



UCCRN City Solutions Case Study Atlas

Glossary

Carbon Pricing: An instrument that captures the external costs of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—the costs of emissions that the public pays for, such as damage to crops, health care costs from heat waves and droughts, and loss of property from flooding and sea level rise—and ties them to their sources through a price, usually in the form of a price on the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted (World Bank, 2019).

Climate Grants: Financial aid provided to support initiatives focused on addressing climate change.

Commercial Finance Institutions: Businesses that provide funding and financial services to other businesses, rather than to individuals.

Culture (Community, Heritage, Art, and History): Integrating heritage, art, and community identity into climate action to support inclusive, resilient, and culturally grounded urban development.

Data and Modeling: The collection, analysis, and simulation of climate-related data through tools such as climate models, remote sensing, and digital twins, to inform, design, and evaluate urban interventions, enabling evidence-based decision-making, risk assessment, and planning for climate resilience and sustainability.

Digitalization: The use of digital technologies—such as sensors, data platforms, AI, and smart infrastructure—to enhance the planning, implementation, and monitoring of urban climate solutions, improving efficiency, responsiveness, and sustainability in city systems.

Disaster and Emergency Management: The planning, coordination, and response systems that help cities prepare for, reduce risk from, and recover from climate-related hazards, ensuring urban resilience and the protection of vulnerable populations.

Energy: Sustainable energy systems focus on producing, distributing, and using energy from low-carbon, renewable sources in efficient and equitable ways to enhance decarbonization and support energy transitions.

Finance (Investment and Public Procurement): The strategic use of public and private funds to support urban climate action through equitable, transparent investment and procurement.

Food: Sustainable urban food systems focus on enhancing food security, reducing waste, and promoting local production and consumption practices that are resilient to climate impacts. These systems integrate local biodiversity, water availability, and equitable access to nutritious food, addressing challenges in sustainability and urban resilience.

Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science (GRAA): Developed by the Global Covenant of Mayors, UN-Habitat, and the Melbourne Centre for Cities,



the Global Research Action Agenda is an organizational structure that highlights research and innovation in urban planning and design utilizing city-level models and data to deliver just and equitable action in climate resilient development.

Governance and Multilevel Partnerships: Coordinated, inclusive action across government levels and sectors to accelerate climate resilience and meet global climate commitments.

Green Bonds: Financial instruments that finance green projects and provide investors with regular or fixed income payments (World Bank, 2021).

Gross National Income (GNI): The aggregate value of the gross balances of primary incomes for all sectors (OECD, 2025).

Health (Human and Environment): Sustainable urban food systems are integral to both human and environmental health, relying on local biodiversity and geography. A holistic approach to urban food systems supports community well-being by addressing physical, mental, and cognitive health, reducing disparities, and promoting resilience.

Human Development Index (HDI): A summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions (UNDP, 2025).

Infrastructure and Housing: The planning and construction of climate-resilient buildings and systems that reduce emissions, withstand environmental stresses, and support sustainable, equitable urban living.

Köppen-Geiger Climate Zones: A classification system used to define climatic boundaries.

Land Value Capture: Local public sources of finance such as development impact fees, tax incremental financing, public land leasing and development right sales, land readjustment programs, connection fees, joint developments, and cost-benefit-sharing.

Mobility: Sustainable urban mobility refers to transport systems and policies that prioritize low-emission, accessible, and efficient modes of travel—such as public transit, walking, cycling, and electric vehicles—to enhance decarbonization, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability.

Multilateral Development Banks: Supranational institutions set up by sovereign states, which are their shareholders. Their remits reflect the development aid and cooperation policies established by these states. They have the common task of fostering economic and social progress in developing countries by financing projects, supporting investment and generating capital for the benefit of all global citizens (EIB, 2024).

Nature-based Solutions (NbS): Actions that protect, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems to address social, economic, and environmental challenges, while enhancing biodiversity, resilience, and human well-being.

Payments for Ecosystem Services: A tool through which a provider of ecosystem services



receives payments for the management of ecosystems with the goal of continued or improved provision of services. As such, PES incentivises and provides financial means to maintain or enhance the capacity of ecosystems to provide goods and services (IWRM, 2025).

Planned Relocation: A process where individuals or groups are relocated from their homes or temporary residences to a new location due to climate change and impending environmental hazards, with support to resettle and rebuild their lives.

Private Equity Funds: A pool of capital used to invest in private companies that fit within a predetermined investment strategy (Espinosa, 2025)

Subnational Development Banks: Public development banks or public financing institutions supported by national governments or states, with the specific mandate to provide funding to local governments and local stakeholders and support subnational urban investments (FMDV, 2025).

Tax Mechanisms: Tools governments use to collect money from individuals or businesses to fund public services, guide behavior, or address social and environmental goals.

Urban Planning and Design: The integration of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies within the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and urban design, utilizing science-based approaches to transform urban environments for climate resilience and sustainable development.

Venture Capital: A form of private equity and a type of financing for startup companies and small businesses with long-term growth potential (Hayes, 2024).

Waste: Sustainable waste management involves reducing, reusing, recycling, and responsibly disposing of waste to minimize environmental impact, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and promote resource efficiency throughout the lifecycle of materials.

Water: Sustainable water management involves strategies and practices that ensure the availability, quality, and efficient use of water resources to support human and ecological needs, while enhancing resilience to climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, and water scarcity.



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