



# Joining the Urban Transitions Mission's City Cohort Info Pack

The Urban Transitions Mission City cohort  
V. 30 November 2023





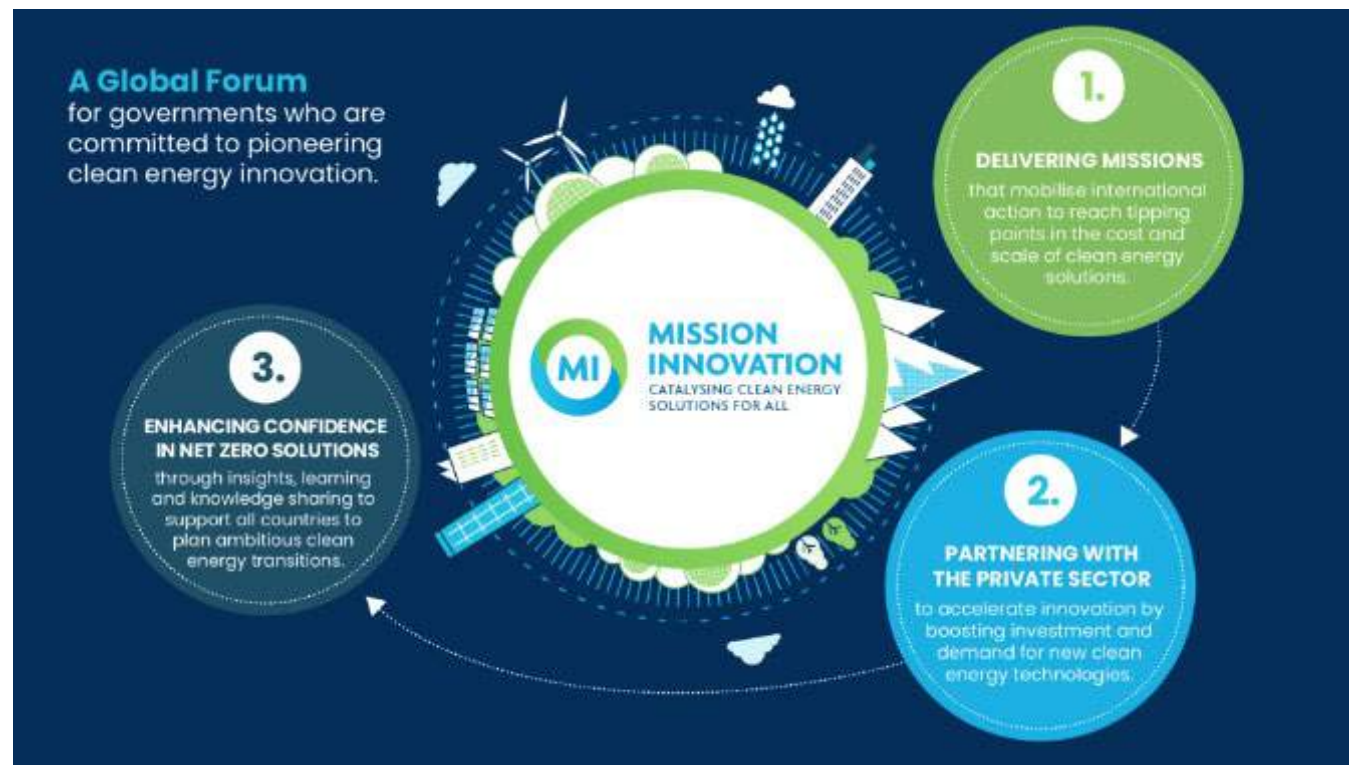
# Content:

- About the Urban Transitions Mission
- Our Approach
- Our Cohort
- Call for cities to join the UTM city cohort



# Mission Innovation – Catalysing energy solutions

- Mission Innovation is **a global initiative catalysing a decade of action and investment in research, development and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all**. This will accelerate progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to net zero.
- Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 23 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union).
- 7 Missions: [ZERO-EMISSION SHIPPING](#), [GREEN SHIPPING CORRIDORS](#), [CLEAN HYDROGEN](#), [GREEN POWERED FUTURE](#), [CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL](#), [URBAN TRANSITIONS](#), [NET-ZERO INDUSTRIES](#), [INTEGRATED BIOREFINERIES](#)



# About the Urban Transitions Mission Our Vision

overview



# The challenge

- Cities account for nearly three-quarters of global energy consumption and 70% greenhouse gas emissions.
- To meet the global climate goals, national governments, local governments, the business sector, stakeholders and civil society must quickly partner to accelerate the implementation of a holistic transition to a net-zero future.





