and just recovery at city level through Milan's Recovery Strategy, 'Milano2020' Adaptation Strategy, a short-term recovery strategy elaborated during Phase 2, and a long-term recovery strategy under elaboration through seven open-ended consultations being carried out between October 12 and November 7 2020 ('Fare Milano'). Additionally, at the European level, it has actively engaged with its national government regarding the EU Recovery Fund mechanism, and called for a green and just recovery in an open letter addressed to Chancellor Angela Merkel, EU Council President, and Charles Michel, President of the European Council.

Give streets back to people: More than 35 km of bike lanes have been introduced along strategic routes, and planning is underway to extend that to 100 km by the end of 2020. The city has issued more than 2000 permits for bars, restaurants, and street eateries to occupy 40,000 square metres of public square and parking lot space and has created new pedestrian priority areas around the city, all with the goal of supporting local businesses and ensuring social cohesion in safer conditions. 32 new public spaces (ie. pedestrian squares) have been made accessible to people as part of the 'Open squares in every neighbourhood' initiative.

Provide fundamental services for all: Milan set up summer camps across the city for children, in particular for low-income families, and has strengthened its distribution network and supply chains to provide high-quality nutritious food to vulnerable populations and to students in schools as they begin the new academic year. Milan is also working on a new model for the Milan Social Agency for Affordable Rent scheme to provide more specialized and targeted care services, such as well-equipped centres able to offer aid and support for homeless people, establish plug-in vaccination clinics, and provide home services for people with disabilities.

Create new, good, green jobs fast: The city has launched a 1 million Euro funding program that will encourage startups and entrepreneurs to devise innovative as well as technological solutions to help the city recover effectively.

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MONTREAL, Canada

In July 2020, Mayor Valerie Plante sent letters as well as the C40 Mayors' Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery to several prominent Canadian federal and provincial leaders including: Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, Premier of Quebec, François Legault, and to senior environment and climate change officials at all levels of government and representatives of municipal associations.

Montréal launched the first phase of its economic recovery plan in June, which has seen a \$22 million investment to support organizations, business owners, and companies across Montréal.

The city will also move into the second phase of its recovery plan in the coming months which will include further measures to support vulnerable sectors and lead to structural change in key sectors and areas such as ecological transition and circular economy, innovation, and social economy.

Montréal will also release its citywide strategic plan, which will focus on recovery and resilience as well as act upon 4 orientations: 1) Accelerating the ecological transition, 2) Supporting solidarity, equity and inclusion, 3) Amplifying democracy and participation and 4) Stimulating innovation and creativity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of ensuring that our risk management and emergency management planning practices are strong enough to protect residents, businesses, as well as community and government organizations. In the context of the current crisis, Montréal has demonstrated its ability to respond to the emergency, maintain its essential services and gradually resume operations, while keeping the future in its sights. The city rapidly put in place dozens of emergency measures including the transformation of buses into screening centres; flagship measures to address homelessness, including providing housing for more than 700 people, along with drop-in centres and food distribution sites. Furthermore, in order to be ready for winter time, the city and its partners have been hard at work to ensure that measures such as emergency winter shelters, warming centres and transport shuttles will be in place so that no one is left behind and that everyone has a roof over their head.

Montréal additionally is working to finalize its climate action plan and a strategy for the great parks in the Montréal area, and has launched a five-year waste management plan to reach its zero waste target. In order to build with nature, Montréal has increased its land environment protection target to 10% and aims to create and protect a 3,000-hectare park through its Grand parc de l'Ouest project, which will protect the natural environment, preserve biodiversity, and enhance Montréal's overall resilience in combating the climate crisis. In addition, the city has decided to increase its canopy cover from 20% to 25% by 2025. Montréal is also working to accelerate tree planting in vulnerable areas such as heat-sensitive neighbourhoods of the city. Since 2012, Montréal has planted 110,765 trees in the public domain and funded the planting of 61,459 trees in the private domain. We must seize the opportunity to fight climate change and protect nature, while encouraging green growth and sustainable development worldwide.

NEW ORLEANS, U.S.A.

