

## For Immediate Release

# Cities in action!

## **San Francisco's Department of Public Health Empowers Communities to Address Health Effects of Climate Change**

***News story on Cities100, a publication identifying 100 city policy solutions that can be scaled across the globe, proving that cities are in the lead on global climate action.***

---

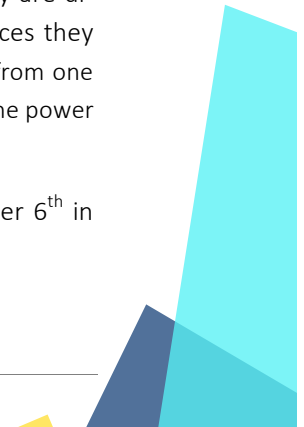
*November 19th - 2015:* The City and County of San Francisco, CA is proud to announce that we have been selected for the global publication, Cities100, which is published today. The Cities100 publication, developed by Sustainia in collaboration with C40, a network of the world's greatest cities taking action on climate change, and the philanthropic association Realdania, names 100 concrete city solutions to climate change that can be scaled and replicated across the world. These solutions have been found after reviewing more than 216 submissions from 94 cities across all regions in the world.

In Johannesburg, South Africa, the city is issuing green bonds to finance climate mitigation projects for more than \$143 million, enabling them to accelerate the roll out of 42,000 building smart meters, 43,000 solar water heaters and deployment of 152 hybrid buses. Meanwhile in Yokohama, Japan, the city is running out of land to dispose of ash from waste incineration, and has initiated a plan that teaches manufacturers to use recycled and recyclable materials during production. The initiative also urges businesses to sell eco-friendly products and services, which will lead to fewer resources imported, used, and, ultimately, wasted, and has already reduced waste by 1.61 million tons.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH), with funding from the Centers for Disease Control, has been working to address the local health effects of climate change. Through the development of community vulnerability assessments such as the Climate and Health Profile as well as emergency plans, SFDPH has helped strengthen collaboration across government agencies and has enabled innovative solutions from diverse partnerships. In addition, new outreach and education resources on local adaptation and resilience efforts are helping to support vulnerable communities prepare as climate change unfolds. San Francisco's climate action solution is highlighted in the Smart Cities and Smart Community Engagement section.

The 100 solutions point to the reality that meaningful action can, and is, taken outside of the national arena. City governments are smaller, more nimble than their national counterparts. They are directly accountable to their local constituents and are more invested in the people and places they serve. Regardless of wealth or resources, size or location, cities around the world are learning from one another, adapting global best practices to fit local circumstances, and demonstrating they have the power to take action to build a smarter, more resilient, and resource-efficient world.

The Cities100 publication will also be presented at the Sustainia COP21 event on December 6<sup>th</sup> in Paris.



###

*“San Francisco’s Climate and Health program uniquely promotes community resilience through education, empowerment, and engagement to reduce the health impacts of climate change. Our innovative use of data has created robust public dialogue on climate and health and our action plan has the ability to improve local health disparities.”* says Cyndy Comerford, Manager, Planning, Policy & Analysis at the City and County of San Francisco’s Department of Public Health.

*“Cities are the true change makers. In the new Cities100 publication, it is remarkable to see how creative solutions and developments in particularly financing, projects incentivizing behavior change and flexible transportation are pushing the standard perception of cities. They are not only making a difference for the planet, but also safeguarding the quality of life for their inhabitants.”* says Laura Storm, CEO of think tank Sustainia behind the publication.

*Congratulation to all the cities selected to be presented in Cities100! This marks an important acknowledgement of both small and large cities’ commitment all over the world to fight climate change. And doing so in a way that serves as inspiration for others. As the growing urban population worldwide tells us, our future will be an urban one. Therefore we need the commitment from cities to make sure it can also be a sustainable one. Surely cities can’t fix climate change by themselves, but cities100 proves there is hope if they work together, and if they collaborate with nations, businesses, civil society and citizens.”* Says Jesper Nygaard, CEO, Realdania

*“In this urban age, it is simply not possible to tackle climate change without strong and urgent action in cities. Mayors have the opportunity to help set the world on a climate safe path. Fortunately, working together, they are up to the challenge.”* Says Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40

By identifying 100 readily available solutions for cities the Cities100 partners wish to highlight the potential for transformation ahead of the much-anticipated climate change negotiations, COP21, in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015. The partners behind Cities100 are C40, Realdania, and Sustainia.

## REFERENCES

Cities100 is available for download free of charge at [www.sustainia.me/cities](http://www.sustainia.me/cities)

Fact sheet on Cities100: [http://sustainia.me/documents/cities100/2015/documents/fact\\_sheet.docx](http://sustainia.me/documents/cities100/2015/documents/fact_sheet.docx)

Cities100 social media kit uploaded Nov. 12th:

[http://sustainia.me/documents/cities100/2015/documents/social\\_media\\_kit.docx](http://sustainia.me/documents/cities100/2015/documents/social_media_kit.docx)

Sustainia COP21 event: [www.sustainia.me/COP21](http://www.sustainia.me/COP21)

More on Sustainia: [www.sustainia.me](http://www.sustainia.me)

## MEDIA INQUIRIES

**San Francisco Department of Public Health Media Contact:** Nancy Sarieh, Public Information Office, [nancy.sarieh@sfdph.org](mailto:nancy.sarieh@sfdph.org) / 415-554-2716

**C40 press contact:** Marie Scott Poulsen, Director of External Relations, C40: [mscottpoulsen@c40.org](mailto:mscottpoulsen@c40.org) / +44 (0) 7476390339

**Sustainia press contact:** Solvej Karlshøj Christiansen, Project Director, Sustainia: [skc@mm.dk](mailto:skc@mm.dk) / +45 31641148

###



## WHAT IS C40?

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, now in its 10th year, connects more than 80 of the world's greatest cities, representing 600+ million people and one quarter of the global economy. Created and led by cities, C40 is focused on tackling climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks, while increasing the health, wellbeing and economic opportunities of urban citizens. The current chair of the C40 is Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes; three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40's work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania. To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [www.c40.org](http://www.c40.org), follow us on Twitter @c40cities and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/C40Cities>

## WHAT IS REALDANIA?

Realdania is a Danish, modern philanthropic association that works to create quality of life and benefit the common good by improving the built environment: cities, buildings and the built heritage. Realdania is both a Strategic Founder of C40 and a Founding Partner of Sustainia. [www.realdania.org](http://www.realdania.org)

## WHAT IS SUSTAINIA?

Sustainia is an international sustainability think tank working to identify and secure deployment of sustainable solutions that improves quality of life in communities around the world. Based on tangible know-how and technologies, Sustainia demonstrates the sustainable future we could achieve if existing solutions were implemented on a large scale. Sustainia is founded by Scandinavian think tank Monday Morning and developed in close collaboration with UN Global Compact, Arnold Schwarzenegger's initiative Regions20, International Federation for Housing and Planning, Connect4Climate and world-leading companies and organizations: DNV GL, Realdania, Storebrand and WWF. To learn more about Sustainia, please visit [www.sustainia.me](http://www.sustainia.me), follow us on Twitter @Sustainia and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Sustainia>

