

# C40 2019 Mayoral Summit

## Attendance Summary Report

### Summary and Contents

The Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) attended several events in Copenhagen during the week of October 7-11, including the [C40 Mayors' Summit](#), the **Green Economy and Innovation Forum**, the [Cities and Business Forum](#), the **Divest/Invest Forum**, and an Ambassadorial **Canada-Denmark Business Forum**. VEC CEO Catherine Warren had the opportunity to present to the Ambassadorial Forum, while George Benson from the Commission also spoke and presented at both the Green Economy and Innovation and the Cities and Business Forums. This summary includes:

1. Key insights from the event
2. Major opportunities for Vancouver and VEC to follow-up on
3. Inspiration for future projects for the City, the Commission, regional actors, and others
4. Appendices with detailed descriptions of events, major C40 Award Winners, remarks by Catherine Warren at the business roundtable, and other background materials.

### Key Insights From All Events

- » **The central themes of the conference were boldness and urgency.** From bringing overconsumption into the conversation, to loudly and clearly signalling the linkages between inequality and the climate crisis, launching the [Global Green New Deal](#), the C40 Mayors, such as past and new Chair of C40, LA and Paris Mayors Eric Garcetti and Anne Hidalgo, respectively, and the attending delegates (including US Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio Cortez) were strikingly unreserved and unapologetic for the kinds of radical transformations that they felt were necessary.
- » The Summit showcased a number of really new and innovative partnerships, including the [City Business Alliance](#), the C40's new partnership with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Transportation Worker Federation (TWF) around [Inclusive Climate Action](#), and some new city-to-city initiatives, including the [Divest/Invest Forum](#), led by New York and London, and the [Oslo, Copenhagen, and Stockholm partnership around clean construction](#).
- » **European cities continue to look to Vancouver's leadership in climate across across a number of respects,** in particular, the boldness of some political-level goals, including renewable energy and green buildings, and the depth of measurement and reporting, particularly for the Greenest City Action Plan. They were many, many requests to partner and work together, the key factor on taking these forward will be evaluating where the greatest impact will be within existing or likely future capacities.

## Major Opportunities Identified

- » **Just Transition Research and Programming** — C40 and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) have signed a new partnership to promote inclusive climate action and the Just Transition. The [ITUC's Just Transition Centre](#) has indicated that it is looking to collaborate with cities on research, policymaking, and partnership development at the global and local levels and already has existing partnerships within Vancouver.
- » **Setting Global Standards through Trade Agreements** — Members of the Green Economy and Innovation Forum within C40 all expressed an interest in exploring ways that cities inform and influence national and supra-national processes, such as the Canada-EU [Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement](#) (CETA), where a standardized policy and market mechanism, such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), or Materials Passports, could ensure business compliance within the massive Canada-EU market, and therefore drive global trends and standards.
- » **Divestment and Investment** — The [Divest/Invest Forum](#) is very interested in having Vancouver join and participate, and has said that they would be eager to see Vancouver's work on Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) leveraged and shared within that, and other forums. Their March 2020 workshop, as identified in a Council motion in November of 2019, is a potential place to start.
- » **Global Networks of Demonstration Programs** — Similar to Vancouver's Green and Digital Demonstration Program (GDDP) and the Tech Deployment Network (TDN) that it is evolving into, there are a number of city-led challenge-based programs, from New York's [NYCx Moonshot platform](#), to the [UPPlift program](#) in Toronto, and many others. Cities expressed interest in working together to broaden the knowledge of these programs and amplify their impact.
- » **Co-developing Global Industry Challenge Statements** — With regards to coordinating these challenge-focused programs, there was also an idea that in time challenges could in time also be situated towards key technical or financial challenges faced by the private sector in meeting key city policies, such as deep energy retrofits. There was felt to be a potential to aggregate industry challenges within individual ecosystems, and across multiple challenge programs, to ensure that pain-points outside of city control are also being addressed and solutions made available to a wide enough market to get businesses to start delivering as soon as possible.
- » **Leveraging COP26** — The Scottish Committee organizing COP26 is being pressured by C40 and others to be more inclusive of cities — C40 has said that they are open to ideas about how cities could feature prominently in this. If there are initiatives that Vancouver is very keen to see action taken on, for example, city-led work on TCFD, performance-based green building regulations; or deep energy retrofit financing or technical advice, COP could be a powerful forum to push out information and calls to action through.
- » **Port Cities Network** — C40 is looking at the creation of a harbour city network that could intersect with ports, and possibly event airports. Linking the Port of Vancouver and YVR into this network could unlock new resources for Vancouver and leverage some of the great local sustainability activities to help impact global audiences.

