



World Habitat Day 2021

Monday 4 October, 2021

World Habitat Day is celebrated annually on the first Monday of October. The event focuses on the state of human settlements and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind people that they are responsible for the habitat of future generations. World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the UN General Assembly, and was first celebrated in 1986.

The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is **Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world**. Cities are responsible for some 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management accounting for the bulk of urban greenhouse gas emissions. The future of our planet depends on national, regional and local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders working together to create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

World Habitat Day will amplify the global "Race to Zero" Campaign and UN-Habitat's "Climate Action 4 Cities" and encourage local governments to develop actionable zero-carbon plans in the run up to the international climate change summit COP26 in November. "Race to Zero" is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. The objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonised economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

A Concept Note on the theme Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world is available at the link: <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/whd>.