



## Welcome to the Urban Observatory



### **Understanding precedes action.**

[The Urban Observatory](#) provides a framework for answering questions about cities through maps. Questions related to where people live, work, and play can be answered by comparative visual analysis.

### **What is the Urban Observatory?**

It's an interactive exhibit that showcases the networks that enable economic growth and communication, the public facilities needed to run a city, and the natural systems that are impacted by the city's footprint.

### **Why participate?**

Participation answers questions about the largest things we build: cities. When you provide data for your city, it gives you the chance to compare and contrast data from cities around the world -- [all from one location](#). When you join the Urban Observatory, Esri provides additional maps from its services (imagery, traffic, weather, and others) for your city. Your contribution also adds valuable content to [the Urban Systems component](#) of the ArcGIS Living Atlas.

### **How can you participate?**

To participate, [download](#) the map templates and data-loading tools, make a few maps, and join the ongoing conversation. [Watch this video](#) to see how to use the tools and make the maps. Early adopter cities found that a typical Urban Observatory map takes about 30 minutes to create, from start to finish. If your city cannot send

data, perhaps it can host the map services required to participate. This work is managed by [Jim Herries](#) and [Shane Matthews](#), please contact them with questions.

**When you are ready to share your map packages, contact [Shane Matthews](#) for credentials to the Urban Observatory Curator Group.**

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