Contents

I. Forewords 3
II. Summary 4
III. Leadership Standards 8
   Cities Plan to keep the world on track to meet climate targets 8
   Cities Deliver the impactful and equitable urban initiatives set out in their climate action plan 8
   Cities Mainstream their climate targets into municipal governance 11
   Cities Innovate to address climate risk and reduce emissions beyond their direct control 13
   Cities and mayors Lead the way with trailblazing climate actions 13
IV. Governance 16
V. Funding & Partnerships 17
I. Forewords

From the Co-Chairs of C40

In 2023 global heating exceeded 1.5°C across an entire year for the first time in human history. The world’s cities and their residents - from Seoul to Sao Paulo and New York City to Nairobi - were hit by the worsening effects of extreme climate impacts and polluted air, while global investments in fossil fuels continued to rise. Last year also saw science-based policymaking come under increasing attack from disinformation campaigns and well-funded lobbying groups.

Throughout this, C40 member cities have continued to step up to lead, delivering science-based climate action and using their voices to influence multilateral platforms and partners.

Early in 2023 we announced that we had consolidated our work around two main missions - set by the mayors on our Steering Committee - to help get the world off fossil fuels and address the impacts and injustices of climate breakdown. June saw the launch of Breathe Cities, which provides resources for global cities to improve air quality and tackle climate change at the same time, building on London’s success in pioneering this initiative. C40 also announced the launch of the City Youth Engagement Network - bringing together city officials - and the Youth Hub, providing opportunities for youth activists to engage with others across the world.

C40’s mayors are leading by demonstrating what a just transition away from fossil fuels looks like in practice, and we were delighted that at COP 28 over 70 countries committed to working with local leaders on the Nationally Determined Contributions that are due in 2025. This will help catalyse faster, stronger, fairer national climate action.

From the Executive Director of C40

At long last, the end of the fossil fuel era is in sight, following the crucial - if long overdue - agreement at COP28 to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels. Following the year that shattered temperature records from Tokyo to Rio de Janeiro, we simply do not have time to wait for incremental progress: it is the actions of the climate doers that count now.

In September, the UN released its first global stocktake assessing countries’ progress since the Paris Agreement, which found that the world is well off track in meeting its target of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. The science is clear that a rapid, managed and just phase out of fossil fuels is needed to protect everyone from the escalating crisis. C40 made the early decision to focus our advocacy at COP28 on the rapid phase out of fossil fuels and a just transition to a clean economy, in line with our core missions.

As C40’s current business plan comes to an end in 2024, we know we have more to get done. At a global scale we are still far from where we need to be. Trillions are still being invested in fossil fuels even as temperatures rise, streets flood and cities overheat. But our collective achievements have laid the groundwork for our work over the next five years to meet our targets and help to avert the worst of climate breakdown by halving emissions by 2030. Mayors continue to build resilience in their cities and cut fossil fuel use, showing what is possible with political will and science-based policy. With global mayors leading, the drive to phase out fossil fuels and enable climate justice will continue to gather pace.

Mark Watts
Executive Director of C40
II. Summary

Who we are

C40 is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. In a move to champion inclusive global leadership in climate action, in 2023, then C40 Chair Mayor Sadiq Khan requested that C40 implement a new Co-Chair model which requires that one mayor each from the Global North and South sits at the core of C40’s leadership. As the elected leaders of C40, the Co-Chairs Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr play a key role in raising the bar on climate ambition around the world and advocating for the role of cities in addressing the climate crisis. C40 cities and mayors are committed to using an inclusive, science-based and collaborative approach to cut their fair share of emissions in half by 2030, help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C, and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities.

In 2023, C40 focused its work strategically around two main missions, to position itself strategically and deliver more effectively in the evolving geopolitical and economic context:

- Help get the world off of fossil fuels to halt climate breakdown, in particular by halving fossil fuel use in cities by 2030.
- Address the impacts and injustices of climate breakdown, focusing on increasing equity and climate resilience in cities.

Based on the needs of C40 member cities and the geopolitical context we work in, C40 has identified four sub-missions that are critical to be able to deliver its two main missions:

- Winning the case that fossil gas is nearly as bad as coal
- Delivery of low or zero transport emission areas in cities
- Unlock investment and finance for city climate projects
- Advance delivery of 50 million good, green jobs by 2030

The critical work that C40 does in support of science-based, urban climate action is broader than these sub-missions. But they help define the main cross-organisational focus for a given period to leverage policy and advocacy resources across C40 to build public support and social acceptance for local climate action.

These four sub-missions will likely evolve in time, while the two main missions will remain until they are achieved and will serve as the key building blocks of the new Business Plan 2025 - 2030 which C40 is developing this year.

What it means to be a C40 member

C40’s unique Leadership Standards set the minimum requirements for all member cities and safeguard the integrity of C40 as a network of climate leaders. Membership operates on cities taking action, not on paying fees.

Plan

City has adopted a resilient and inclusive climate action plan aligned with the 1.5°C ambition of the Paris Agreement, and updates it regularly.

Deliver

In 2024, city remains on track to deliver its climate action plan, contributing to increased resilience, equitable outcomes and halving C40’s overall emissions by 2030.

Mainstream

City uses the necessary financial, regulatory and other tools at their disposal to address the climate crisis and mainstreams their equitable climate targets into the most impactful city decision-making processes.

Innovate

City innovates and starts taking inclusive and resilient action to address emissions beyond the direct control of the city government, such as associated with goods and services consumed in their city.

