PRESS RELEASE                                                                                            CONTACT: Ava Halstead   
FOR RELEASE: October xx EMAIL: [a.halstead@leadingcities.org](mailto:a.halstead@leadingcities.org)

**A Partnership for the Planet: Leading Cities and CGI Launch the “Bridge to Resiliency” to Reinvent Community Resilience**

As climate risks intensify, so too does the need for resilient, forward-thinking cities. [Leading Cities](https://leadingcities.org/about) unveiled the “Bridge to Resiliency” Commitment to Action, developed at the [Clinton Global Initiative 2024 Annual Meeting](https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative-september-2024-meeting/) in New York City. This groundbreaking initiative will bring together a network of over 500 innovators selected from thousands spanning more than 70 countries, and 100 small-to-mid-sized cities to implement transformative solutions within local communities. With the aim of raising over $10 million in cash and in-kind contributions, Leading Cities and its partners are working to build a future where communities don’t just adapt to challenges—they thrive amid them.

For Leading Cities’ President & CEO [Michael Lake](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mike-e-lake/), this initiative isn’t just about climate resilience—it’s personal. His journey in and commitment to public service was shaped by his experience working for President Bill Clinton as a young appointee in the White House. Inspired by Clinton’s own commitment to community and public service, Lake has spent his life championing innovative, impactful solutions that address critical community challenges.

“President Clinton inspired my generation and gave us the chance to be part of something larger than ourselves,” Lake shared. “The values he instilled in me during my time at the White House continue to drive my commitment to public service and resilience. Today, through Leading Cities and CGI, I’m proud and honored to carry that legacy forward, helping communities build a future that is not only resilient but also filled with opportunity.”

Since its founding in 2005, CGI has been a catalyst for global change, with more than 4,000 commitments impacting over 500 million lives across 180 countries. Leading Cities is now part of this shared mission, bringing forward its “Bridge to Resiliency” initiative to tackle some of the world’s most pressing urban challenges. Through this initiative, cities can partner with Leading Cities’ [AcceliGOV program](https://leadingcities.org/acceligov), an innovative opportunity that provides municipalities with access to fully funded, ready-to-launch pilot projects. Each of the four AcceliGOV editions each year feature a handful of globally sourced, expert-vetted solutions to drive sustainability and resiliency in communities. With applications for the current edition open until February 7, 2025, cities have an unprecedented opportunity to connect with these expertly vetted solutions in renewable energy, water management, waste reduction and more, each customized to meet the unique needs of urban communities.

The impact of this program is already taking shape. Last year’s winner of the QBE AcceliCITY Resilience Challenge, [itselectric](https://www.itselectric.us/), is launching a revolutionary EV infrastructure pilot in Boston. This project isn’t just an investment in technology—it’s a step toward a sustainable future where clean energy solutions integrate seamlessly into cityscapes, meeting real-world needs while transforming the way cities approach mobility. The pilot is a testament to what’s possible when communities embrace resilience, turning innovation into tangible benefits for their residents. Boston’s partnership with itselectric serves as a beacon for what Leading Cities’ “Bridge to Resiliency” aims to replicate in cities worldwide: lasting change, fueled by collaboration, for a more sustainable tomorrow.

“Our world needs cities that are prepared to proactively mitigate as well as adapt to climate change,” Greg Milne, chief executive officer of CGI, emphasizes. “Through this Commitment to Action, we’re inviting cities, organizations, and individuals to be part of this transformative journey. Together, we’re building a network of cities that are not only resilient but are also leaders in sustainable growth and communities that inspire others to imagine and create a better future.”

Leading Cities’ vision for the “Bridge to Resiliency” is ambitious but achievable. Each project funded by a $10 million campaign for cash and in-kind support will act as a catalyst for urban transformation, offering communities not only resilience but a foundation for a more equitable and prosperous future. More than a Commitment to Action, this initiative is a call to communities to embrace a shared vision for a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive world. As Lake and Leading Cities join CGI in this bold undertaking, the message is clear: resilience is not a goal—it’s a promise, one that communities can achieve together with the right tools, partnerships, and a shared commitment to a thriving future for all.

Cities are invited to join this global movement by applying to AcceliGOV at [Leading Cities’ website](https://leadingcities.org/).

**About Leading Cities**

[Leading Cities](https://leadingcities.org/about) is a global nonprofit dedicated to advancing urban resilience and sustainability through powerful programs like the QBE AcceliCITY Resilience Challenge, which connects leading startups with city governments to address critical urban challenges. With AcceliGOV, cities gain access to no-cost pilot projects tailored to their unique needs, fostering impactful change at the local level. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and sustainability-driven solutions, Leading Cities is creating pathways for municipalities worldwide to thrive, tackling issues from climate resilience to urban mobility. Explore more about how Leading Cities is transforming the urban landscape at www.LeadingCities.org and follow their journey on [Twitter (X)](https://x.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2Fleadingcities), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leading-cities), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/leading_cities/) to stay informed about upcoming events and initiatives.

**About Clinton Global Initiative**

Founded by President Bill Clinton in 2005, the [Clinton Global Initiative](https://www.clintonfoundation.org/programs/leadership-public-service/clinton-global-initiative/) is a community of doers representing a broad cross-section of society and dedicated to the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Through CGI’s unique model, more than 10,000 organizations have launched more than 4,000 Commitments to Action — new, specific, and measurable projects and programs – that are making a difference in the lives of more than 500 million people in 180 countries.