Resilient Cities Network
An Overview
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About the Resilient Cities Network

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) is the world’s leading urban resilience network. We bring together global knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower cities. Arm in arm with our member cities, we help to build a safer, more equitable, and sustainable future for all residents.

Our mission is to reduce the vulnerability and improve the well-being of over 220 million urban dwellers around the world.

By 2024

50M
vulnerable residents’ lives improved through technical assistance to cities

$10M
channeled to invest in resilience projects directly in cities
Resilient Cities Network

Helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st Century.

Is city-led, regionally-driven, partner-based, and impact-focused.

Builds on over ten years of investment in resilience from The Rockefeller Foundation and the former 100 Resilient Cities program.

Is comprised of former 100 Resilient Cities executives with regional teams in Europe, Singapore, Mexico, and the US.

6 continents | 21 languages | 47 countries
Member Cities

AFRICA
Accra, Ghana
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Cape Town, South Africa
Dakar, Senegal
Durban, South Africa
Kigali, Rwanda
Lagos, Nigeria
Luxor, Egypt
Nairobi, Kenya
Paynesville, Liberia

EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Amman, Jordan
Athens, Greece
Barcelona, Spain
Belfast, U.K.
Belgrade, Serbia
Bristol, U.K.
Byblos, Lebanon
Glasgow, U.K.
Greater Manchester, U.K.
Lisbon, Portugal
London, U.K.
Milan, Italy
Paris, France
Ramallah, Palestine
Rome, Italy
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel
The Hague, The Netherlands
Thessaloniki, Greece
Vejle, Denmark

ASIA PACIFIC
Bangkok, Thailand
Can Tho, Vietnam
Chennai, India
Christchurch, New Zealand
Dai Nang, Vietnam
Dayang, China
Huangshi, China
Jaipur, India
Jakarta, Indonesia
Kyoto, Japan
Mandalay, Myanmar
Melaka, Malaysia
Melbourne, Australia
Pune, India
Seoul, South Korea
Singapore
Surat, India
Sydney, Australia
Toyama, Japan
Wellington, New Zealand

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cali, Colombia
Colima, Mexico
Guadalajara, Mexico
Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
Medellin, Colombia
Mexico City, Mexico
Montevideo, Uruguay
Panama City, Panama
Porto Alegre, Brazil
Quito, Ecuador
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Salvador, Brazil
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Santo Fe, Argentina
Santiago Metropolitan Area, Chile
Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic

NORTH AMERICA
Atlanta, U.S.
Berkeley, U.S.
Boston, U.S.
Boulder, U.S.
Calgary, Canada
Chicago, U.S.
Dallas, U.S.
El Paso, U.S.
Greater Miami & the Beaches, U.S.
Honolulu, U.S.
Houston, U.S.
Los Angeles, U.S.
Louisville, U.S.
Minneapolis, U.S.
Montreal, Canada
Nashville, U.S.
New Orleans, U.S.
New York, U.S.
Nordic, U.S.
Oakland, U.S.
Pittsburgh, U.S.
San Francisco, U.S.
Seattle, U.S.
St. Louis, U.S.
Toronto, Canada
Tulsa, U.S.
Vancouver, Canada
Washington, D.C., U.S.
Building R-Cities

Since 2014, we have built a network of cities and capacity to address urban resilience challenges:

- Member cities have raised over $3.35BN to implement resilience projects.
- Cities are changing how they govern, institutionalizing resilience offices and creating more integrated, inclusive, risk aware and forward-looking policies.
- 78% of cities have embedded resilience principles into city plans, policies, and practices, such as a resilience lens on how they allocate budget or design for the future.
- 77% of cities are self-funding their Chief Resilience Officer positions beyond their initial grant period.

Source: The Urban Institute Midterm Evaluation Report, December 2018
"The pandemic has revealed inequalities in a stark way. To build back better after this crisis, we'll need strong values like resilience."

"...We are proud to be on the team and look forward to more great work and results for our city and the world. We appreciate being part of the Resilient Cities Network."

Mayor Greg Fischer
City of Louisville, R-Cities Member City
President, US Conference of Mayors
Our Approach

Empower
We foster and maintain a responsive global network through a city-led, participatory governance structure. Through this unique collaboration, CROs and the network problem solve and exchange information to address their key urban challenges through a resilience lens, as we disseminate best practices and solutions by creating real-time knowledge exchange to support 1,000+ cities globally, particularly in the Global South.

Implement
We leverage both member city and partner knowledge to address vulnerabilities, build capacity and scale best practices within and across cities. By developing specialized assessment and evaluation tools and building a deep global knowledge base, we accelerate resilience practice within and beyond our member city network.

Mobilize
Through the Resilient Community Impact Fund, programmatic partnerships, and relationship brokering, we mobilize resources from partners and funders to bridge the early stage project preparation gap for urban projects.