New Orleans is actively working with its local and federal liaisons to stay abreast of policy developments occurring at the state and federal levels.

Provide fundamental services to all: New Orleans is focusing its efforts on safely reopening schools and playgrounds as they begin the new academic year. The city, additionally, is supporting its neighbourhoods by establishing Neighbourhood Navigators hubs. These community learning programs help connect residents to free physical and mental health services and improve access to mortgage forbearance assistance under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, rental assistance, and protection against labour disputes and infringements of disability rights. New Orleans is working with local foundations, neighbourhood associations, churches, and local non-profits to establish a hospitality workers fund that will provide assistance of up to \$1000 for hospitality and service workers, as well as provide food assistance to families experiencing food insecurity, for instance by connecting them to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) meal assistance program in partnership with local restaurants.

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands

Rotterdam is continuing to implement its "Rotterdam sterker door" resilient recovery program and has stressed the importance of achieving a green and just recovery to the national government during a recent visit from the Prime Minister to Rotterdam in September 2020. In November 2020, Mayor Aboutaleb will discuss green and just recovery with Frans Timmermans, Vice-Chair of the European Commission, who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the European Green Deal. In 2021, Rotterdam will invest an additional €270 million Euros in various projects that will promote the energy transition, zero-emission mobility, green city projects, better housing, and vocational training to strengthen resilience.

Create new, good green jobs fast: The City of Rotterdam is continuing to create new green jobs in the circular economy through its project 'From Trash to Treasure' and by retrofitting houses to support the city and the port's energy transition to renewable energy. The national government will borrow and invest 20 billion Euros in the next five years to improve and green the economy in accordance with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

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SEATTLE, U.S.A.

In July 2020, Seattle endorsed a letter sent by the Climate Mayors to US Congress calling on congressional leadership to drive ambitious systemic change by building a better future that reinvests in America's communities, leading with equity to ensure frontline communities and individuals disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19 are not left behind. The letter stated that the goal is to create jobs, strengthen community cohesion and resilience, and improve health outcomes in American cities and towns.

Support and lift up essential workers: Seattle is continuing to increase its worker protection laws, such as the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, to support the economic security of low-wage employees and hotel workers. Seattle amended its old paid sick and safe time law to meet emerging pandemic needs. The city also passed two temporary gig worker protection laws and extended paid sick leave and premium pay to gig workers. Mayor Durkan has additionally put forward legislation currently under consideration by the City Council to institute a minimum compensation standard for Transportation Network Companies (TNC) drivers.

Give streets back to people: In response to COVID-19, Seattle rolled out its Stay Healthy Streets initiative in which it temporarily reallocated 31.2 miles of streets to pedestrians and cyclists. Due to the project's overwhelming popularity, Seattle has decided to permanently dedicate 20 miles of street space exclusively for walking and cycling. Prior to COP26, Seattle will work with its neighbourhoods on the permanent upgrade of the Stay Healthy Streets initiative by ensuring the provision of durable street closure materials and community-driven enhancements such as artwork.

SEOUL, South Korea

In responding to the COVID-19 outbreak and the climate crisis, Seoul unveiled in July 2020 its Green New Deal Strategy that outlines a roadmap for achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050. As part of its Green New Deal strategy, Seoul is taking various measures to prop up the local economy by prioritizing green building, green transport, green energy, green forests, and green waste. Additionally, Seoul is aiming to provide more housing access and options to disadvantaged residents by remodeling municipal buildings and making old buildings more energy efficient by 2022.

Create new, good green jobs fast: In line with its Green New Deal strategy, Seoul shared its plan to create 26,000 jobs by 2022. With the help of additional funding provided by the national government, Seoul will expand its work in remodeling municipal buildings, converting all public buildings to Zero Emission Buildings (ZEBs), and ensuring public transport fleets use EVs, all activities that will generate the most amount of jobs. Seoul is currently soliciting feedback from experts, civic groups, and citizens on the Green New Deal strategy and will develop a detailed action plan by the end of 2020 on how to implement the Green New Deal that will be put into practice starting early 2021.

