



Global Readiness Challenge - 2021 and Beyond!

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With Cities Helping Cities, We Change the World!

The Smart Cities Council has convened its Readiness Challenge for over five (5) years NOW!

The 2021 Readiness Challenge's theme is 'cities helping cities.'

NOTE FROM CharacterTowns.org: Whether or not your community decides to participate in this program, understanding the criteria and the processes can be useful with local planning and urban design activities.

Applications for leading a Readiness Cohort for the 2nd calendar quarter of 2021 (April through June) are due on April 15, 2021 at 5 pm ET.

The Global Readiness Challenge is a rolling-process with new applications accepted each calendar quarter. The criteria for becoming a Readiness Cohort Leader are:

1. **Leadership** - does the city share with other cities its learnings and experience from its own smart city projects?
2. **Transparency** - is the city willing to discuss difficult subjects and lead difficult conversations about issues that affect all of us?
3. **Commitment** - is the city committed to being a leader and helping other cities, regardless of its size, budgets, and location?
4. **Willingness** - is the city committed to leading a Readiness Cohort in 2021 providing personnel, insights and information about a shared problem?

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Here is a webinar that explains the process (ignore dates in this webinar.)

If your city wins, it will be one of several Readiness City Cohort Leaders. There is no cost to your city other than time. Your city will lead (with assistance from the Council and global experts) a global effort to solve a common problem.

Follow the example of the **city of Nashville, TN - a Readiness Challenge Winner for the first quarter of 2021 -**

- The Council has been working with the Metro Nashville and Davidson County to lead a Readiness Cohort about addressing disparate impacts of urban flooding on residents. Urban flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States, causing the most damage and killing the most people.
- Nashville is committed to developing programs and policies based on data that promote flooding resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Working with the Council, Nashville will lead an effort to increase the use data and analytics to inform local policy and program development.
- Cities with a similar problem will join Nashville in activating beneficial action for urban flooding resilience and equity.

These articles will help you understand what the Council is looking for -

Brisbane data driven strategy

Nashville urban flooding mitigation

Orange County, Florida smart and healthy building project

So – this process is simple –

- Identify your most urgent needs
- Indicate your willingness to participate in a Readiness Cohort and possibly lead it
- Join with other cities to solve our most pressing problem

Using Smart Cities Activator the world's only online collaborative planning platform - you can work virtually and safely in over 150 languages!

REMINDER: [Applications for leading a Readiness Cohort for the 2nd calendar quarter of 2021 \(April through June\) are due on April 15, 2021 at 5 pm ET.](#)

What previous winners have said -

2021 Global Winners

"Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said he was proud that Brisbane had been recognized as a global leader in smart cities. "Brisbane is a smart, connected city, and as our city grows we want to continue harnessing the data available to us, so we can make the Brisbane of tomorrow even better," Schrinner said. "From launching our Open Data website in 2015 to deploying 20 smart poles in 2020 and using smart sensors for monitoring air quality, public habits and soil moisture, Council has been delivering 'on the ground' informative projects for many years. Initiatives like these continue to influence and transform the way we plan, build and innovate for the city. Brisbane is quickly developing a blueprint for other cities looking to transform and we look forward to sharing our knowledge through this program."

Read more at: <https://smartcitiescouncil.com/article/global-readiness-challenge-2021-and-beyond>