

C40 Cities Annual Report 2024

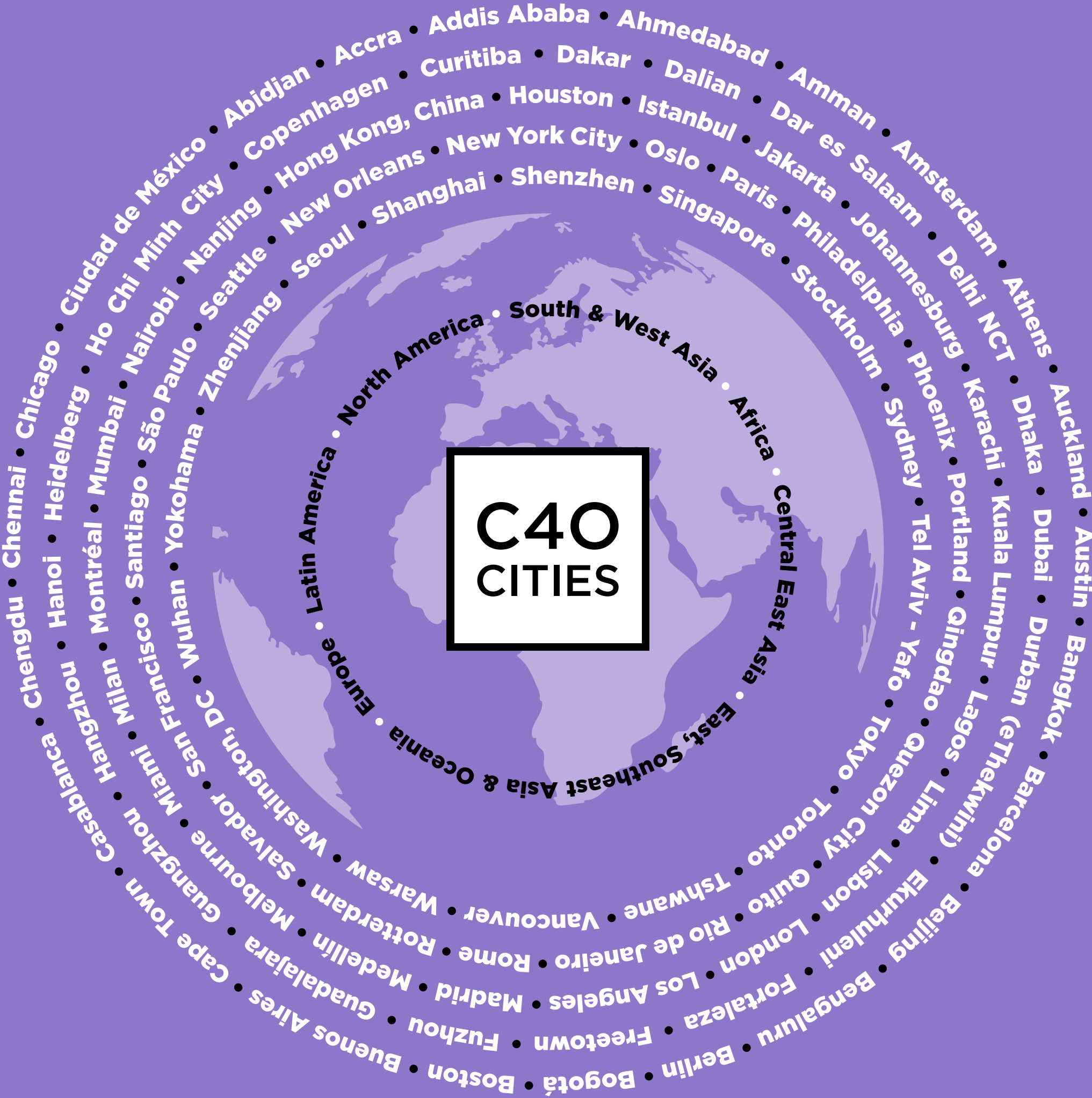


**C40
CITIES**

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Cover page art:
by Ngadi Smart for C40



I. Forewords

From the Co-Chairs of C40

Our cities are at the forefront of the climate emergency and our collective strength as C40 cities delivered a year of action, ambition and hope. We continue to build fairer, safer and greener cities for our residents.

In 2024, we saw the power of city-led action at critical moments. In London, we saw the results of our introduction of the world's largest clean air zone, and it's clear that Londoners are breathing cleaner air as a result. We also began our plan to clean our waterways over the next decade, bringing the same energy to our rivers that was brought to London's air. We have seen London continue to embrace the opportunity of net zero, unlocking solar for our schools, saving them tens of thousands of pounds, and opening a new office for making our homes warmer, retrofitting to scale our social housing stock.

In September, we joined world leaders and decision-makers at the Summit of the Future, the UN General Assembly and New York Climate Week which set the tone and expectation for climate action in 2025. At COP29 in Baku, where global commitments fell short, C40 mayors showcased city achievements on phasing out fossil fuels. At the U20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's President Lula delivered the U20 Communiqué to the G20, amplifying our call for multilevel collaboration. Even in the face of shifting political landscapes, C40 continued to influence global and national policies, reinforcing the essential role of cities in driving change.

C40 welcomed two new member cities, Fortaleza in Brazil and Casablanca in Morocco, expanding our Global South membership. The Clean Air Accelerator expanded its reach to 50 cities, climate budgeting gained momentum with front runner cities New York City, London, Mumbai and Rio de Janeiro publishing their first budgets, and the C40 Cities Finance Facility helped cities in the Global South secure funding pathways for transformative projects, including urban flood risk alleviation along Medellín's Rio Norte and utility-scale renewable solar farming in Cape Town. C40 cities also led a green job revolution, creating over 16 million good, green jobs on the way to 50 million by 2030. From reforestation in Freetown to net-zero building standards in London, we demonstrated that environmental sustainability and economic prosperity can go hand in hand.

As we look to the future, we will continue to scale High-Impact Actions and strengthen the role of city leadership in delivering global climate action. Together, we are not just imagining a better world - we are building it.



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London and
Co-Chair of C40



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

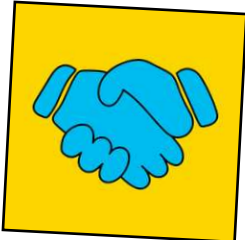
From the Executive Director of C40

We continue to live in challenging times for global climate action. In the hottest year ever recorded, a climate denier was elected to lead the world's most powerful nation, disinformation campaigns surged, while devastating wars, and threats of wars, persisted across the globe, diverting resources and political focus away from humanity's greatest challenge - the climate crisis. All this turmoil was the backdrop to the impacts of rising temperatures continuing to play out across the world's cities - from devastating flooding in Nairobi to record-breaking heat in Seoul and water rationing in Bogotá.