**URBAN  
TRANSITIONS**  
MISSION

# Our Mission

- The Mission will mobilise decision makers across all levels of government to prioritise climate-neutral and net-zero pathways enabled by clean energy and systemic innovation across all sectors and in urban governance.
- By accelerating capacity-building and closing the gap between research, development and deployment, the Mission will empower cities to adopt innovative solutions and help reach tipping points in the cost and scale of those solutions for urban transitions.

Innovative  
net-zero  
urban  
transition

Capacity  
building  
and funding

R&I needs  
for the  
urban  
transition





# The Goal

- **The Mission will work with a cohort of 50 ambitious cities worldwide** to demonstrate integrated pathways towards holistic, people-centred urban transitions built around clean energy and innovative net-zero carbon solutions.
- **By 2030, these pathways will be validated by a group of 250 cities** and inspire cities across world regions on their journey towards decarbonisation



# Our Global Innovation Alliance (GIA)



## Core Team

### Co-leads



### Core Mission Members

Austria – India – Spain –  
Saudi Arabia – Sweden



MI Innovation Community  
on Affordable Heating and Cooling of Buildings



## Mission Support Group





# Net-zero, resilient and people-centred cities

## Our approach



# Our Approach



**Broker solutions, approaches, and knowledge for net-zero transitions at each stage of a city climate action journey**

Bring together a cohort of 50 pilot cities to **implement a holistic approach to urban net-zero** action plans across multiple sectors in 2023

**Develop a framework** to support cities in their pathway to net-zero, and review and refine by adding a second cohort of 250 more cities in 2024

**Reach a transition tipping point** by engaging 500 cities globally to be well on their way to reach net-zero by 2030 and make integrated net-zero urban action plans the default option

**Share worldwide** the UTM urban net-zero framework and solutions, and socialize the approach with the alliance of 12,500+ GCoM signatories to help reach **tipping points in the cost and scale of solutions for urban transitions.**

Deliver **new Research & Innovation agendas** based on detected needs and gaps  
During (co-)development and delivery of innovative technological, regulatory, and socio-economic solutions

Achieve **sector coupling** by bringing together national and local, public and private actors and initiatives into a **Global urban Innovation Alliance**

# Engaging the UTM cities–how?



1. **Revising their existing climate and energy action plans and prioritise actions to reach net-zero.** Cities will showcase their innovation and progress via existing reporting commitments.
2. Serving as both a **solution provider to support net-zero pathways** – inspiring, applying solutions, and as an **innovation hub** – identifying R&I gaps and challenges to help other cities in the urban transition to net-zero.
3. **Participating in the Annual Innovation Summit and engaging** in knowledge-transfer and capacity building opportunities with other UTM cities to accelerate their journey to net-zero.
4. Engaging in **dialogue with the national government** and the Mission's Global Innovation Alliance.



# Engaging the UTM cities—what?



1. **A globally designed framework** helping cities to strengthen their own climate plans and strategies, prioritise actions, and reap the benefits of systemic approaches to reach their net-zero target.
2. **A global platform for knowledge exchange**, that provides cities with direct access to good practices, integrated solutions, peer-learning opportunities and guidance for each step of their city climate journey.
3. **Help to identify needs-based solutions** in partnerships with the UTM Global Innovation Alliance, other Missions and in collaboration with other cities across the globe, also granting high international visibility.
4. The opportunity to **apply innovation, test, pilot and scale up solutions** and to access **dedicated R&I funding and capacity building** via the [MICall series](#).
5. **Engagement with the national level** to foster innovation, access climate finance and collaborative governance models.





# Urban net-zero framework

## We build upon the GCoM City Climate Journey

**A globally designed framework** helping cities to revise, strengthen their own climate plans and strategies, prioritise actions, and reap the benefits of systemic approaches to reach their net-zero target.

