



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Cities and Climate Change Science Conference - Fostering new scientific knowledge for cities based on science, practice and policy.

2. The DATE attended:

5-7 March 2018

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Debra Roberts, Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Ms Jo Douwes

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

Culture, heritage and sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering and the built environment	x	IT and Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development and Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	City strategy and planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy and the natural environment		Good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other: cities and climate change science

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

The conference aims to inspire the next frontier of research focused on the science of cities and climate change. The primary goal of the conference is to assess the state of academic and practice-based knowledge related to cities and climate change, and to establish a global research agenda based on the joint identification of key gaps by the academic, practitioner and urban policy-making communities. The conference seeks to forge stronger partnerships among these communities and catalyze new processes for joint knowledge production; connect existing data platforms and potentially initiate new ones; as well as catalyze funding to meet these goals. It will bring together representatives from academia, scientific bodies, other research organizations and agencies; member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners and policy-makers. The main aims are to improve scientific knowledge and to stimulate research underpinning effective and efficient urban responses to climate change, as well as to provide inputs to the products of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

During the Sixth Assessment Cycle, the IPCC agreed to a stronger focus on cities in all of its reports. Moreover, the first Special Report of the Seventh IPCC Assessment cycle (after 2023) will be on cities and climate change. The new co-produced knowledge from the conference will provide the scientific basis for solutions to implement the international 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in cities globally, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the “Cities and Climate Change Science Conference: Fostering new scientific knowledge for cities based on science, practice and policy” are to: identify key research and knowledge gaps with regard to cities and climate change; inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports; co-designed and co-produced knowledge leading to effective and inclusive urban practices; and stimulate research on Cities and Climate Change during the AR6 cycle.

The specific aims of the conference are to:

- i. Take stock of the scientific literature, data and other sources of knowledge that have emerged around cities and climate change since the close of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (i.e. March-October 20136) and build on ongoing work as part of the AR6 cycle.
- ii. Identify key gaps in the scientific literature, in keeping with the emphasis that arises from the scoping of the AR6 and its three Special Reports (SRs) and international, regional and national policy and implementation imperatives that emerge from 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.
- iii. Identify key research and knowledge gaps, with the aim of stimulating new research, the findings of which will be assessed in AR7's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.
- iv. Develop novel assessment frameworks that take into account the systemic linkages, synergies and trade-offs between urban systems and climate change, especially action at the local scale.
- v. Bring together key urban and climate change stakeholders to identify priorities for scientific and policy research during the AR6 cycle and to stimulate the co-design and co-production of actionable knowledge.
- vi. Build on established United Nations, member state and research network initiatives, to help define appropriate global, regional and local monitoring systems and data architectures, including quality control, to facilitate scientific research and to help inform evidence-based policy development on climate change and cities.
- ii. Establish a partnership-based platform to systematically accumulate, assess, analyze and disseminate information on science-policy-practice linkages that enable an up-scaling and mainstreaming of urban climate actions at all scales.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Theme 1: Cities & climate change (Imperatives for action)

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are seeking to construct a new development trajectory. These global commitments both require – and will be supported by – addressing climate change in cities. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that specifically aim to exchange knowledge, lessons, and experiences on the impacts of climate change on cities and how cities (their local governments, businesses, and citizens) are adapting and responding to climate change. This theme seeks to map the mitigation and adaptation knowledge needs and the gaps being experienced by cities in the context of realizing global commitments. This Theme could also address the costs and benefits of climate action and inaction; the underpinning of ethics, equity and climate justice in the context of climate change, the role of city residents as agents of change, and the imperatives for actions that achieves low carbon, climate resilient urban pathways, and sustainable development in these contexts.