Yet, throughout 2024, cities also advanced a vision of global climate action that is accountable, truly collaborative and - most crucially - is delivering tangible results. The latest data shows that around three

in every four C40 cities are reducing their emissions faster than their respective national governments, while the U20 Summit that took place in Rio last November stands out as a model of effective international collaboration. 92 C40 cities are delivering climate action plans consistent with the 1.5°C temperature target; with 74 countries signed up to the Coalition for High Action Multilevel Partnerships, it is cities that are keeping the Paris Agreement alive.

Across the world, cities are delivering a transition away from fossil fuels which centres people, prioritises social inclusion and the needs of the most vulnerable, and creates good green jobs and economic prosperity. I'm immeasurably proud that C40 cities are leading the charge.



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. 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.

As urban leaders and decision-makers, C40 mayors are on the frontlines of the climate crisis: C40 mobilises their voice and showcases their actions to inspire the world to rapidly end dependence on fossil fuels, increase climate resilience and ensure a transition that is fair and inclusive.



Cities are demonstrating that bold action can halt the worst impacts of climate breakdown, whilst creating healthier places to live, good green jobs, and more equitable societies.



C40 works with its mayors to enact science-based climate action plans and build city-level public support. We do so whilst also promoting the collective voice of mayors nationally, regionally and globally to influence other cities and stakeholders.

Our ambition places us at the leading edge of climate policy and delivery. Nearly all C40 cities now have a climate action plan compatible with the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement, and around three in every four C40 cities are decreasing their per capita emissions faster than their respective national governments.

C40 support for its members taking significant climate action goes beyond our membership: in addition, we engage with approximately 2,200 city officials through peer-to-peer sharing networks, exchanging expert knowledge and best practice. Cities are also supported through 60 technical assistance programmes on sectoral policy delivery, equity and inclusion and climate finance, which operate across the globe. Through its partnership with Global Covenant of Mayors and work with regional city networks and other partners around the globe, C40 supports thousands of cities worldwide of all shapes and sizes.

As national governments and global institutions struggle with the challenges of implementing climate action in the face of geopolitical turmoil, increasingly polarised politics, rising inequality and ever-increasing levels of disinformation, C40 will continue to champion courageous decision-making by our mayors - as well as the work of other cities and forms of subnational government. Along with our members, we are as committed as ever to delivering bold, inclusive climate action for both people and the planet.

Missions

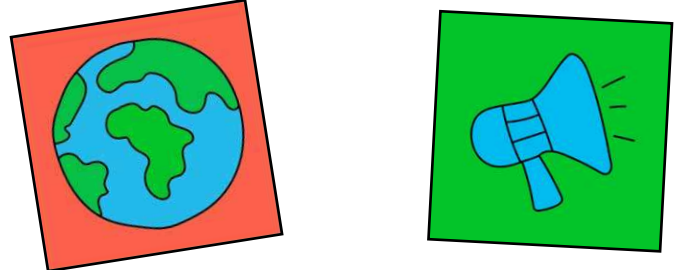
In 2024, C40 continued to focus its work strategically around two main missions, to position itself strategically and deliver more effectively in the evolving geopolitical and economic context.

- **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's 2024 sub-missions are critical to be able to deliver its two main missions. 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 focuses, for a given period, to leverage policy and advocacy resources across C40 to build public support and social acceptance for local climate action. The four sub-missions are:

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

These missions, sub-missions and Leadership Standards have been reviewed and updated in light of C40's more ambitious and focused vision for the 2025-2030 Business Plan.



What it means to be a C40 member

Membership is earned by cities taking action, not on paying fees - this is critical as C40's unique selling point. C40's unique and ambitious Leadership Standards set the minimum requirements for all member cities and safeguard the integrity of C40 as a network of climate leaders.

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

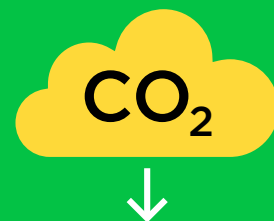
City innovates and starts taking inclusive and resilient action to address emissions beyond the direct control of the city government, such as associated with goods and services consumed in their city.

Lead

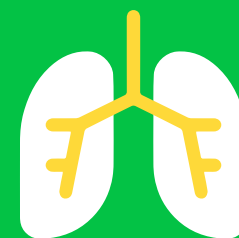
Mayor and the city demonstrate world-wide climate leadership, inspiring and engaging others to act in support of the Paris Agreement.



97
member
cities¹



3 in 4
C40 cities are
reducing per capita
GHG emissions
faster than their
respective national
governments²



Approximately
108mn
people across
C40 cities are
enjoying improved
air quality³



Nearly
16mn
green jobs exist in
74
C40 cities, supporting the
transition to a green economy
and working towards
50mn
green jobs by 2030

Global network

C40 offers a breadth of support to cities across the globe to achieve the ambitious Leadership Standards, and go beyond them.

C40's sectoral and thematic networks bring together mayors and city officials from across our seven regions, who have a common purpose of addressing the climate emergency, and ensuring climate action is equitable, just and inclusive. They are able to access free expert advice on what works, while also receiving support to drive action forward.



Representing
approximately
23%
of GDP⁴



Representing
approximately
920mn
people living and
working in the
wider city



Between 2021-24,
C40 delivered
2,700+
tracked interactions (such
as webinars and workshops)
between C40 cities,
with which all participants
are satisfied

¹ Member city data is accurate as at 31 December 2024.

² Figure based on cities' GHG inventories and national GHG data from Our World in Data.

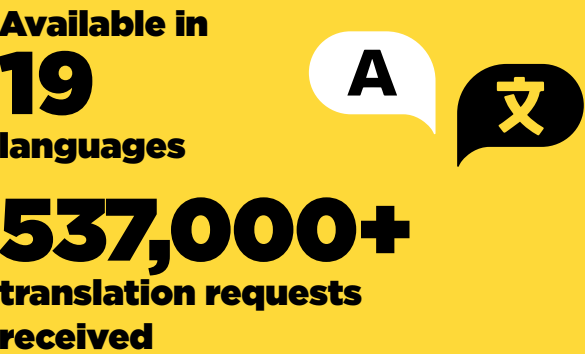
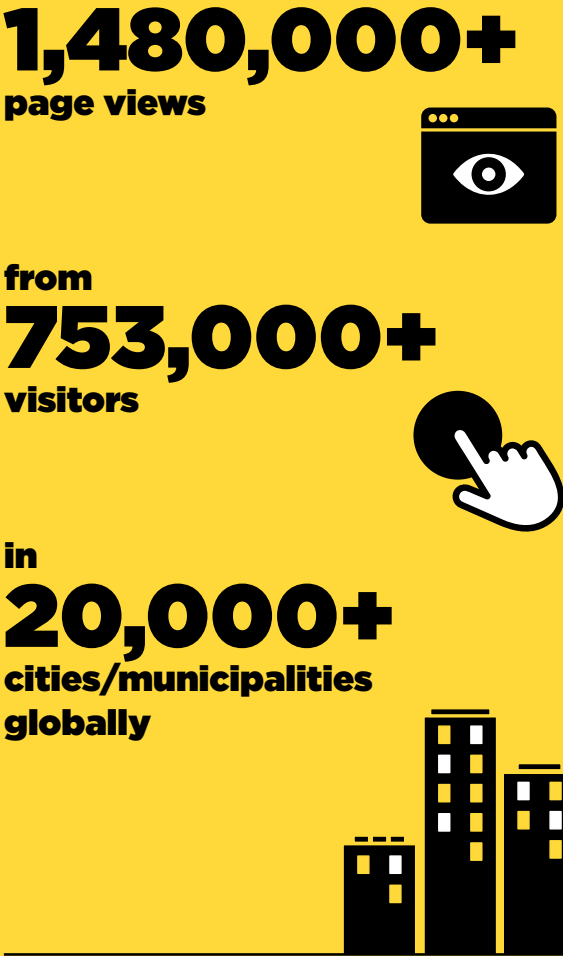
³ PM_{2.5} concentration decreased by 7% for all C40 Cities from 2017 to 2023.

