

Future City Design: Questions to Consider

Your challenge is to choose one climate change impact affecting your city and design one innovative and futuristic climate change adaptation and one mitigation to keep your residents healthy and safe.

How has your city adapted and mitigated your climate change impact 100 years in the future? What design and planning decisions made your city's adaptation and mitigation strategies possible?

As you and your teammates begin to design your future city, use the topics and questions below to guide your research, brainstorming, and design sessions. Remember, no city can provide everything. What are the most important features in your city? What trade-offs do you have to make? How might a climate change adaptation address more than one problem your city is facing?

City Features

- Where is your city located?
- How has climate change impacted your city, its residents, and the local environment?
- Who lives in your city? Are some populations more vulnerable than others to climate change?
- What are your city's distinctive natural features (e.g., mountains, oceans, rivers)?
- What makes your city futuristic and innovative?

Zoning, Government, & Budget

- How is your city zoned? Are the zones separate or are there mixed-use zones (e.g., commercial and residential or commercial and industrial) in your city?
- How has your city used zoning to achieve its goals around climate change?
- How is your city governed? Who makes the laws and regulations?
- What regulations or incentives does your city impose on manufacturers and businesses to ensure they are working to halt or reverse climate change?
- How does your city fund its operations (i.e., utilities, infrastructure, and public services)?

Environment & Energy

- What energy source(s) powers your future city?
- What are the costs and trade-offs of different power sources?
- What innovative and futuristic technologies is your city using in the production of its power, and how has this reduced or eliminated carbon emissions?
- What solutions has your city incorporated to halt or reverse climate change?
- How have your city's practices had a positive impact on the environment?

Food & Agriculture

- Where does your city's food supply come from?
- How has your city's food supply been impacted by climate change? What changes have local and regional farmers made to adapt to climate change impacts facing your city?

Industry, Manufacturing, & Jobs

- What drives the economy in your city (e.g., tourism, manufacturing, education, agriculture, sports, medicine, the arts)?
- How has adapting to a risk related to climate change affected your city's economy? What trade-offs did your city or local industries make?
- What innovative approaches and industry practices are being used to keep products or resources in use?
- What types of jobs are available to your residents?

Structures & Housing

- How has climate change impacted where your city's residents live, work, and go to school?
- How have construction practices changed to achieve your city's climate change-related goal?
- What materials are used in your city's buildings? What makes them innovative? How are materials produced, used, and potentially reused?

Transportation

- What transportation options are available to your residents? Is there more than one way to get around?
- How are goods and materials moved around your city for use and reuse?
- How has your city reduced or eliminated transportation emissions?
- How is your city designed to be accessible for people with mobility issues related to aging or a physical disability?



Utilities & Services

- What services does your future city provide to its residents (e.g., medical, education)?
- How does your city address the needs of vulnerable populations, including the poor, the sick, the unhoused, and the elderly?
- What impact has your city's approach to climate change had on its utilities—such as water, sewer, waste management and recycling, electricity, Internet, etc.?

Health & Recreation

- How does your city support a healthy lifestyle for its residents throughout every stage of life?
- What does your city offer for entertainment, recreation, and cultural enrichment?
- How have hospitals and healthcare adapted to the risk from climate change? Have any new medicines or treatments been created from your city's approach?
- What types of public spaces does your city have? What do people do there?