Lead

Mayor and the city demonstrate global climate leadership and inspire others to act in support of the Paris Agreement.
C40 offers a breadth of support to cities across the globe to achieve the ambitious Leadership Standards, and even go beyond them to achieve C40’s missions.

C40’s sectoral and thematic networks bring together city officials from across our seven regions, who have a common purpose of addressing the climate emergency. These peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge and sharing of best practice help cities respond and accelerate, avoid mistakes and delays, and implement fairer and more impactful climate actions to meet the 1.5°C degree goal of the Paris Agreement. Mayors and city officials are able to access free expert advice on what works, and get support to drive action forward.

96
member
cities¹

 Implemented a new and historic C40 Co-Chair model to ensure equal leadership from the Global South and the Global North

Approximately 1,900 city officials engaged and supported through C40 networks sharing expert knowledge and guidance

700+
interactions with city officials and stakeholders across webinars, workshops, city-to-city pairings

30%
of all interactions were with mayors

Directly representing just under 600mn residents

= 22% of global GDP²

Influencing approximately 920mn people living and working in wider city

= 39% of global GDP²

¹ Member city data is accurate as at 31 December 2023.
² Figures based on latest available data, 2023. Global percentage share of GDP is calculated using cities’ GDP per capita from Oxford Economics “Global Cities” dataset and global GDP data from The World Bank.
The C40 Knowledge Hub is a resource for any city, C40 or non-C40 members, wanting to act on climate change. It provides city officials with a reliable source for knowledge and guidance.

730,000+ visitors
† 60% on 2022

75% of city users reported being able to act after reading an article

23,000 cities/municipalities reached

540,000+ translation requests received
† 198% from 2022

accounting for 94% of countries/territories in the world

All pages available in 19 languages

Global South visitors:
Made up 33% of visitors
† 50% from 2022

November 2023: the Knowledge Hub recorded its 3 millionth page view since its launch in October 2019

C40's programmes and activities enable groups of cities, either within one country or region or across multiple regions, to implement high-impact policies and projects which are tailored for the regional, country and city contexts. These programmes offer mayoral engagement, technical support and policy advice, peer-to-peer engagement and capacity building. Our regional delivery structure enables C40 to leverage relationships between peer cities and partners regionally, as well as globally, and to be more responsive to local context, priorities and needs. Regional engagement is also supported by the leadership of our Vice Chairs on the Steering Committee, who unite and amplify regional mayoral voices.

The UK Government-funded Urban Climate Action Programme's Climate Action Implementation component (UCAP CAI) is collaborating with 15 cities in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia to progress two priority high impact actions from their climate action plans and integrate climate goals and considerations into city governance, planning and decision-making structures. In-depth technical analysis and institutional capacity building is driving decision-making and outcomes in all cities, with city-to-city knowledge sharing driving ambition for accelerated and inclusive climate action.

Both UCAP CAI and the C40 Cities Finance Facility are working with Bogotá to deliver their climate action plan. On policy and mainstreaming UCAP CAI supports Bogotá's adoption of its Climate Action Public Policy, Pedestrian Public Policy, as well as its Pedestrian Mobility Strategy and 2050 Roadmap. Besides policy and mainstreaming support on active mobility, the Cities Finance Facility supported the newly inaugurated public bike-sharing system, that offers an accessible and affordable transportation option for all residents, which has catered for more than 400,000 trips in its first six months of operation. Its inclusivity of access is globally innovative for a bike-sharing system. Of the 3,300 bikes, 150 include child seats and 150 are accessible to wheelchair users. There is a 20% discount for lower-income residents.

Bogotá is setting the pace with equitable climate policies and inclusive infrastructure investments in mobility. The city is addressing the climate crisis through transformational climate action implementation to scale up innovative and ambitious transport solutions.
C40's Leadership on the global stage

C40 uses the collective voice and actions of C40’s mayors, together with our partners, to help the world avoid climate breakdown. Together we use global and regional platforms like COP, Climate Weeks and the United Nations General Assembly to inspire other cities, influence international and national institutions and shift markets with mayoral leadership.

In 2023, our mayors came together united in favour of stronger climate justice by pushing back against continued fossil fuel expansion and calling for subnational integration into Nationally Determined Contributions and increased finance for city climate action, including for urban loss and damage. This was supported by the Joint Program, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and delivered by C40, GCOM and other partners.

COP28, Dubai
- 27 C40 mayors (representing all seven C40 regions), and over 250 local leaders in total attended COP28.
- In an open letter to world leaders, C40 Co-Chairs Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr called upon heads of state at COP28 to cooperate with cities to end the era of fossil fuels and move public money from fossil fuels to support a just and clean energy transition.
- C40 and seven C40 mayors joined 2000+ signatories from across business and civil society to endorse a powerful statement calling for a just and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels.
- C40 welcomes the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) initiative of COP28, creating a bigger opportunity for mayors and governors to work with national governments to achieve that goal.

Climate Weeks - London, Nairobi, New York

- **London Climate Action Week**
  - C40 launched a new fund for inclusive climate action.
  - Breathe Cities was launched.
  - Two new youth networks were launched.

- **Africa Climate Week, Nairobi**
  - 12 African Mayors signed a call to action addressed to their national governments and international organisations.