Cities will showcase their innovation and progress via existing plans and reporting commitments

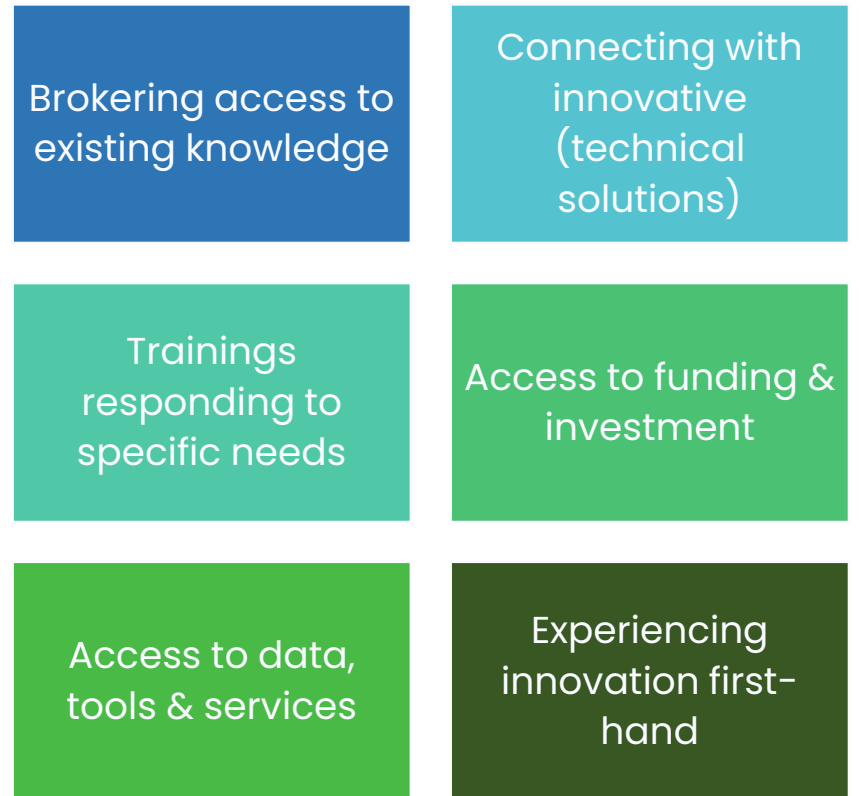
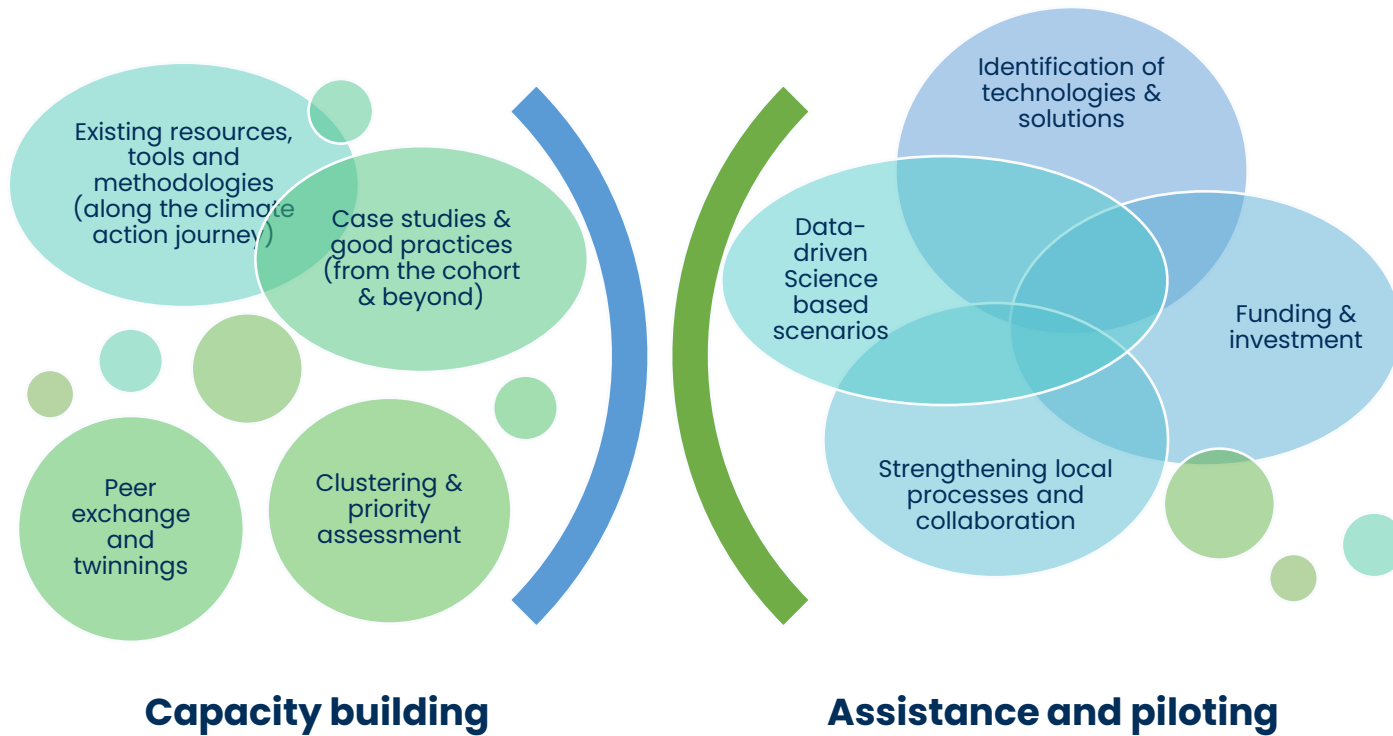