⁴ Figures based on latest available data, 2024. Global percentage share of GDP is calculated using cities' GDP from Oxford Economics "Global Cities" dataset and global GDP data from The World Bank.

C40 KNOWLEDGE HUB

The C40 Knowledge Hub aims to support any C40 or non-C40 city wanting to act on the climate emergency. It provides city officials with a reliable source of knowledge and guidance, drawing on the wealth of experience gained by the cities leading the way.

In 2024:



Cities dialogue event



© One Way Up Productions - C40

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.

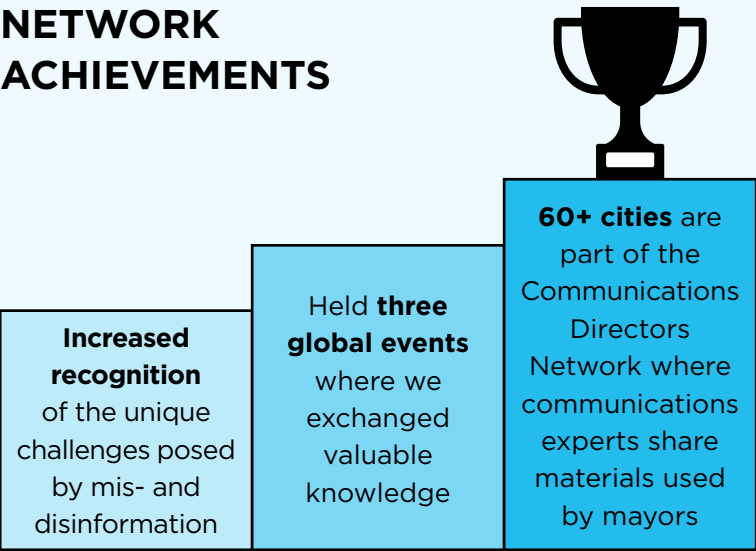
Our regional delivery structure enables C40 to leverage relationships between peer cities and partners, both regionally and globally – and to be more responsive to local context, priorities and needs. Regional engagement is also supported by the leadership of our Vice Chairs on the Steering Committee, who unite and amplify regional mayoral voices.

Our networks, resources, forums and programmes directly and indirectly benefit cities outside the C40 network, including supporting South African cities to be recognised as essential for their government's national just transition policies, developing a leading city programme that will get into a national programme in the Philippines, and launching support to cities to implement the most impactful policy solutions. In the United States, C40 and partners have supported more than 300 cities to catalyse local climate action with federal funding. C40 has also fundamentally accelerated the expansion of critical technological solutions, like electric buses in Latin America and the clean construction industry.

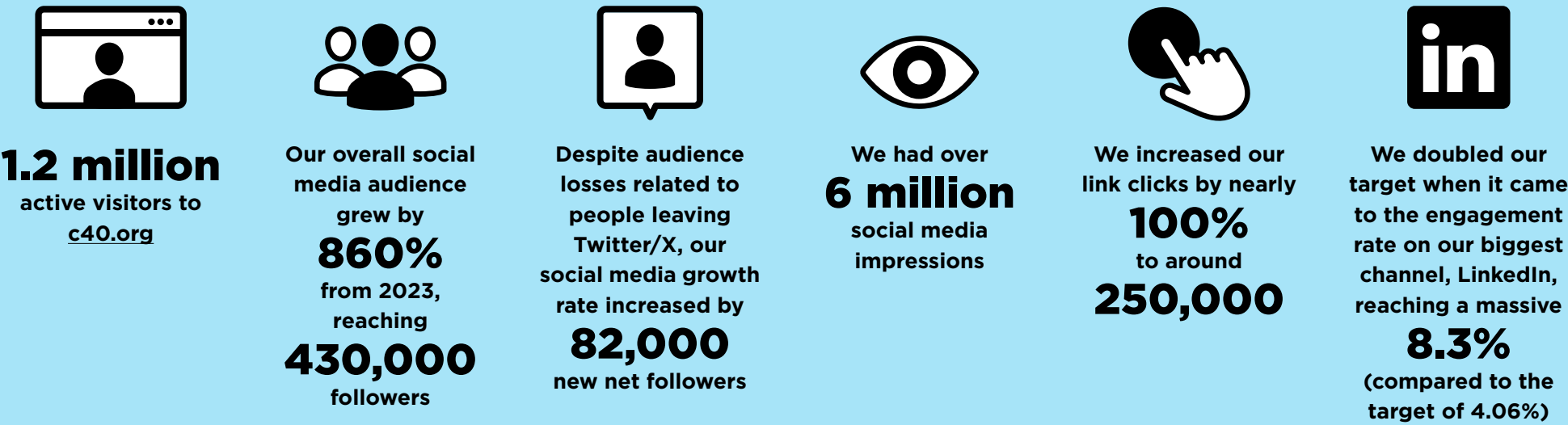
C40 communications

C40 has made significant strides in communications engagement this year. In 2024, the **Communications Directors Network** saw remarkable growth to support city mayor communications teams around the world with insight and knowledge sharing. Building on the inaugural 2023 convening in London, which brought together representatives from fewer than ten cities, the network expanded significantly, fostering deeper connections and broader participation across six out of seven C40/GCoM regions.

NETWORK ACHIEVEMENTS



It was a huge year for C40’s **digital presence**:



2024

Over 10,000 media articles were linked to C40, highlighting **important events**, such as:



There were significant **announcements and achievements**, including:



The total media coverage is equivalent to an advertising value of **US \$23.47 million**



C40 launched **It’s in the Air**, a multi-city mobilisation, celebrating the growth of Clean Air Zones globally. We hosted a **marathon** of “streets for people” initiatives **across seven C40 cities**, accompanied by global **digital comms over eight weeks**, from the Paris Games to Clean Air Day.

