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C40 announces collaboration to map consumption-based emissions in two of the world's biggest cities

- *American Express will support the development of consumption-based emissions inventories in New York City and London*
- *Initiative will pioneer new ways for cities to calculate to reduce emissions from urban consumption*
- *New York City is joining London and 13 other cities in the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration to increase access to balanced and nutritious food and waste less food*

NEW YORK (May 9, 2022) — C40 Cities is thrilled to announce a new partnership with American Express to support the development of consumption-based emissions inventories for London and New York City.

The collaboration was discussed today at a meeting between C40 Chair and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Mayor of New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Adams also announced that New York City will sign on to the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration to increase access to balanced and nutritious food to city residents and halve food waste, joining London and 13 other cities around the world which are delivering on the same pledge.

The consumption-based emissions inventories will enable London and New York City to develop a suite of actions to incentivize more sustainable consumption in collaboration with people and businesses. The project will also pioneer new ways for other cities to measure emissions from urban consumption.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear that time has almost run out to limit global heating to around 1.5°C. To achieve the Paris Agreement of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, there is an urgent need to reduce the emissions impact of urban consumption, especially what is eaten and the waste in food systems, and to create more circular economies that do not depend on harmful over-consumption of goods and services.

Many cities already promote sustainable living, engaging businesses and communities, but lack the data to estimate and measure the impact of local policy aimed at reducing a city's carbon footprint. Building data inventories in partnership with city businesses (such as supermarket chains and retailers) is important for cities to measure, plan and act to ensure our cities become better places to live for all people and sustainable business can thrive. The leading cities delivering the C40 Good Food Declaration will benefit from better data and indicators to target resources aimed at supporting people to access healthy plant-based food and waste less food.

London and New York City are committed to understanding the impact of their cities' consumption by measuring their consumption emissions and taking action to address the emissions and climate impacts beyond the direct control of the city government.

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London and C40 Chair, says, "In London, we are not only reducing direct emissions from buildings and cars, but looking at ways to reduce the emissions from imports, from food to fashion, energy to electronics and other products Londoners consume. Measuring London's consumption-based emissions will help us to develop sustainable policies and strategies to reduce London's wider carbon footprint."

New York City Mayor Eric Adams says, "Too often we ignore the role that food plays in the destruction of our environment. You can't fix what you don't measure, which is why mapping the data on how food, construction materials, and consumer goods contribute to our environmental impact is critical to effectively addressing climate change. We also can't afford to wait, which is why I'm proud to sign the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration today to aggressively reduce food waste, focus on nutritious plant-forward food, and reduce New York City's carbon emissions."

Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, President of the C40 Board, and 108th Mayor of New York City, says, "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Our Administration took the first comprehensive inventory of New York's carbon emissions, which allowed us to target our climate efforts and track our progress - and allowed the public to hold us accountable for delivering results. This new effort being led by London and New York, two engines of the global economy, can help cities around the world to devise smart policies and empower the public to make informed choices."

Stephen J. Squeri, Chairman and CEO of American Express, says, "Scaling climate action globally requires collaboration across the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Partnering with C40 Cities to develop a consumption-based emissions inventory for NYC and London is another important step in our

commitment to advance climate solutions and will help empower cities and communities to leverage data and insights to effect positive change.”

Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities, says, "In our globalised and warming world, cities hold a unique role and responsibility to reduce urban emissions while ensuring that all people and nature can thrive. Building the evidence base is the natural starting point for mayors to plan actions to reduce their city's consumption footprint, as well as their direct emissions. NYC and London's commitment to develop a consumption-based emission inventory, including food, is far more than a data analysis exercise. It is the basis to create better health, well-being and jobs locally, and work towards a fairer society which doesn't exploit people or nature. Keeping urban consumption - particularly in the Global North - within planetary boundaries.”

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Notes to Editors:

For more information, please visit www.c40.org or contact media@c40.org.

About C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a [Global Green New Deal](#), mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before. The current Chair of C40 is Mayor of London Sadiq Khan; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40's work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

About the Good Food Cities Declaration

Signatory cities of the [C40 Good Food Cities Declaration](#) are working with citizens to achieve a 'Planetary Health Diet' for all by 2030, with a reliance on balanced and nutritious food, reflective of the culture, geography, and demography of their citizens. Mayors will use their procurement powers to change what kind of food cities buy, and introduce policies that make healthy, delicious and low-carbon food affordable and accessible for all. They'll also reduce food loss and wasted food. Each city will develop and share an action plan, including baseline figures and environmental, health, social, and economic co-benefits where available, upon which they will regularly report. Signatory cities include: Barcelona, Copenhagen,

Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, Tokyo, and Toronto.

About American Express

American Express is a globally integrated payments company, providing customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. As part of its Advance Climate Solutions pillar, the Company has committed to net-zero emissions by 2035 aligned with the Science Based Targets initiative and has been a carbon neutral company powered by 100% renewable electricity across its global operations since 2018. The company has also set a goal to provide \$10 million in philanthropic funding to advance climate action and back low-carbon communities by the end of 2025. To learn more about American Express' approach to ESG to support colleagues, customers and communities, see the [2020-2021 Environmental, Social, and Governance \(ESG\) Report](#).