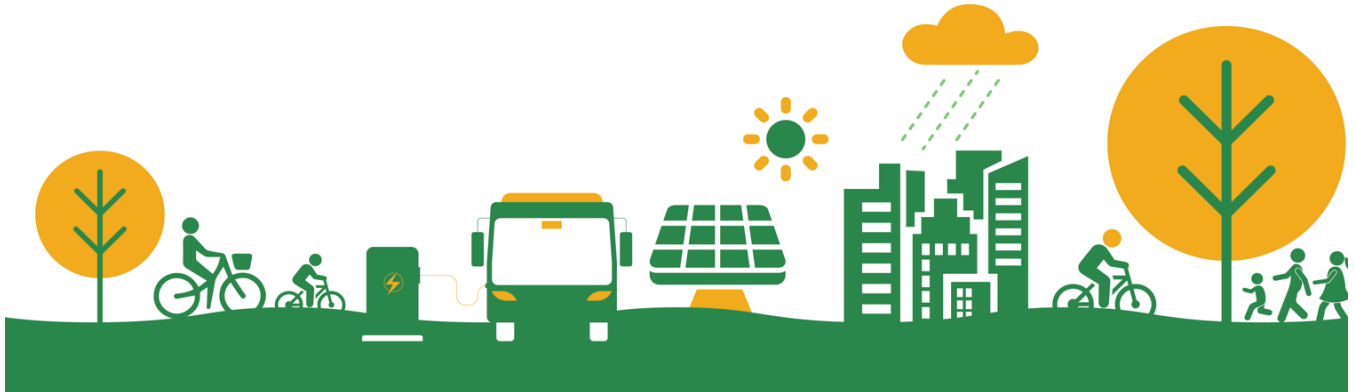# CONNECT KARO AGENDA 2024

11 - 12 September, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

September 11 | Wednesday

Time	Session	Venue
9.00 am – 9.45 am	Registration	Silver Oak Lobby and Stein Foyer
9.45 am – 11.00 am	**Plenary 1 | Pathways to Low-Carbon Equitable Development in India** *India is on the brink of major economic growth in the coming decades, with large investments being made in energy, transportation, and urban infrastructure sectors. As this transformation unfolds against the backdrop of global climate change and increased extreme weather events, this session will discuss strategies for achieving sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth for everyone.*	Stein Auditorium
11.15 am – 12.30 pm	**Reimagining Bus Transport with Digital Public Infrastructure** 📖 *This session will explore how technology and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can accelerate e-bus deployment in India. It will discuss leveraging DPI for shared mobility and clean transportation, and how it empowers stakeholders to drive innovation in the e-bus sector, leading to faster adoption and improved public health and environmental outcomes.*	Stein Auditorium
	Financing DRE-Powered Livelihood Interventions for Inclusive and Equitable Rural Development *This session will highlight the challenges and opportunities in financing Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) for agricultural livelihoods in India. It will present preliminary findings from a recent study by WRI India's Energy Program and feature a panel discussion with experts, including policymakers, financial institutions, and DRE enterprises, to explore solutions for affordable and inclusive financing.*	Silver Oak 2
	Pathways to Scale Nurturing Neighbourhoods *The session will explore the National-level Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, which has helped 10 Indian cities redesign neighbourhoods with a focus on young children and caregivers. It will feature a fireside chat with city leaders sharing their experiences and strategies, followed by an interactive session for participants to develop scalable and sustainable strategies for child and caregiver-centric urban development.*	Jacaranda 1
	Accelerating Adaptation and Resilience Finance in Indian Cities *This session will address the urgent need for investment in climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure in Indian cities, which face extreme weather and significant risks. It will focus on innovative financing solutions, such as green bonds and public-private partnerships, and explore strategies to overcome constraints and attract capital for these critical projects.*	Jacaranda 2
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break	
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	**Plenary 2 | Transforming India's Cities - Inclusive, Resilient and Low Carbon Pathways for a Diverse and Differentiated Urbanization** 📖	Stein Auditorium

