Urban OCTOBER
31 DAYS OF PROMOTING
A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

2026 EVENT TOOLKIT

Urban October is a month of exciting meetings, discussions, and events focusing the world's attention on urban issues and sustainable development. Individuals, organizations, cities, communities, and governments at every level are encouraged to take part in activities that highlight the challenges and solutions relating to cities, towns, and communities. Urban October starts with World Habitat Day and ends with World Cities Day.

In 2026, the World Habitat Day will take place under the theme **Adequate Housing for All** and World Cities Day will focus on **Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All**.

5 October 2026
World Habitat Day
Adequate Housing for All

World Habitat Day is held on the first Monday of October each year and launches Urban October. The day centers around the global observance, which is held in a different country each year with keynote speakers and roundtable discussions focused on a specific theme. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'.

On 5 October 2026, the Global Observance of World Habitat Day, under the theme **Adequate Housing for All**, will focus on the global housing crisis whereby an estimated 2.8 billion people face various forms of housing inadequacy, in which close to 1.1 billion reside in slums and informal settlements, calls for urgent and concerted action.

World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on 31 October and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme.

On 31 October 2026, the Global Observance of World Cities Day, under the theme Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All, will showcase addressing urban regeneration as a catalyst for achieving adequate housing for all. It will showcase how combining area-based regeneration with housing and informal settlements strategies can deliver inclusive climate-resilient neighborhoods, consistent with the principles of adequate housing for all.

Join us and organize virtual, physical, and hybrid activities.

We are encouraging national governments, local authorities, the private sector, and other urban practitioners to mark the day by organizing events through workshops or webinars, panel discussions and interviews. The following are suggested events that can be held.

Urban Breakfast

An Urban Breakfast aims to create an inspiring dialogue to reflect on challenges facing sustainable urban development, considering the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. It can be held at any time.

Urban Breakfasts focus on introducing and discussing regional urban perspectives, with the participation of key speakers from national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The Urban Journalism Academy

The Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) brings together media professionals who are interested or involved in urban development. They help strengthen journalists' capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as technical expertise in urban data and indicators. The aim is to create a network of urban journalists that work together in advocating principles of the New Urban Agenda.

Raise awareness in your city or community.

You can get involved by organizing an event or including the following ideas in your event to raise awareness. Please feel free and post your event and activity **here.** This will be reflected on our Urban October **webpage.**

Event suggestions include:

- Organize a discussion or debate either physically or online on how your city or community can act and contribute to a carbon-free world and climate resilience.
- Organize a film screening either physically or online to bring people together in a common space and promote local creativity.
- Use this occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in urban issues in your community.
- Engage a well-known person or local expert to support your event to bring positive attention to World Habitat Day, World Cities Day, and Urban October as a whole.
- Organize public information campaign, use local actors, musicians, or poets to create awareness of the issues affecting your city or community.
- Approach local media to write articles or do radio or television pieces on the themes or organize interviews or panels policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.
- Essay writing or painting competitions can help create awareness of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in schools and colleges.
- Offer a university lecture or Master class on the theme of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day.
- Organize a capacity building session on the theme of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day
- Organize a picture exhibition on how to make your city or community carbon-free world and climate resilient.
- Launch of reports and projects in relation to the theme of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day.
- Organize a Video interview series on champions of carbon-free world and climate resilience.
- Engage in a Twitter chat on the theme of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day.
- Brand your Urban October event by using either the World Habitat Day or World Cities Day logo or merchandise designs, **here.**
- Promote and create a web page or a web banner on your website with information about World Habitat Day and World Cities Day.

- Promote Urban October through social media – Tag your posts for Urban October with #UrbanOctober, for World Habitat Day with #WorldHabitatDay, and for World Cities Day with #WorldCitiesDay.
- Once finalized, all promotional materials, including logos in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic, as well as branding assets for T-shirts, caps, banners, websites, and social media, will be made available on the **Urban October website.**

Keep in Touch

After your event, please share with us the event report, photos, videos, and any material about the event, **here.**

We will publish your event in the 2026 Urban October Report.

Tag us on social media - UNHABITAT - hashtags #UrbanOctober #WorldHabitatDay #WorldCitiesDay

For more information on Urban October, please visit our website on: ***https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/***, or send us an email on: ***unhabitat-events@un.org*** for Urban October, ***unhabitat-whd@un.org*** for World Habitat Day, and ***unhabitat-wcd@un.org*** for World Cities Day.

Connect to UN-Habitat social media

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