

C40 ACCELERATOR

PROGRESS

REPORT 2023



C40
CITIES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was created in collaboration with C40 funders, C40 staff, and the 74 C40 cities and 17 non-C40 cities delivering the ambitions of the C40 accelerators: Clean Air Accelerator; Clean Construction Accelerator; Divesting from Fossil Fuels, Investing in a Sustainable Future Accelerator; Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator; Good Food Cities Accelerator; Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator; Renewable Energy Accelerator; Towards Zero Waste Accelerator; and the Urban Nature Accelerator.

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FOREWORD

The need for action has never been greater as the impacts of the climate crisis are increasing in frequency and intensity, and cities are on the front line with the most marginalised, urban residents facing the worst impacts. Urgent climate action is needed today to secure safe, inclusive and resilient cities for everyone.

In this report, cities are sharing their progress towards the goals of the C40 Accelerators – commitments of political leadership measured by concrete milestones and backed by the toughest science-based targets. These cities and their mayors are setting a global standard by showing what it means to tackle the climate crisis with immediate and inclusive action. They are demonstrating that there is no climate justice without social and economic justice.

Through the accelerators, city governments worldwide are creating greener, more resilient urban spaces made for residents. They are providing safe and accessible streets, cleaner air to breathe, access to healthy food and zero waste policies. Cities are accelerating sustainable finance, investing in clean and affordable electricity and green transport which reduces reliance on fossil fuels. In doing so they are creating and supporting good, green jobs.

By committing to and delivering on the C40 accelerator targets, cities are in a position to encourage more action from other non-C40 cities, national governments, and private sector partners.

We know that by coming together, C40 cities have a stronger voice, build powerful coalitions, and form new public, private and community partnerships to benefit residents. Engaging everyone on this journey is vital – we must all make sure all voices are also heard and acted upon.

London has continued with its commitment to clean air for all and in August 2023, expanded its Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to cover the whole of Greater London, improving air quality for five million more Londoners, and creating the largest low emission zone of its kind in the world. Since the changes associated with the ULEZ started, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels have declined by almost 50% in central London, as compared to a scenario without the ULEZ. All together, efforts from C40 Clean Air Accelerator have made a significant impact, with an average 5% improvement in air quality between 2018 and 2021, and 94 million more C40 city residents enjoying cleaner air.

As the lead city of C40's Divest/ Invest Accelerator, London has also worked with the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA) and has now divested all extractive fossil fuels from its pension funds, and is scaling up investment in decarbonising buildings, transport and renewables, while supporting green jobs. City and pension fund assets reported by C40 Divest/ Invest Accelerator cities in 2023 now represent over US\$ 500 billion, and over US\$ 84 billion municipal assets across these cities are now fossil fuel-free.

Supported by C40's Urban Nature Accelerator, Freetown set and delivered on ambitious tree planting goals to build resilience to floods and landslides, increase biodiversity and reduce emissions under the #FreetownTheTreeTown campaign. As of December 2023, Freetown mobilised approximately US\$ 3.25 million, planted 977,000 trees, and created over 1,000 good, green jobs. 62% of C40 Urban Nature Accelerator cities reported this year that they have also implemented tree planting or biodiversity programmes involving local communities.

As a new signatory of the C40 Pathway Toward Zero Waste, along with 12 other signatories in the Global South, Freetown has also committed to address the city's third largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – waste. By prioritising sustainable waste management, Freetown is progressing towards the objective of reducing waste emissions to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

The C40 accelerators are an excellent engagement tool for building partnerships, and they provide evidence on the ways cities are driving forward action to combat the climate crisis. As C40 Co-Chairs, we are proud of the progress made by all of C40's 96 cities, and our collective commitment to a safe, inclusive and liveable future where everyone can thrive.

Congratulations to all the signatory cities, for demonstrating how their progress and dedication is helping to discover ambitious and attainable solutions to forge the path for the next decade of climate action.



Sadiq Khan
C40 Co-Chair,
Mayor of London



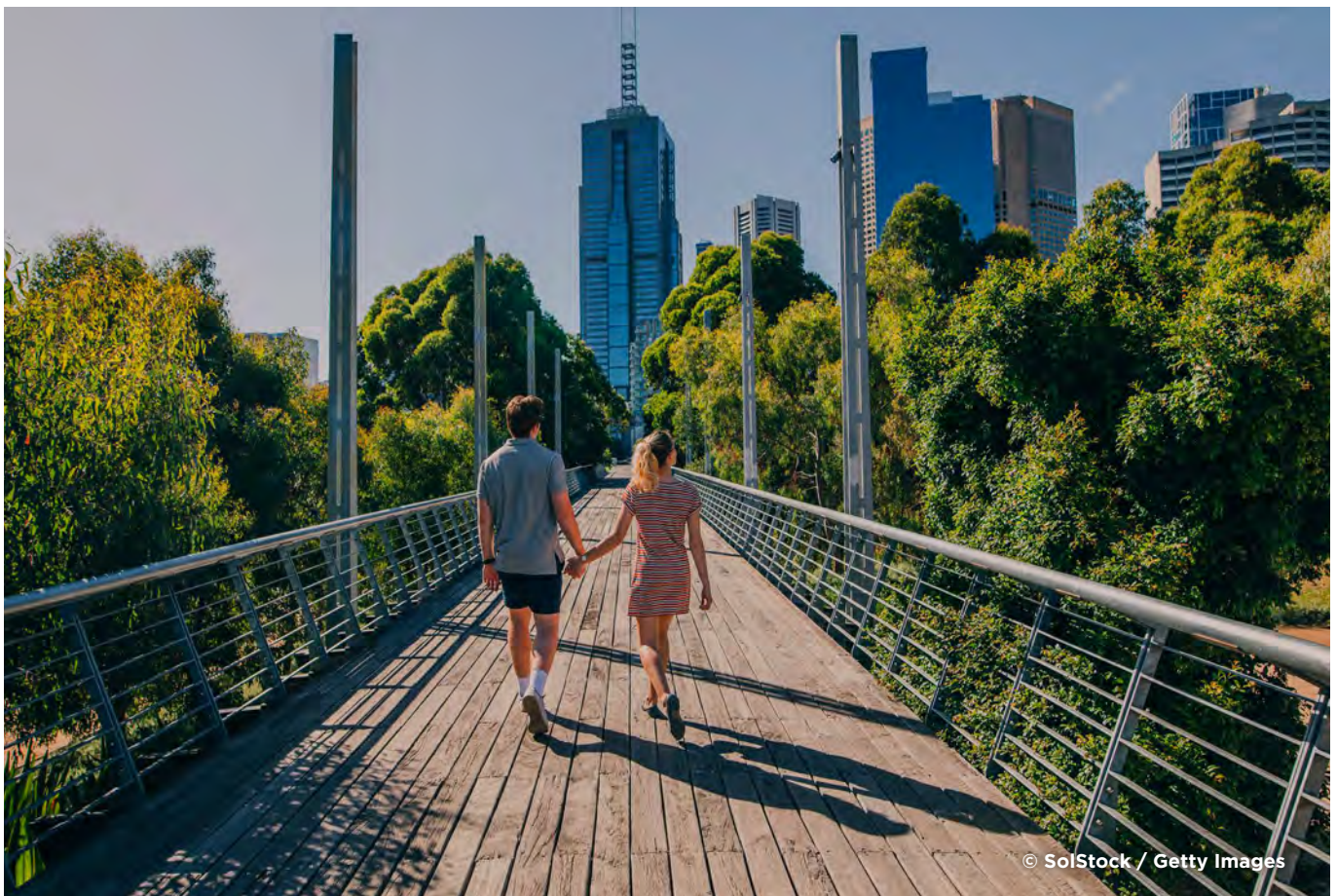
Yvonne Aki Sawyerr
C40 Co-Chair,
Mayor of Freetown

INTRODUCTION

Since the C40 accelerators were introduced in 2017, they have been supporting mayors and their cities to drive forward impactful climate action. The C40 accelerators set out ambitious actions cities are taking to meet science-based targets with the aim of collectively halving emissions in C40 cities by 2030, increasing climate resilience and aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Signatory cities collaborate to demonstrate how they are working to achieve their target commitments by sharing their successes, as well as the barriers faced along the way. By 2023, there were a total of 267 commitments to 10 accelerators across 91 signatory cities, demonstrating cities' leadership on the global stage through the power of collective action.

As city residents face some of the worst impacts of climate breakdown, including floods, droughts, extreme heat, and dangerous air quality, mayors know they must take immediate action to become healthier, greener and more equitable places to be. The 91 cities currently committed to one or more of the accelerators are responsible for a combined population of around 380 million people.

In 2023, city governments implemented and reported on key actions they are taking to achieve the commitments of the accelerators and support a better future for all.



Cities are leading by:

Transitioning their bus fleets to zero emissions.	Between 2018 and 2023, Seoul deployed 1,033 electric buses and 27 hydrogen fuel cell buses. Since 2021, the city has exclusively procured zero emission buses.
Expanding and implementing ambitious building performance standards to improve energy efficiency in buildings.	Sydney's Net Zero Energy Building Performance Standards came into effect in 2023, requiring high levels of energy efficiency for new office, residential, hotel and shopping centre developments.
Strengthening energy assessment guidance to exceed national standards.	London published new Energy Assessment Guidance that strengthens the requirements on developers to achieve high on-site carbon savings before offsetting, encouraging clean energy such as heat pumps and solar panels. London Plan policies achieved carbon savings from new developments more than 50 percent higher compared to meeting national building regulations alone.
Diverting organic waste from landfills by introducing curbside composting to neighbourhoods and establishing collection points for organic waste at sites with large generators.	Boston expanded its residential food scraps curbside collection services from 10,000 to 30,000 households in 2023, and Dar es Salaam currently collects and composts 360 tons per day from public markets around the city.
Improving air quality by implementing policies to reduce the number of polluting vehicles.	Nairobi introduced more electric and non-motorised transport lanes as well as constructed new roads with walking and cycling lanes. The city has also installed 17 air quality monitors to measure particulate matter (PM _{2.5}) concentration and made this real-time data accessible to the public.