## Major Opportunities Identified *Continued*

- » **Danish Industry Collaboration** — Danish Industry, including their Cleantech Association, as well as specific Danish companies, particularly global heating systems manufacturer [Danfoss](#), are keen to collaborate on [energy efficiency](#), [electrification of buildings](#) and [transportation](#), and industrial coordination and [‘sector coupling’](#). Contact between the Cleantech Association and Danfoss have already been initiated and opportunities are being pursued.

## Inspiration for Future Projects in Vancouver

- » **Doughnut Economics** — Amsterdam’s work to bring [Doughnut Economics](#) to the ground-level with their consumption-based inventories and circular economy work was deeply inspiring. They recognise, as C40 has, that wealthy cities cannot claim a low environmental impact until they have addressed the entire supply chain of their consumption, including the emissions and other environmental impacts that exist outside of their jurisdictions and reporting catchments. C40, [Circle Economy](#), and the Doughnut Institute are now all collaborating on “city portraits” of their consumption-based emissions and environmental impacts, as well as the global, socio-economic impacts of their consumption and are using these to drive systemic, city-wide action to address the global and local negative impacts of consumption.
- » **Labour Force Transitions** — A number of cities, including Oslo, Los Angeles, New York City, Amsterdam, and Copenhagen, have all taken steps to build significant labour force transition plans and fund activities therein. Partnerships, as in Oslo’s case, significantly helped expand the impact of this activity, as unions, higher education institutions, and nonprofits could leverage their resources collaboratively to ensure meaningful coordination. The Amsterdam [House of Skills](#) is particularly fascinating as a multi-stakeholder partnership that is providing vertical and horizontal movement for many workers who are facing headwinds amidst industry transitions.
- » **Activating Private Capital** — Los Angeles, New York City, London, and Portland all had made significant actions to drive public and private capital towards sustainable solutions. The NYC and London efforts as part of the [Divest/Invest Forum](#) has sparked large-scale conversations about local initiatives to utilize large pools of capital for sustainable purposes, and LA has made a goal of mobilizing private sector green investment in L.A. by \$750 million by 2025; and \$2 billion by 2035. Portland introduced a new [gross-receipts tax on large companies](#) that is expected to raise \$50-71 million a year for energy retrofits, job retraining, and innovation investments, all done within an explicitly equity-driven and social justice framework.
- » **Clean Construction** — The cities of [Oslo, Copenhagen, and Stockholm are all aiming to drive reductions in their construction-sector emissions](#) by focusing on strategies to reduce on-site emissions reductions, primarily through machinery electrification, using both regulatory and procurement mechanisms for municipal projects.
- » **City-sponsored Business Awards and Certifications** — Several cities, including Paris and Tel Aviv, had pledge-based systems for the private sector to broadcast their commitment to climate action. There’s a vetting process and agreement about what kinds of commitments are sufficient and aligned with city policy, or other frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Working with the Pembina Institute’s sustainable businesses coalitions and possibly Metro Vancouver’s Climate 2050 team, a similar program or initiative could be of great use in Vancouver, where consumers are trying to sort through so many certifications and standards and are looking to a single, encompassing way of choosing who to buy from and work with.