Not „Do you have a target?“  
(You do! you are GCoM signatory and ambitious!)

....but “Do you have a Science Based net-zero target?”

→ UTM to support filling the gaps and brokering solutions towards net-zero urban transition

# Piloting solutions and innovation through the UTM's



UTM cities serve as both a **solution provider to support net-zero pathways** – inspiring, applying solutions, and as an **innovation hub** – identifying R&I gaps and challenges to help other cities in the urban transition to net-zero.



# Pioneering Urban Transitions Our City Cohort



Countries		Cities
Albania	1	Lezha
Argentina	3	Luján de Cuyo – Mendoza, Santa Fe, Villa Carlos Paz
Australia	1	Newcastle
Austria	1	Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
Brazil	5	Belo Horizonte, Contagem, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador
Bulgaria	1	Burgas
Chile	4	Peñalolén, Puerto Montt, Renca, Vitacura
Colombia	1	Cartagena de indias
Denmark	1	Aarhus
Fiji Islands	1	Nadi
Finland	2	Lappeeranta, Turku
Germany	1	Mannheim
India	6	Ahmedabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Panaji, Patna, Surat
Japan	1	Tokorozawa
Lithuania	2	Kaunas, Siauliai
Morocco	2	Casablanca, Chefchaouen
Norway	2	Bodø, Bergen
Poland	1	Łódź
Portugal	3	Cascais, Lisbon, Santo Tirso
Romania	2	Cluj-Napoca, Roman
Spain	2	Valencia, Vitoria-Gasteiz
Ukraine	3	Konotop city, Lviv city territorial community, Zhytomyr
United Kingdom	1	Greater Manchester
USA	1	Miami-Dade County
<b>24 countries (9 EU)</b>	<b>48 selected cities to progressively engage with the Urban Transitions Mission</b>	



