

NYC-CPH Dual Urban Water Vision

How can innovative stormwater treatment and reuse practices help urban areas address the challenges of flooding and recreational water quality exacerbated by shifts in rain patterns caused by climate change?

Aim of the Innovation Call:

New York City and City of Copenhagen are seeking new and innovative ideas, technologies, and approaches for how stormwater can be successfully captured and treated to optimize benefits, reduce risks to public health, and promote co-benefits. Proposed solutions should consider the role water treatment or reuse can play in reducing flows to drainage systems and wastewater treatment facilities, in addition to conserving drinking water.

While the ultimate goal of this challenge is to identify and pilot innovative stormwater treatment and reuse solutions, it is important to consider the opportunities and challenges for implementation. Both cities also hope to gain a better understanding of how to manage the contaminants found in stormwater that can pose issues to public health and the environment, comply with current guidelines, and overcome other barriers to achieve the desired benefits of proposed stormwater treatment and reuse practices.

Specific categories of the challenges:

- 1. Methods for purifying runoff from roads, squares and parking areas that will permit is to be discharged into water bodies or reused for non-potable reuse, irrigation and/or other secondary purposes. The solutions must be able to be incorporated in urban areas with limited space and as little day to day maintenance and operation as possible.**
- 2. Methods for handling of first flush from roads, squares and parking areas**
- 3. Methods for purifying runoff from roofs**
- 4. Methods for on-line monitoring of water quality**

Background of the Innovation Call:

Erratic weather, including more frequent and intense rainfall and drought, and chronic issues from sea level rise, have forced cities to rethink urban water management. Innovative stormwater treatment and reuse practices can not only address challenges related to flooding and water quality, but also provide new opportunities to store and treat excess stormwater for beneficial uses.

New York City and City of Copenhagen have been working together since 2015 to exchange knowledge on solutions to shared climate challenges. To date, this partnership has provided insight into ways that both cities can advance climate resiliency projects and adapt stormwater solutions to mitigate inland flooding and accommodate future increases in rainfall intensity through integration with ongoing urban planning and development. This challenge would be a continuation of this partnership and will aid in overcoming challenges faced by both cities while moving towards the implementation of innovative solutions.

To learn more and to join the challenge register on our [digital platform here!](#)

This challenge is brought to you by [Access Cities](#), which is a global alliance for sustainable urban development. It is produced by the Danish Cleantech Hub New York

Cities:



Partners:



Confederation of Danish Industry

Innovation Partner:



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Why take part?

The innovation challenge with New York City and the City of Copenhagen is a global challenge open to any interested organisation and by taking part you will get the opportunity to:

1. Collaborate with other companies within the water sector around the world,
2. Pitch your innovative idea to city staff of NYC and CPH,
3. Explore the Danish and US market within the water sector,
4. Showcase their innovative products and services to different stakeholders through the co-creation and pitching process,
5. Potentially have your solutions to be taken forward by New York City &/or City of Copenhagen.

Key Dates:

- **Kick off Webinar: Tuesday 23rd February 16:00 - 17:00 CET (10:00 - 11:00 EST)**
- **Workshop 1: Wednesday 17th March 15:00 - 18:00 (10:00 - 13:00 EST)**
- **Workshop 2: Wednesday 14th April 15:00 - 18:00 (09:00 - 11:00 EDT)**
- **Workshop 3: Wednesday 28th April 15:00 - 18:00 (09:00 - 11:00 EDT)**
- **Pitching Session: May (Exact date TBC)**

Collaboration through online co-creation:

The aim of the innovation challenge is to develop overall solutions to the challenge whilst encouraging company to company collaboration that can support developing future partnerships. The innovation challenge will be driven digitally via short virtual workshops and with the use of a digital platform to help participants to work together outside of the planned workshops.

Digital platform to drive collaboration:

The digital platform will be the main platform for communication between participants and will function as a one-stop portal for information, interaction and dissemination. By gathering all the project participants in one online interactive space, the platform will enable ongoing dialogue and brainstorming between stakeholders before and after the planned workshops.

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Access Cities:

This challenge is brought to you by [Access Cities](#), which is a global alliance for sustainable urban development. It is produced by the Danish Cleantech Hub New York. Access Cities is an international, public-private project, which aims to strengthen sustainable urban development in five project cities: New York City, Singapore, Munich and the Danish cities of Copenhagen and Aarhus. The project connects actors working with sustainable urban development in the pursuit of game-changing solutions to common issues confronting cities.

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