Reducing food waste and increasing access to healthy and sustainable food.	Quezon City Government signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Scholars for Sustenance, an international food rescue foundation. Under this agreement and in the first four months of operation the city was able to rescue and donate about 1,980 kgs of food, which translates to about 21,950 meals served.
Initiating strategies to invest in sustainable climate action.	New York City launched its Ten-Year Capital Strategy, including plans to invest US\$ 1.3 billion in green infrastructure and onsite stormwater management on streets, parks, playgrounds, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) campuses.
Establishing zero emission construction sites.	Oslo opened a zero emission construction site in 2019 in the city centre. All construction machinery at this site was electric. Since then the city has had several other zero emission construction sites across the city.
Becoming greener and more resilient by introducing nature-based solutions, expanding accessible green spaces and strengthening biodiversity.	Eight parks and 32 water bodies in Chennai have been renewed or restored, and vertical gardens are being developed in densely populated areas while urban farming is scaled up on rooftops and other vacant spaces. Looking ahead, the Greater Chennai Corporation is actively developing 57 sponge parks to mitigate flooding in low-lying areas.
Implementing solar mini grids to off-grid areas.	Under the Lagos Power Project, 172 schools and 11 rural primary healthcare centres were powered via off-grid solar systems between 2015 and 2021. This project is currently being scaled up to have an additional 100 state government secondary schools and some government facilities, funded through a green bond.

In this report, we will explore the actions city governments have taken since signing the accelerators, and their progress towards their goals noting that every single city has different levels of control and access putting every city on its own path forward

By looking at what cities have achieved, we can also look ahead to see how these actions will help cities reach their goals for the accelerators’ target years of 2025 and 2030, in this decisive decade for climate action. This report will also explore the barriers cities face to implementing climate solutions.

This report demonstrates that creating resilient, inclusive and equitable urban communities is at the core of implementation. Through these actions, cities are supporting good green jobs, ensuring climate actions help meet the needs of groups that have been historically marginalised, and elevating underrepresented voices in climate policy decision-making.

In 2023, cities are centring equity in climate action to meet the commitments of the accelerators by:

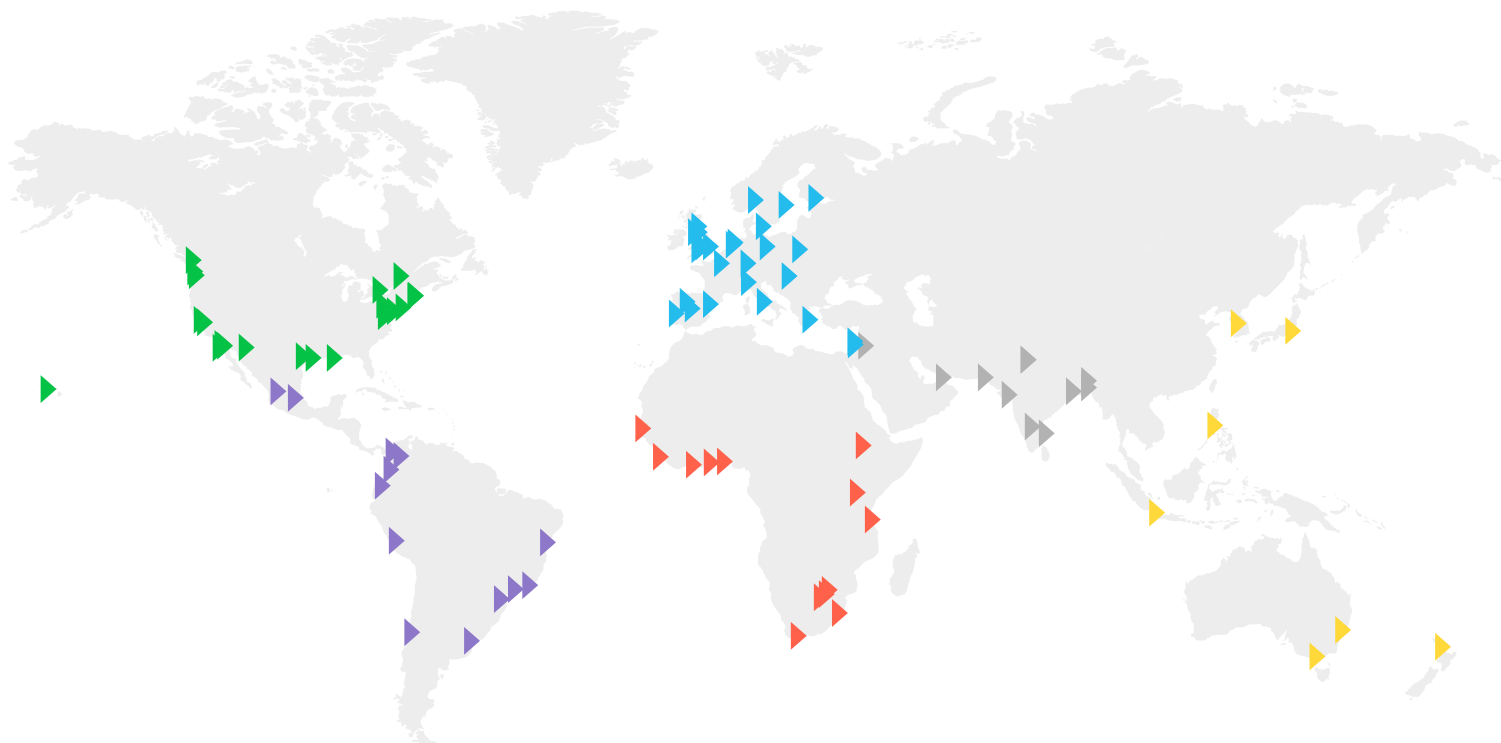
Engaging city residents in decision-making processes by establishing open communication with community members.	The Freetown City Council introduced a two-way communication channel between the council and frontline communities, to support the development and delivery of climate and disaster management actions. Freetown also plans to integrate a youth council to strengthen climate governance capacities.
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Establishing accessible public spaces and transport through improved infrastructure, fare discounts and welfare plans for employees.	In Buenos Aires , public transport passenger waiting environments are being constructed using people-centred and gender perspective design principles to mitigate physical, communicational and social barriers. Bus stops have been placed in areas where there is a high concentration of caregivers, and they are being designed with more comfortable equipment including resting places, elevated platforms, and specialised signage.
Establishing opportunities for good, green jobs through training programmes aimed at economically and socially marginalised communities.	Through San Francisco’s new construction and demolition transporter permit programme, they have started hiring staff for increased field monitoring and compliance for projects, transporters and facilities, as well as conducting a racial equity scan that informed the adoption of regulations to improve enforcement, including tiered permitted transporter fees and fines.

This report provides a summary of progress made across the accelerators’ 91 signatory cities. It highlights the vital role cities can play to mitigate and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, while providing a roadmap for the next decade of actions needed.

Detailed reports on the individual accelerators can be found [here](#).

SIGNATORIES



▶ Abidjan	▶ Dar es Salaam	▶ Liverpool	▶ Rio de Janeiro
▶ Accra	▶ Delhi NCT	▶ London	▶ Rome
▶ Addis Ababa	▶ Dhaka North	▶ Los Angeles	▶ Rotterdam
▶ Amman	▶ Dhaka South	▶ Madrid	▶ Salvador
▶ Amsterdam	▶ Dubai	▶ Medellín	▶ San Francisco
▶ Athens	▶ eThekweni	▶ Melbourne	▶ San Jose
▶ Auckland	▶ Ekurhuleni	▶ Mexico City	▶ Santa Monica
▶ Austin	▶ Freetown	▶ Milan	▶ Santiago
▶ Barcelona	▶ Glasgow	▶ Montréal	▶ São Paulo
▶ Bengaluru	▶ Guadalajara	▶ Mumbai	▶ Seattle
▶ Berlin	▶ Greater Manchester	▶ Newburyport	▶ Seoul
▶ Birmingham	▶ Haifa	▶ New Orleans	▶ Stockholm
▶ Bogotá	▶ Heidelberg	▶ New York City	▶ Sydney
▶ Boston	▶ Helsinki	▶ Nairobi	▶ Tel Aviv-Yafo
▶ Buenos Aires	▶ Honolulu	▶ Oslo	▶ Tokyo
▶ Budapest	▶ Houston	▶ Oxford	▶ Toronto
▶ Bristol	▶ Jakarta	▶ Paris	▶ Tshwane
▶ Cali	▶ Johannesburg	▶ Philadelphia	▶ Valladolid
▶ Cape Town	▶ Karachi	▶ Phoenix	▶ Vancouver
▶ Chennai	▶ Kolkata	▶ Pittsburgh	▶ Warsaw
▶ Copenhagen	▶ Lagos	▶ Portland	▶ Washington, D.C.
▶ Curitiba	▶ Lima	▶ Quezon City	▶ West Hollywood
▶ Dakar	▶ Lisbon	▶ Quito	

ACTIONS TAKEN NOW ARE DEFINING THE PATHWAY FORWARD

MEETING 2025 AND 2030 COMMITMENTS

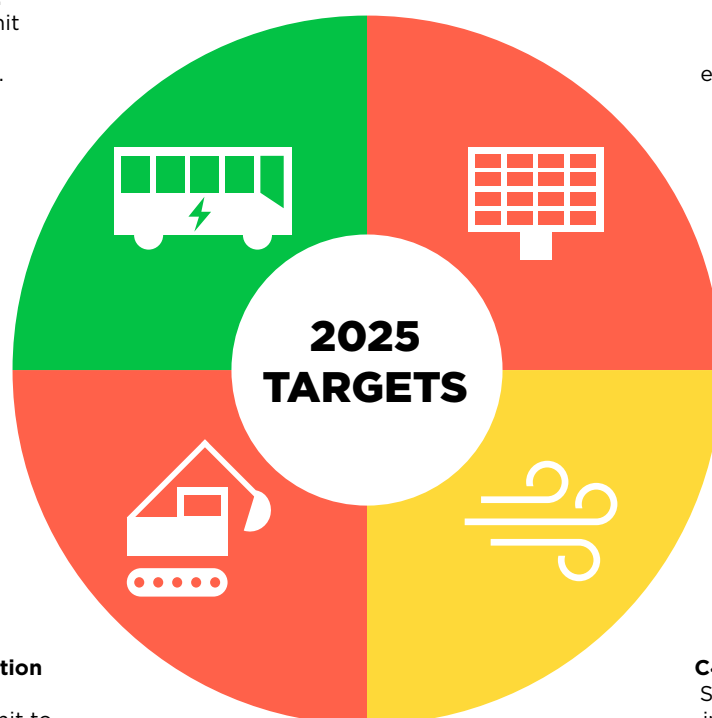
The progress made by signatory cities since the launch of the accelerators up to 2023 lays the foundation for the progress to be made by cities in the next decade. The climate action of cities today will help achieve the accelerator commitments by the target years of 2025 and 2030. The bold climate solutions cities are implementing across sectors showcases the progress that will help cities achieve these commitments and which barriers need to be overcome along the way to ensure continued success. In addition to these targets, several accelerators have targets that are set from the date of signing the accelerator. All targets of the accelerators present an opportunity to implement solutions that enable equitable, impactful climate action.