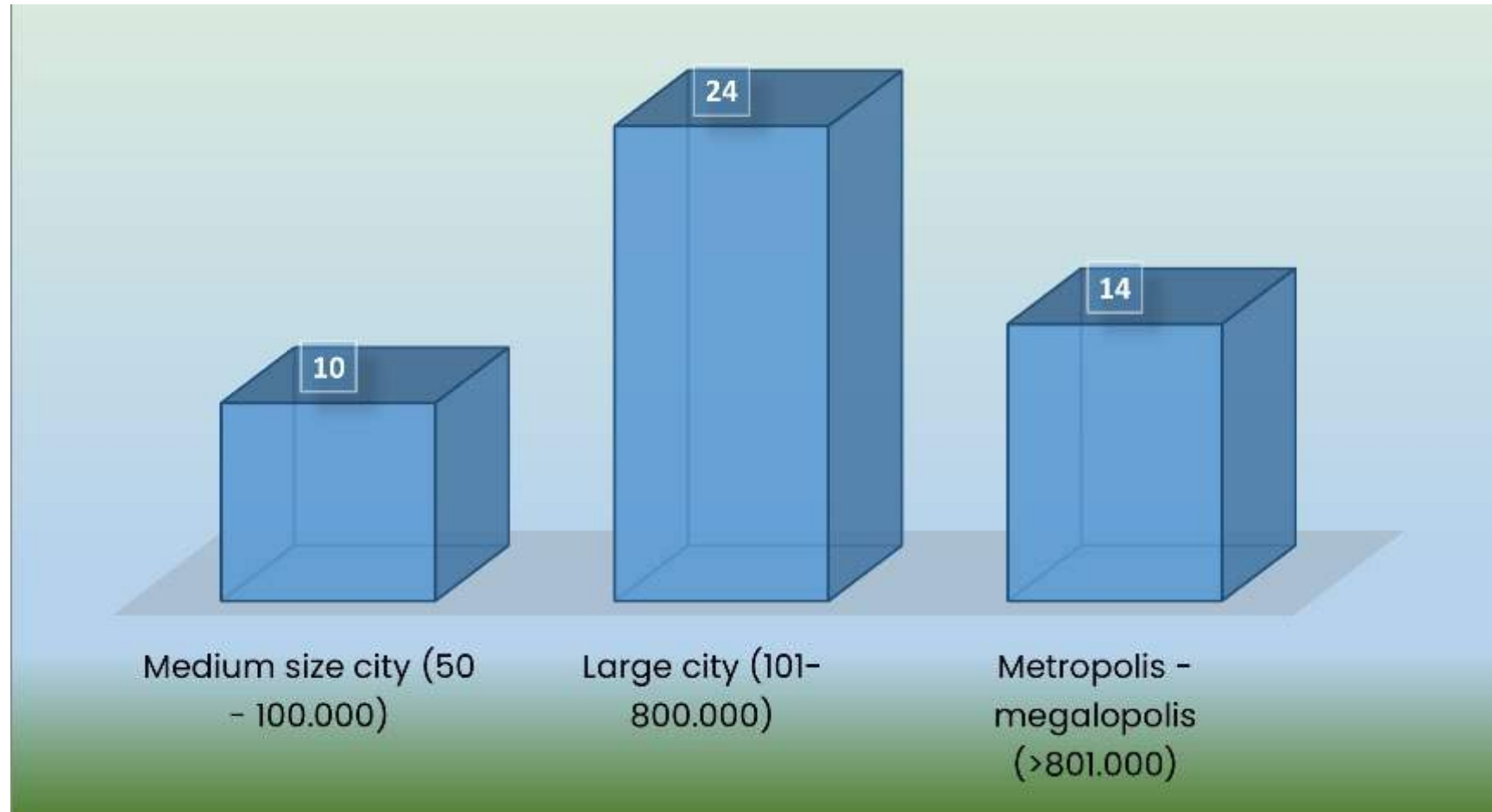
**URBAN  
TRANSITIONS**  
MISSION



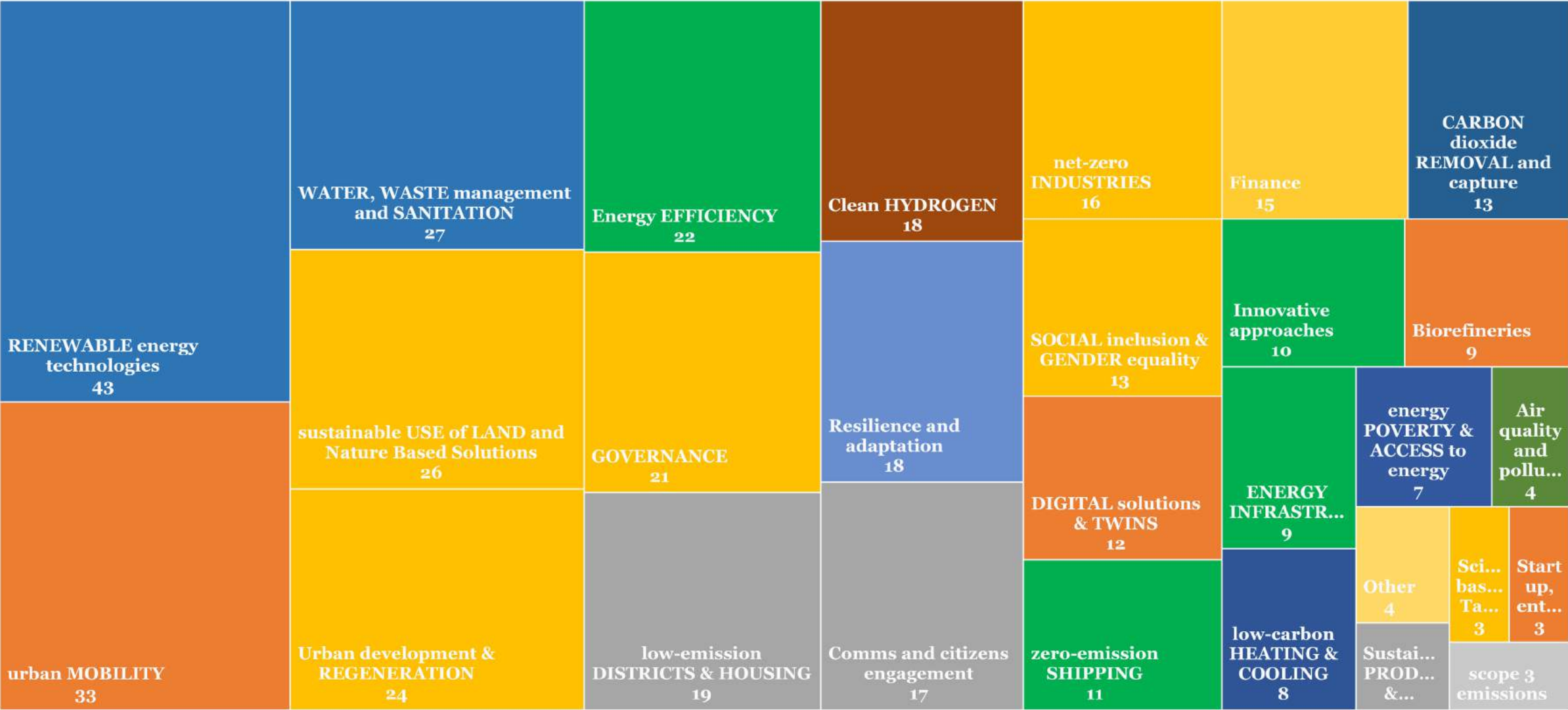




# UTM Cities population size



# Mapping the cohort's needs





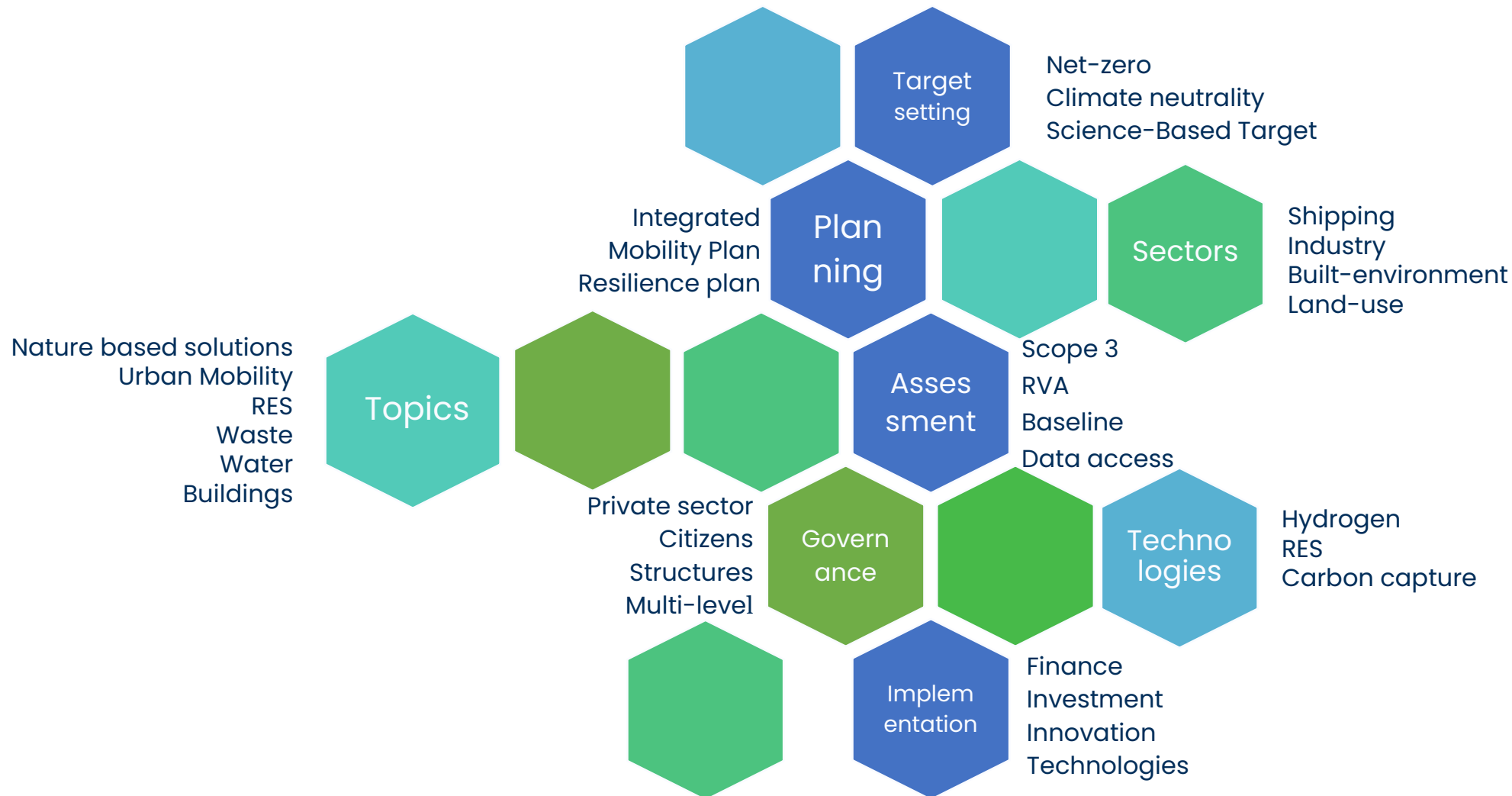
# UTM and the other MI Missions



- Green powered future - 100% renewable energy network
- Carbon Dioxide removal
- Clean Hydrogen
- Net-zero industries
- Zero-emission shipping
- Biorefineries