- **New York Climate Week**
  - New data from C40 revealed that investment in urban climate action is paying off. Over 14 million green jobs have been created in 53 C40 cities alone.
### III. Leadership Standards

#### Cities Plan to keep the world on track to meet climate targets

C40’s Climate Action Planning Framework was originally launched in 2018 to support cities with developing and aligning their climate action plans with the ambition and objectives of the Paris Agreement. As a membership requirement, all C40 cities must develop a climate action plan in line with this framework, and the majority have already published such a plan – you can find them in the C40 Knowledge Hub climate action plan map – but the framework can be used by any city regardless of C40 membership to inform climate action planning. Use of the framework is also scalable; for example, after the DK2020 partnership took the framework and city networking model to Danish municipalities, virtually all Danish municipalities have adopted climate action plans in line with the Paris Agreement, with the potential to cut Denmark’s total emissions by 76% by 2030.

C40 has been working on the Cities Climate Transition Framework that updates the Climate Action Planning Framework to respond to progress and experience since it was published, to current ambitions and challenges that cities are facing, as well as to the recommendations of the Integrity Matters for Cities, States and Regions report.

In 2023 eight more C40 cities developed climate action plans, bringing the total number of cities with climate action plans to 82. These set out evidence-based net zero targets and ambitious interim targets, adaptation and resilience goals and a clear action plan for implementation. Together, the emissions reduction from these eight cities would represent 172m tCO₂e, which is more emissions than some countries.

In June 2023, Thiru. MK Stalin, Hon’ Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu officially launched the Chennai climate action plan thus culminating a two-year engagement process by C40. C40 led over 250 stakeholder discussions and engagements with multiple government and non-government stakeholders to collaboratively prepare Chennai’s first climate action plan. It sets a vision of “Resilient and Proactive Chennai towards achieving Carbon Neutrality and Water Balance by 2050” with city level emission reduction targets of 1% carbon by 2030, 40% carbon emission reduction by 2040 (compared to 2018-19) and achieving net zero by 2050.

C40 supports cities to deliver on their climate action plan, focusing on rapid, transformative climate action across key sectors.

### Air Quality

“**Toxic air pollution is a dual threat, impacting both the public health of our cities as well as furthering the climate crisis.** As co-chair of C40 Cities, I’ve seen how collaboration can accelerate progress on the challenges we face. By partnering with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Clean Air Fund, we will be able to provide cities with the data and capacity they need to push for stronger and more effective policies that reduce air pollution and deliver cleaner, healthier air to their residents.”

**C40 Co-Chair and Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan**

Breathe Cities is a global partnership programme aiming to break down barriers to action and ensure communities around the world have access to clean air. Through data, empowered advocacy, technical assistance for city governments and city-wide stakeholders, Breathe Cities will support cities to implement priority policy measures to cut emissions, resulting in improved air quality and health outcomes. In 2023, Breathe Cities was launched with a first global cohort of 11 cities (Accra, Brussels, Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Sofia, and Warsaw).

The African Cities for Clean Air initiative spotlights African city-level leadership to improve air quality, by supporting mayoral action, facilitating peer-to-peer learning, and providing technical assistance.

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1. This includes nine equivalent reports for Chinese cities.

2. GHG emissions figures have been estimated using a combination of city inventories and data from Oxford Economics (a world leader in global forecasting and quantitative analysis).
In 2023, the initiative convened cities (Abidjan, Addis Ababa, Dakar, Durban, Ekurhuleni, Freetown, Lagos, Johannesburg, and Thane) for a five-part communications training to: 1) increase staff capacity to raise awareness of air quality issues; 2) prepare cities and their mayors to speak publicly about tackling climate change and improving air quality as a way of improving health and quality of life; and 3) enable cities to communicate the benefits of emission reductions, by pairing communications skills with quantitative evidence from tools like the Air Quality through Urban Actions tool.

### Adaptation

Through a diverse range of initiatives, our cities are improving safety, reducing their environmental impact, and improving the quality of life for their residents.

**Montréal** faces increased short and intense stormwater events that its ageing combined sewer system cannot handle. To reduce and collect the runoff water running off the combined sewer system, it is installing green infrastructure on public land, including rainwater curb extensions and parks.

**Dhaka North** is tackling urban growth and water risks by increasing rainwater harvesting and green spaces by 70% under its ‘Zero-soil’ initiative. This includes planting 200,000 trees in Miyawaki forests and hiring 100 gardeners. By 2023, 5,500 trees were planted in various areas, improving flood resilience, reducing emissions, and creating green areas for residents.

**Sydney** installed citywide temperature sensors to monitor heat and study nature’s cooling effects, inspired by its participation in the Cool Cities Network and a C40 workshop in June 2023. The city is also committed to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator.

By December 2023, **Freetown** planted 977,000 trees, created over 1,000 green jobs, and mobilised about US $3.25 million. Freetown launched a Natural Capital Investment Strategy, valuing its natural assets and securing World Bank funds for green job creation, focusing on tree maintenance for 500 community growers.

**Phoenix** is a global leader in exploring the use of cool pavements to reduce temperatures in neighbourhoods. Phoenix’s 100 miles (160+ km) of streets with cool pavements tend to be 10.5 - 12° F (5.8 - 6.6° C) cooler at the hottest time of the day than streets without.

**Johannesburg**, **Mbombela**, **Cape Town** and **Drakenstein** with C40 Cities Finance Facility aid, are launching river management projects to mitigate flood risks, inspired by **Durban**’s successful Transformative Riverine Management Programme. Durban’s initiative, which is set to generate US $1.6 billion in societal benefits and earned the 2023 Eco-Municipality award for adaptation efforts, serves as a model and mentor for these cities to expand flood prevention projects.