	The session will examine India's diverse urbanization patterns, from megacities to small towns, highlighting inefficiencies and the need for tailored policies. It will explore the unique challenges and opportunities for each city tier and offer insights for sustainable and inclusive growth, supporting India's goal to become a USD 10 trillion economy by 2030.	
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	**Roundtable Session on Building Thriving Eco City-regions** *The session will focus on the challenges of urban expansion in India and its impact on natural systems. Highlighting WRI India's work with six city-regions to develop 'Thriving Eco City-Regions,' the discussion will emphasize integrated spatial planning for climate resilience. The session will feature a roundtable with stakeholders from these regions and launch the dedicated ECR forum and microsite, designed for knowledge sharing and collaborative efforts in creating ecologically and economically resilient city-regions.*	Silver Oak 1
	Enabling Implementation of Integrated Space Cooling Actions at the Subnational Level *The panel will discuss the challenges of heat stress in India and explore sustainable space cooling initiatives at the state and local levels. It will focus on the implementation of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), examining key enablers: policy, data, technology, and finance.*	Silver Oak 2
	Transitioning towards Water Sensitive Indian Cities *The session will explore the challenges of WASH and water resource management in Indian cities, exacerbated by climate change impacts like droughts and flooding. It will highlight the Water Sensitive City concept from CRC Australia, which emphasizes cities as water catchments, ecosystem service providers, and water-sensitive communities. Focus will be on the AIWASI CDP project in Delhi, showcasing its tools and approaches in advancing the city's transition towards becoming a Water Sensitive City.*	Jacaranda 1
	Sectoral Decarbonization Pathways for Achieving India's Long-Term Climate Targets 📖 *The session will present WRI India's sectoral analysis using the India Energy Policy Simulator (India EPS) to explore pathways for decarbonizing the power and transport sectors. Key findings will be shared, and working papers will be officially launched. An expert panel from government, industry, academia, and civil society will discuss insights and address open questions.*	Jacaranda 2
3.15 pm – 6 pm	**Catalyzing Actions Towards Streets and Public Spaces for Thriving Neighbourhoods for All** *The session will address the gaps in urban design that impact daily experiences, particularly for diverse age groups and caregivers. It aims to spark a national discussion on improving streets and public spaces through effective collaboration.*	Juniper
4.45 pm – 6 pm	**Plenary 3	Managing at the Frontlines of Urbanisation – Perspectives from the States** *This session will bring together senior government officials from various Indian states to share their insights, experiences, and strategies to leverage the opportunities of rapid urbanisation as well as navigate its compounding challenges. States and their city governments are at the forefront of managing growing demands for infrastructure, basic services, and natural resources, set in the backdrop of climate change, growing inequality, global uncertainties, and the need for institutional strengthening.*	Stein Auditorium
	From Plan to Action: Learnings from the Climate Action Journey of Indian Cities *This session will explore how WRI India has assisted Mumbai, Bengaluru, Nashik, Solapur, and Aurangabad in developing climate action plans (CAPs). It will highlight their journey from planning to action, including project implementation, climate budgeting, and building local ecosystems. The session will also discuss how these experiences are being scaled to 43 cities in Maharashtra, emphasizing institutionalization and community engagement.*	Jacaranda 1
	Future-Proofing India's Workforce: Green Skilling for a Just and Inclusive Low-Carbon Transition *This session will gather stakeholders to discuss green skilling essential for India's climate and development goals. The panel will address current skilling challenges, explore necessary innovations for a low-carbon future, and consider how to prepare the workforce for an inclusive and just transition*	Jacaranda 2
	Industrial Decarbonization and Just Transitions	Silver Oak 2

| | The session will address strategies to reduce emissions from India's industrial sector, which accounts for nearly 30% of total emissions. It will focus on decarbonizing heavy industries and MSMEs and ensuring a 'just transition' for affected workers. Key topics include practical approaches, policy implications, and the role of governments in facilitating this transition. | |