# Access to knowledge: process, topics, sectors, priorities



# Clusters



(Renewable)  
Energy

(Urban)  
Mobility

Nature-based  
Solutions

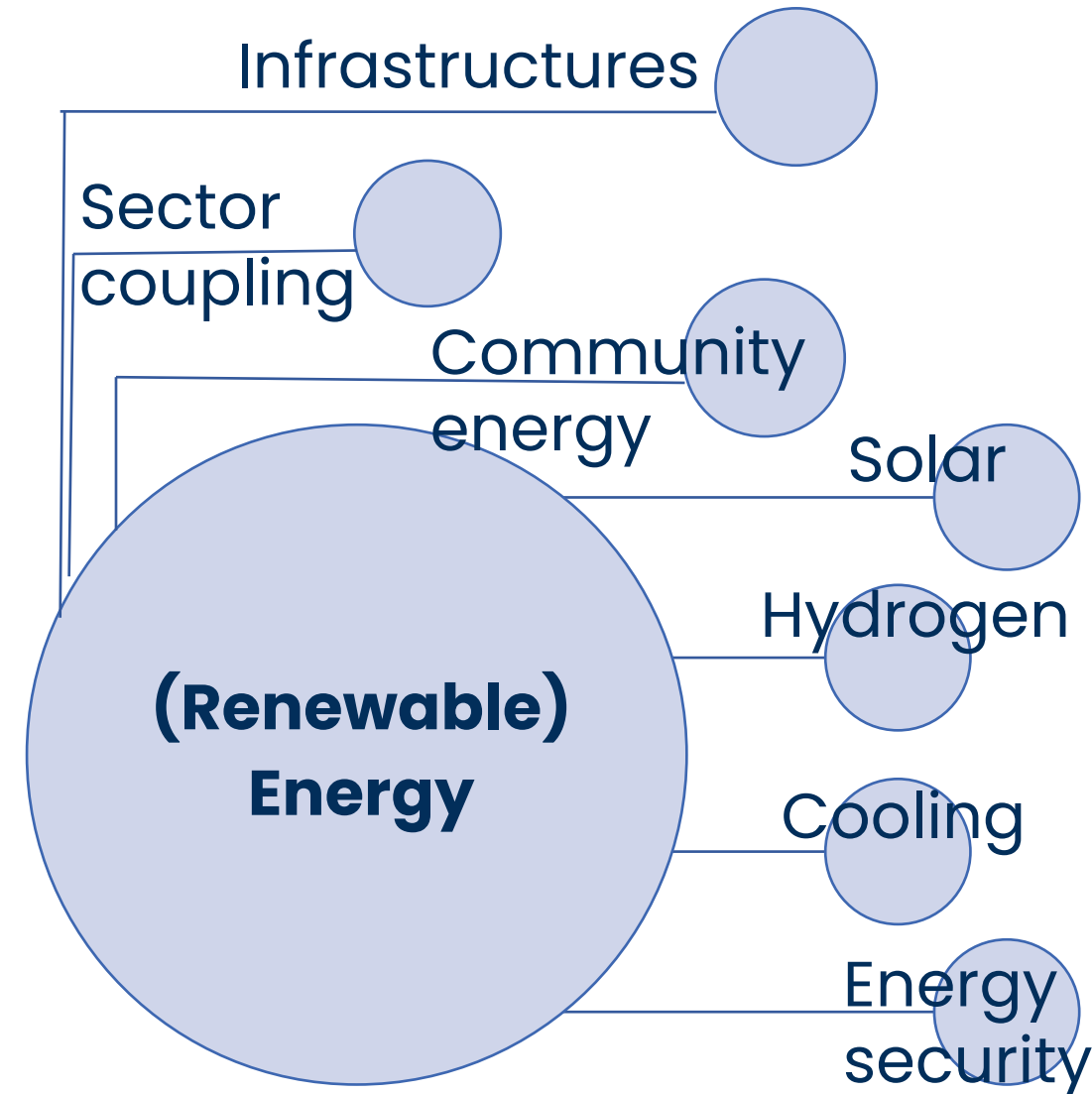
Water

Governance

Finance

City-scale  
Data &  
scenarios

- Aligned with capacity building and assistance
- Working Groups established – more may be launched & specific subgroups identified



# Platform now live!



## UTMC

### Urban Transitions Mission Centre

stakeholder  
matchmaking



data

tools

best practice

- The Urban Transitions Mission Centre offers an online platform – shaped around the UTM framework, which provides access to a repository, as well as interactive space for cities to engage with their peers, and with the overall UTM community (expected launch on 7 June 2023)
- Funded by a **EUR 2 million call** under the Horizon Europe programme **Global cooperation and exchange on urban climate neutrality**
- Synergy with the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities



GLOBAL COVENANT  
of MAYORS for  
CLIMATE & ENERGY



# Brokering solutions with the Global Innovation Alliance's support



Pilot holistic approaches and solutions based on people's core needs – from identification of solutions, to provider, to implementation (UNFCCC GIH)

Test the [Heat action platform](#), accessing resources and tools aimed at reducing the human and economic impacts of extreme heat (MI IC7)

Support on the creation or improvement of Living Labs (4 cities/year in the Virtual Living Lab course) (ENOLL)

Draft a high-quality Expression of Interest and Apply for the city climate GAP Fund (GCoM) and TAP (ICLEI)

Identify data gaps, improve data management and receive support on development of scenarios and digital twins (private sector partners)

Technical trainings on renewable energy solutions potential, and strategic urban development (IRENA)

High level international events and exchange opportunities with practitioners on energy efficiency (IEA)

Training on investment plans and finance (financial institutions partners)

RES / energy transition technology and regulatory guidance in collaboration with other MI Missions

All you need to know to  
join the transition  
Call for cities to join the UTM  
city cohort