From Europe, to Latin America, Africa and North America, C40 showcased a global movement of cities transforming their roads and public space to reduce emissions, prioritising people, nature, public transport over cars, while countering opposition and disinformation through myth-busting and raising awareness on Clean Air Zone benefits.

Over 10,000 residents participated in local events across four regions, including streets closures, art installations, workshops and sports initiatives. Through 40+ posts on C40 channels and 100+ from partners, the campaign reached 10+ million impressions online. Over 20 cities and mayors, 15 partners and 10 youth leaders engaged with content and digital actions.

C40's leadership on the global stage

C40 cities are some of the biggest and most influential cities in the world. C40 uses the collective voice and actions of C40's mayors, together with our partners, to help the world avoid catastrophic climate breakdown. Together, we use global and regional platforms like COP and U20 to inspire other cities, influence international and national institutions, build coalitions and shift markets through mayoral leadership.

As early adopters of the science-based target of a 1.5°C limit to global temperature rise, C40 has helped drive political commitment towards science-based action, developing the first significant pathway to cities meeting the Paris Agreement ambition and providing cities across the globe with a blueprint for ensuring the credibility, accountability, and transparency of their net-zero commitments.



A Steering Committee meeting in Paris

In 2024, our mayors united in favour of stronger climate justice by pushing back against continued fossil fuel expansion and calling for subnational integration into Nationally Determined Contributions, through the **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships**, endorsed by 74 countries representing 36% of global emissions. In previous years, our work has led to 1,143 cities, home to almost 10% (722mn) of the world's population committing to emission reductions consistent with 1.5°C ambition of the Paris Agreement.

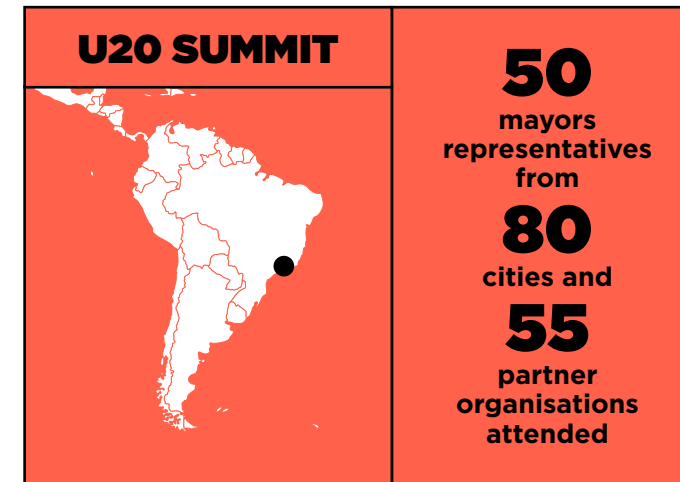
C40 enables action that is truly fair and inclusive and builds coalitions, diplomatic efforts and campaigns to shift the debate, disarm mis- and disinformation around the climate crisis and demonstrate that a just transition that leaves no one behind is at hand and possible.

EU Advocacy

In July 2024, the mayors of **Oslo, Istanbul, Copenhagen, Paris, Warsaw, Athens** united to launch policy demands for the new European Union (EU) political mandate. This followed Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's release of the next European Commission political guidelines, outlining the EU's future priorities. While mayors welcomed this direction, they stressed the need for a just transition and greater inclusion of cities and their residents in the process - their demands called for continuous, direct dialogue between cities and the European Commission to achieve a climate neutral, fair Europe that addresses residents' needs and concerns.

City collaboration to influence the G20 - U20 2024 Cycle

Co-Chaired by the cities of **São Paulo** and **Rio de Janeiro**, the 2024 U20 cycle focused on addressing global challenges such as sustainable development and global governance reform. An initial summit was convened in June in São Paulo, where city delegates negotiated their joint advocacy positions and priorities and presented a joint statement to the G20 Sous-Sherpa and Ambassador Antonio da Costa of Brazil's Ministry of Cities.



The U20 Rio de Janeiro Summit was the culmination of the 2024 U20 cycle and 50 mayors, representatives from 80 cities and 55 partner organisations attended the event, participating in private and public sessions with an audience of over 5,000 attendees. Taking place on the eve of the G20 Summit and COP29, this event represented a positive vision of effective subnational multilateralism, as demonstrated by a number of key outcomes, the first of which was an unprecedented level of national government engagement in the U20 process, with ministers from across the Brazilian federal government participating in the event.

Furthermore, Brazil's updated National Determined Contribution was published just days before the Summit, building on and directly referencing the Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships initiative, and proposing 'climate federalism' as a key approach to delivery of national climate plans. Crucially, this U20 Summit was the first ever instance of two Presidents – President Lula of Brazil and President Boric of Chile – addressing the high-level mayoral roundtable and receiving the U20 Communiqué. President Lula signalled his clear support of the U20 project by calling for the world to *"listen to the voice of cities"* during his address.

COP29

C40 mayors and city leaders provided signals of hope for a more inclusive, implementation-focused climate multilateralism that saw several national governments and other key voices, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Assistant Secretary-General Selwin Hart, UNFCCC Executive



Secretary Simon Stiell, and Paris Agreement architect Laurence Tubiana, acknowledge the need to work with cities and subnational governments in order to achieve our global climate goals.

C40 and GCoM mayors, city officials, and staff were involved in over 50 events to make the urgent call for greater collaboration on national climate plans and funding directly to cities to support a just transition. With bold mayoral leadership, C40 is now helping to chart a revitalised path for global climate collaboration towards COP30 that ushers in a new era of climate multilateralism, focused on moving from negotiations to actions.

The Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships is a group of national governments who have made the commitment to work with their subnational governments (cities, towns, states and regions) when developing and implementing climate strategies, and to support local climate action to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. National strategies include, but are not limited to, National Determined Contributions, Long Term Low-Emission Development Strategies and National Adaptation Plans.

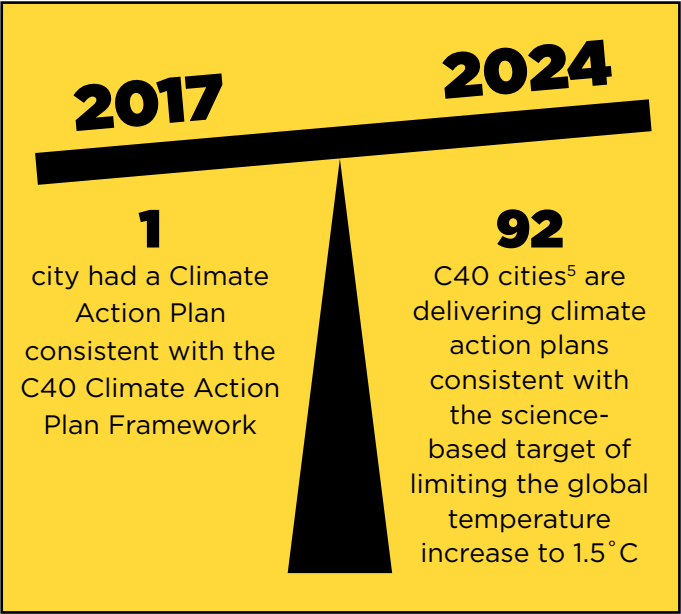
At the national level, C40, GCoM, and their partners made significant strides in providing tailored support to countries such as Brazil, Morocco, Colombia, Philippines, Kenya and Rwanda towards stronger National Determined Contribution processes and outcomes, as well as valuable technical dialogues to enhance urban climate finance.

