

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Michael Marinello: mmarinello@c40.com (+1-425-894-1781)

Olivia Ross: oross@clintonfoundation.org (+ 44-7944-931-775)

Media Contact for ARUP: James Kenny +44 20 7755 3720 | james.kenny@arup.com

Media Contact for CDP: Lisa Lee +44 20 7415 7196 | Lisa.Lee@cdproject.net

C40 Releases Groundbreaking Research on the Importance and Impact of Cities on Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emissions and analysis of climate change actions across over 40 megacities is reported for the first time

Sao Paulo, Brazil (June 1, 2011): The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) released two landmark reports today that emphasize the critical role of measurement and transparency in tackling climate change in megacities. The reports, released during the C40 Cities Mayors Summit in Sao Paulo (May 31 – June 2), demonstrate the current and potential impact of Cities confronting climate change and opportunities to build a low carbon future - helping Cities to focus future activity on areas that will accelerate mitigation and adaptation.

“I firmly believe that if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it,” said **C40 Chair, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg**. “That is true in business and it is true in government. Only by regularly and rigorously measuring and analysing our efforts can we learn what works, what doesn’t and why, and take effective action.”

Cities are responsible for consuming two-thirds of the world’s energy. The 58 C40 Cities globally represent 1 in 12 people, 12% of CO₂ and 21% of GDP. To enable these Cities to better measure both current successes and assess future opportunities for action to address climate change, the C40 developed two studies in partnership with two leading organizations in the field, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and Arup. The studies cover:

- A measurement baseline – The first-ever public disclosure and analysis of self-reported community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) data from C40 cities, showing the urban concentration of GHG emissions and climate-related risks, highlighting the importance of City government action to reduce emissions (CDP)
- A benchmark of actions C40 Cities have taken to date and an inventory of powers Cities hold over sectors, demonstrating what actions have been taken across the C40 Cities and also identifying what powers City governments across the C40 have to take further actions on mitigation and adaptation. (Arup)

Key findings include:

- Megacities are showing strong leadership in implementing climate change strategies – C40 mayors currently oversee 4,734 climate change actions in effect.
- Mayors of C40 Cities have the greatest power to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of energy demand in buildings, transportation, and waste management.

Together, these studies demonstrate the current impact of Cities confronting global climate change – and the scale of their potential to build a low-carbon future. Providing a measurement baseline and a management tool, the studies will enable C40 Cities to set targets, evaluate actions and access resources. The studies will also inform the strategic direction of C40 programs and initiatives, helping the organization to connect Cities with similar profiles and agendas.

“The best scientific data tells us that it is long past time to address this challenge, and the best demographic data tells us that cities must lead the way,” **said Rohit T. Aggarwala, Special Advisor to the Chair, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.** “The *CDP Cities 2011* and *Climate Action in Megacities* reports provide solid data that demonstrate that the C40 Cities are leading the way -- in reporting emissions, developing climate action plans, and, most importantly, in taking action. These reports will inform the strategic direction of C40 programs and initiatives; help build networks of Cities with similar profiles and agendas; and help C40 City officials make decisions about what actions they should prioritize. These reports also set the baseline so that in the future we will know how much more the C40 Cities have done.”

The studies:**1. [CDP Cities 2011: Global Report on C40 Cities](#)- co-developed by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and C40 Cities**

“Cities are beginning to seize the opportunities from combating climate change and creating a low-carbon economy,” **said Conor Riffle, Head of CDP Cities.** “The insight and transparency that the measurement and reporting process provides is crucial to understanding how City governments can best act to reduce emissions and environmental risk as well as bolster economic growth. Ten years of providing the world’s largest climate change reporting platform has shown that measurement does lead to better management.”

Overview:

For the first time ever, C40 Cities publicly disclose their GHG emissions and climate risk data using a consistent reporting platform. Over seventy percent of C40 Cities (42 of 58) participated, reporting total city-wide greenhouse gas emissions of 1.2 billion metric tons CO₂-e, which equates to the total emissions of Japan. The analysis covered four main areas: governance, greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation, and strategy. The majority of Cities participating in the study agreed to make their quantitative and qualitative data publicly available, demonstrating transparency and enabling Cities around the world to continue to learn from each other on climate change-related risks and opportunities. The report illustrates the potential benefits which could be captured if Cities measured and reported their emissions in a standardized way; a multiple of approaches across various cities are indicated in the report.