C40 Green & Healthy Streets Accelerator:

Signatory cities commit to procuring only zero-emission buses.

C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator:

Signatory cities commit to switching municipal electricity consumption to 100% renewable energy.



C40 Clean Construction Accelerator

Signatory cities commit to approving at least one net zero emission (operational and embodied) flagship project.

C40 Clean Air Accelerator:

Signatory cities commit to implementing substantive new policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution and emissions within cities.

C40 Clean Air Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to working towards a shared vision of meeting World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines.

C40 Clean Construction Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to reducing embodied emissions by at least 50% for all new buildings and major retrofits.

C40 Clean Construction Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to reducing embodied emissions by at least 50% of all infrastructure projects.

C40 Clean Construction Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to requiring zero emission construction sites city-wide, where technology is available.

C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to deploying clean energy systems for electricity, heating, cooling and cooking to achieve 50% of the assessed feasible potential within the city.

C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to aligning food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, ideally sourced from organic agriculture.

C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to reducing food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline.

C40 Urban Nature Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to increasing and enhancing nature in urban environments that reduce climate risk and vulnerability, supports wider ecosystem services, and is equitably distributed and publicly accessible.

C40 Toward Zero Waste Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to increasing the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70%.

C40 Toward Zero Waste Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to reducing the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% compared to 2015.

C40 Toward Zero Waste Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to reducing the municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% compared to 2015.

C40 Pathway Towards Zero Waste:
Signatory cities commit to reducing waste disposal emissions by at least 30%.

C40 Pathways Toward Zero Waste:
Signatory cities commit to treating at least 30% of organic waste.

C40 Pathway Toward Zero Waste:
Signatory cities commit to providing timely city-wide waste collection services.

C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to enacting regulations and/or planning policies to ensure new buildings operate at net zero carbon.

C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to owning, occupying and developing only assets that are net zero carbon in operation.

C40 Green & Healthy Streets Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to transition to Fossil-Fuel-Free Streets by ensuring a major area of the city is zero emission.

C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator:
Signatory cities commit to supporting an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets.



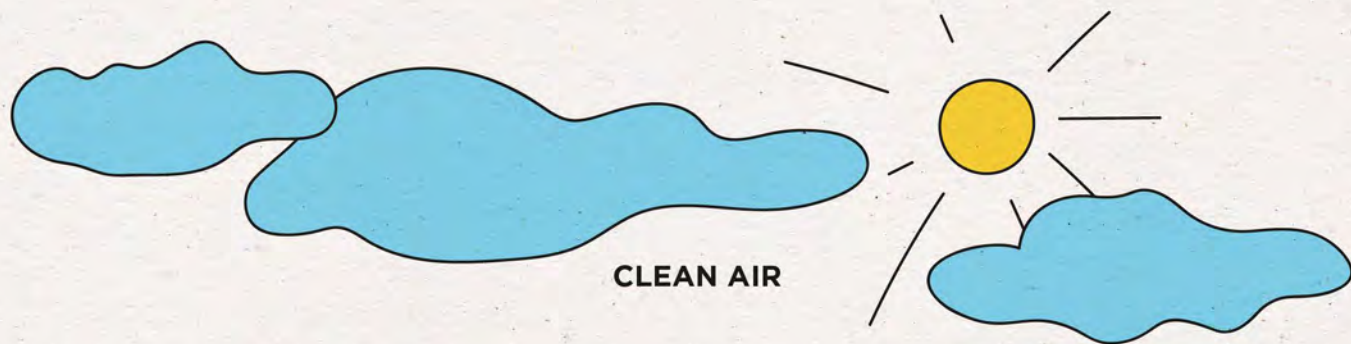


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ACCELERATOR PROGRESS

INDIVIDUAL ACCELERATOR OVERVIEWS

This section summarises the progress cities reported on in 2023, and the advancements they have made to achieve their accelerator commitments since signing. It contains an overview of each of the nine C40 accelerators that reported this year, an introduction to the newest C40 accelerator, and some of the best examples of centring equity in climate action.



CLEAN AIR

CLEAN CONSTRUCTION
& NET ZERO CARBON
BUILDINGS

RENEWABLE
ENERGY

DIVEST/
INVEST

GOOD
FOOD

URBAN NATURE

ZERO WASTE

GREEN & HEALTHY STREETS

WATER SAFE



► C40 GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS ACCELERATOR

How cities are urgently delivering greener, healthier and more inclusive streets

The C40 Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator was the first accelerator to be launched back in 2017. There are now 35 global signatories, including 28 C40 cities across C40 five regions. Signatory cities are committed to addressing the principal causes of urban transport pollution through two main commitments: ensuring a major area of the city is zero emission by 2030 and procuring with their partners only zero emission buses from 2025.

In 2023, the global spotlight has centred on urban clean air zones. Removing polluting vehicles from cities is one of the most equitable and impactful climate actions that city governments can pursue towards zero emission areas, and signatory cities are leading the way. A total of 13 signatory cities have regulations which control the circulation of high-polluting vehicles across a significant part of the city. For example, Seoul's Green Transport Zone was established in 2017 under the city's vision for a people-oriented, safe and pleasant city centre that minimises passenger vehicles. In the coming year, Seoul will also encourage early scrappage of Grade-4 vehicles and expand the driving ban in the Green Transport Zone and the low emission zone (LEZ), which affects the entire city boundary to include Grade-4 vehicles.

Cities also continue to transition their municipal bus fleets to zero emission. As of October 2023, nine signatory cities are exclusively procuring zero emission buses. Berlin is one of these, and the city's mobility act requires that public transport must be fully electrified by 2030.

Signatory cities

Amsterdam	Jakarta	Rio de Janeiro
Auckland	Liverpool	Rome
Austin	London	Rotterdam
Barcelona	Los Angeles	Santa Monica
Berlin	Madrid	Santiago
Birmingham	Medellín	Seattle
Bogotá	Mexico City	Seoul
Cape Town	Milan	Tokyo
Copenhagen	Oslo	Vancouver
Greater Manchester	Oxford	Warsaw
Heidelberg	Paris	West Hollywood
Honolulu	Quito	

All signatory cities are working together to discover how to best transform their streets into inclusive, healthy and attractive public spaces.

Deyanira Ávila Moreno

District Secretary of Mobility, City of Bogotá

"Decision making is our best chance to counter back climate change and air quality problems. For this reason, Bogotá has decided to implement leading-edge actions such as the procurement of 1,485 e-buses, the deployment of its first shared bike system and has formulated planning tools with determined goals that enhance active and sustainable mobility."

As an example, Bogotá will have a fully zero emission public transport by 2039 and by 2032, the city will only allow the registration of private vehicles classified as low and zero emissions vehicles.

It's time for cities to take action if we want to win the race against climate change."



Centring Equity in Climate Action: LONDON SPOTLIGHT

Ahead of the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to all of Greater **London**, the Mayor commissioned an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to assess the potential health, environment, equality, and economic impacts of the scheme on different groups, particularly those with protected characteristics and people on lower incomes.

The IIA was undertaken at the same time as the scheme was developed and fed into it as part of an iterative process. The IIA also provided some recommendations for Transport for London to consider in the design of the scheme.

Following consideration of the IIA and consultation with stakeholders, the Mayor decided to proceed with the expansion with some modifications. This included a new scrappage scheme initially targeted at Londoners on lower incomes, disabled Londoners, and micro-businesses, extensions to existing grace periods for disabled people and

community transport minibuses, and new grace periods to help more disabled people and those using wheelchair-accessible vehicles. Ahead of the London-wide expansion, a number of changes were made to the eligibility criteria and grant levels of the scrappage scheme, including expanding the eligibility criteria to include small businesses with fewer than 50 employees and any Londoner with an eligible non-compliant vehicle.

The ULEZ was successfully expanded on 29th August 2023 and is now in operation London-wide. Initial data shows that the London-wide expansion has been highly effective at reducing both the proportion and number of older, more polluting vehicles on London's roads in its first month of operation. After one month in operation, 95 per cent of vehicles seen driving in London on an average day now meet the ULEZ standards, up from 85 per cent when the consultation launched in May 2022



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Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



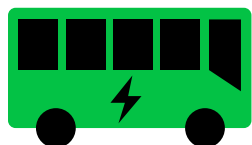
50%

of signatory cities have put restrictions in place (e.g. charges or bans) on high polluting vehicles that cover a significant part of the city.



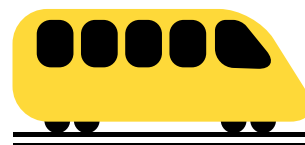
54%

of signatory cities are reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes of transport on a permanent basis.



82%

of signatory cities (alone or with partners) have implemented key measures to promote transport electrification.



79%

of signatory cities implemented measures to improve speed, reliability and accessibility of on street transit OR advanced equivalent rail improvements.