III. Leadership Standards

Supporting cities to develop ambitious climate action plans

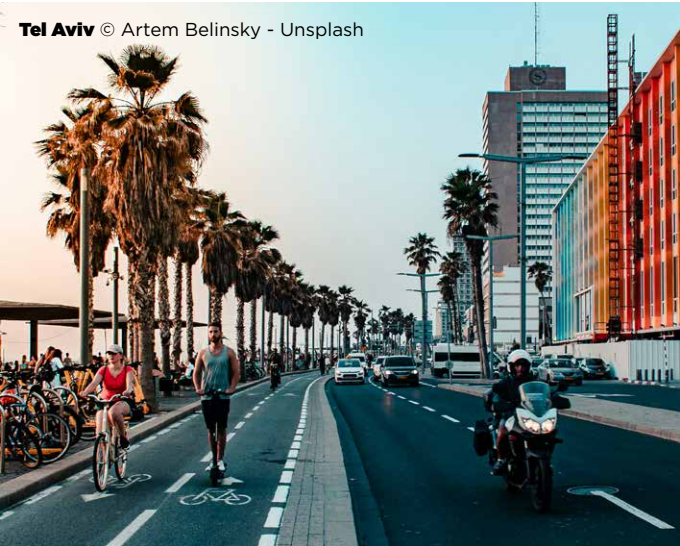
Cities are key to the solution and are taking bold climate action and reducing emissions. C40 Leadership Standards have resulted in C40 mayors raising the ambition of their climate actions and emission reduction targets in their cities.

As a membership requirement, all C40 cities must continually develop their climate action planning efforts. This includes ensuring that plans are timely (updated at least every five years) and respond to the latest recommendations of integrity and robustness. C40 reviews all member city plans for alignment with its frameworks – you can find them in the [C40 Knowledge Hub climate action plan map](#).



Since 2018, C40’s membership requirements have resulted in cities setting and significantly enhancing their emission reduction targets.

If successful, this will result in savings of 990m tCO₂e in 2030 (almost equivalent to Japan’s emissions in 2023 - the seventh highest in the world) and 3.2b tCO₂e in 2050 (equivalent to the emissions of the 27 European Union member states in 2023, the fourth highest in the world).



Karachi, Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Delhi, Ho Chi Minh, Ekurhuleni and Tel Aviv completed their first net-zero aligned Climate Action Plans in 2024, demonstrating the impact of C40’s technical assistance and Climate Action Plan review feedback to cities.

Throughout 2023, in consultation with advisory cities, C40 developed the new Cities Climate Transition Framework as the first framework for city climate action that responds to the UN Secretary General’s call for Non State Actors to demonstrate integrity, transparency and accountability on their net-zero climate commitments. In 2024, **Paris** and **Stockholm** participated in C40’s pilot of the new ‘Cities Climate Transition Framework’ – the new cornerstone framework for Climate Action Planning – and their Climate Action Plans are the first to meet this new leadership level.

PARIS

A photograph of a park area in Paris. There are several wooden benches, young trees, and a paved path. A person is walking, and another is sitting on a bench. The background shows a large, historic building. The image is credited to 'Paris © Guillaume Bontemps - Ville de Paris'.

‘Projet de Plan Climat Air Énergie de Paris 2024-2030’ is the first to be approved by C40’s new Cities Climate Transition Framework Review. The plan provides a robust pathway of six-year carbon budgets that show Paris is on track to meet its target of 50% reduction of GHG’s by 2030 (compared to 2004), and that the city has already reduced its emissions by 36% between 2004-2021. Supporting this are sectoral strategies that address climate in an integrated way, including urban consumption, energy transformation, wellbeing, adaptation, circular economy, biodiversity and inclusivity.

STOCKHOLM

A photograph of a busy street intersection in Stockholm. Many pedestrians are crossing the street, and several cyclists are riding. There are traffic lights and a crosswalk. The image is credited to 'Stockholm © Dawid Tkocz - Unsplash'.

In November 2024, ‘Klimathandlingsplan 2030’ is the second C40 city plan that meets the Cities Climate Transition Framework, including ambitious targets to reduce consumption-based emissions by 50% by 2030, reach climate positivity by 2030, and be a fossil-fuel free municipality by 2040. C40’s review identified follow-ups with the city to further explore its full range of powers (using advocacy, voluntary partnerships, legal, political and social influence) to reduce emissions from high impact sources of consumption such as food and construction, as well as to further showcase Stockholm’s waste sector actions as an example to other cities.

