



Contact:

media@c40.org

New C40 research reveals the cost of fossil gas, showing clean energy is cheaper, creates more jobs and causes less pollution

- *C40 cities can create six times as many jobs and far less pollution if cities invest in renovating buildings and solar power rather than gas powered electricity*
- *Fossil gas use contributes almost as much as coal power plants to premature deaths in 2020*
- *Phasing out fossil gas and expanding clean energy could save over 776,000 lives and generate good, green jobs*
- *Research will be presented this week at C40 World Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires*

19 October, 2022 – Bold action to phase out fossil gas and expand clean energy could save hundreds of thousands of lives, generate jobs and enable cities to meet their climate targets, groundbreaking new research by C40 suggests.

Fossil gas accounts for roughly one quarter of the world's energy supply, and around one fifth of global CO₂ emissions from energy. The use of fossil gas contributes significantly to urban greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and catastrophic climate heating.

C40's new research shows climate, air quality and health impacts of fossil gas use across electricity, buildings and industry in C40 cities. Its conclusion: Gas use contributes almost as much as coal power plants to premature deaths in 2020.

The research, which was funded by Wellcome, underscores that clean energy is cheaper, creates more jobs and causes less pollution. Mayors and urban climate leaders from the world's leading cities are set to discuss ways to accelerate the clean energy transition at this week's C40 World Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Sadiq Khan, C40 Chair and Mayor of London, said: "Fossil fuels are the main cause of the climate emergency. It makes no sense for our cities to continue to

invest in the dirty polluting fossil fuel industries of the past. When it comes to tackling air pollution and the climate emergency, cities like London have a responsibility to act. We have to be the doers and not the delayers. We must safeguard our future. I'm calling on cities around the world to follow London's lead and commit to phasing out their use. There is no time to waste. The cost of inaction, to our economies, livelihoods, and environment is far greater than the cost of transitioning to net zero."

Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante said: "Fossil natural gas is an energy choice of the past. That's why Montreal will ban its use in all municipal buildings by 2030. We will also follow a new roadmap to accelerate the transition to heat pumps powered by renewable electricity and other clean energy solutions to heat all buildings in a safe, clean and healthy way by 2040."

Key takeaways from C40's new report include:

- **Fossil gas air pollution impacts health in cities:** Air pollution driven by fossil gas production and consumption caused 35,987 premature deaths in 2020 across C40 cities, 40,327 new cases of asthma in children and 3,317 pre-term births. Modelling suggests that a swift clean energy transition away from gas could avoid as many as 217,045 premature deaths in C40 cities by 2035 and 776,190 by 2050.
- **Clean energy generates economic benefits:** Phasing out fossil gas will have huge social and economic benefits. Our modelling shows that a 1.5° Celsius scenario would avoid more than \$3.9 trillion in cumulative health economic losses between 2020 and 2050.
- **Clean energy is cheaper than new fossil gas:** As of 2022, new fossil gas costs more than solar and wind in countries where 95 out of 96 C40 cities are located, including major fossil gas consumers, such as the United States, European Union, United Kingdom, China and Canada.
- **Urban climate actions create jobs:** The business of renovating buildings and installing solar roofs to power them, in particular, has high employment potential. Investing \$1 million in utility-scale solar and wind energy may create 1.7 times the energy of fossil gas power plants. Investing in upgrading and solar-powering buildings may generate six times as many jobs as the same investment in fossil gas.

C40's report outlines several recommendations for cities seeking to support this transition, and provides examples of cities taking these actions, including the adoption of net-zero targets and policy measures banning new fossil gas sources and appliances, as well as other efforts to flatten the demand curve and making the business case for investing in renewables.

Read C40's report "[*The Cost of Fossil Gas: The Health, Economic and Environmental Implications for Cities.*](#)"

About the 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.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Wellcome

Wellcome supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. Wellcome support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and are taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, global heating and infectious diseases.