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## **The Future of Citizen Engagement in Cities – The Council of Citizen Engagement in Sustainable Urban Strategies (ConCensus)**

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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- While the UN's Local Agenda 21 (1992) established a framework within which engagement on issues of sustainable development was encouraged, lay participation has been limited to members of the urban populace appearing at public conferences or workshops, where opportunity to question local experts is occasionally afforded, but is sometimes ineffectual.
- Several urban-focused citizen engagement initiatives have pursued engagement efforts to prepare citizens to take tangible actions to improve energy use and resource management by dedicated financing, dissemination of innovations, and broad-based education – including the IMAGINE energy project in Europe; and the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives for Sustainability, which provide valid, reliable data on energy, resource management, and related problems, and help local communities engage in climate change reduction, mitigation, and adaptation. The Horizon 2020 project: *POWER* involves citizens in water issues in four cities – Jerusalem, Leicester, Milton Keynes and Sabadell – all of which are

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