### Transport

In 2023, C40 Cities and The Climate Pledge – co-founded by Amazon and Global Optimism – launched Laneshift, a partnership to tackle carbon emissions through zero-emission freight by reimagining medium and heavy-duty delivery vehicles and the routes they travel. In partnership with cities, Laneshift will accelerate the development of EV infrastructure and the deployment of EV trucks across cities in India (Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune) and Latin America (Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia; Curitiba and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Quito, Ecuador; and Mexico City, Mexico), reducing emissions, cleaning up the air, generating green jobs, and working towards a just transition for workers.

**Seattle**, supported by C40’s Zero Emission Freight Programme, published a new study and recommendations about creating green loading zones and facilitating the uptake of e-cargo bike deliveries in the city. As a result of the study, the city has developed legislation to introduce a formal commercial cargo bike program and allow cargo bikes to legally access designated loading zones.

### Energy

Using all levers at their disposal C40 cities are leading the transition towards decentralised, decarbonised and digitalised energy systems that leave no one behind. Using their own assets and consumption to facilitate the deployment of local clean energy systems, while also supporting citizens and businesses to adopt renewable energy solutions, cities are moving fast towards the clean energy systems of the future.

**Rio de Janeiro** became the first city in Brazil to sign a municipal Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for renewable energy. The 100% renewable wind power sourced from the north of Brazil will provide energy for the two main buildings of the City Hall, reducing the building’s energy bill by 50% (a cost saving of US $1 million annually).

**Curitiba** has opened its landmark Solar Pyramid with help from the C40 Cities Finance Facility. The project is the first solar plant to be built on a former landfill in Latin America. The Solar Pyramid will provide 8 MW of electricity, saving the city US $500,000 per year in reduced energy costs and cutting emissions equivalent to those produced by 20,000 cars.
Order Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New
decarbonising its building stock with an Executive
Efficiency Network, took a big step towards
Boston, a member of the C40 Municipal Buildings
away from fossil fuels supporting also the creation
buildings are low carbon and resilient, motivating
Decarbonisation of Buildings and
Reduction of Embodied Carbon

Cities take action to equitably and inclusively
de-carbonise the buildings in their city - across
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own assets to demonstrate leadership, ensuring new
buildings are low carbon and resilient, motivating
private sector to reduce energy use and move
away from fossil fuels supporting also the creation
of good green local jobs.

Boston, a member of the C40 Municipal Buildings
Efficiency Network, took a big step towards
decarbonising its building stock with an Executive
Order Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New
buildings and 60% compliance for existing buildings
by 2030. It is also developing a real-time monitoring
and data management system to track energy usage
and emissions data in municipal buildings.

Qingdao, a C40 Clean Construction programme
city, released its “Action Plan for the High-Quality
Development of the Construction Industry” in August
2023. The plan is an action guide to comprehensively
promote high-quality development and specifies
requirements for 2025, including minimum 50% of
prefabricated municipal and public buildings and a
75% rate of construction waste reuse.

Beijing, a C40 Clean Construction programme
city, adopted the “Beijing Construction Green
Development Regulation” with administrative
requirements on whole-life cycle in buildings and
the development of a “green special chapter”
management system for different project stages,
all taking effect in March 2024. This local regulation
will provide legal guarantees for promoting green,
low-carbon, and high-quality development in the
field of construction in Beijing.

Supported by UK government funding, cities in
Africa are supporting the adoption of solar energy
solutions to drive grid decarbonisation and increased
energy efficiency. Lagos is targeting residential
buildings and small and medium enterprises, with
building retrofits and distributed solar electricity
solutions planned to reduce its grid- and generator-
based energy consumption, which account for over
50% of GHG emissions in the city.

Green Ports and Shipping

The creation of the first-ever green shipping corridor
across the Pacific is taking shape. In 2023, a voluntary
partnership of leading maritime goods movement
stakeholders, including the Ports of Los Angeles,
Long Beach and Shanghai, some of the largest
carriers in the world, and key leading cargo owners
unveiled a Green Shipping Corridor Implementation
Plan Outline to accelerate emissions reductions on
one of the world’s busiest container shipping routes
across the Pacific Ocean.

Food

Food systems received an unprecedented level of
global attention at COP28, giving new momentum
to C40 and C40 cities’ existing leadership in the
sector. Alongside partners in the Transforming
Urban-Rural Food Systems Consortium, at COP28
C40 launched a strategy to help cities to deliver a
more healthy and sustainable food system.

Barcelona launched a City Agreement for
Collaboration on food systems, as a way to
encourage coordination between the private and
public sectors in food systems transformation. As
of 2023, the agreement had already gained 67
members from across the local food system.

Waste

In 2023, C40 launched a waste focused technical
assistance programme to reduce methane emissions
in Africa (Dakar, Ekurhuleni, Durban and Freetown)
and two cities in India (Mumbai and Ahmedabad).
Lowering Organic Waste Methane (LOW-Methane)
is a new initiative led by C40 alongside global
partners with the ambition to reduce 1 million tonnes
of waste sector methane emissions well before
2030 and unlock more than US $10 billion in public
and private investment.

Supported by UK government funding, cities in
Southeast Asia are amending or assisting in
the development of green building policies and
accelerating implementation through improved
operational processes. Jakarta is revising its green
building policy framework to ensure harmonisation
with national government frameworks and introduce
incentive mechanisms for public and private
buildings. The city is aiming for 100% compliance
with green building requirements for all new

Building and Major Renovations of City
Buildings. Municipal emissions account for 2.3% of
the city’s total, with 70% of those coming from the
city’s building portfolio.

