adaptation measures should also positively influence urban mobility, social cohesion and economic prosperity.

Urban climate adaptation is essential for the future health and sustainability of our cities. But current progress lags behind ambition. In order to deliver effective and equitable climate solutions, cities will need to accelerate and mainstream adaptation measures across all sectors of society.

Cities are falling behind on the implementation of urban climate adaptation. Adaptation requires an appreciation of the complexity and interrelatedness of urban systems. Whilst challenges and barriers can occur within the processes of Understanding and Planning for urban climate adaptation, the Implementation phase faces specific barriers to success, alongside the cascading challenges from earlier phases.

Handling the complexity is crucial for implementing adaptation. Not only are practitioners and planners working to tackle the threats arising from climate change, but holistic adaptation measures should also positively influence urban mobility, social cohesion and economic prosperity.

Combined with our insights and expertise from multiple disciplines, we explore the challenges facing climate adaptation and provide cities, planners and citizens with real measures that can be taken to achieve resilient and adaptive cities of the future.
By exploring success stories from across Europe’s frontrunner cities, the report reveals 10 best practices and their current real-life effects.

3 selected best practices from across Europe, adaptation planning and implementation:

USE A GREEN SPACE INDEX TO ENFORCE NATURE AND ADAPTATION
Stockholm uses the Green Space Index to enforce green spaces within 200 meters for all residents

Result: Stockholm royal Seaport, as a result, is covered in green spaces that handles cloudbursts and reduces Urban Heat Island impacts.

INCORPORATE ADAPTATION IN BUILDING CODES
In Basel, authorities changed the city’s building code and made green solutions mandatory.

Result: Basel is now a frontrunner in green roofs, with 5.71 m² of green roof per inhabitant.

DESIGN MONITORING AND EVALUATION USING DATA FACILITATES DECISION MAKING
The Copenhagen Solutions lab experiments with sensor technology for climate adaptation.

Result: Smart technology and data analyses open up new possibilities for urban resilience.

Cities should now be unafraid to leapfrog towards the implementation of transformative adaptation measures as living labs for innovation and experimentation.

10 OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTATION

Based upon our research, we have identified 10 opportunities for accelerating climate adaptation implementation in cities in Europe:

1. Build capacities across stakeholders at all levels
2. Use digital tools to foster co-creation
3. Use policy instruments to accelerate and enforce nature and adaptation
4. Embed adaptation in urban building codes and zoning regulations
5. Use certification systems to accelerate adaptation in the public and private sectors
6. Design smart methods to monitor, evaluate and improve adaptation measures
7. Strategize to deal with risks, attaining multiple benefits
8. Embrace the dynamic uncertainty of climate change
9. Rethink tariffs and funding mechanisms for adaptation
10. Invest for the long term using institutional funds

Aerial view of the Stockholm Royal Seaport, a green and blue oasis where business, industry, society and nature all meet. And where policy instruments have placed climate adaptation as a top priority.

How do you take a city from no climate adaptation plan to one that actually plans and implements? Read the latest Sweco Urban Insight report “Planning for Climate Adaptation” for expert insight into how cities can shift from fail to pass and excel when it comes to climate adaptation.

Explore more insights by visiting our website: Swecourbaninsight.com