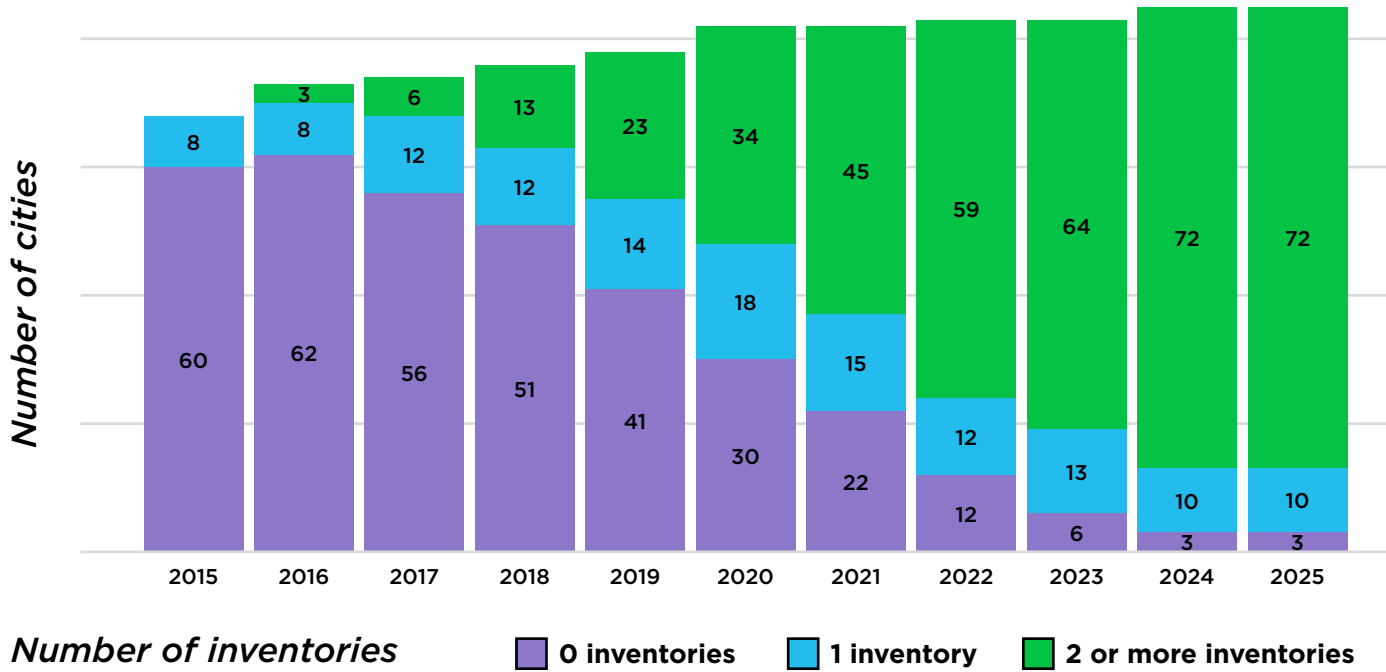
⁵ Out of 97 C40 cities, three observer cities are not bound to comply with C40 membership requirements while two new member cities have two years to develop a Climate Action Plan consistent with the Climate Action Planning Framework, so the maximum number of C40 cities that could have Climate Action Plans by the end of 2024 is 92. For consistency with previous values, this number counts Dhaka North and Dhaka South as one, and includes both Santiago and Ekurhuleni, whose reviews were conducted in 2024 but final approval granted in early 2025.

Under the new set of Leadership Standards for 2025 - 2030, all cities will update their Climate Action Plan in line with C40's Cities Climate Transition Framework. C40 will be working to support the ambition and impact of cities' climate action planning efforts to meet this higher level. In line with C40's Leadership Standards and to support evidence-based climate action planning,

cities require a robust comprehensive and up to date greenhouse gas inventory. The majority of our cities develop sector-based greenhouse gas inventories using the globally recognised standard, consistent with IPCC guidelines, of the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories developed collaboratively by C40 and ICLEI.

Cities per number of inventories

GPC-compliant inventories.
Chinese cities are excluded from the analysis.



Chennai has experienced climatic hazards such as heatwaves, intense floods, multiple cyclones and severe droughts in recent years, with residents feeling the impacts. The Urban Planning Climate Lab aims to transpose the priorities and actions as identified in the city's Climate Action Plan into its Third Master Plan, which is a statutory document that will guide the development of the Chennai Metropolitan Area for the next 20 years. This involves conducting baseline assessment studies, a climate change risk assessment, devising a climate strategy and finally developing a framework for integration of climate action into the master plan through climate-sensitive development control

norms and land-use plans. The Lab has been crucial in identifying hazard-prone zones in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.

C40 and GCoM launched a joint project to support Brazilian cities advancing their climate actions, which is directly supporting Brazil's national initiative aiming to improve city resilience, reduce emissions, enhance sustainability, and create green jobs. The project is focusing on improving the data accessibility and streamlining the climate planning process in cities. Starting with five pilot cities in 2024, the project will roll out to 50 Brazilian cities by COP30.

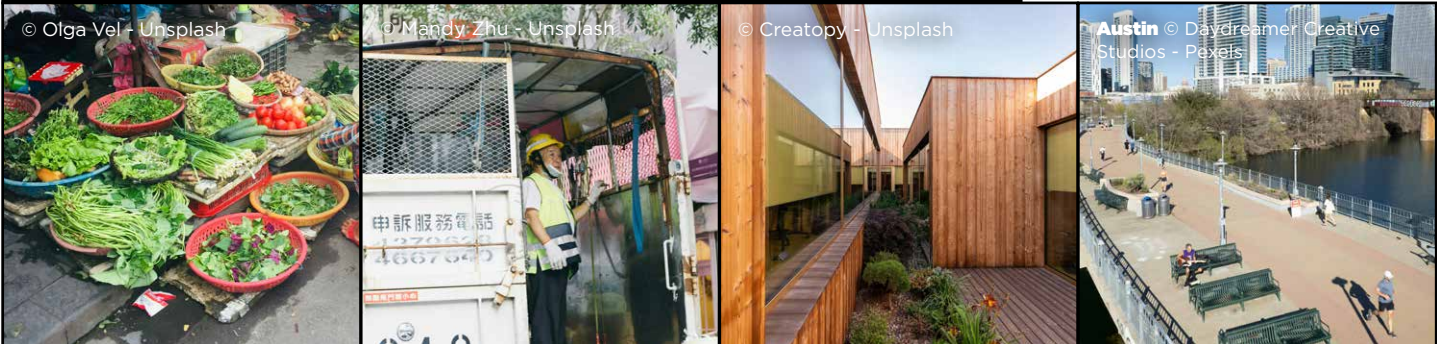
Supporting cities to deliver High-Impact Actions

Sectoral Networks and Accelerators

C40's activities have directly supported C40 cities to deliver the most impactful climate actions, as well as improving the air quality in our cities and created millions of good green jobs⁶.



Accelerators are a mechanism to drive High-Impact Actions



What are the Accelerators?	How many Accelerators are there?	Who is involved in the Accelerators?
<p>Since the C40 Accelerators were first launched in 2017, they have supported mayors and their cities to drive impactful climate action.</p> <p>The C40 Accelerators set out ambitious actions cities are taking to meet science-based targets to collectively halve emissions in C40 cities by 2030 and increase climate resilience.</p>	<p>There are 10 Accelerators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clean AirClean ConstructionClean InvestmentGreen and Healthy StreetsGood Food CitiesNet Zero Carbon BuildingsRenewable EnergyTowards Zero Waste<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pathway Towards Zero WasteUrban NatureWater Safe Cities	<p>90 cities (75 C40 cities and 15 cities outside of the C40 network) have signed at least one or more of the Accelerators.</p> <p>There have been a total of 268 commitments (249 from C40 cities & 19 from cities outside of the C40 network) made by cities in every region.</p>

⁶ Note that the good green jobs analysis identifies the total number of green jobs – not just those jobs created by city specific climate action. The “good” element has not yet been considered.

Signatory Cities

61

cities have signed two or more of the Accelerators

44

cities have signed three or more of the Accelerators

28

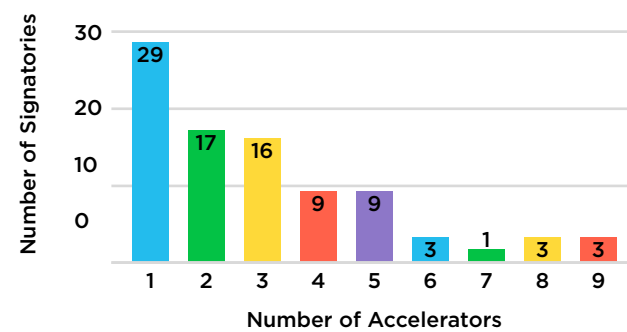
cities have signed four or more of the Accelerators

19

cities have signed five or more of the Accelerators

Copenhagen, London, and Los Angeles have signed nine of the Accelerators.