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C40 supported more cities in 2023 to revise their
urban planning policies. Austin’s Equitable Transit-
Oriented Development Policy Plan, adopted in
March 2023, places an increased focus on social
equity. It includes a comprehensive toolkit of
policies, ranging from direct support for business
associations to density bonusing in exchange for
affordable housing nearby to transit systems.

In October 2023, C40 successfully delivered its first
ever Africa land use planning workshop hosted by
the city of Nairobi. The workshop convened eight
cities from the Africa region to train their Director of
Urban Planning (or senior staff) on integrating climate
resilience in their city’s land use policies and by laws.

The ‘15-minute city’ is an intuitive and adaptable
model for people-centred urban development.
A 15-minute city does not confine us to our
neighbourhoods or restrict our ability to travel.
If your city adopts a 15-minute city approach, it simply means that it will become more possible and pleasant to meet more of your day-to-day needs, like buying groceries, within a short walk or bike ride from home if you want to. To turn the 15-minute city concept into reality, 22 cities part of C40 Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods programme, including Rio de Janeiro, Vancouver, Istanbul, Warsaw and Dakar, announced in July 2023 the implementation of their neighbourhoods pilot projects.

Rome adopted a comprehensive strategy called ‘15 projects in 15 districts for the 15-Minute City’, aiming towards a reduction of the socio-economic and service disparities within the city, as well as to improve public spaces and active mobility. Ten master plans have been approved by the local districts and the city is starting the implementation in 2024.

With C40 support, Wuhan’s Beihu Street pilot has been promoting the green transformation of the neighbourhood through low-carbon renovation of old urban areas, energy trusteeship of public institutions, and green finance and consumption.

C40 is also supporting the implementation of landmark zero-carbon and community-focused regeneration projects through the Reinventing Cities competition. Currently, 40 winning projects are being implemented across 20 cities worldwide. Sunnyside Energy in Houston is transforming a former 240-acre landfill into the largest urban solar farm in the US. The project generates electricity to supply 12,000 homes; provide power discounts for low-income residents; and create over 300 green jobs. Campus for Living Cities in Madrid is an energy-positive student hub providing over 330 students with accommodation and green services. The project is the largest cross-laminated timber structure in Spain.

3. Cities Mainstream their climate targets into municipal governance

The Urban Climate Action Programme’s Climate Action Implementation component (UCAP CAI) supports climate mainstreaming by working with cities to map out vertical and horizontal climate governance systems, identify gaps and opportunities within their internal operations, prioritise work areas, and then define strategies to build the capacity and capability needed to embed and achieve targets. For example, in 2023, the CAI programme supported all seven cities in Africa to define Mainstreaming Strategies, which will be formalised and launched in the coming year. As a body to own its mainstreaming strategy and oversee overall climate action plan implementation, Dar es Salaam established and launched its Climate Change Steering Committee, bringing together sector leads from across municipalities and the city council. Key responsibilities will be to integrate climate goals into strategic plans, and to ensure budget allocations reflect climate action implementation.

Several trailblazer cities in the C40 Climate Budgeting Programme show clear climate leadership by pioneering climate budgeting and adapting it to their contexts. London rolled out their second climate budget, expanding the scope beyond their own estate and fleet to cover city-wide emissions and adaptation measures and using the process to identify potential green financing opportunities for the Green Finance Fund. Montréal published preliminary works in their 2024 budget, laying the foundations for a new governance integrated into the financial process of the City. New York City announced the implementation of a climate budgeting process in their PlanNYC launch while Tshwane announced the roll-out of a C40 Cities political leadership masterclass on climate change governance. Other cities are following suit in implementation, alongside Oslo who published their eighth climate budget including consumption based emissions for the first time. The significant progress made by C40 cities in integration and development demonstrates the efficacy and viability of climate budgeting as a governance system for cities across the globe. This supports C40’s data driven approach and view that you cannot manage what you do not measure.

Copenhagen is mainstreaming climate action through the city’s investment decisions by setting targets for at least 50% of the city’s carbon budgets in climate governance. Other cities are following suit to identify new projects. The project is the largest cross-laminated timber structure in Spain.

C40 cities are increasingly revising their urban planning documents to respond to the climate crisis. In June 2023, Paris approved a new “Bioclimatic” master plan integrating key elements of its Climate Action Plan on resilience and urban nature, buildings’ de-carbonisation and clean construction, 15-minute City and more. This has transformed the climate actions into legally binding policies and regulations for climate positive decision making. Paris has inspired other cities to pursue more ambitious planning policies, including through knowledge exchange facilitated by C40 between Paris, Milan and Cape Town which are revising their urban planning documents.

Climate budgeting is a cyclical, collaborative process integrating climate targets and considerations into the city’s budget, policies, and decisions.

**COMMIT**
- Mayor engages all parts of city government in climate action
- Chief Financial Officer owns and manages the process
- Assess current emissions levels
- Review impact of existing plans on meeting climate targets
- Engage leaders city-wide to identify new projects
- Track the climate impacts of projects
- Strengthen effective actions, address any issues
- Use lessons learned to improve the process

**INTEGRATE**
- Integrate climate considerations into the regular budget process
- Ensure projects keep the city on track to meet climate goals
- Deliver projects across all city departments

**PLAN**
- Pass the budget through the legislative process

**IMPLEMENT**
- Monitor projects across all city departments

**LEARN**
- Deliver projects across all city departments

**Source:** C40 Cities

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Inclusive climate action

Cities are demonstrating the transformative impact they can have in ensuring inclusive and equitable climate action at the local and global level.