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Green & Healthy Streets Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 NET ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS ACCELERATOR

How cities are leading the transition
to decarbonised buildings

Launched in 2018, the C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator brings together 27 signatory cities (23 C40 cities and 4 non-C40 cities) to demonstrate collective climate leadership in reducing emissions, fostering climate resilience and delivering thriving, liveable cities for everyone, everywhere. Signatory cities pledge to enact regulations and/or plan policy to ensure new buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030 and all buildings by 2050, and to implement a roadmap for decarbonisation of the built environment. In addition, 16 of the signatory cities have signed an optional commitment for municipal buildings to exclusively own, occupy and develop assets that are net zero carbon in operation by 2030.

In 2023, a total of 14 signatory cities have already implemented policies to deliver net zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030, using their own property to innovate solutions and lead by example. Paris launched an Energy Sobriety Plan for municipal buildings in 2022 that lowered the temperatures for heating in all city buildings, set back the winter heating season by one month and reduced ornamental lighting. By the end of winter in 2023, there was a 6.7% reduction in the energy consumption of municipal buildings in Paris.

Cities are also focusing on new buildings, with 16 signatory cities implementing and enforcing building energy regulations, codes or policies on a mandatory pathway to achieve net zero carbon new buildings no later than 2030. Johannesburg, eThekweni and Tshwane are all progressing

Signatory cities

Cali	Melbourne	Santa Monica
Cape Town	Montréal	Seattle
Copenhagen	Newburyport	Stockholm
eThekweni	New York City	Sydney
Heidelberg	Oslo	Tokyo
Johannesburg	Paris	Toronto
London	Portland	Tshwane
Los Angeles	San Francisco	Vancouver
Medellín	San Jose	Washington, D.C.

with the implementation of the Green Buildings Policies they developed with the support of the C40 South Africa Buildings Programme. These policies will ensure that all new buildings and major refurbishments are net zero carbon by 2030.

Many cities also reported on centring community engagement and co-design processes in their actions to reach net zero carbon buildings. San Francisco has created a Building Operations Task Force (BOTF), a working group of residents, tenant's rights organisations, utilities, design and construction professionals, and real estate stakeholders, which makes recommendations to ensure policy and programme proposals centre racial equity and advance a just energy transition.

In addition, cities planned and implemented policies to decarbonise existing buildings. This includes the implementation of ambitious Building Performance Standards (BPS) and retrofit programmes. Washington, D.C.'s Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator provides comprehensive technical and financial assistance for affordable housing, to help meet Building Energy Performance Standards and support building needs voiced by stakeholders.

Signatory cities continue to break new ground on building decarbonisation, innovating and scaling solutions to promote the resilient, net zero carbon buildings of the future.

Sally Capp

Lord Mayor of Melbourne

"The City of Melbourne is taking strong action to lead the transition to a net zero emissions city by 2040 powered by 100% renewable energy. Buildings account for 66% of our carbon emissions.

Retrofit Melbourne aims to accelerate commercial retrofits so that our city's buildings are zero carbon ready.

Power Melbourne will see a network of neighbourhood batteries installed around the city, to help our community access more affordable renewable electricity.

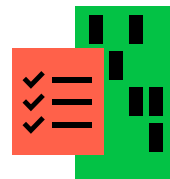
The Melbourne Climate Network focuses on growing jobs in the zero-carbon sector.

These projects demonstrate the City of Melbourne's commitment to delivering a renewable and prosperous city."



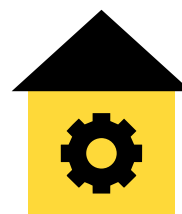
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Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



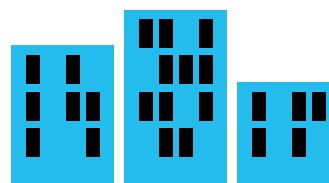
70%

of signatory cities have implemented/enforced building energy regulations, codes or policies on a mandatory pathway to achieve net zero carbon new buildings no later than 2030.



78%

of signatory cities have implemented retrofit programmes for existing, privately owned buildings, that put the city on a pathway to net zero carbon by 2050.



22%

of signatory cities have implemented/enforced mandatory energy or emissions performance standards for existing buildings (on a pathway to net zero carbon).

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator [here](#).

Centring Equity in Climate Action: WASHINGTON, D.C. SPOTLIGHT

Ensuring that the benefits of building decarbonisation actions are accessible to everyone requires cities to work proactively in supporting marginalised residents. Washington D.C. is one of many signatories to the C40 net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator committed to centring equity in its building decarbonisation actions. As the date set for expansion of the District's Building Energy Performance Standards to include smaller buildings nears, the District is actively working to provide technical and financial assistance to support compliance, with a focus on affordable and public housing. The District's Affordable Housing Retrofit

Accelerator provided energy audits at no cost to 61 affordable housing buildings in 2023, and installation of subsidised energy efficiency measures has also begun. The District also participated in the C40 Healthy and Efficient Retrofitted Buildings project, to assess the potential impact of retrofitting over 14,000 affordable apartments over 108 buildings. The analysis found that they could prevent 27 heat or cold-related deaths and 13 hospitalisations, support 1,400 good green jobs and reduce energy use by 70% all while achieving a reduction of 28,500 tonnes of CO₂ per year.



► C40 TOWARDS ZERO WASTE ACCELERATOR

How cities are accelerating the reduction of methane emissions

Launched in 2018, the C40 Towards Zero Waste Accelerator has been signed by 21 C40 cities in the Global North. Signatory cities of the accelerator pledge to reduce municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% by 2030 compared to 2015; reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2015; and increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030.

Signatory cities reported in 2023 that they are accelerating their transition towards a zero waste future by implementing innovative, equitable urban waste management practices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, embrace a circular economy and support sustainable economic opportunities.

A total of 16 signatory cities have city-wide segregated collection in place, including a number of food and organics collection programmes that have been implemented for their residents in 2023, such as in Auckland and New York City. Cities are also taking action on plastics as well as facilitating reuse and repair hubs, clinics and events to create local, sustainable economies. For instance, nine signatory cities have a ban on single-use plastics in place, while an additional five cities have “by request” requirements in place for businesses providing single-use utensils. Los Angeles has launched a Reusable Foodware Program, which provides grants for restaurants to transition away from single-use materials.

In addition, cities continue to work on transitioning towards extended producer responsibility systems to manage waste upstream more proactively. Toronto transitioned

Signatory cities

Auckland	Montréal	Stockholm
Boston	New York City	Sydney
Copenhagen	Paris	Tel Aviv-Yafo
London	Philadelphia	Tokyo
Los Angeles	Portland	Toronto
Melbourne	Rotterdam	Vancouver
Milan	San Francisco	Washington, D.C.

its longstanding and highly successful Blue Box recycling programme over to extended producer responsibility to ensure both the responsibility and cost of collecting and processing the recycling of paper products and packaging-like products becomes the responsibility of the producer. The programme will be fully transitioned across the city by 2026.

All signatory cities continue to take the necessary action to reduce the amount of waste being generated and move towards a more sustainable, zero waste future.

Marie-Andée Mauger

Executive Committee Member responsible for the ecological transition and the environment, City of Montréal

“Among the measures put in place that have had a strong impact on Montréal's performance since the city joined the accelerator are three by-laws aimed at reducing single-use plastic items at source, and the rollout of organic waste collection in all buildings of nine dwellings or more, due for completion in 2025.

Proud of its commitment to the C40 Zero Waste Accelerator, the City of Montréal is actively working to reduce waste with the adoption of its 2020–2025 Master Plan. In pursuit of this goal, Montréal is delighted to be able to count on such a network to exchange ideas with other major cities on the challenges inherent in adopting more sustainable lifestyles.”

Centring Equity in Climate Action: ROTTERDAM SPOTLIGHT

Rotterdam has deployed food waste collection containers around the city that have been modified from the original design to make them more accessible to children and people in wheelchairs, and they won a Dutch Design Award for their innovation. For households to find the closest bin to their residence, the city created a map that identifies the location of the bins around the city. To produce the waste containers, the city has also begun to focus on employing people that would normally have a hard time getting a job on the regular job market.

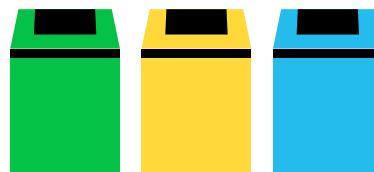


Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



100%

of signatory cities have taken actions to restrict single use and non-recyclable materials.



76%

of signatory cities have implemented citywide segregated collection (food waste/organics, recycling, residual/rubbish) for the majority of businesses and residences.



8

signatory cities are already diverting over 50% of their waste in order to meet the accelerator's 70% diversion commitment by 2030.

► C40 PATHWAY TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

How cities are accelerating the reduction of methane emissions

Signatory cities

Accra	Dhaka South	Quito
Amman	Ekurhuleni	Rio de Janeiro
Buenos Aires	eThekweni	Tshwane
Curitiba	Freetown	
Dar es Salaam	Nairobi	

Launched in October 2022, the C40 Pathway Towards Zero Waste supports cities in the Global South to improve waste management practices and minimise methane emissions. The pathway has 13 signatory cities across three regions. Signatory cities create cleaner, healthier, and more inclusive cities through three commitments to be reached by 2030: provide timely, city-wide waste collection; treat at least 30% of organic waste; and reduce waste disposal emissions by at least 30%.

Although the pathway was created just over a year ago, some cities have already reported progress in 2023, while all signatory cities have mapped out ambitious steps towards developing long-term, evidence-based, near zero waste futures.

Four cities have universal collection in place, while another six cities have achieved collection coverage of more than 80% of the city. City governments recognise the critical service informal waste workers provide, specifically to frontline communities. Cities are therefore actively supporting and integrating informal waste workers into municipal waste management. Amman has started a certification programme to secure workers' rights.

By focusing on organic waste, a main source of methane, 16% of signatory cities have implemented segregated waste collection and all signatory cities acknowledge it as a crucial step towards sustainable waste management. Both Nairobi and Freetown are implementing waste segregation pilots. Buenos Aires implemented a city-wide organic waste collection system, with 60 collection points in public spaces across the city. Curitiba will scale up its Municipal Composting Programme by implementing a municipal composting yard to process organic waste from large waste generators.