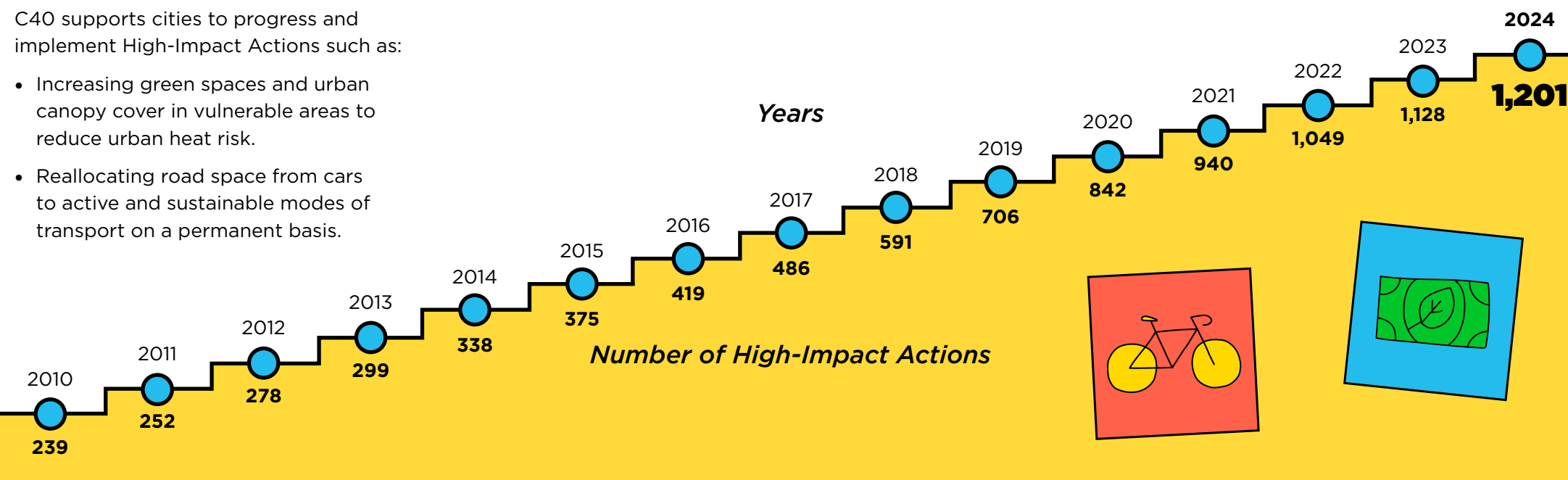
The number of Accelerators signatory cities have signed



High-Impact Actions over time

C40 supports cities to progress and implement High-Impact Actions such as:

- Increasing green spaces and urban canopy cover in vulnerable areas to reduce urban heat risk.
- Reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes of transport on a permanent basis.



Providing sectoral support on climate action plan priorities

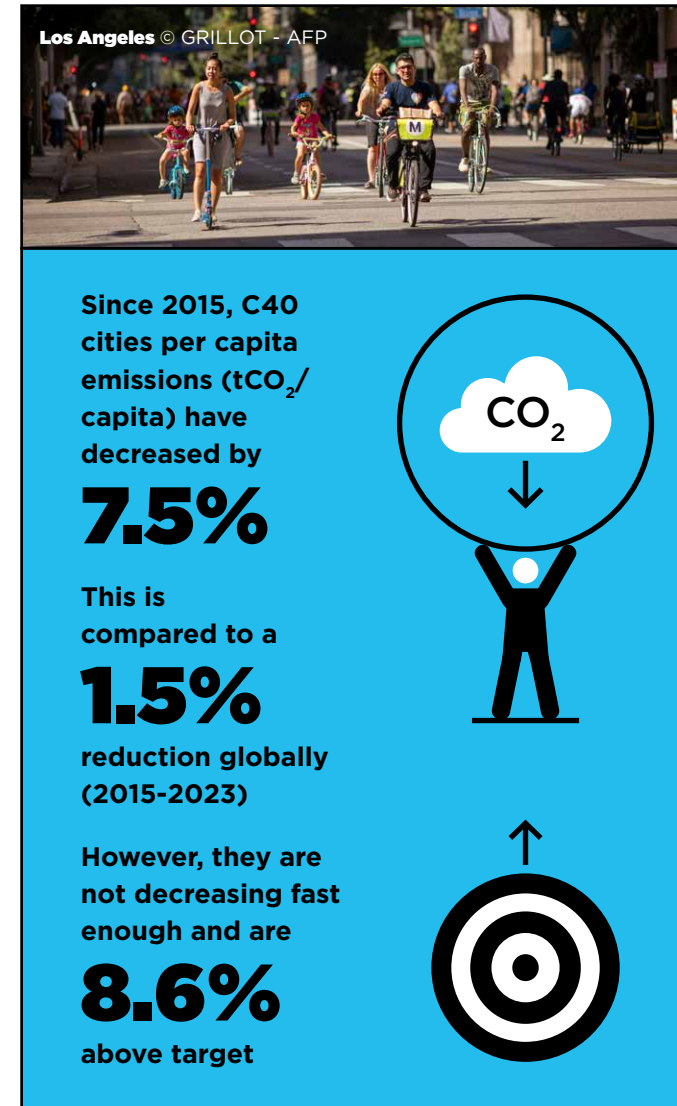
High-Impact Actions

C40's activities support its cities to progress on and implement the most impactful climate actions they can at the policy level. Furthermore, this is done in a way that also builds public support and creates a societal model for success.

In **Warsaw** we are helping the city to reach low-income residents using coal domestically, assess energy poverty context, improve existing energy programmes and with the legal basis for new city law that aims to phase out coal stoves.

The number of High-Impact Actions delivered by C40 cities has tripled over the last ten years. C40 cities have implemented 1,200 High-Impact Actions and are progressing 1,172 towards implementation. However, cities need to nearly triple the pace of implementation by 2030.

C40 has increased its support to Global South cities over the last few years and we are seeing an increase in these regions progressing High-Impact Actions, particularly in the sectors of adaptation and transport.



Establishing Net Zero Carbon Buildings, Clean Construction & Clean Energy

Buildings are responsible for a large proportion of cities' emissions; 60% on average and up to 80% in some cities. This means that the transition away from fossil fuels and into renewable energy and green buildings solutions must be an essential part of all climate action.