Theme 2: Urban emissions, impacts and vulnerabilities (Science and practice of cities) As centers for population, infrastructure and economic activities, cities are key contributors to global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) as well as key hotspots of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities. Understanding the processes and interlinkages of climate science, emissions, impacts, risks and vulnerabilities are central for co-producing strategies and alternatives to adapt to and mitigate climate change. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that aim to provide a better understanding of current and future urban emission drivers and pathways, urban climate impacts, and risks and vulnerabilities in cities. This Theme focuses on how the science of cities can guide the reduction of GHG and SLCP emissions, climate vulnerability, differential risks and help improve resilience. The analysis of social processes driving the construction and reconstruction of urban space, of urban form, design and typology are key considerations. This theme will also include lessons learned from exposure to climate variability, extreme climate events and related responses, and focus on means to improve urban climate detection, attribution and climate information.

Theme 3: Solutions for the transition to low carbon and climate resilient cities (Science and practice for cities)

It is evident that cities need transformative solutions given the scale of the climate change problems. In this Theme, we invite proposals for sessions and abstracts that engage with deep decarbonization pathways for cities and regions; transformative adaptation and resilient urbanization, and the links between the two. This Theme will address sustainable cities from the viewpoint of mitigation-adaptation linkages, as well as the development-linkages (including poverty and inequality) of mitigation and adaptation pathways. Promises of disruptive technologies and innovations; urban infrastructure and design; political leadership; technical, social, policy, governance and institutional innovation and behavior changes are key to such pathways.

Theme 4: Enabling transformative climate action in cities (advancing science and advancing cities)

Climate action in cities will take place in a context of a diversity of social, environment, economic, and development objectives. The transformative climate change action required in the short and long term, needs enabling - both through knowledge and actions. In this theme, we invite session proposals and abstracts that share innovative practices, suggest new approaches or develop theoretical and methodological framings of transformative climate action in cities. Transformative climate actions should address poverty and inequality, re-shaping of power relations, and re-conceptualizing visions of what cities are, could be, and should be. Sessions and papers in this Theme may address innovative policies and practices (including policy instruments and insurance), governance and institutions, and leadership and political will. The sessions and abstracts may cover technological, institutional, and social innovation, technology transfer, and climate finance and investment including the issue of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework.

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

Theme 1 Key Points for Action:

- While climate change is a powerful motivator, an integrated framework across the global agendas would help cities to respond.
- The informal sector needs a voice, acknowledgement and identity.
- There is an urgency for cities to energize sustainable consumption, production and circular economies.
- A balance of bottom-up and top-down approaches will enable transformation.
- Innovative technologies are catalysts for rapid achievement of the 1.5 °C goal.
- Radically improved multi-level governance and private-sector involvement will greatly facilitate financing for mitigation and adaptation at the required scale.
- Addressing the knowledge gaps for data, systems, governance and behavioural science will significantly improve city achievements of the global agendas.

Theme 2 Key Points: urban emissions, impacts and vulnerabilities

- Cities are impact and action hotspots for climate change and air quality.
- Understanding urban emissions, climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities
- In context of urbanisation, globalisation and climate change can help define an effective response, also considering options that address uncertainties.
- Using a systematic approach and scientific evidence, can support informed decision-making in cities, where policy and practice guides research, establishing a feedback loop to address knowledge gaps.
- Combining bottom-up and top-down (multi-disciplinary) data and knowledge will enable more accurate observation and understanding, empowering people to co-design and co-own their response, reaping multiple benefits from action.

Theme 3 key points: Solutions for the transition to low carbon and climate resilient cities

- Understanding and managing complexity
- Opportunities (and risks) from new and “old” technologies
- Thinking about the future – modelling, narratives, visions
- Enabling change – Partnerships, governance and funding
- Monitoring, evaluating, learning and accountability
- Limits to urban action – stimulating and joining up with action beyond the urban boundary

Theme 4 key points:

- Requires a systemic approach for transformative change; not piece-meal
- Science to guide change is more important than ever; it’s a must have

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

Science needs to be more tightly interwoven into service delivery functions in the City, especially climate science to advise on how to adapt and respond. The deepening of the Durban Research Action Partnership, through the Municipal Institute of Learning, needs to be pursued.

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

Available upon request