Almost 62% of signatory cities have sanitary landfills with capping and gas capture in place. Rio de Janeiro also harnesses biogas for electricity and renewable fuel (biomethane) from its landfill. Cities with sanitary disposal infrastructure are working towards greater diversion rates through increased organic waste treatment and recycling rates, in order to extend the lifetime of landfills, and/or working towards a near zero waste future and circular economies, through which these landfills will be decommissioned. Those without sanitary landfills are actively working on plans to build new ones or retrofit dumpsites for sanitary disposal.

By implementing clear sustainable waste roadmaps, signatory cities are en route to meet their 2030 commitments.

Ahmad Malkawi

City Manager of Amman

"The reduction of methane emissions through improved municipal waste management and organics treatment has far-reaching implications for mitigating global warming. Having started the diversion of organic waste from landfills and implementing sustainable treatment methods and gas capture, the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) will significantly decrease its waste emissions. Amman is also committed to supporting informal waste workers to continue providing critical waste collection and recycling services to the city. We have gained valuable insights from other cities that have implemented sustainable waste systems before us, and I believe that similarly our work will become a model to other cities."

Centring Equity in Climate Action: ACCRA SPOTLIGHT

Informal waste collectors make an important contribution to waste management in **Accra's** most frontline communities. As part of the municipal solid waste source separation and compost project, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) is improving the working conditions of hundreds of informal waste workers, including women and people who have migrated or been displaced. The effort to improve conditions includes dialogue with representatives to understand their perspectives, support their capacity building and identify policies that can better protect them in their work.

The city will formally assign concessions to informal waste collectors in low income and marginalised communities, as part of their recognition and integration into the city's solid waste management efforts. Accra aims to both increase the waste collection coverage and provide efficient services to households in underserved communities. AMA is facilitating the formation of cooperatives for informal waste service provider cooperatives, which can then be awarded concessions. The target for 2024 is to inaugurate at least ten cooperatives.

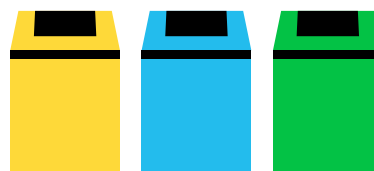


Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



62%

of signatory cities have sanitary landfills with capping and gas capture in place.



16%

of signatory cities have implemented segregated waste collection.



30%

of signatory cities have implemented universal collection.

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Towards Zero Waste Accelerator [here](#) and the C40 Pathway Towards Zero Waste [here](#).

► C40 CLEAN AIR ACCELERATOR

How cities are cleaning the air we breathe

Launched in 2019, the C40 Clean Air Accelerator has been signed by 50 C40 cities across the globe. Signatory cities commit to tackling air pollution and the climate crisis simultaneously to improve the lives of their residents. They are setting ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants to put them on a path toward meeting World Health Organization air quality guidelines and implementing new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions. These efforts have made a significant impact, with an average 5% improvement in air quality between 2018 and 2021, and 94 million more C40 city residents enjoying cleaner air.

A total of 35 signatory cities have expanded air quality monitoring networks since 2019 to better understand their air pollution levels and to ensure that decision-making for action implementation is data-driven. For example, London has now deployed nearly 450 air quality sensors across the city, complementing its dense network of over 150 reference grade air quality sites and over 1,900 passive diffusion tubes. Cities are also using this data to increase awareness about the sources and impacts of toxic air through air quality campaigns. The City of Lima's 'Breathe Clean' campaign focused on awareness around the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by vehicle fleets, and Tshwane held an awareness-raising campaign discouraging tyre burning.

One challenge to providing cleaner air is that markets have not achieved a fast enough shift to clean vehicles. To tackle this challenge, city governments are creating incentives and penalties to accelerate the transition. An example of these efforts are the 31 signatory cities that have implemented regulations which control the

Signatory cities

Abidjan	Guadalajara	Paris
Accra	Heidelberg	Phoenix
Addis Ababa	Houston	Portland
Amman	Jakarta	Quezon City
Austin	Johannesburg	Quito
Barcelona	Kolkata	Rio de Janeiro
Bengaluru	Lagos	Rotterdam
Berlin	Lima	Salvador
Bogotá	Lisbon	Seoul
Buenos Aires	London	Stockholm
Copenhagen	Los Angeles	Sydney
Dakar	Madrid	Tel Aviv-Yafo
Delhi NCT	Medellín	Tokyo
Dubai	Mexico City	Tshwane
Ekurhuleni	Milan	Warsaw
eThekweni	Nairobi	Washington, D.C.
Freetown	Oslo	

circulation of polluting vehicles in their cities to tackle emissions from traffic. In October 2023, Copenhagen introduced stricter legislation to the city's Low Emission Zone requiring diesel-powered passenger cars to have a particulate filter or be at least Euro 5.

In addition, 37 cities are working through the accelerator to increase active mobility and provide better infrastructure for their residents and 19 cities are working to reduce emissions from waste management.

All of the signatory cities continue to invest in clean air actions to bring residents a better quality of life, cleaner skies, and healthier lungs.

Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda

Mayor of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

"As C40's first ever African Mayoral Champion for Air Quality, I know that we can no longer turn a blind eye to the injustice of air pollution. One of my top priorities is protecting our residents from the devastating consequences of air pollution. As of 2019 the city has intentionally set ambitious targets through the C40 Clean Air Accelerator of complying with the country's revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by 2030."

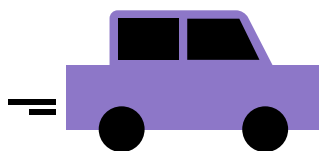
Centring Equity in Climate Action: DELHI SPOTLIGHT

Delhi is committed to improving inclusivity and has introduced an initiative offering free bus rides for women to make public transport more accessible and reduce congestion. In addition, Delhi is also reducing the impacts from transport pollution on communities by procuring new electric vehicles. The city fleet now includes 1,300 electric buses. Delhi has also introduced a new mobile application 'The Green Delhi App' which empowers residents to report and address environmental concerns and grievances, as well as access to real-time air quality data. The app has been used to report illegal burning of trash, dust pollution from building sites, smoke emissions from vehicles emissions

and noise pollution, among others. To date, this has had an issue resolution rate of approximately 87%, highlighting the government's commitment to responding to resident environmental concerns promptly and effectively.

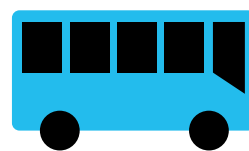


Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



62%

of signatory cities put restrictions on high polluting vehicles covering a significant part of the city or are working actively to achieve that goal.



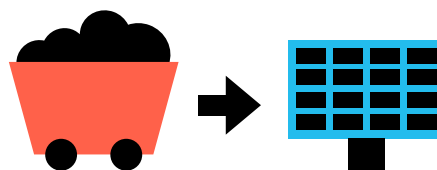
62%

of signatory cities are procuring only zero emission buses or are working actively to achieve that goal.



84%

of signatory cities are reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes on a permanent basis or are working actively to achieve that goal.



34%

of signatory cities are implementing or incentivising a phase out of fossil fuel or solid fuel technologies for heating and cooking or are working actively to achieve that goal.

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Clean Air Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 GOOD FOOD CITIES ACCELERATOR

How cities are achieving the planetary health diet for all

Signatory cities

Barcelona	Milan	Quezon City
Copenhagen	Montréal	Seoul
Guadalajara	New York City	Stockholm
Lima	Oslo	Toronto
London	Paris	Tokyo
Los Angeles		

The 16 C40 signatory cities of the C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator, launched in 2019, have been working to achieve a planetary health diet for all and reduce food waste by 2030. Signatory cities are tackling food-related emissions by promoting balanced and nutritious food, reflective of the culture, geography and demography of their residents. By 2030, participating cities have committed to align food procurement with the planetary health diet, support an increase of healthy plant-based food consumption, and reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline.

In 2023, signatory cities reported carbon emissions reductions from food consumption and food waste. Some cities are using direct and indirect powers to prioritise public procurement of nutritious and culturally relevant plant-based meals at city-organised events, as well as at public institutions such as schools, hospitals and shelters. A total of 11 signatory cities are aligning school feeding programmes that support locally relevant low-carbon diets. Between 2018 and 2022, Copenhagen reduced the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with public meals by 17.6%, by shifting menus and reducing the amount of high-emitting foods served in its facilities.

Cities are also taking action to change individual and business behaviours to promote healthier and sustainable choices and reduce food waste through measures including campaigns, training and labelling policies. Nearly all signatory cities have reported programmes to recover and donate food for people in need. In cities where residential food waste collection and treatment

are not in place, the focus has been devoted primarily to creating or consolidating food waste diversion from landfills. Guadalajara is training on and supporting public composting activities and working with market traders so that surplus food in good condition can be donated to low-income families.

All signatory city governments are implementing actions that recognise the importance of the future of a healthy food system which provides accessible food to all and reduces food waste.

Eric Adams

Mayor of New York City

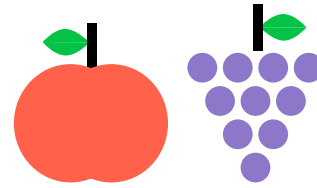
"For too long, addressing climate change for a safer, healthier future of New York City has meant looking only to the cars we drive and the buildings in which we live. Too little attention has been paid to what's right in front of us: the food on our plates. The way we eat impacts everything, and thanks to our partnership with C40, we're doing more to impact everything for the better. The Good Food Cities Accelerator's ambitious targets and concrete delivery milestones have given us a new way of thinking about emissions and the full scope of actions governments can take. C40's assessments prove that by asking our city agencies to be accountable in carbon emission reductions through the food we purchase, and by encouraging corporate cooperation through our Plant Powered Carbon Challenge, we can affect meaningful change by 2030."