Examine shocks & stresses through the resilience lens.
Network Priorities

R-Cities focuses on developing initiatives and multi-city programs for its members cities in priority areas, all driven by holistic resilience through:

✓ peer to peer learning
✓ accelerating implementation
✓ bridging the investment gap
✓ developing resilience tools and trainings
✓ communicating and advocating for urban resilience

Holistic Resilience

3 cross-cutting themes

1. Resilient Recovery (Health)
2. Equity
3. Economic Opportunity

2 thematic pillars

Climate Resilience
- Water Resilience
- Community Resilience
- Energy Resilience

Circularity
- Waste Management
- Food Systems
- Resilient Infrastructure
Bridging the Investment Gap

**Urban Ocean: A capacity building and project accelerator program to improve waste management and build circular economies in cities**

**CHALLENGE**
- Local waste management systems are shaped by inadequacies, absences and weaknesses.
- Vulnerable populations are severely impacted by unsustainably managed waste.
- The leakage of plastics into water ways is a major concern with 80% of ocean plastics originating from land-based sources.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**
The program aims to demonstrate how actions to improve waste management and recycling can provide resilient and sustainable solutions that not only reduce ocean plastic pollution but also address key city priorities.

**PROGRAM APPROACH**
- Establish a peer network that enables collaboration and capacity development.
- Assess critical gaps, risks and vulnerabilities and map waste management challenges.
- Jointly develop financeable project proposals for presentation to potential partners and funders.

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<th>11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funded by Ocean Conservancy and the Circulate Initiative</td>
<td>6 cities from LAC/APAC</td>
<td>month timeline 05/2020 – 02/2022</td>
<td>projects implemented and linked to funding</td>
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<td>5 mentor cities from EME/APAC</td>
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Cities interlinking Plastic Leakage–Waste Management–Resilience

About Urban Ocean
**Bridging the Investment Gap**

**The Resilient Community Impact Fund (RCIF)**

**The Goal**
To make catalytic grants towards small to medium scale resilience projects that can further leverage funding on the ground and increase resilience for vulnerable urban populations.

**The Model**
To use a leveraged funding model to encourage both support of the RCIF directly for project seeding, as well as incentivize local matching for the prioritized projects.

**The Projects**
CROI and city input to the RCIF design helped highlight projects for a “resilient recovery” from COVID-19 that focus on equity building, economic resilience, public spaces, public health systems and critical infrastructure – all with an ongoing emphasis in holistic resilience.
Developing Resilience Tools and Trainings

A toolkit for Resilient Recovery

For the last six years R-Cities and its Chief Resilience Officers have co-designed and identified suitable methodologies to enable cities to plan and build resilience. R-Cities toolkit includes a combination of tools that cities can use on their own, as well as methods that can be delivered in collaboration with R-Cities.

Characterised by their place-based approach, our toolkit helps local governments to identify opportunities that include not only physical solutions, such as rethinking our streets’ layout to optimise pedestrian and cycling mobility, but also cultural practices and governance arrangements to achieve carbon neutrality in the long term.
How are cities building resilience
Planning for resilience

Developing Resilience Strategies

Our member cities have released more than 82 holistic, resilience strategies that help them better tackle the challenges of the 21st century.
Implementing resilience

Building Wellington’s Resilient Community Water Access

Wellington’s resilience strategy highlighted water resilience and security as a priority. Through its public water company, the City developed a decentralized, emergency water supply network, consisting of 22 strategically-placed Community Water Centers, which are not connected to the city’s main public water supply infrastructure and which provide potable water for communities following a disaster.

The system draws on the strength of the city’s communities, making them the central actors of their own resilience and recovery. Communities can plan for how to come together after a disaster to access the emergency water supply and other networks of support.

With the completion of the Community Infrastructure Program in 2018, the City is in better shape to respond and recover. The program ensures that even when pipes are broken, cell service is out, and transportation is blocked, most Wellingtonians will still be able to access water for a period until supply lines can be re-established.

“Well while pipes and reservoirs are generally buried and out of sight, in New Zealand we are beginning to understand the implications of not paying attention to this kind of infrastructure... Failure to invest in pipes and reservoirs has caused social, reputational, environmental, and economic damage.”
Sean Rush, Wellington City Councillor
Implementing resilience

Making Rotterdam’s First Resilient Neighborhood

Resilient BoTu empowers the two neighborhoods of Bospolder and Tussendijken, to become the city’s first “resilient district,” by directing transformative infrastructure construction and social programs that help people manage debt, access education for both adults and children, find better employment, and improve their housing quality.

Launched in 2019 the program is managed by a foundation created for the specific purpose to prioritize social impact investments and community-led leadership.

Resilient BoTu 2028 is a direct application and interpretation of cutting-edge urban resilience thinking. It combines a number of tracks of work in the city, such as transitioning to sustainable energy, upgrading housing stock, building to live with water and heat, and social inclusion and integration. It weaves them together to find projects that achieve multiple benefits in a highly consultative process that is very responsive to the needs of most-impacted inhabitants.

“Resilient BoTu 2028 consists of so many projects, initiatives and associations, and they all reach out to different groups of residents. What they have in common is that residents take back control over their own life or neighborhood and are supported in their efforts by city officials.”

Marleen ten Vergert, Neighborhood Manager & Coalition Organizer for BoTu

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BoTu, Rotterdam

1,500 Inhabitants Impacted

500 Residents Involved in the Decision-Making Process

Community Organizations Integrated into the Process and Connected 150+

4.6 Million Euros Investment Allocated (for first five years)
For a safe and equitable world