WBCSD Urban Infrastructure Initiative

A World of Sustainable Cities

WBCSD Urban Infrastructure Initiative
Urban challenges & opportunities

The Urban Infrastructure Initiative (UII) envisions a world where cities provide a sustainable environment for people to live, work, move and play.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), which started the UII in 2010 as a business contribution to urban sustainability, has gathered an impressive group of member companies that represent a vast array of knowledge and skills from infrastructure sectors including energy, buildings, materials, mobility and logistics, engineering, water, equipment, and support services.

This unique, multi-company initiative focuses on the power of business to unlock opportunities, and develop practical, cross-cutting solutions to help authorities create more sustainable, livable cities.

The UII aims to be a trusted business voice on urban sustainability. Using our expertise and knowledge to help in urban and infrastructure planning, our goal is to engage with cities to implement more effective and affordable solutions to manage inter-connected challenges.

Today, more than half of the planet’s inhabitants are living in urban areas, with 3 million more people arriving in cities every week. By 2050, more than 70% of the global population will live in cities. The scale of urbanization we will go through in the next two decades is unprecedented in human history. Cities and megacities are the future, and the sustainability battle will be won – or lost – there.

The case for action is compelling: a sustainable city is more competitive, offers its citizens better lives by lifting people out of poverty and providing appropriate services. It uses resources more efficiently, thrives economically, and creates inclusive communities.

Achieving sustainability requires strategic vision, a wide range of skills and the ability to integrate environmental, competitiveness, and quality of life concerns, within organizational and financial constraints. Business has deep
experience in balancing these issues. The Urban Infrastructure Initiative (UII) can add to cities’ knowledge and expertise in areas such as planning, design, and urban development.

Each city faces different challenges depending on its circumstances. Tailor-made solutions are required, as challenges and opportunities vary from country to country and city to city. Some cities can capitalize on surging populations. Others need to deal with aging and declining numbers.

Whatever their situations, cities can become more sustainable by developing or upgrading infrastructure, including density, mixed use, diversity and mobility.
A multi-company approach

The UII brings together a diverse group of companies that can help urban authorities to grasp practical and cost-effective opportunities for sustainable development.

Member companies have proven sustainability track records, with thorough experience in related WBCSD projects such as Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Water, Sustainable Mobility, and Electric Utilities, among others. They understand the inter-connected nature of sustainable cities, and they already work with urban planners and engineers to provide specific services and solutions.

However, urban infrastructure development requires an integrated approach and a system-wide view from the start. Involving business early in the urban planning process will help create a cross-cutting strategy and provide competitive and effective solutions.

The combination of business skills and urban expertise will create practical, effective strategies and the ability to deliver change. The UII can help cities design sustainability strategies and develop them to the post-project activation phase.

UII members bring:
- Skills and experience in different infrastructure sectors
- Activity in all stages of the infrastructure life-cycle (planning, development, execution, operation)
- Global coverage by multinational companies, headquartered in different continents
- A global track record in financial modeling, concessions, and public/private partnerships
- A results orientation and execution discipline to get things done

We engage in dialogue with city leadership to identify the range of sustainability issues and carry out a transformation study that offers solutions and ways to implement them.

“Successful and sustainable cities are the key for our common future. Cities, business and citizens need to join forces to break new ground.”

Björn Stigson, President, WBCSD
Uniting cross-sector expertise

UII members span the globe, bringing substantial resources and a strong commitment to sustainability. Collectively, we employ 2.1 million people and have revenues of more than USD 900 billion.

Our expertise for integrated solutions and systems covers all aspects of urban infrastructure and the entire life-cycle, from design to operation and maintenance.
Covering the entire infrastructure life-cycle

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**Assurance group**

The project’s integrity and accountability are assured by the external review of an independent Assurance group of eminent individuals with relevant experience from government, academia, business, and non-governmental organizations. The members are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas You</td>
<td>Chairman, Former Senior Advisor of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kees Christiaanse</td>
<td>Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, ETH Zürich, Switzerland</td>
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<td>Mario Gandelsonas</td>
<td>Professor at the Princeton University School of Architecture, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheong Koon Hean</td>
<td>CEO of the Housing and Development Board, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime Lerner</td>
<td>Former Mayor of Curitiba, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-ichi Tanabe</td>
<td>Professor of Architecture, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan</td>
</tr>
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Helped by intermediary organizations such as development banks and city networks, the UII identifies cities to participate in the project. We interact in dialogue sessions with each city to build a common understanding of needs and priorities. The intended output of each dialogue is an ‘issue landscape.’ This enables the selection of suitable experts from UII member companies to form an interdisciplinary transformation team. These teams will work with city officials and stakeholders to create concrete recommendations for the city sustainability strategy, and deliver a public report on the ‘solution landscape.’

This public report will be available for the city in its efforts to implement sustainable urban infrastructure.
UII members

Co-chairs

A global building materials company that provides high-quality products and sustainable solutions to customers and communities in more than 50 countries throughout the world

Provider of highly efficient and innovative solutions to individuals, cities and businesses in the sectors of electricity, natural gas as well as energy efficiency and environmental services

Global partner for cities when it comes to the sustainable development of urban infrastructures with green, efficient products, solutions and financing models

The WBCSD is a CEO-led, global coalition of some 200 companies advocating for progress on sustainable development. It aims to be a catalyst for innovation and sustainable growth in a world where resources are increasingly limited

Members

A leader in the creation, development and management of renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure and water services, contributing actively to sustainable development

A provider of professional, technical and management support services, working to enhance and sustain the world’s built, natural and social environments

A global materials and components supplier based on core technologies of glass, fluorine chemistry, ceramics and related fields

A leading player in the energy industry, active in all areas of the electricity value chain, from generation to energy supply, trading and network management, with expanding operations in the natural gas chain

The world’s largest motorcycle manufacturer and a leading automaker, providing a wide variety of products, ranging from mobility to power and clean energy production products

A global manufacturer of automotive products and marine equipment, and provider of related services

A diversified health and well-being company, serving professional and consumer markets in healthcare, lifestyle and lighting

A global leader in energy management that provides solutions to make energy safe, reliable, efficient, productive and green in homes, buildings, industrial facilities, data centers and across the electrical networks

A leading company in the transfer of goods and documents around the world with a focus on time- and day-definite service

A global vehicle manufacturer contributing to the sustainable development of society through manufacturing and provision of innovative and quality products and services

A provider of high technology products and services to the commercial building and aerospace industries worldwide including Carrier, Otis, Fire & Security, UTC Power, Pratt & Whitney, Hamilton Sundstrand and Sikorsky

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