Centring Equity in Climate Action: QUEZON CITY SPOTLIGHT

Quezon City, through its community-based urban farming programme, conducted 1,500 training sessions at the grassroots level with about 10,900 participants, who were given vegetable kits to start their own vegetable gardens. The community-based urban farming programme currently has 18,850 farmers, which started at around 2,000 in 2021. Through its urban farming programme, Quezon City, along with partner Bokashi Pinoy, has trained urban farmers in bio-composting to equip them with methods to introduce composting into their farms. They have collected over 4,860 kgs of food waste to be processed into compost.



Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



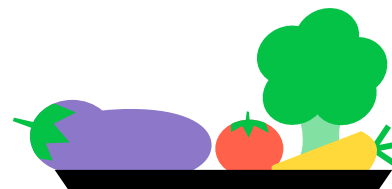
69%

of signatory cities are aligning school feeding programmes to locally relevant low-carbon diets.



50%

of signatory cities are regulating or activating programmes for food businesses to minimise food-related carbon emissions.



31%

of signatory cities have food assistance programmes which follow locally relevant low-carbon diets (e.g. prioritising plant protein).

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUELS, INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ACCELERATOR

How cities are investing in a sustainable, fossil fuel-free future

Since 2020, 16 C40 cities and 3 non-C40 cities have signed the C40 Divesting from Fossil Fuels, Investing in a Sustainable Future (Divest/Invest) Accelerator. City and pension fund assets reported by C40's Divest/Invest Accelerator cities represent over US\$ 500 billion in municipal and public pension fund assets. As signatory cities, mayors commit to: 'take all possible steps' to divest city assets from fossil fuel companies and rapidly scale up investment in green, job creating solutions; call on city pension funds to take urgent Divest/Invest action; and advocate for fossil fuel-free and sustainable finance with other investors and all levels of government. The accelerator provides a platform for mayors to collectively champion fossil fuel-free finance, catalyse investment in climate solutions, call on city employee pension funds and other investors to divest from fossil fuels, and encourage other investors to follow suit.

In 2023, signatory cities reported that they are scaling up city climate investment by aligning their current investments with their climate action plans, or by meeting the EU's Sustainable Financial Disclosure Regulation's (SFDR) definition of 'sustainable' investments. A total of 11 city pension funds equating to over US\$ 420 billion have policies to divest assets from fossil fuels and/or increase their investments in renewables or climate solutions. Following a recent study, Milan demonstrated the employment potential and equity implications of the city's climate action plan and showed that over 50,000 jobs could be created over the next ten years through investment in climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

Six of the city pension plans have made commitments that financed portfolio emissions will be net zero by 2050 or sooner. The London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA) has a policy to

Signatory cities		
Auckland	Glasgow	Paris
Berlin	London	Pittsburgh
Boston	Los Angeles	Rio de Janeiro
Bristol	Milan	Seattle
Cape Town	New Orleans	Vancouver
Copenhagen	New York	
eThekweni	Oslo	

no longer invest in extractive fossil fuels, and to assess the transition pathway for other high carbon investments such as aviation, energy or manufacturing. Of the cities reporting this year, 93% are taking broader action to advocate for fossil fuel-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency. These actions range from Auckland engaging with local banks, to Berlin developing a sustainable stock index.

All signatory cities are working on ways to champion fossil fuel-free, sustainable investments that will create more opportunities for climate solutions.

Shirley Rodrigues

Deputy Mayor, Environment and Energy,
Greater London Authority

"The era of fossil fuels has to end. Moving money away from the stranded asset of high carbon energy and into clean energy makes sense not just for the planet but for our finances, and I am proud that the London Pension Fund Authority has led the way in making this change."

Centring Equity in Climate Action: AUCKLAND SPOTLIGHT

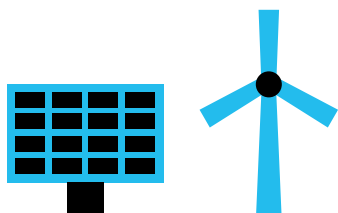
Auckland is committed to financing a resilient, green and just economy and ensuring processes are inclusive. A climate innovation hub, renamed as Climate Connect Aotearoa, has been established, bringing together diverse organisations to develop, demonstrate and scale solutions needed to reduce GHG emissions and build resilience, locally. Organisations can access

funding opportunities, make connections with like-minded participants and get involved in innovation challenges to develop scalable climate solutions across Auckland's key climate sectors – energy, food, the built environment and transport.

Auckland Council has engaged with local banks to facilitate meaningful sustainable finance products that drive action beyond GHG emissions

reduction, and continually engage investors to understand their sustainability needs. Over the last 18 months, the city has collaborated with the Public Service Association: a trade union for central and local government organisations and enterprises. Together they have drafted a climate clause for collective employment contracts which reflects Auckland's Climate Plan, just transition and future ways of working.

Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



93%

of signatory cities are taking steps to increase investment from municipal balance sheets, into renewables and other climate solutions.



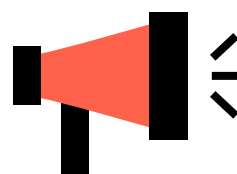
11

signatory cities are evaluating employment potential in climate action sectors, identifying opportunities for green jobs creation and recognising the equity implications.



73%

of signatory cities have divested from or have no municipal investments in fossil fuel companies.



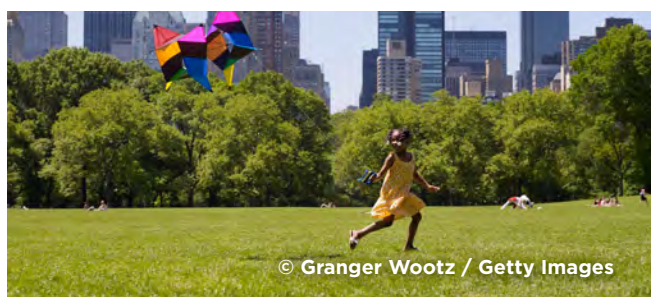
93%

of signatory cities are advocating for fossil fuel-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.



13

city pension funds have policies to divest assets from fossil fuels, and/or increase investments in climate solutions.



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Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Divest/Invest Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 CLEAN CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATOR

How cities are driving decarbonised and resilient buildings and infrastructure

Signatory cities

Budapest
London
Los Angeles

Mexico City
Milan
New York City

Oslo
San Francisco

The C40 Clean Construction Accelerator was launched in November 2020, and has 7 C40 cities and 1 non-C40 city signatory cities taking on the challenges associated with reducing embodied emissions in construction. The accelerator aims to tackle the climate and social impacts of construction and the built environment sector and drive forward net zero emission, resilient and inclusive buildings and infrastructure.

In 2023, signatory cities reported on the measures they are taking within their jurisdiction to meet the ambitious commitments of the accelerator. This includes leveraging their procurement powers to decarbonise the assets they own. Cities are also updating their building and planning codes to require clean construction measures for private buildings.

Other cities are tackling the impact of construction by addressing housing, air quality, waste, and job creation. All signatory cities are taking actions to prioritise existing assets, out of which 60% of them are tapping into their vacant and underutilised assets to simultaneously tackle the housing and climate crisis. Los Angeles' Adaptive Reuse Ordinance has facilitated the conversion of more than 1200 older, economically distressed, or historic buildings to homes in the downtown area and is planning to expand the scope of the ordinance to reuse these spaces for affordable housing.

Cities are actively collaborating with different stakeholders – ranging from national governments, other cities, business, industry, and civil society to reduce the negative climate and social impacts in the built environment.

Mexico City is participating in C40's 'Building greener cities: green job opportunities in clean construction' research pilot project, which will identify how the adoption of clean construction practices can change local labour markets and the cost associated with civil construction in the city.

Through these committed and bold actions, signatory cities are ensuring that they are improving equity and developing decarbonised and climate-resilient buildings and infrastructure of the future for everyone, everywhere to thrive.

Estefania Arriaga Ramos

Head of the Departmental Unit of Sustainable Waste Management, Mexico City

"Mexico City has always been a reference for other cities, states or countries on waste management, so any action taken has a great impact not only on the city but on its surroundings. The management of construction and demolition waste is an important issue that is not so visible, because economic development is preferred over environmental benefits, therefore, being able to achieve the commitments of the CCA will help us significantly reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills, and provide valuable construction materials."

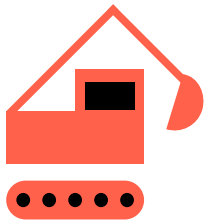
"Additionally, clean construction practices can minimise the environmental impact of construction and contribute to the creation of more sustainable cities. These are valuable goals that can inspire people to work in this field."

Centring Equity in Climate Action: OSLO SPOTLIGHT

Oslo's revised [2024 Climate Budget](#) takes into account both climate and equity considerations for new climate solutions and the strengthening of existing measures. Some important clean construction initiatives include requirements for GHG calculations in construction projects, emission-free construction sites, and low carbon and circular materials through municipal land use plans. These requirements may result in a financial burden for small organisations during the transition phase to emissions-free solutions. To help them cope, the municipality is working to establish subsidy programmes to reduce the costs of transition.



Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



86%

of signatory cities are implementing measures to reduce embodied carbon from their built environment with benchmarking of whole life cycle emissions.



29%

of signatory cities have defined a baseline and set an embodied emissions reduction target for new build, major retrofits and/or infrastructure projects.



60%

of signatory cities have approved a net zero emission flagship project.



80%

of signatory cities are using municipal procurement to take action on clean construction.

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Clean Construction Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 URBAN NATURE ACCELERATOR

How cities are becoming greener and more resilient

Launched in 2021, the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator has 40 C40 signatory cities and one non-C40 signatory city. All signatory cities are working to increase and enhance nature that reduces climate risk and vulnerability, supports wider ecosystem services, and is equitably distributed and publicly accessible. Signatory cities commit to achieving quantitative targets to increase the total amount of nature in their city (pathway 1) and/or to increase access to nature for residents (pathway 2) by 2030. Of the 34 cities reporting on this cycle, 88% are pursuing pathway 1, while nearly 71% committed to pathway 2. Almost 60% are following both pathways, with 5 cities having achieved both.

In 2023, signatory cities reported an array of actions to increase and enhance urban nature to achieve the pathways of the accelerator and their commitments, including participatory tree planting initiatives and establishing new parks and green corridors. In Seattle, 99% of households reside within a 10-minute walk of an accessible green or blue space, and the city is actively striving to enhance the quality, functionality, and equitable distribution of these spaces while addressing vulnerability to climate breakdown.

