



**ABU DHABI**  
SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

# LEADING SUSTAINABLE CITIES: TECH, INNOVATION, AND CLIMATE ACTION ON THE ROAD TO COP28

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ADSW Live Series

Hosted by

**MASDAR**

## Executive Summary

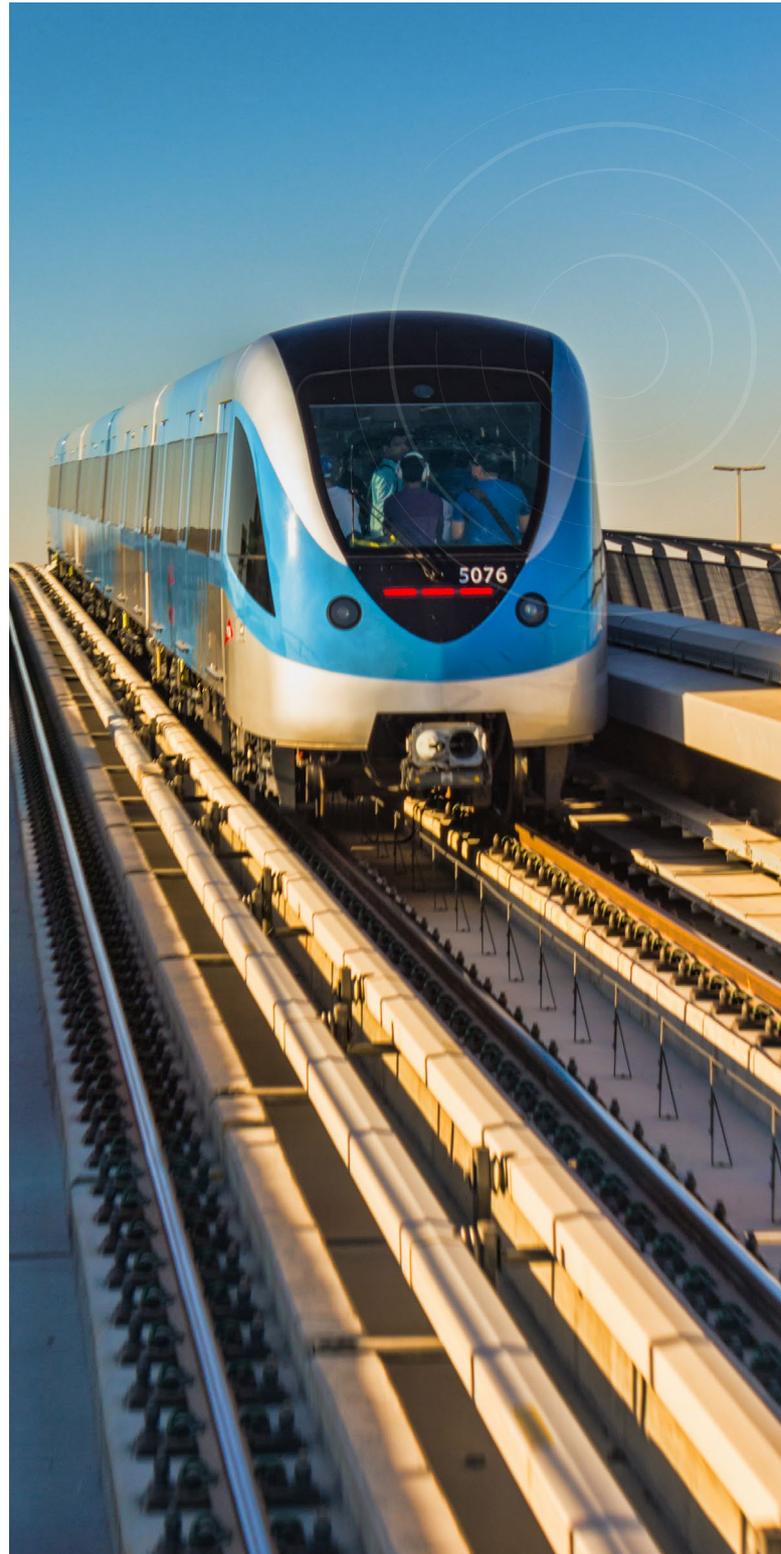
Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) hosted by Masdar, in partnership with Masdar City and the Global Parliament of Mayors, organized a live discussion as part of the ADSW Live Web Series showcasing the groundbreaking achievements of female urban leaders in three very different cities. The panel included female leaders from Strasbourg, Freetown, Skopje and Abu Dhabi, who explored how they are championing technology, innovation and climate action to create more sustainable cities.

## Key takeaways

- Sustainable transportation shouldn't just be low carbon, it should be affordable and accessible for everyone.
- Nature-based approaches to increasing climate resilience allow cities to develop in harmony with their environment.
- Effective waste management keeps streets clean and empowers residents to care for their local area.
- The active involvement of local communities, especially women and marginalized groups, is essential for the success of urban sustainability initiatives.

