

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Wednesday 7 June 2023

10:00 – 11:30 NZST

Online via Zoom ([Registration here](#))

Cities have a pivotal role in the transition to a green and sustainable future. They are a key contributor to climate change while in a unique position to address climate and sustainability challenges we face.

The European Union (EU) is galvanising action and the sharing of experience at city level via the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) project for sustainable urban development and innovation. Three local authorities in Aotearoa New Zealand participate in this worldwide cooperation effort: **Christchurch, Nelson/Wakatū and New Plymouth.**

In this webinar, New Zealand cities will share insights from their city-to-city policy dialogue with counterparts in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Málaga (both in Spain), Lemvig (Denmark) and Vilnius (Lithuania) and the concrete follow-up actions envisaged. Common challenges addressed are **mobility, innovation, climate action** and **renewable energy**.



Programme

Moderator: Prof. Paul Dalziel, Lincoln University

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome by the European Union Delegation to New Zealand

10:05 – 10:15 Introduction to the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) project
Prof. Paul Dalziel, Lincoln University, IURC New Zealand Coordinator

10:15 – 10:25 **Energy futures: renewable energy and energy efficiency**

Jacqueline Baker, Deputy Chief Executive, New Plymouth District Council

10:25 – 10:35 **Climate action**

Miriana Stephens, CEO, AuOra, Wakatū Incorporation, Nelson

10:35 – 10:55 **Sustainable mobility, smart city and innovation**

Tony Moore, Principal Advisor Climate Resilience, Christchurch City Council

Julianne Hughey, City Initiatives Lead, Smart Christchurch, Christchurch City Council

Simon Anderson, Regional Growth Manager, Christchurch NZ

10:55 – 11:20 Q&A

11:20 – 11:30 Conclusions

Background

The EU and Aotearoa New Zealand are like-minded partners with shared values and interests. In an increasingly challenging world, this drives us to seek new and stronger ways of collaboration. The EU-NZ Free Trade Agreement and New Zealand's association to the [Horizon Europe](#) research programme will further deepen our relationship.

As EU-NZ relations enter a new era, the [EU Delegation to New Zealand](#) has launched **Policy Futures: EU-Aotearoa New Zealand** to deepen policy dialogue on issues of mutual relevance, such as climate action, digital and the future of multilateralism. The initiative comprises a bi-monthly newsletter curating the latest EU policy news for a New Zealand audience, and regular thematic seminars. This series of compact seminars/webinars support exchanges between New Zealand and EU researchers, practitioners and decision-makers across government, business, academia and civil society.

The inaugural seminar takes place on the occasion of the [EU Green Week](#), an annual opportunity to debate and discuss EU environmental policy.

The EU-funded [International Urban and Regional Cooperation \(IURC\)](#) project supports sustainability dialogues and partnerships between cities through study visits and online exchanges leading to the development of joint plans and pilot actions.