Cities are also integrating nature into master planning documents or establishing new nature or biodiversity strategies; establishing new governance structures; creating public-facing performance dashboards; and developing and running participatory budgets related to nature. Many of these actions have led to the creation of good green jobs, highlighting the multiple benefits and spill over effects of nature-based solutions. In Freetown alone, the #FreetownTheTreeTown community tree growing model has generated more than 1,000 direct green jobs and more than 2,500 indirect green jobs focused on tree

Signatory cities

Amman	Freetown	Quito
Austin	Guadalajara	Rio de Janeiro
Athens	Haifa	Rome
Barcelona	Karachi	Rotterdam
Berlin	Lima	Salvador
Bogotá	London	San Francisco
Buenos Aires	Los Angeles	São Paulo
Chennai	Medellín	Seattle
Copenhagen	Milan	Stockholm
Curitiba	Montréal	Sydney
Delhi NCT	Mumbai	Tel Aviv-Yafo
Dhaka North	New Orleans	Tokyo
Dhaka South	Paris	Toronto
eThekwin	Quezon City	

nursing and propagation, tree planting and maintenance, transportation of seedlings to sites, and alternative livelihood avoidance activities.

All signatory cities are improving the lives of their residents through the protection, enhancement and incorporation of nature and biodiversity into the urban ecosystem.

Josefina 'Joy' Belmonte

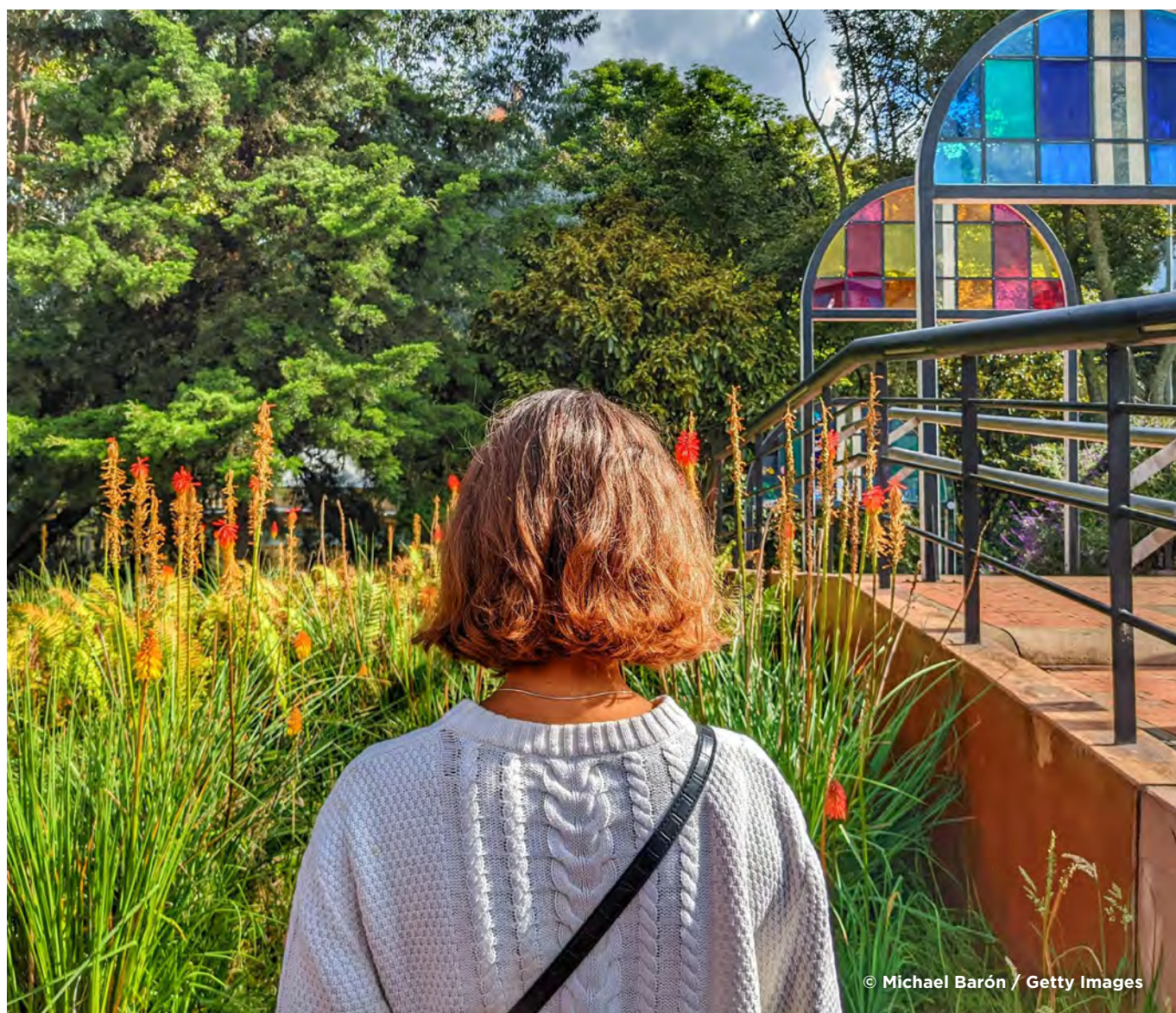
Mayor of Quezon City

"Enhancing the city's biodiversity is a top-tier adaptation strategy of Quezon City. This approach is integral in not only enhancing a healthy and sustainable environment but also in addressing challenges such as urban heat and flooding. Since signing the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, our commitment to double the number of parks in our city by 2030 and achieve 30–40% green and permeable spaces citywide has gained momentum, owing to the collaborative partnerships established with national agencies and the private sector. These parks will form an interconnected Green Lung Network, complemented by the pedestrianisation of key growth areas and the application of the 15-minute city approach to urban planning and development, to create healthier, more resilient, and vibrant urban spaces that will benefit not only our residents but also the wider metropolis."

Centring Equity in Climate Action: BOGOTÁ SPOTLIGHT

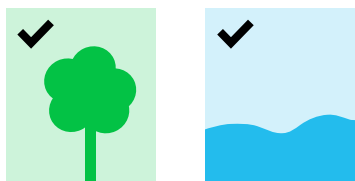
In addition to advancing land protection and proactively expanding its tree cover, **Bogotá** has innovated through the implementation of the *Mujeres que Reverdecen* or Women Who Re-Green programme. This initiative provides economically and socially marginalised women with a conditional cash transfer and access to training and employment in exchange for their work to regreen city areas. This programme has trained women in the restoration and maintenance of ecosystems, agro-ecological gardens, and improvement of vegetation cover and nurseries. It provides work opportunities in the control and management of exotic species and the maintenance of gardens and orchards.

The programme targets women of diverse backgrounds including heads of households, young unemployed, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, survivors of violence, carers, elderly and LGBTQIA+. This is an example of how inclusive climate action recognises the intersection between gender and other layers of discrimination, which create barriers to accessing green and dignified employment. Over 20,000 people have been trained in urban agriculture since 2021, and over 60,000 people have been employed in jobs linked to adaptation.



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Signatory cities reporting on this cycle have taken key steps towards their commitments:



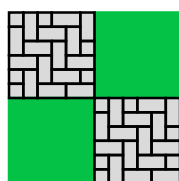
62%

signatory cities have implemented measures to turn 30–40% of the total built up surface area into green or permeable spaces and/or ensure 70% of their population have access to a fit-for-purpose green or blue space within 15 minutes.



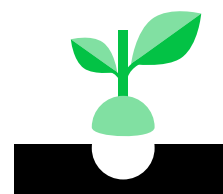
41%

of signatory cities have updated their local plans and development strategies, and/or have delivered biodiversity strategies to enhance the quality and quantity of nature in their urban areas.



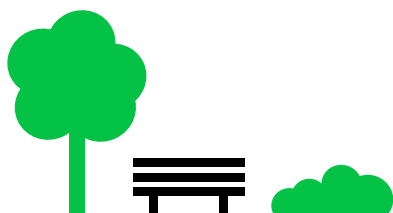
43%

of signatory cities have succeeded in implementing measures to turn 30–40% of the total built up surface area into green or permeable spaces.



62%

of signatory cities have implemented tree planting or biodiversity programmes, many involving local communities.



52%

of signatory cities have succeeded in ensuring 70% of their population have access to a fit-for-purpose green or blue space within 15 minutes



© Tom Werner / Getty Images

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCELERATOR

How cities are accelerating their energy transition

Signatory cities

Buenos Aires	Los Angeles	Seoul
Copenhagen	Melbourne	Sydney
Lagos	Montréal	Tokyo
Lisbon	Paris	Tshwane
London	San Francisco	Vancouver

Since 2021, 15 C40 cities have signed the C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator, committing to take all possible steps to accelerate the full decarbonisation of electricity, heating, cooling and cooking, and the phasing out of fossil fuels. Signatory cities are turning this commitment into detailed road maps and strategies with concrete targets to build long-term routes for renewable energy deployment and send strong market signals that the future is renewable for cities.

In 2023, signatory cities demonstrated the wide range of actions cities can deliver at scale to accelerate the decarbonisation of energy systems. Leading by example, some city governments are using their assets to deploy small scale renewable energy systems such as solar photovoltaics (PVs), while others are sourcing renewable energy for their municipal operations through power purchase agreements (PPAs). Melbourne's assets have been supplied by 100% renewable electricity from a wind farm, under the 10-year Melbourne Renewable Electricity Project (MREP 1) PPA since 2017. The same has since been replicated with a group of seven large users in the MREP 2. Approximately 5% of the city's emissions have been reduced by MREP 1 and MREP 2.

Five cities are now moving to directly restrict fossil fuel use within their territories, including by using their regulatory powers to mandate fully electric buildings. Montréal has imposed a ban on the use of fossil gas for new buildings up to three storeys and 600 square metres, which will come into force from October 2024 and extend to larger new buildings from April 2025.

