

It's not science fiction, or achievable in only the most future-focused and well-funded metropolis. Smart cities are possible everywhere, right now.

## Smart cities: Expanding the definition—and the possibilities

Smart cities projects happen anywhere communities put connected devices, wireless networks and data management platforms to work to enhance public services, boost local economies and improve everyday life. You'll find them in Peachtree Corners, Georgia; Carlsbad, California; and beyond.

Smart cities begin with the Internet of Things (IoT): physical devices, vehicles, home appliances and more embedded with electronics, software and sensors that connect across networks and exchange data. But at their heart, smart cities projects are really about communities and connections—people working together on better public services and experiences, then spreading the word to share the benefits.

“But we don't have the right infrastructure for a smart cities project,” you may be thinking. “Where do we start?”

Fortunately, smart cities projects are all about resourcefulness, using the infrastructure and technologies you already have and making them stronger. To get started, gather together as a community, identify your greatest challenge and begin exploring your options.

### SMART CITIES IN ACTION

## San Diego Smart Cities Regional Initiative

San Diego, CA

### SCENARIO

Cleantech San Diego launched the San Diego Smart Cities Regional Initiative along with leaders from the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista and San Diego, in addition to the Port of San Diego, the San Diego International Airport and SANDAG. The common goals: Integrate local government's numerous services to facilitate connected communities, ensure equity and inclusivity, and provide economic development—ultimately transforming how the San Diego region operates while improving quality of life.

### SOLUTION

High-profile projects by cities and public agencies have advanced the San Diego region's reputation as a smart cities leader. But technological improvements have been only one part of the story. Regional collaboration has transformed how the San Diego region's cities and public agencies provide services and has had a major impact on the region's economic, environmental and social development. Furthermore, cross-jurisdictional knowledge has created a truly “smart” region for maximizing public funding, increasing civic participation, creating a consistent platform for innovation and promoting business growth.

### RESULTS

Through integrating numerous government services, the San Diego Smart Cities Regional Initiative has established a connected community in support of equity, inclusivity and economic development. Collaboration has strengthened relationships between residents and businesses, harmonized public agency operations and enabled transformational behavior shifts across all stakeholders.

## An investment in community pride—and the future

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Through monitoring water and energy use, making services more efficient and proactively identifying maintenance needs, smart cities projects save communities money.

Communities use smart cities projects to reduce emissions. Examples include smart buildings with automated HVAC controls, programs that help residents monitor energy usage and smart grids that accommodate solar power. Communities are also using data-powered transportation to reduce fuel usage and expedite the transport of people and goods.

Smart cities are safer cities. Integrated video sensors can help identify missing persons and solve crimes. Gunshot sensors can summon police to a scene, and weather sensor technologies can alert residents to the nature and location of weather emergencies and recommend a path to safety.

Smart technologies also give communities the tools needed to track resources and optimize systems, so they can operate in a more sustainable fashion.

Finally, smart cities foster economic growth. People like to live and do business in safe places with reliable electricity, water, gas and internet and convenient public services. Smart cities are places built to thrive, now and into the future.

Wireless-enabled reductions in energy use, fuel costs and traffic congestion are estimated to generate **\$160 billion** in savings and benefits.