The C40 Inclusive Climate Action Programme is critical in supporting cities to deliver local climate policies and initiatives that drive mitigation and adaptation, co-designed in an inclusive way, addressing structural inequalities and delivering equitable impacts, while advocating for global and national change that allows cities to go further in achieving a just ecological transition. In 2023 C40’s Inclusive Climate Action Programme continued to grow including over new work on urban loss and damage and expanding existing programmatic support to cities on local inclusive climate action delivery, peer-to-peer learning and mayoral leadership.

In 2023, C40 expanded its peer-to-peer support for cities on inclusive climate action to 37 cities globally and launched a new fund for inclusive climate action in cities around the world to support cities in delivering transformative projects benefiting urban dwellers and vulnerable communities. The first round of funding has benefited six cities (Bogotá, Dar es Salaam, Los Angeles, Quezon City, Vancouver and Warsaw), for example by strengthening collaboration with informal workers in the waste management sector in Dar es Salaam or increased resilience of people with disabilities in face of extreme heat events in Vancouver.

C40’s Global Green New Deal Pilot Initiative continues to grow, expanding from nine cities to 15 in 2023 and supporting cities to plan and deliver local action that tackles the climate crisis whilst also addressing socio economic challenges, including on green jobs and just transition. The Global Green New Deal European pilot, launched in February 2023, now supports a group of six European cities – Barcelona, Lisbon, Milan, Paris, Rotterdam and Warsaw - to jointly respond to the climate, energy and cost of living crises advancing the inclusive and equitable delivery of the three Rs (Relief, Retrofits, Renewables) in line with the C40 Mayors’ Energy Crisis Emergency Plan. This group of cities is exploring innovative solutions for residents which accelerate housing energy efficiency, lift communities out of energy poverty and reduce dependence on gas while increasing the uptake of renewables, building the resilience of the most vulnerable and delivering good, green jobs.

Inclusive climate action

Women are often the first to experience the harsh impacts of climate change. Yet they are underrepresented at every level of decision-making on climate action. Women bring both ambition and different perspectives and experiences to the table, enabling them to create nuanced and inclusive solutions to the climate crisis. Women’s participation and leadership are crucial to building healthy, resilient and fair cities. That’s why initiatives like the Women4Climate Mentorship Programme – which empowers women leaders through networking, training and mentoring opportunities – are a game-changer for driving equitable climate action in cities today.

C40 Co-Chair and Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr

The C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme built a coalition of over 1,000 women climate leaders in seven years in 22 cities across every continent from 2017-2023. Through the programme, 97% of mentees surveyed have been able to raise their skills for climate programming and leadership, and 87% were able to raise the profile of their projects through the programme, with several mentees going on to receive critical local acclaim for their initiatives.

Freetown and Addis Ababa launched their second edition of the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme, a programme which provides training, networking and mentoring opportunities to women leading inclusive urban climate projects to help them develop their initiatives and access good, green jobs.

C40 launched VISIBLE, a European project harnessing the power of cities to decarbonise their built environments with social equity, inclusion and economic viability at its core. The pilot works closely with worker unions to ensure their voice is heard and acted upon.

Good, green jobs

In 2022, C40 mayors pledged to drive the creation of 50 million good, green jobs by 2030 in partnership with other levels of government, businesses, unions, workers, young people and communities. Good, green jobs include work that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), protects nature and improves wellbeing while aiming to provide fair wages, safe working conditions, and stable employment.

With more than 60 C40 cities demonstrating action, C40, in partnership with Circle Economy, has developed a global and replicable methodology to measure existing green jobs in cities. Preliminary results released ahead of the the UN Climate Action Summit in September shows the payoffs of well-designed policies and strategic investments, with more than 14 million green jobs already serving communities in 53 C40 member cities alone. This includes more than 9 million direct green jobs and more than 5 million indirect green jobs that currently exist in cities. Some of the sectors with higher shares of green jobs (above 20% of total employment) correspond with key sectors of urban climate action and potential for urban policy leadership, such as waste, energy, transportation and construction. Final results across 74 cities will be released in 2024.

We often observe higher shares of green jobs in Global South regions. One of the drivers of this, among others, is that we can see that the second-hand, repair, and other green sectors are often much larger in the Global South than in the Global North.

Johannesburg, with the support of C40, developed and trained more than 80 city officials (building inspectors and plan examiners), upskilling them on both local and national Green Building policies. This green skills training is key to empower city officials to effectively implement national and city-level policies relating to energy efficiency and green buildings. It also enhances their understanding of the significant role they can play in local climate action, contributing to a just transition and the creation of local good, green jobs. A summary video can be found here.
As part of its Global Green New Deal pilot, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly is improving the working conditions of hundreds of informal waste workers, including women and migrants, using methods that include dialogue with representatives to understand their perspectives, support their capacity building and identify policies that can better protect them in their work.

Cities Innovate to address climate risk and reduce emissions beyond their direct control

In the global effort to reduce emissions and climate risk, cities are motivating change and breakthrough solutions by many different actors, using their formal and informal powers to address emissions beyond their direct control and foster new approaches to climate action.

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Innovating data-driven climate action on consumption with indicators

Based on learning from a working group of ten C40 cities examining their approaches to planning, measurement and barriers to action on urban consumption emissions over several months, C40 worked with a team of consumption-accounting experts and London and New York City to develop new guidance for using indicators, addressing common issues with inventory and data compatibility.

In April 2023, New York City initiated a programme to reduce carbon emissions from food purchases across city agencies by 33% by 2030, at the same time calling for action from private sector leaders to also use their procurement power to reduce food-related emissions by 25% by 2030.

