



World Habitat Day 2019

October 7, 2019

The United Nations has designated the **first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day.**

This year, World Habitat Day will be held on 7 October 2019. The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly and was first celebrated in 1986.

Each year, World Habitat Day takes on a new theme to bring attention to UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. This World Habitat Day will focus on promoting all levels of government and all relevant stakeholders to reflect on how to implement concrete initiatives to ensure adequate and affordable housing in the context of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The theme for World Habitat Day 2019 is "Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth". The world's cities produce every year 7 – 10 billion tonnes of solid, liquid, domestic, industrial and commercial waste. Managing waste properly is essential for building sustainable and liveable cities, but it remains a challenge for many developing countries and cities. This year, World Habitat Day is calling attention to the issue of waste, wishing to change the discourse into a positive one, where waste is presented as an opportunity to bring about wealth and change in the communities and cities where we live.

Lack of adequate waste management has resulted in excessive air, soil and water pollution, threatening public health, ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as accumulating immense quantities of waste in the world's oceans. At the same time sustainable waste management presents opportunities. New frontier technologies

and innovative solutions can present important circular economy opportunities for cities and human settlements.

Innovative technologies/solutions/ideas/approaches that change the way we think about, use and treat waste (solid, liquid, domestic, industrial and commercial). The submissions should support the 5R (rethinking, refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling) and opportunities that transform waste to wealth.

From innovating waste management through the 5Rs, cities can resolve not only the challenge, but also create employment, promote economic growth, improve health and ecosystems – which in turn contributes to happier, greener and healthier cities – and can create enormous savings for cities and municipalities.

UN-Habitat is calling for all stakeholders to share their innovative solutions and best practices that transform waste to wealth. The objective is to collate the best solutions and innovative practices from around the world and present these at World Habitat Day for practitioners to take home and be inspired to replicate them.