The smart city conference for sustainable cities

Smart Mobility

Smart Energy

Smart Communications

Smart Living & City Planning

Conference Review 2014
“As result of the Urban Future Global Conference in Graz we can say: Yes - Sustainability is possible! We have enough knowledge about the interrelations. All we need now are strong leaders who are able to bring it into reality.”
Prof. Wulf Daseking, city planner

“The URBAN FUTURE Global Conference provides a unique opportunity for governments, businesses, and civil society from around the world to come together and share best practices.”
Jeremy Rifkin, Economist, USA

“A very well organized conference with speakers of high international class giving inspiration for the daily work.”
Tomas Gustafsson, Sustainability strategist, City of Stockholm

“The conference was very interesting since both the social and ecological perspectives were highlighted in a cohesive manner.”
Marina Johansson, Vice Mayor, City of Gothenburg

“Die Konferenz ermöglichte einen guten Austausch über innovative Ansätze zur Bürgerbeteiligung bei Stadtentwicklungsprozessen.”
Joachim Hahn, City of Heidelberg, Germany

“Good discussions at an extremely well organized conference on urban sustainability made Urban Future Global Conference the newcomer city event of 2014.”
Roman Mendle, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

“This was a very impressive event! It is really an eye-opener in relation to sustainable cities.”
Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director of Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low Carbon Technology, EU Commission, DG Climate Action (Portugal)

“It was very inspiring and widened my viewpoints.”
Roland Zinkernagel, City of Malmö, Sweden
The URBAN FUTURE Global Conference is Central Europe’s largest conference event for sustainable cities.

2 days
1,014 attendees
43 nations
187 speakers
4 continents
250+ cities
43 sessions
more sustainable
The conference focussed on the four core topics Mobility, Energy, Living & City Planning as well as Communications. 187 speakers from 4 continents shared their positive experiences and encountered challenges from a myriad of different sustainability projects. More than 1,000 attendees actively engaged in 43 sessions, discussing, sharing and learning what cities do to be more sustainable.

Urban Future EXPO
Meet companies, organizations and universities from around the world. The event featured a prominent tech and showcase exhibition that was directly integrated into the conference to foster interaction. On 2,000 sqm the latest technological solutions and sustainable projects have been presented directly to the attendees until late at night.

Graz Talks
More than 500 attendees remained alert and focussed until 9 pm to follow the highly prominent Graz Talks. With Benjamin Barber, Dan Hill, Kent Larson, Wolfgang Müller-Pietralla and Alex Steffen five of the world’s most innovative thinkers inspired the audience.
5 Conference Streams – 43 Sessions

Government Stream
National and city government leaders will explore together with UN and EU executives key issues in smart urban development in a series of roundtables and Q&A sessions: How can national governments support local smart city initiatives and what are the key success factors in smart city transformation from the perspective of large as well as medium-sized cities.

Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Smart Mobility
All about sustainable mobility in cities. Topics include: public transport, electro mobility, how to incentivize and support change in citizens’ mobility patterns, traffic flow optimization and how to reduce individual car traffic in cities. A specialized technical stream, aimed to provide tech-experts with latest know-how from the mobility sector, complements it.

Henrik Wenders, VP at BMW Group

Smart Resources: Energy
Focusing on key energy issues of cities. Topics include: strategic energy options for cities, issues of energy production from renewable sources, urban energy infrastructure, energy concepts for smart city districts, urban energy saving initiatives, smart metering and its impact on cities, how cities go about refitting existing structures to make them more energy efficient.

Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director at DG Climate Action, EU Commission

Smart Communications
Actively linking together all conference sessions and aimed at urban communications experts. Without proper communication, no changes can successfully be implemented. Topics include: how to communicate controversial projects, the impact of big data on cities, the impact of social trends on urban decision making and the effects of city collaboration.

Smart Living & City Planning
For city planners, architects, developers and real estate experts. Topics include: latest trends in city planning, challenges in developing sustainable districts, worldwide green building update, smart building technology, the impact of building regulations on sustainable project development as well as expected effects of connected living on cities and urban planning.

Martin Walker, Global Business Policy Council

Connor Sattely, GovFaces

5 Conference Streams – 43 Sessions
187 Speakers from 4 continents shared their experiences
Media & outreach activities

With the support of a broad platform of dedicated media and networking partners, the first edition of the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference not only succeeded in reaching out to the international smart city community, but also generated widespread media coverage on key challenges and available solutions spearheading the future of our cities.
The conference was made possible in big parts by the forward thinking of our patrons who have put sustainability on top of their agenda.

Holding Graz is the local urban infrastructure provider for the region of Graz. With more than 3,000 employees the company manages the city’s public transport, water, district heat and energy networks.

Styria – The Green Heart of Austria. With around 60% of its land covered with forest, it is the greenest state in Austria. Naturally, the diverse beauty of Styria’s nature is at the core of summer and winter tourism.

The City of Graz is Austria’s second largest city and home to approx. 280,000 people. Home to 4 universities and the world’s largest eco-tech cluster Graz is among the fastest growing cities in Central Europe. Growth that will be realized in a sustainable way.

Styria is one of the largest Austrian provinces. In addition to being home to many highly specialized companies that are world market leaders in their fields, Styria is a prime tourism destination with more than 2 mio guests each year.