Cities also encouraged further renewable energy adoption by private consumers through financial incentives such as tax rebates or dedicated

funds to help bring down installation costs. In Tokyo, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government provides subsidies to companies that install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the rooftops of private residents. This innovative business model means that the companies own the systems and that residents benefit from roof rental revenues while not paying any initial costs.

Kedibone G Modiselle,

Kedibone G Modiselle, Acting Director
Mitigation Programmes, City of Tshwane

"The globe is warming at a rapid rate and the time is now for state governments and cities to act in accelerating renewable energy implementation to curb carbon emissions. The City of Tshwane's recent greenhouse gas emissions inventory indicates that the electricity sector emits 63% of greenhouse gases. Through our ambitious Climate Action Plan, the city is committed to ensuring that we meet our climate action targets to reduce emissions from electricity consumption. This is why the city has established the Energy Task Team mandated to address the city's energy security and availability, while making it possible for the city to deliver on its mandate of service delivery without heavy reliance on fossil fuel electricity. In addition, the city has issued a Request for Information (RFI) calling on the market to submit information relevant to the needs of the city on clean and renewable energy. Our Green Building Development and Net Zero Carbon Policy and Bylaw, which will be approved by MAYCO and Council will also ensure that the transition to a cleaner built environment is enforced as the city develops and grows."

The wide range of actions implemented and their significant scale is already displacing the need for fossil fuels, by adding hundreds of megawatts of new renewable energy capacity to urban energy systems, and providing all residents with access to clean energy – taking the world closer to fully decarbonised energy systems.

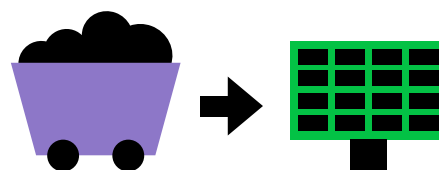
Centring Equity in Climate Action: VANCOUVER SPOTLIGHT

As part of the city's [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), **Vancouver's** Climate 2050 and the Province of British Columbia's CleanBC are driving significant changes in the local labour market. These changes are underpinned by a commitment to a just and inclusive transition, ensuring that the shift to a net zero economy generates good, green jobs for all. This approach supports small businesses and emphasises that every worker should have access to not just any job, but a decent and inclusive one in the emerging green economy.

To date, the city's Greenest City Action Plan showed an 87% growth in the number of green jobs in Vancouver between 2011–2020, nearly reaching the city and the Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC)'s goal of doubling the number of green jobs during that time. The Zero Emissions Economic Transition Action Plan (ZEETAP) identified that further work needs to be done with employers, educators, and workers to now be able to build or improve programming and tell more effective stories about the potential of the green economy.



Signatory cities have taken key steps towards their commitments:



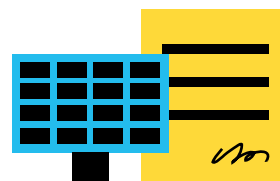
33%

of signatory cities have implemented or are incentivising a phase out of fossil fuel or solid fuel technologies for heating and cooking.



67%

of signatory cities have already taken new, additional steps to support their commitment, such as renewables mandates for new buildings or solar installations on public assets. The other 33% have progressed on the implementation of actions that pre-dated them signing up.



53%

of signatory cities are relying on market-based mechanisms, such as PPAs or green tariffs, to procure renewable electricity to power their own operations. Additionally, all of the accelerator's cities have started to deploy renewable energy systems (mostly solar PVs) on their own assets.

Read more about the actions cities are taking to achieve the commitments of the C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator [here](#).

► C40 WATER SAFE CITIES ACCELERATOR

Signatory cities

Buenos Aires	New Orleans	Quito
Copenhagen	New York City	Rio de Janeiro
Freetown	Oslo	Rotterdam
Lisbon	Phoenix	Tokyo
Los Angeles	Quezon City	Tshwane
Milan		

The newest C40 accelerator was launched on 22 November 2023. The 17 signatory cities of the C40 Water Safe Cities Accelerator are committed to tackle water-related risks such as floods and droughts by increasing access to water, reducing flood risk and developing net zero and sustainable water and wastewater systems by 2030. Cities will focus on early warning systems implementation in vulnerable areas, aiming to safeguard people's lives and enhance the effective response to potential emergencies due to climate-related hazards.

A Water Safe City offers essential conditions for people to survive and thrive in an urban setting. More than half of the world's population live in urban areas, experiencing extremes of too much or too little water, as well as dangerously polluted water. All of these challenges are made worse by a rapidly changing climate. Now is a critical time to adapt urban water management practices to the impacts of climate breakdown. According to *Aqueduct Floods*, a new tool from World Resources Institute that measures water-related flood risks around the world, by 2030, 15 million people and \$177 billion in urban property will be impacted annually by coastal flooding, while 132 million people and \$535 billion in urban property will be impacted annually due to riverine flooding.

Each signatory city has committed to protect the city's most marginalised communities at high risk of flooding and drought by **2027** by:

1. *Establishing early warning systems in **all** low income areas where communities face a high risk of flooding and drought.*

2. *Developing emergency responses to protect **all** people during critical events with actions such as ensuring safe and accessible shelters and provision of basic needs.*

In addition, each signatory city has pledged to also achieve **at least one** of the following **pathways**:

1. *Achieve equitable universal access to clean water efficiently by **2030** by:*
 - reducing **at least 20%** of water demand
 - increasing **at least 15%** of water supply
2. *Safeguard people and the city's critical infrastructure from major flood events by **2030** by:*
 - increasing **at least 20%** of stormwater retention and infiltration to significantly reduce flood risk
 - restoring **at least three** of the city's water bodies (such as rivers, creeks, and wetlands) to significantly reduce flood risks and improve water quality
3. *Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in city water and wastewater systems by **2035** by:*
 - meeting **100%** of total annual energy consumption of the water and wastewater system by renewable energy sources
 - capturing and utilising **at least 50%** of biogas from wastewater plants by 2035

Find more information on the C40 Water Safe Cities Accelerator [here](#).

Read more about the C40 Water Safe Cities Accelerator [here](#).

CONCLUSION

In the process of achieving the commitments of the accelerators, there are many cross-sectoral challenges to overcome that need to be addressed to be successful by 2025 and 2030. Some of the most common challenges reported across the accelerators include access to data, insufficient staff capacity, financial and budget constraints, challenges in cross-departmental collaboration, addressing multi-level governance, engaging with city residents, and ensuring climate action is equitable and inclusive.

One of the major challenges identified by cities was accessibility to quality data, including securing additional support to monitor and review data. Inaccessible data presents a barrier that prevents cities from accurately assessing the impact of their actions or designing and implementing informed policy. It threatens cities' data systems and ability to improve them. Cities also identified a need for additional staff, improved infrastructure, and further financial assistance to be able to achieve essential actions. Some of the ways cities are working to overcome these challenges include applying for regional funding opportunities, collaborating with strategic partners for additional support, and learning from the best practices of peers.

In addition to resources, cities reported collaborating across city departments, engaging with residents, and advocating for action and support from national and supra-national governments as additional barriers they face. Cities are working to overcome the challenges with cross-department collaboration by incorporating members of other city departments early on in project development, amplifying voices of those in other departments, and sharing ideas and resources to ensure all city action has an equitable, comprehensive impact.

Cities are also facing challenges in reaching city residents to ensure that a diverse range of voices are heard, particularly from those who are often left out of decision-making. Cities are working to overcome this by engaging with and including residents in decision-making processes, taking

time to understand the impacts of policies on communities, and evaluating the best ways to incentivise, communicate, and build public support with residents.

Looking at the broader picture, cities also reported on the challenges associated with coordinating with national governments. This includes the misalignment of national policies with city policies, the lack of national legislation and encouragement, and/or limited regulatory powers. Cities are addressing these challenges by showcasing leadership in climate action and demonstrating what is possible to achieve. In addition, cities are continuing to advocate for action from all levels of government and finding ways to be creative about what is under their control.

Finally, cities are facing the challenge to ensure all action that they implement is equitable and inclusive. Cities are working to identify and avoid any negative impacts on city residents, especially on frontline communities; centre residents' voices; and share information about new policies, programmes, and opportunities with city residents.

While cities are all facing similar challenges to achieve the commitments of the accelerators, it is important to recognize that in addition to this, every city has different jurisdictions, circumstances, and access to resources. Cities can only implement, act and create solutions that are within their power, and each city is taking their own path to progress on the commitments of the accelerators.

However, by focusing on these challenges and how to overcome them, cities can achieve their accelerator commitments by the target years of 2025, 2030, and beyond. Through the reporting process in 2023, cities have demonstrated what it is possible to achieve and the immense progress they have already made to improve the lives of city residents. By facing these barriers together, both C40 and non-C40 cities are demonstrating the power of a network of peers and what can be achieved in the next decade.

► READ MORE:

Please find the links to the individual accelerator reports with progress summaries from every city that reported in 2023 here:

1. **[C40 Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are urgently delivering greener, healthier and more inclusive streets
2. **[C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are leading the transition to decarbonised buildings
3. **[C40 Toward Zero Waste Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are creating cleaner, healthier communities and circular economies
4. **[C40 Pathway Toward Zero Waste:](#)**
How cities are accelerating the reduction of methane emissions
5. **[C40 Clean Air Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are cleaning the air we breathe
6. **[C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are achieving the planetary health diet for all
7. **[C40 Divesting from Fossil Fuels, Investing in a Sustainable Future Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are investing in a sustainable, fossil fuel-free future
8. **[C40 Clean Construction Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are driving decarbonised and resilient buildings and infrastructure
9. **[C40 Urban Nature Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are becoming greener and more resilient
10. **[C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator:](#)**
How cities are accelerating their energy transition

See highlights from this reporting process throughout the year in our C40 Green News Digest [here](#).

To read more about other actions cities are taking, please visit the [C40 Knowledge Hub](#) including the following policy explorers:

- [Ambitious, successful and replicable: City climate actions you should know about](#)
- [Waste Policy Explorer](#)
- [Clean Construction Explorer](#)
- [Renewable Energy Policy Explorer](#)
- [Building Energy Efficiency Policy Explorer](#)



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