



## Joint Actions on Climate Change

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### Sustainable Communities

#### Experts:

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#### Setting the scene

Climate change and global warming have been acknowledged on many levels. Communities are entering a world that some authors are now labelling “The Third Industrial Revolution”, as society moves from fossil fuels (“The Second Industrial Revolution”) to a renewable energy generation with smart, environmentally sound, technologies in sustainable communities.

More common terms include cleaner or more specifically “green” technology, renewable energy, earth-friendly, energy efficiency, eco-design, low-energy building standards, eco-conscious recycling, and organic products. Each of these terms and concepts touch on aspects of sustainability. Sustainability includes more than just carbon emissions, solar energy or recycling, since it includes all aspects of living in order to preserve our communities for future generations.

Several communities and municipalities around the globe are at present aiming at being “Climate cities” that are carbon neutral and/or 100% based on renewable energy. Renewable energy is a key component to sustainability for buildings and infrastructures, but also for communities such as villages, housing and retirement centers, shopping streets and college campuses among other sub-sets of cities and regions. A deeper examination of sustainable living illuminates how interconnected our world is, and the energy required to keep it moving. To be sustainable, so much must potentially be changed – from our buildings to our transportation systems.

Sustainability is achievable. It can be done, and it must be done at the community level. Block by block, city by city, region by region, communities can change how they live. This colloquium will search for concrete examples of how communities all over the world are making changes in their communities toward sustainable futures.