Erber Group is a locally active real estate developer and investor who focuses on sustainable housing. The group of companies offer the entire value chain from planning and development to property management.

e-mobility Graz is responsible for the development of the Graz electro mobility model region. The experts focus on optimising the urban mobility systems, introducing electro mobility and advising communities on mobility and inter-modality solutions.

AVL is the world’s largest independent company for the development of powertrain systems with internal combustion engines as well as instrumentation and test systems.

The Kapsch Group, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, has more than 5,500 employees worldwide and is one of the market leaders in the European traffic telematics and communications industries.

Wirecard is a software and IT specialist and one of the leading international providers of outsourcing and white label solutions for electronic payment processing and issuing products.

Energie Steiermark is the largest energy supplier in the federal province of Styria and active in the fields of electricity, gas and district heating. With 1,800 employees the company serves more than 500,000 client installations.

The City of Graz will be growing sustainably. With Smart City Graz there are currently 477 ha of land being developed with smart city principles into sustainable places to live and work. The projects are aiming at substantially reducing CO2 emissions, increasing energy efficiency and implementing local production of renewable energies.

BMW is one of the world’s best known luxury automaker brands. Headquartered in Munich, Germany, it also owns and manufactures the Mini and Rolls-Royce cars. With the BMWi series the company launched an innovative and fully electric car range.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Its major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration through dialogue and cooperation on economic and sectoral issues.
Content Partners

Some of the 43 sessions have been realised in close cooperation with dedicated content partners who are leaders in their respective fields. This enabled topics and content to be even more relevant and up to date.

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria’s largest non-university research institute, is among the European research institutes a specialist in the key infrastructure issues of the future. AIT has been strongly involved in shaping the sessions on “How to become a smart energy city” and the “Impact of (Big) data on Smart Cities”.

AVL is the world’s largest independent company for the development of powertrain systems thus one of the leading resources on the future of engines, the automobile industry and mobility in general. AVL was key content partner for the conference’s mobility technology stream.

Graz University of Technology (TU Graz) addresses global issues while being aware of the needs and problems of society in the third millennium. In co-operation with universities, extramural research facilities and companies, the university has an active presence in nearly all continents. TU Graz made possible the session on “Optimizing traffic flow”.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the world’s leading network of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolises committed to building a sustainable future. By supporting our members we impact over 20% of the global population. ICLEI helped shape the session on “Energy optimization systems for buildings”.

Siemens is one of the world’s largest manufacturer of energy efficient and resource saving technology. The company is one of the leading suppliers of energy transfer solutions and pioneer in infrastructure solutions, such as rail-bound systems. It’s worldwide Urban Transport headquarter is based in Vienna, Austria. Siemens was key content partner for the technology update session for rail-bound solutions.
**The conference in numbers**

- **122** Number of text messages received by conference manager Gerald between 7:00-10:00 am on conference day 1
- **43** Number of phone calls he could not take in that time since he was already on the phone with someone else
- **187** Speakers arriving at the conference
- **693** Number of potential speakers contacted
- **1,014** Number of participants
- **43** Nationalities present at the conference
- **24,902** Emails received by core conference team since April 2014
- **17,646** Emails sent by core conference team since April 2014
- **137** Number of presentation files provided by speakers
- **91%** Percentage of presentation files provided not in time but rather on the day of the event
- **7** Number of flights cancelled with speakers on board on conference day 1
- **16** Number of people in the speaker hospitality team
- **4,077** Number of coffees the conference participants had during the 2 conference days
- **197,186** Calories of these chocolates (kcal)
- **3,836** km driven by 15 speaker shuttles in 3 days
- **1,377,180** Calories burned by all conference participants simply through active listening, thinking and engaging in discussions
- **14** Number of media interview requests declined by Mr. Rifkin and his office
- **506,4** amount of CO₂ (kg) not emitted thanks to using a fleet of BMW i3 e-cars
Behind the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference was a team of more than 10 staff with work experience on 3 continents and years of experience in designing and implementing innovative conferences. Our dedicated team has devoted their passions, beliefs and personalities to the conference, making it the unique and personal event everyone experienced.
## Our partners

### Conference Patrons

- OiER (Organization for International Economic Relations)
- United Nations Development Programme
- Holding Graz
- Stadt Graz
- Das Land Steiermark
- E R B E R
- e-mobility
- AVL
- Euro Steiermark
- Wirecard
- kapsch
- SMART CITY PROJECT
- BMW

### Conference Sponsors

- ENERGIE GRAZ
- FLUGHAFEN GRAZ
- HYPO Steiermark
- EVOLARIS
- SPAR
- SIEMENS
- Post
- MAGNA STEYR
- Klimaaktiv
- Austrian Post
- GRAWE Inh. Holding AG
- vw
- wko
- BWG
- Keba
- RE
- Austrian Post
- Klimaaktiv

### Networking & Academic Partners

- AIT
- Deutscher Stadetag
- Deutsche Grüne Bauhaus
- DGNB
- TU Graz
- Uni Graz
- RCE
- ZRW
- GdW
- ISOCARP
- RESET
- Fraunhofer Austria
- Eco World Sylvia
- brandeins
- ZIA
- BBB
- Baurecht
- DBZ
- Die Presse
- GCCA
- Business Logistics
- arge kompost & biogas
- Institut für Nachhaltigkeit
- Institute for Sustainability