Thirteen C40 cities reported using procurement as a tool in 2023 to address food emissions and shift to healthier diets in city agencies, schools and other facilities, including Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, London, Milan, Montréal, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm and Tokyo.

This extended influence is especially important in reducing emissions from urban consumption patterns. Using a range of approaches from procurement to education campaigns, cities have made strong progress this year driving demand-side action to reduce emissions in a range of sectors.

In June 2023, C40 successfully co-hosted the Milan Food Waste Hub Study Tour. C40 partnered with the city of Milan, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Natural Resources Defence Council, and Bloomberg Associates to bring five EU and five US cities to Milan to learn more about their innovative model, which also won them the Earthshot prize. Through the Food Waste Hub model Milan saves 170 tons of food waste each year and redistributes it to people in need.

Freetown’s “Freetown the Treetown” project, which pays city residents to plant and monitor trees and mangroves and track them on an online platform, was named as a finalist in the 2023 Earthshot Prize. This project also won the C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards for Innovation at the last C40 World Mayors Summit jointly with the São Paulo sustainable schools menu program.

In 2023, C40 Accelerators are statements of political leadership based on the toughest science-based targets and allied to concrete delivery milestones. They outline ambitious targets across sectors to help implement inclusive, resilient, and necessary solutions. Signatory cities collaborate to achieve their target commitments by sharing their successes, as well as the barriers faced along the way, including through annual reporting.

Cities and mayors Lead the way with trailblazing climate actions

The scope and urgency of the climate crisis demands transformative action; cities have a critical role to play by leading and demonstrating action. C40 supports mayors and cities to be climate leaders in a number of different ways from driving cities to commit to ambitious targets, to providing evidence and guidance to take action.

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

73% of cities reporting have divested from or have no municipal investments in fossil fuel companies, equating to over US $84 billion of municipal assets from cities in the network being fossil free.

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

© Simon McGill - Getty Images

C40 GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS ACCELERATOR

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. 84% of C40 signatory cities of the Clean Air Accelerator are realocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes on a permanent basis or are working actively to achieve that goal.

On 31 August 2023, London’s Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was expanded, bringing cleaner air to five million more Londoners. This action sets London as a world leader, and a city on track to ensure a major area of the city is zero carbon by 2030.

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OUR OTHER ACCELERATORS ARE:

- C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator
- C40 Clean Construction Accelerator
- C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator
- C40 Towards Zero Waste Accelerator and C40 Pathway Toward Zero Waste
- C40 Clean Air Accelerator

2023 Accelerator Progress Reports are available here.

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ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE WAS EXPANDED, BRINGING CLEANER AIR TO FIVE MILLION MORE LONDONERS. THIS ACTION SETS LONDON AS A WORLD LEADER, AND A CITY ON TRACK TO ENSURE A MAJOR AREA OF THE CITY IS ZERO CARBON BY 2030.
C40 drives city-Business Engagement

While cities account for more than 70% of global CO₂ emissions, the operations of municipal authorities themselves only contribute 4% of pollution. The remainder comes from sources where businesses, citizens, or other levels of government exercise control. Businesses can be critical stakeholders for engaging employees, customers and supply chains in the climate conversation.

In 2023, C40 launched a new guide on public-private collaboration to accelerate sustainable urban development in Global South cities. This guide draws on a set of 30 Global South city case studies and illustrates five different models of public-private collaboration to support climate action.

Tel Aviv Yafo launched a joint leadership forum with some of the city’s largest tech companies in February 2023 as part of the City-Business Climate Alliance programme. The leadership forum will allow the city to work in partnership with businesses such as Google, Salesforce, and Microsoft, on shared climate action goals.

C40 engages youth

C40’s youth engagement activities provide a platform for young people to play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency, ensuring their voices and perspectives are heard and recognised in the fight for climate justice.

Together, we are pushing forward with courage and ambition to change the status quo and build a brighter future for all. Two new youth networks were launched at London Climate Action Week, providing opportunities for youth to get involved and support C40 initiatives, learn more about the latest urban climate intelligence, and input into C40 priorities.

C40’s Youth Reinventing Cities initiative continued to engage young people in presenting innovative design solutions and reimagining urban areas into green and thriving neighbourhoods. Students Reinventing Cities engaged over 2,000 young people across 200 universities in past editions. In São Paulo, the winning team showcased their vision for a green and walkable city centre on the national news. The third edition of the competition was launched in 17 global cities in November 2023. In Schools Reinventing Cities over 1,600 student teams from primary and middle schools created their designs in Minecraft. In Quezon City, students presented their ideas to encourage cleaner air and biodiversity along prominent city roads to the Mayor and spatial planning committee.
C40 is governed by a Steering Committee of mayors, elected by their peers to represent the geographical diversity of the network. The current Co-Chairs of C40 are Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr. As the elected leaders of the C40 organisation, the Co-Chairs play a key role in raising the bar on climate ambition around the world and advocating for the role of cities in addressing the climate crisis. The C40 Board of Directors provides operational oversight to C40. The President of the Board, appointed by the longest serving Co-Chair of C40, is Michael R. Bloomberg, former Mayor of New York City. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Inc. is a Delaware incorporated, non-stock, non-profit corporation registered in the United States and is C40’s main operating entity. C40 also has registered offices in the UK, Belgium, Denmark, South Africa, India and China.

