

From: Jesse Berst <chairman@smartcitiescouncil.com>  
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Subject: Meet 5 of the smartest cities in America

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I'm pleased to introduce our first **Smart Cities Council Readiness Challenge Grant winners**: Austin, Indianapolis, Miami, Orlando and Philadelphia. Learn more about them below and make plans to join us for **Smart Cities Week Silicon Valley**, May 8-10, where you'll hear from these and other smart cities leaders.

Now you're caught up,  
Jesse Berst

**Meet our Readiness Challenge Grant winners.** The winners of the first-ever Smart Cities Council Readiness Challenge Grants are Austin, Indianapolis, Miami, Orlando and Philadelphia. Learn about their projects and the important first step you need to take to make any smart cities initiative a success.

**Austin focuses on giving everyone a voice.** Consistently one of America's fastest-growing cities, Austin is busy working on strategies to improve livability as people continue to move in. And it's starting with people who would use the boost the most.

**How teamwork will make Indianapolis smarter.** Indianapolis city leaders realized early on they couldn't achieve the smart city they envisioned without help. Read our story to learn where the city is focusing its smart city efforts and why partners are invaluable.

**Miami's enhanced resilience plan: a lesson for other cities?** Like many large cities, Miami is wrestling with the challenges of growing populations and aging infrastructure. But the coastal city has another big problem: increasingly frequent tidal flooding. If your city is facing similar challenges, Miami's action plan may provide ideas and solutions you can use.

**Orlando's building a strategy for a smart, connected future.** Orlando's popularity as a global tourist destination is undeniable. Now city leaders are planning the next steps to ensure it stays that way – and they haven't forgotten about the people who live and work there.

**Philadelphia offers tips for bringing your city together.** Smart cities are cities that work together. Learn how Philadelphia's city departments are working as one to the benefit of the community.

**The Energy-Water Nexus.** Energy and water are the world's two most critical resources and smart, resilient cities are tackling their interconnections and vulnerabilities head on. Learn how by registering to attend Building a Resilient, Smart and Sustainable City: The Energy-Water Nexus, Thursday, February 16, in Pittsburgh, sponsored by Council Lead Partner Itron and Utility Partner Duquesne Light Company.

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