



# Net Zero Cities City Sprints

  
**accenture**  
In collaboration with the  
World Economic Forum

# Introduction

Cities are on the front line for limiting global warming to well below 2°C. More than half of the global population live in cities, consuming more than 78% of the world's primary energy<sup>1</sup> and generating 70% of total carbon emissions<sup>2</sup>. Across the full spectrum of industries and sectors, localised approaches to sustainability will be key to supporting mitigation and adaptation.

World Economic Forum, with knowledge partner Accenture, created the Net Zero Carbon Cities program – a cross-sectoral initiative with the goal of creating an enabling environment for clean electrification and circularity, resulting in urban decarbonization and resilience.

The program has developed the City Sprint methodology and [Toolbox of Solutions](#) to help guide cities in their pursuit of Net Zero. The format enables stakeholders from both the public and private sector to consider the opportunities and priorities to accelerate decarbonization in the wider local area. The Sprint is series of action-oriented workshops, identifying impactful solutions for near-term implementation and mobilising local stakeholders to deliver on these shared objectives.

*The City Sprint process...*



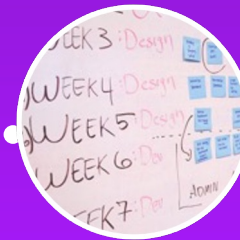
Gather local stakeholders



Align on local Net Zero priorities



Identify near term solutions



Enable project implementation

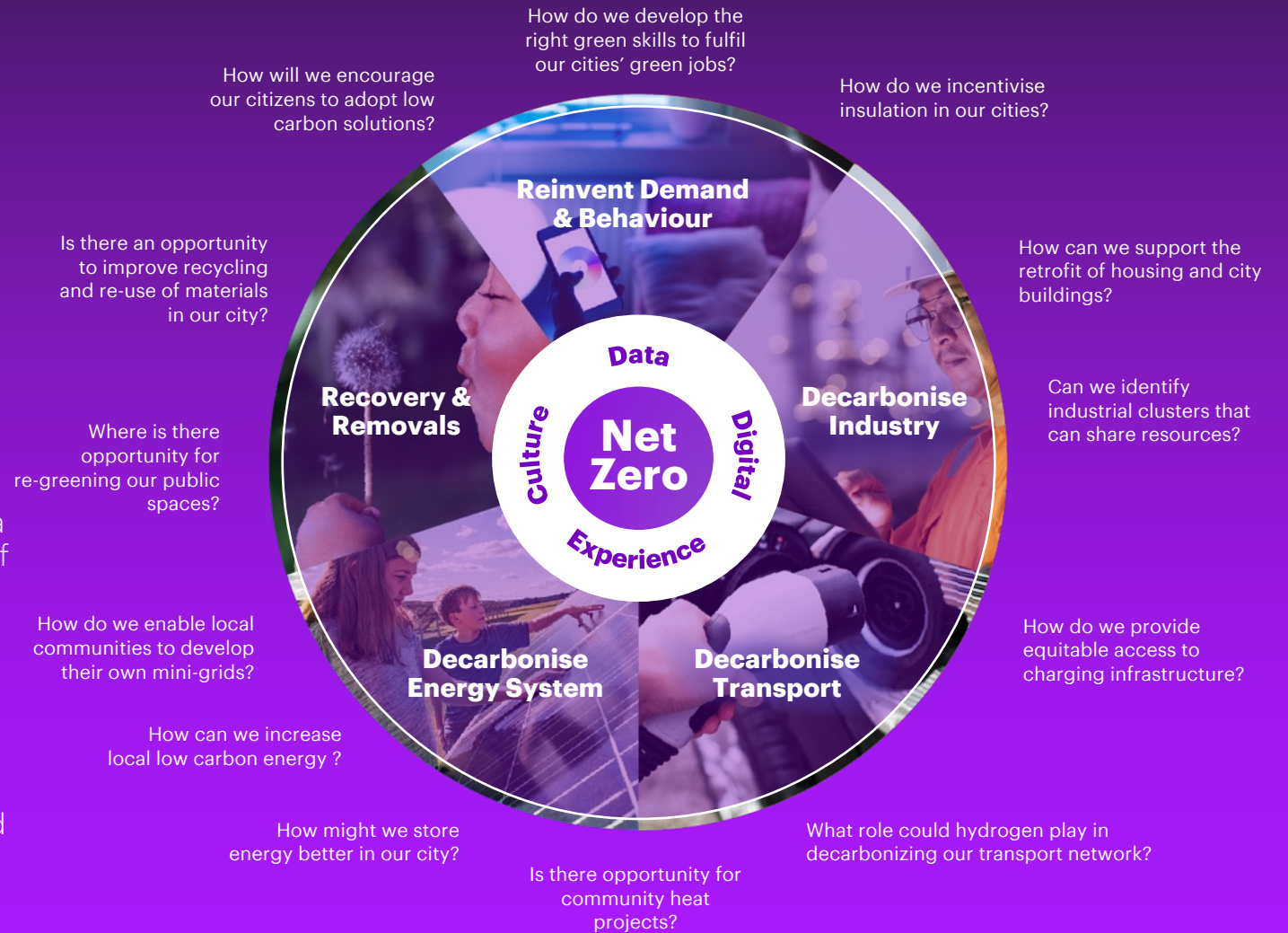


Accelerate Net Zero for cities and regions

# The role of cities in Net Zero

Cities are complex systems. They are focal points of society, culture, enterprise, and industry, making them epicenters for resource consumption and emissions. While they take up 2% of the earth's surface<sup>3</sup>, they represent 60% of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The problem will only get more acute, as around 2.5 billion more people will be living in cities by 2050, according to the United Nations<sup>4</sup>.

To tackle this challenge, city regions will need to take a multi-faceted approach that incorporates all aspects of a Net Zero society. This will require disruptive change and collective action led by governments, organizations and citizens. The Net Zero Carbon Cities framework is designed to address this challenge and drive the acceleration of decarbonization projects which deliver environmental, social and economic value. This lays the foundation for a Net Zero journey which delivers outcomes for communities, climate and nature alike.



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# We have collaborated with the World Economic Forum to establish the Net Zero Carbon Cities program

The World Economic Forum, in collaboration with Accenture, has developed a Toolbox of Solutions, a resource for assessing and choosing tailored net zero solutions in city ecosystems. The Toolbox contains more than 250 curated solutions grounded in real-life case studies, from which cities can select and prioritise according to:

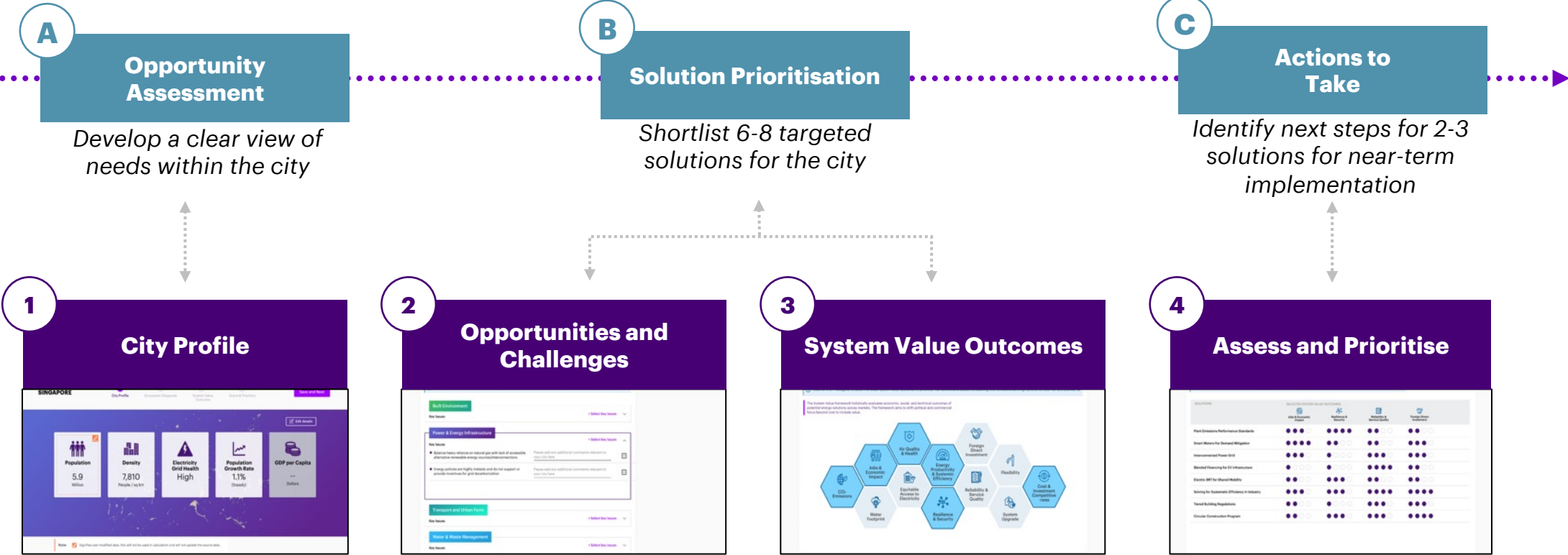
- **Structural city features:** attributes such as grid health, population density and income; built environment; power and energy infrastructure; transport and urban form; water and waste management
- **System Value outcomes:** holistically evaluating the wider economic, environmental, social and technical outcomes of potential solutions

Users can browse the curated database to find inspirational case studies, but the true value of the Toolbox is unlocked through using in tandem with a facilitated City Sprint process.



# The City Sprint process engages multi-stakeholder groups through a series of collaborative workshops to identify near term solutions to accelerate Net Zero

The Sprint brings together a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders with the collective ambition of driving Net Zero in the local region. Priority solution areas are identified, drawing on case studies from the Toolbox, and each area is taken forward with a robust action plan and taskforce group with assigned next steps to support project implementation.



# The City Sprint has the potential to drive value for both the local area and the organizations who commit to it

## How might the NZCC Sprint deliver value for your organization?

### **Deliver as a responsible organization**

Identify ways your organization can accelerate your sustainability journey whilst meaningfully contributing to the local net zero pathway

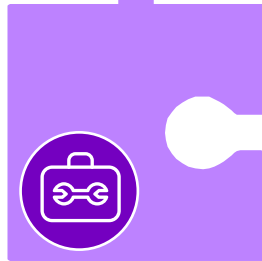


### **Collaborate across industries**

Break down industry silos and engage with a range of partners across local and global networks to drive innovation and impact

### **Integrated solution for resilience**

Access to market leading tools and ecosystem including the Net Zero Carbon City Toolbox (>250 solutions) and data & insights, and opportunities.



### **A locally led- human centred process**

A genuine local focus, working with stakeholders at the heart of city and driving bespoke and targeted solutions for the area

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## References

[1 Generating power, United Nations](#)

[2 Cutting global carbon emissions: where do cities stand? World Bank, January 2022](#)

[3 Generating power, United Nations](#)

[4 Around 2.5 billion more people will be living in cities by 2050, projects new UN report, United Nations](#)

## About Accenture

Accenture is a global professional services company with leading capabilities in digital, cloud and security. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries, we offer Strategy and Consulting, Song, Technology and Operations services — all powered by the world's largest network of Advanced Technology and Intelligent Operations centers. Our 699,000 people deliver on the promise of technology and human ingenuity every day, serving clients in more than 120 countries.

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