**IV. Governance**

Steering Committee 2023

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<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Central East Asia</th>
<th>East, Southeast Asia &amp; Oceania</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Innovator Cities</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>North America</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr - Co-Chair of C40, Freetown, Sierra Leone (stepped down as Innovator City Vice-Chair in May 2023, now Co-Chair of C40)</td>
<td>Governor Sakaja - Arthur Johnson - Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Mayor Oh Se-hoon - Seoul, South Korea</td>
<td>Governor Robert Beugré Mambé - Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td>Governor TSE Chin-wan, Secretary for the Environment and Ecology - Hong Kong, China</td>
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<td>Governing Mayor Raymond Johansen - Oslo, Norway</td>
<td>Mayor Anne Hidalgo - Paris, France.</td>
<td>Mayor Horacio Rodríguez Larreta - Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>Mayor Kate Gallego - Phoenix, United States</td>
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**Board of Directors 2023**

- Michael R. Bloomberg, President of the C40 Board, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, and 100 Resilient Cities, Mayor of New York City (President of the Board)
- Antha Williams, Head of Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Bruce Lindsey, Counselor to the Chair of the Board for the Clinton Foundation
- Carolina Urutia, Secretary of the Environment, City of Bogotá
- Jennifer Semakula Musisi, Independent
- Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, London
- Sri Hariyat, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs and Finance, Jakarta

Details of our Senior Leadership Team can be found here.

**Equity, Diversity and inclusion**

C40 is passionate about and actively commits to - being a diverse, inclusive and equitable organisation; not only in the way we recruit, manage and develop our international workforce, but also in how we work with our cities around the world. We have established a Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Board to oversee delivery of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and action plan and monitor progress against KPIs.

C40 offers internal channels for staff to provide input to the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Board through staff-led working groups and a Staff Consultation Forum with local representatives in each region. Read our full Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement here.

At C40, we recognise that many underrepresented and marginalised groups often face barriers to participate in – and are inadequately represented in – climate discussions and events.

C40 is committed to organising inclusive events, and we will actively seek to ensure diverse representation on all panels and events that we organise or take part in. We aim to highlight and celebrate the key role that underrepresented and marginalised groups play in championing climate policies across C40 cities and beyond. Read our full Statement of Principles on Diverse and Inclusive Panels and Events here.

**Modern Day Slavery**

C40 has a zero-tolerance approach to modern day slavery and human trafficking. C40 is committed to acting ethically, and is striving to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking throughout the organisation, as well as in our supply chain and partner organisations. Read our full Modern Day Slavery statement here.
The strategic direction of C40 is determined by an elected Steering Committee of mayors, currently co-chaired by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr. The former three-term mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg, serves as President of the C40 Board of Directors, responsible for operational oversight. C40’s work is supported through philanthropic, corporate and government funding.

C40’s activities are made possible through support from a varied group of funders. C40 receives critical core funding from three philanthropic partners: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Realdania. In addition to their financial support, these long-term strategic funders provide key representation and oversight on the C40 Inc. Board. Their funding is joined by that of other major funders who support C40’s overarching work, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Oak Foundation and Open Society Foundations, among others. C40 major technical assistance programmes — such as the C40 Cities Finance Facility jointly implemented with Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH — also receive support from public partners, such as the British, Danish, French, German and United States governments. In addition, some of C40’s most innovative programmes enjoy important and catalytic support from other smaller philanthropic partners.

### Strategic Funders

- **Bloomberg Philanthropies**
- **Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)**
- **Realdania**

### Climate Planning and Implementation Partners

- **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK**
- **giz**
- **UK Government**

### Major Funders

- **Clean Air Fund**
- **ClimateWorks Foundation**
- **Fondation L’Oréal**
- **Global Environment Facility**
- **Grundfos Foundation (Poul due Jensen Foundation)**
- **Ingka Group**

- **Laudes Foundation**
- **Oak Foundation**
- **Open Society Foundations**
- **Porticus Foundation**
- **The Climate Pledge**
- **William & Flora Hewlett Foundation**
- **Zurich Foundation**

C40 also works with many regional partners, which are critical to our work.

#### Funders

- Bugaboo
- Community Jameel
- European Climate Foundation
- FedEx
- Global Methane Hub
- Google
- KR Foundation
- Mayors Migration Council
- Novo Nordisk
- NBEP / Urban Partners
- Rambøll
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Stichting SED Fund
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- The Climate Change Collaboration
- Tides Foundation
- Velux
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wellcome Trust

#### Global City and City Network Partners

- Cities Alliance
- City of Copenhagen
- City of Oslo
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)

#### Global Partners

- Arup
- CDP
- Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)
- City Climate Finance Gap Fund
- Climate Leadership Initiative
- Clinton Foundation
- EAT
- George Washington University
- The International Council on Clean Energy Transport (ICCT)
- Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
- International Development Bank
- International Development Finance Club
- London School of Economics (LSE) Cities
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Mayors Migration Council
- The World Bank
- World Resources Institute
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)
- Cities Alliance
- City of Copenhagen
- City of Oslo
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

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* Funding below $1 million.
** Funding exceeds $1 million.
† The list below represents a selection of C40’s Global Partners.
‡ † † † † † Partner also contributes financial funding to C40.

**2023 Financials**

- **Total income**
  - **US $52.2m**
- **Total staff members in December 2023**
  - **396 in 32 countries**
- **Management & General expenses**
  - **35%**
- **Programme expenses**
  - **64%**
- **Fundraising**
  - **1%**

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* Based on management accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. Income recognised in the year includes funds received from donors in advance, for programming activity in 2023 and beyond.
† Latest audited figures.