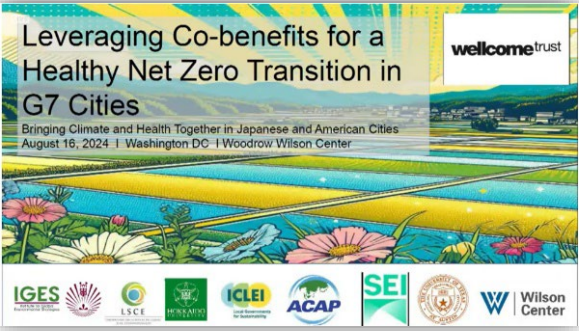


**The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)** serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>

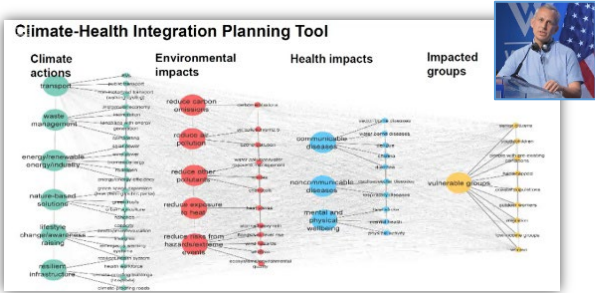


## Highlights

### Bringing Climate and Health Together in Japanese and American Cities



This event summary reviews some of the key points and raised during a workshop on “Bringing Climate and Health Together in Japanese and American Cities” that was held at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was convened as part of larger project entitled “Leveraging co-benefits for healthy net-zero transitions in Japanese and other G7 cities.” More information on the workshop is available here: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/bringing-climate-and-health-together-japanese-and-american-cities>.

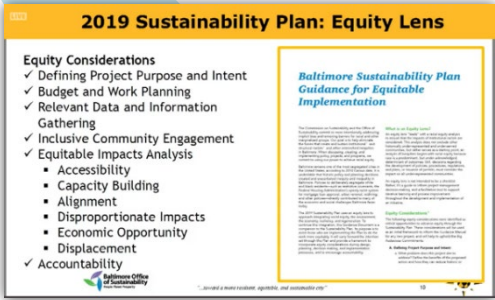


The workshop began with a presentation from the Washington D.C. Department of Energy and Environment. That presentation highlighted Washington D.C.’s goal of becoming carbon-neutral and climate-resilient by 2045. It also noted that extreme heat caused by climate change is leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves, impacting vulnerable populations. Washington D.C.’s heat exposure mapping helps address socioeconomic disparities by considering factors like age and income.



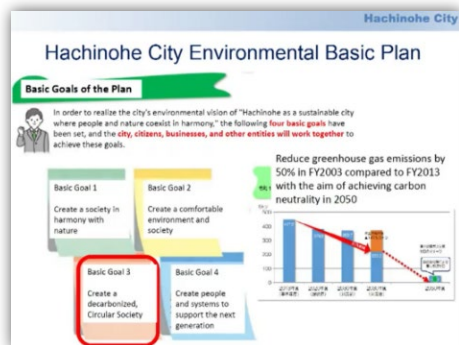
This was followed by a presentation from the Kawasaki Environmental Research Institute (KERI). Colleagues from KERI explained the city's strategies to counter heat strokes, especially among the elderly, as Kawasaki has Japan’s longest life expectancy. The presentation also underlined that Kawasaki city is promoting green spaces, such as roadside trees, to mitigate heat. The presentation also emphasized that maintaining these green spaces and involving citizens in managing them (despite an aging volunteer base) is critical. Future efforts directed toward these ends include operating cooling centres and promoting behaviour change to address heat stroke.

The next presentation came from a representative from Baltimore, Maryland’s Office of Sustainability. That presentation discussed the city’s focus on environmental justice and protecting vulnerable populations. To achieve these goals, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability (created in 2007) works on climate resilience, environmental protection, and policy implementation. The city’s Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan prioritize community engagement and equity, targeting carbon neutrality and addressing hazards like heat and flooding through a forward-looking Disaster Preparedness Plan.



A representative from the Environmental Management Department in Hachinohe city followed by underlining

that his city is aiming to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 from 2013 levels as part of an effort to achieve carbon neutrality. The presentation underlined that industrial emissions dominate, but actions to expand renewable energy and enhance local transportation are being planned and implemented. The presentation also pointed out that stroke is a priority, and the city has established cooling centres to protect residents.



This was followed by a presentation from Rockville, Maryland. That presentation noted that funding for the city's Climate Action Plan began in 2019, with the after effects of Hurricane Ida in 2021 accelerating climate adaptation efforts. Rockville has implemented public outreach, data collection, flood mitigation, and partnerships with organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support local projects that are at once good for health and climate.

The final presentation focused on Niigata City. The presentation underlined that many of the city's climate actions in its the Global Warming Action Plan are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



In particular, mitigation efforts include scaling up renewable energy and electric vehicles, while adaptation actions involve nature-based solutions, such as climate-resilient rice varieties and flood risk mitigation.

Overall the presentations suggested that both Japanese and American cities are making efforts to connect climate and health. The workshop also suggested that importance of co-designing climate strategies that incorporate health outcomes, resilience, and equity.



## Updates



### Advancing Science-based Local Action to Combat Air Pollution in Greater Jakarta, September 2024

Air pollution is an escalating concern with significant implications for public health and the economy. In Indonesia, air pollution is most severe in the Greater Jakarta area and a complex issue that requires accurate data, political will, and strong partnerships.

The partnership among the Government of Indonesia, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and ViriyaENB initiated a foundation of accurate data and evidence-based scientific research and hosted a series of expert exchange event as well as a supporting workshop on these issues. The two-day workshop, held on 2-3 September, deepened discussions among key stakeholders, including the scientific community, policymakers, local governments, and civil society. It also explored sustainable pathways and collaborative initiatives for a regional approach to these concerns. ACP members from IGES, Thailand's Pollution Control Department, and Clean Air Asia engaged as speakers and discussants and emphasised the importance of co-benefits.



## Publications

- Rachel Bray, Rebecca Ford, Madeleine Morris, Jeff Hardy, Luke Gooding (2024) The Co-benefits and risks of smart local energy systems: A systematic review. *Energy Research & Social Science* (115): 103608
- Ngan Thi Thu Dinh, Judy Tran, Marin Hensher (2024) Measuring and valuing the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation: a scoping review. *The Lancet Planetary Health* 8(6): E402-E409.

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