Key Findings Include:

- Of the 42 Cities in the report, 57% are adopting City-wide GHG reduction targets and 62% have established action plans to address climate change;
- Two out of every three C40 Cities are measuring and disclosing their GHG emissions to the public, which means that City governments are keeping pace with the largest 500 companies in the world as transparent reporters of climate impacts;

- Over 90% of C40 Cities participating in the study identified themselves as being at-risk due to climate change. A further 43% of Cities reported that they are already dealing with the effects of climate change in their areas;

2. Climate Action in Megacities: C40 Cities Baseline and Opportunities: co-authored by Arup and C40 Cities

“This report demonstrates that cities really matter when it comes to taking action on climate change,” said **Mark Watts, Director, Arup**. “Mayors have real powers in the right places and the report documents how the world’s 40 leading Mayors are using these levers to cut carbon emissions. There is a wealth of quantitative information here about what works, how it has been delivered, and the opportunities for extending successful action around the world to help us all move toward a low carbon future.”

Overview: This study is a detailed catalogue of the climate actions of C40 Cities. The core C40 Cities represent \$10.6 trillion in economic activity at purchasing power parity and 297 million City residents. The report also contains an inventory of powers Cities hold to deliver carbon reduction policies and programs across key sectors, including energy supply, transportation, waste and buildings. In addition to underlining the power that Cities already have to confront climate change, the report creates a baseline against which Cities and the C40 organization can identify opportunities, measure progress and be held accountable.

Key findings include:

- C40 Cities are already taking significant climate action – C40 mayors currently oversee 4,734 climate change actions in effect, with 1,465 more under consideration today. Over 12 sectors, 335 distinctly different actions have been already implemented in at least one City.
- C40 mayors have the greatest powers and opportunity to even further climate action particularly in the areas of energy demand in buildings, transportation, and waste management.
- Collaboration across the C40 is making a difference – action has escalated significantly among member Cities since the C40 was founded in 2005 and expanded in 2007.
- Even in areas where mayors do not have direct control, they have used creativity and leadership to take actions through incentive programs, educational campaigns, and using City government operations to lead by example.
- While this report also provides guidance on opportunities for C40 Cities, below are some highlights of actions to date for Cities represented in this study:
 - Improving the cycling infrastructure of a City ranks as the most popular amongst all of the potential transport-related actions Cities can implement - 22 mayors have taken action starting with over 9,370 km of lanes and growing;
 - 10 Cities have already delivered bus rapid transit systems;
 - Of the 16 mayors with direct power over 1.4 million taxis, 4 mayors are piloting electric taxis and 5 are taking policy measures to introduce hybrid taxis;
 - Over 90% of Cities have more than 2,100 million km² of green space and have set targets to increase that number;
 - The number one action Cities are taking to reduce energy demand in buildings is to install energy efficient light bulbs or other smart lighting mechanisms; and
 - 12 mayors are implementing waste to energy facilities within their Cities, harnessing existing resources and utilizing powers in creative ways; and 13 have programmes to capture methane gas emitted from their landfills.

For more detailed information about these studies and the C40 Cities Mayors Summit please visit the following online resources:

- **Blog:** live.c40cities.org
- **Website:** www.c40cities.org
- **Twitter:** Follow us at [@C40Cities](https://twitter.com/C40Cities)
- **Facebook:** Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/C40Cities)

About C40 Cities

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is an organization of large and engaged Cities from around the world committed to implementing meaningful and sustainable climate-related actions locally that will help address climate change globally. The fourth biennial C40 Cities Mayors Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil (May 31 – June 2, 2011) brings together over 70 of the world’s largest Cities for three days to advance urban solutions to the climate crisis.

The Cities program of the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) became the delivery partner of the C40 in 2006. The new, closer alliance between the two organizations brings significant resources and infrastructure that will enhance and accelerate their historic activities and positions the combined effort as one of the preeminent climate action organizations in the world. CCI’s network of City Directors, assist C40 Cities on the CDP disclosure process.

To learn more about the work of C40 cities, please visit www.c40cities.org

About Arup:

Arup was appointed as the strategic adviser to the C40 in May 2009 and has a long track record in working with cities across the world to tackle the issues of climate change in the urban environment. Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world’s most prominent projects in the built environment. From 90 offices in 35 countries our 10,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion.

www.arup.com

About Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP):

CDP is an independent not-for-profit organization holding the largest database of primary corporate climate change information in the world. In November, 2010, CDP, the C40 and the Clinton Climate Initiative launched a partnership to provide a platform for cities to report voluntarily on greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative is sponsored by Autodesk and Jones Lang LaSalle.

www.cdproject.net