



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Urban Power Unleashed: Cities as Climate Action Heroes

September 20, 2024, Virtual, 9 to 11 am EST

Organized by: International Tunneling Association and its Committee on Underground Spaces (ITACUS) and All Bits Count (ABC)

Background on the event

"Urban Power Unleashed: Cities as Climate Action Heroes" is an interactive online event during New York Climate Week that aims to showcase how cities can transform their role in addressing climate change. The session will delve into the hidden potential of urban spaces, exploring how infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and innovative uses of underground spaces can contribute to sustainable development.

Moderator:

Mahak Agrawal, Steering Board Member (ITACUS), Founder of All Bits Count

Speakers:

Sara Karerat

Managing Director, Center for Active Design

Presentation focus: Optimizing urban settings for public health and sustainability through the Fitwel Healthy Building Standard.

Philippe Rahm

Principal, Philippe Rahm Architectes

Presentation focus: Leveraging intrinsic atmospheric qualities in architecture to address climatic challenges.

Antonia Cornaro

Chair, ITACUS; Lecturer, ETH Zurich

Presentation focus: Enhancing urban mobility, efficiency, and resilience through underground spaces.

Joyce van den Berg

Chief Design and Landscape Architect, City of Amsterdam

Presentation focus: The vital role of soil biodiversity in urban sustainability and innovative public space design.

Key Issues Discussed:

- The impact of urban areas on climate change and their potential to serve as climate action heroes.
- The importance of transforming infrastructure and leveraging underground spaces for green initiatives.
- The role of nature-based solutions in enhancing urban resilience.
- Strategies for scaling urban sustainability solutions to achieve global impact.
- Collaboration among stakeholders to drive urban sustainability initiatives.

Key Recommendations for Action:

- Encourage cities to invest in and implement nature-based solutions to enhance urban resilience.
- Promote the use of underground spaces for sustainable infrastructure and green initiatives.
- Foster partnerships among government agencies, private sectors, and communities to unlock urban sustainability potential.
- Advocate for policies that support the transformation of urban spaces into climate action heroes through systemic changes and everyday sustainable practices.
- Mobilize resources and funding for innovative urban projects that address climate challenges and enhance public health.

Webpage to find more information:

Event page:

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/urban-power-unleashed-cities-climate-action-heroes

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