## Promoting sustainable and accessible public transport

Personal transportation is a key source of greenhouse gases; private vehicles were responsible for 10 per cent of global energy-related emissions in 2022. The panel highlighted the importance of transitioning away from private vehicles, with examples of their initiatives to make public transport greener and more accessible. In France, €500 million is being invested into Strasbourg's public transport network to reduce pollution and congestion whilst creating pedestrian and cycle zones. The city also has a free transport-for-youth scheme offering free rail and bus travel for people aged 18 and under, 70,000 of whom have signed up for the scheme. North Macedonia's capital Skopje, meanwhile, provides free transport to the young and the elderly, but has an ambitious plan to start making all public transport free for everyone from 2024.



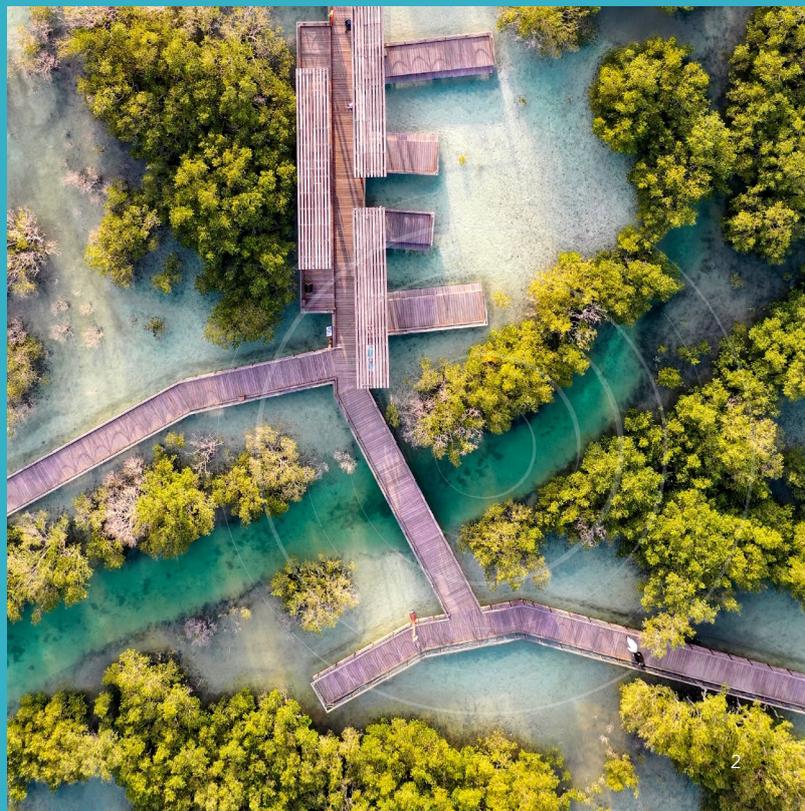
## Community matters most

The panel agreed that the common theme running through all these examples is the importance of community involvement for the success of urban sustainability. When people care about their local areas, when they live somewhere with clean air and green spaces, they are more willing to engage with sustainability initiatives and take responsibility for making their homes and neighbourhoods more sustainable. Each member of the panel has championed community involvement in the sustainability agenda of their own city.

Another side of community involvement in sustainability is the empowerment of women and other marginalized groups. They should be given greater access to STEM education and supported into leadership positions so they can influence the sustainability agendas in their cities. Climate initiatives should also be built from the ground up to actively benefit women and marginalized communities; in Freetown, for example, an urban farming project is encouraging women to create green spaces and helping them bring food to the table.



Resilience and creative waste management are just a few examples of the ways that cities are improving urban sustainability. But the driving force behind the greening of our cities is the passionate involvement of local communities. ADSW is proud to shine a spotlight on the actions of female leaders who are combining technology, innovation and inclusivity to meet the climate crisis head on.



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To watch the ASDW Live Web Series on demand, visit [www.adsw.live](http://www.adsw.live)

## Partners

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Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is a global initiative championed by the UAE and its clean energy powerhouse Masdar to accelerate sustainable development and advance economic, social and environmental progress.

Established in 2008, ADSW provides a global platform for all who have a stake in the future of our planet. ADSW brings together leaders from across governments, the private sector and civil society, to discuss and engage on bold climate action and the innovations that will ensure a sustainable world for future generations.

ADSW is not only a premier convenor for global dialogue, but a catalyst for concrete results, providing multi-stakeholder platforms where thought leadership can evolve into thoughtful action.

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) is the UAE's clean energy champion and one of the largest companies of its kind in the world, advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies to address global sustainability challenges.

Established in 2006, Masdar is today active in over 40 countries, helping them to achieve their clean energy objectives and advance sustainable development. Masdar is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), and under this ownership the company is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of at least 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and an annual green hydrogen production capacity of up to 1 million tons by the same year.



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For more information

General enquires: [contactus@adsw.ae](mailto:contactus@adsw.ae)

Media enquires: [media@adsw.ae](mailto:media@adsw.ae)