📖 Publication Launch

September 12 | Thursday

TIME	SESSIONS	HALL
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Registration	Silver Oak
10.00 am – 11.00 am	**Plenary 4 | Enabling Sustainable and Resilient Food and Land Systems in India** *This high-level plenary session on "Enabling Sustainable and Resilient Food and Land Systems in India" will focus on key strategies to drive India's transition to sustainable food and land use systems. The session will feature a keynote address and a panel discussion with experts from government, philanthropic organizations, and other key sectors.*	Silver Oak
11.15 am – 12.30 pm	**Electrifying Urban Buses: Deep Dive into Electric Bus Planning and Optimization** 📖 *This session introduces the Electric Bus Planning and Optimization Tool, designed to streamline e-bus deployment and maximize fleet efficiency. The session will also see the launch of the working paper 'Assessing Financing Challenges for Implementing the Large-scale Electric Bus Program in India'.*	Gulmohar
	Locally-led NbS Interventions for Riverine Ecosystems *This session explores alternative approaches to urban river restoration that balance habitation, real estate, ecological restoration, and climate impacts. It will highlight locally led adaptation efforts and nature-based solutions in ecologically sensitive river projects, addressing both opportunities and challenges.*	Silver Oak
	Launch of India Alliance for Clean Construction *This session will launch the IACC, which aims to steer and champion frameworks that can enable the transition of the construction sector to clean-air-oriented practices where controlling emissions and dust is at the centre of planning and execution.*	Jacaranda 1
	Solution Room: Enhancing Women's Workforce Participation in Greener MSME Jobs *This interactive session explores how to empower women in India's MSME sector to lead the transition to cleaner operations. With only 24% of MSME employees being women and limited resources to harness this potential, stakeholders will discuss overcoming challenges and leveraging green job opportunities to boost women's workforce participation.*	Jacaranda 2
	Bridging the Gap – Data for Cool Cities *This session explores diverse urban heat adaptation strategies, highlighting how data is leveraged to assess risks, plan, and monitor measures. Expert panelists will discuss unique challenges, innovative solutions, and the importance of critical data and local insights in shaping resilient strategies.*	Magnolia
	Strengthening Food Systems by Reducing Food Loss in India 📖 *This session will cover the launch a working paper on post-harvest losses in the tomato value chain, followed by a high-level panel discussion on challenges and opportunities in reducing post-harvest losses in India. Experts from government, grassroots organizations, farmer representatives, and academia will join the panel. The session will also feature the launch of a 6-minute short film on food loss.*	Juniper
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break	

Time	Session	Venue
1.30 pm – 3.45 pm	**Role of States in India's Energy Transition** *This session will focus on state-level energy transitions in India, exploring how states like Gujarat and Rajasthan lead in renewable energy and the potential for others to follow. Key discussions will include advancing renewable deployment, infrastructure improvements, and innovative technologies to support India's clean energy goals.*	Silver Oak
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	**Actions for Reducing Food Waste in India: Building a Better Tomorrow** *This session will address the overlooked issue of food waste, which is often confused with food loss. The session will explore strategies to tackle the root causes of food waste in India, such as measuring waste, promoting behavior change, and optimizing food donation networks.*	Juniper
	Scaling Sectoral Solutions for Clean Air: Reflections from ACAAS *This session will bring together cities from the Accelerator for Clean Air Actions (ACAAS) for a roundtable discussion on best practices and strategies for clean air. The focus will be on highlighting successful mitigation solutions, exploring governance frameworks for scaling these practices, and addressing long-term challenges in air quality management.*	Jacaranda 1
	Financing Long-Term Climate Strategies: India's Sub-National Challenge *This session will address innovative financial solutions needed for India's climate transition, focusing on both national and sub-national levels. With current investments covering only 25-30% of the required funds, we will explore strategies to mobilize climate finance and support long-term climate actions at the sub-national level.*	Jacaranda 2
	Enabling Economically Productive Cities in India through TOD: Bringing Jobs Closer to Mass Transit 📖 *This session will address the gap between mass transit and job growth in Indian cities, focusing on enhancing job proximity to transit. It includes a roundtable on policy integration for better job densities around transit areas. The discussion will present findings from Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi, and explore strategies for improving job accessibility and transit-oriented development.*	Magnolia
3.15 pm - 6 pm	**Initiative for Transport Data and Dialogue** *This session will address the need for sustainable urban public transport systems in India amid rapid urbanization and climate change. It will discuss WRI India's strategies, including the Personal2Public campaign, which aims to enhance public transport reliability and efficiency. These efforts seek to reduce private vehicle use, alleviate congestion, lower pollution, and support India's net-zero emissions goal by 2070.*	Gulmohar
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	**Cities by Adolescents – Designing an Inclusive Urban Future** *This session will highlight the crucial role of adolescents in urban development. It will explore how their involvement can drive innovative solutions, support their well-being, and enhance city development processes.*	Silver Oak
4.45 pm – 6 pm	**Accelerating India's Restoration Economy for People, Nature and Climate** *This session will explore the potential of a restoration economy in India, focusing on how it can enhance ecosystem services, food security, and resilience. It will highlight successful restoration business models and discuss challenges in financing and capacity-building. The aim is to identify barriers and solutions to scale up innovative restoration efforts and foster collective action.*	Juniper

📖 Publication Launch