# Our growing community

- 48 cities from 24 countries are already engaging with UTM since December 2022, to demonstrate integrated pathways towards holistic, people-centred urban transitions built around clean energy and innovative net-zero carbon solutions.
- The UTM is looking for 250 new pioneer cities to join this ambitious journey by the end of 2024.
- A [call for expression of interest](#) to join the UTM is open.





# Who is eligible?

Your city must:

- Have at least 50,000 inhabitants
- Be a GCoM signatory
- Have a climate action plan covering the whole city
- Commit to engage and to allocate appropriate resources to the roll-out of this Urban Transition Mission

## NEW!

Metropolitan/provincial governments and groups of (small) municipalities can now apply.

Check the FAQs for [more information!](#)

\* or pledge to commit to GCoM within three months of engaging with the Mission  
(<https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/our-cities/>)

# What does the city need to do



- Visit [www.urbantransitionsmission.org](http://www.urbantransitionsmission.org)
- Complete the short application online at [this link](#) or use the QR code:



- This should take you no more than a couple of hours
- You need to have the mandate to submit the application on behalf of your city



For more information contact: [utm@globalcovenantofmayors.org](mailto:utm@globalcovenantofmayors.org)

# The Timeline



1. The call for cities is open for cities to express their interest
2. Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis
3. The 250 cities selected will join progressively the UTM city cohort, by the end of 2024. An official announcement of new group joining the cohort will take place at COP28 (United Arab Emirates, 30 Nov–12 Dec)
4. Cities' engagement will kick off progressively in late 2023/beginning of 2024



Keep updated via the Mission's website



[www.urbantransitionsmission.org](http://www.urbantransitionsmission.org)



# JOIN the UTM City Cohort!



## Connect with the Urban Transitions Mission

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**European Commission – DG Research & Innovation**



**Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)**



**Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (JPI UE)**