In May 2024, **New York City** broke ground on a US \$200 million key initiative aiming to protect the city against projected sea level rise and extreme weather events. The project will ultimately protect 100,000 residents and 300,000 existing jobs, while creating 400 good, green jobs in the construction process. It is one part of the city's multi-billion dollar coastal resilience efforts. The project prioritises on-site reuse of existing materials, where possible, and will use construction equipment that minimises noise and air pollution. Materials are also being transported to site via the water rather than by truck, which will limit transport emissions. This joint commitment to both climate resilience and reducing construction emissions is a critical part of the C40 Clean Construction Accelerator, of which New York City is the latest signatory.

Rio de Janeiro is leading the way to a 100% renewable energy future, by becoming the first city in Latin America to sign a Power Purchase Agreement. Over five years, this measure will lead to nearly US \$24 million in savings and avoid the emission of over 150,000 tons of CO₂e, by supplying clean renewable energy to key municipal buildings. The first phase of the project alone will save US \$6 million in electricity costs and avoid 40,000 tons of CO₂e. This is a saving of more than 50% of the municipality's energy bill and will allow the funds to be directed towards health and education projects, in line with the priorities established in the Rio's Sustainable Development Plan and Strategic Planning Program. The project builds on prior successful experiences with renewable Power Purchase Agreements in C40 cities in the Global North. C40 supported mayoral engagement in the project, leading to an official launch in October 2023 and the official announcement that the programme would be expanded to more public buildings. With

the support of C40, the city was also able to publish a case study in Portuguese and English, which is now being replicated by other cities such as São Paulo.

Johannesburg, Cape Town and Tshwane trained city staff to enforce new green buildings regulations and prepare them for further stringency in national energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements.

As a signatory of the [C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator](#), the Port of **Melbourne** on 1 July 2024 was able to obtain more than 60% of its electricity needs from renewable sources, such as Victorian-generated solar and wind through the Power Purchase Agreement with Iberdrola Australia Energy Markets. The Power Purchase Agreement will run until the end of June 2031, and the first community battery energy storage system has been switched on as part of the ‘Power Melbourne’ initiative in Victoria, Australia. The newly installed battery system has a capacity of 450kW/1.1MWh with the council targeting 5MW of similar assets.

In 2023, C40 launched its [Clean Construction E-Learning course](#) to raise awareness and educate city officials across departments on the climate impacts of construction, as well as outlining the key steps which cities and professionals can take to reduce them. To date, around 400 city officials from 20 cities have enrolled, with 16 of those cities attending C40-led thematic discussions around each of the modules - **Bogotá, Ekurhuleni, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Mexico City, Milan, Nairobi, New York City, Oslo, Portland, Quezon City, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Tokyo, Tshwane and Washington DC**. As a result, São Paulo Urbanismo (the city-owned company responsible for urban development) committed to three flagship clean construction pilot projects, with technical support from C40. These include using low carbon materials for the refurbishment of a tourism centre and pedestrian bridge and putting nature based solutions in commercial centres to manage climate impacts such as heat and flooding.

Most informal settlements in **Johannesburg** lack access to the grid, and many residents use other harmful energy sources and illegal connections to meet their energy needs. C40 has worked with the View informal settlement community to co-create a sustainable energy solution that



will best address their needs. The findings from this co-creation process informed a city-owned design and roll out of a solar energy solution. The solution will provide solar-powered microgrid energy to households, through solar panels on elevated towers and distributed throughout the neighborhood. Construction of the View informal settlement solar project is currently underway. We are working with the city to develop business models to scale up renewable energy solutions to other informal settlements in the city. Scaling up renewable energy solutions across all 310 informal settlements is estimated to reduce 95,400 tonnes of CO₂eq/year and 172,450kg of PM_{2.5} emissions/year and save R3,280 per family per year, which is more than the cost of feeding three children for a month in South Africa⁷.

Transforming City Streets

The cities with the most successful transport strategies prioritise people-friendly streets over space for cars. Cities have the ability to build a future where the majority of people travel on foot, by bike or by shared transport, and make sure that remaining vehicle trips are made using zero-emission vehicles.

Mexico City, a signatory of the [C40 Green & Healthy Streets Accelerator](#) is charging ahead with its ambitious shift to sustainable public transport, tackling the challenge of fossil fuel dependence head-on. Through a groundbreaking collaboration, the city developed its first-ever technical guidelines for electric buses and trolleybuses, providing a clear roadmap for the transition. With 50 new electric buses already rolling on key routes, Mexico City is not just setting a local example — it’s creating a model for cities across Latin America to follow. This initiative is a powerful testament to how well-designed policies, backed by strong partnerships, can accelerate the decarbonisation of urban transport, helping to shape cleaner, greener cities for the future.

The Zero Emissions Area Mission supports cities in advancing Clean Air Zone policies to promote zero-emission transport and improve air quality.



Marrakech (a non-C40 member city) participated in a C40-led peer-to-peer exchange in **Madrid**, exploring Clean Air Zone implementation strategies. Marrakech, alongside **Johannesburg**, engaged with Madrid – which operates three low-emission zones – to discuss policies, technology, and stakeholder engagement. Marrakech’s focus was on integrating these policies within the city’s historic Medina and developing actionable plans for cleaner air. C40 is supporting Marrakech in sharing cutting edge knowledge and opportunities for the design and implementation of a Clean Air Zone in the Medina.



The C40 European Working Group on Clean Air Zones was launched following the March 2024 C40 European Green and Healthy Streets Workshop in Milan, where cities collaborated on Clean Air Zones policies, and in particular on Low-Emission Zones. Bringing together 17 cities, the group participates in four monthly focused sessions covering low-emission zone design and implementation, data use, equity, and public engagement strategies.

Planning and Designing Sustainable Cities

Urban planning measures are critical for cities to be able to deliver on their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and reduce their vulnerability to climate hazards. C40’s Urban Planning and Design work supports cities to develop, implement and share planning strategies, regulations and pilot projects that set a framework for sustainable and equitable urban growth at the city, neighbourhood and site level.

Istanbul is ambitiously transforming the areas surrounding 21 watercourses from underused, polluted and flood-prone areas into sustainable, resilient and accessible recreation spaces integrated with surrounding neighbourhoods. One of several projects nearing completion is delivering improvements along 7 kilometres of the 22 kilometre Ayamama Stream. Having completed the rehabilitation of the stream, which was prone to flooding, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality is now turning the Ayamama area into a new recreation and social space for the community. The northern part of the stream is designed as an activity area including sports fields, skate tracks, and playgrounds co-designed with children, and the south will be green areas. An uninterrupted active mobility path will be provided between the Marmara Sea and the highway located in the north of the project area.

In April 2024, a global call for innovative and ready-to-implement ideas that build healthy, green and thriving neighbourhoods, was launched. In November 2024, [three winners were selected](#) to receive US \$100,000 each to implement their initiatives to address health inequities and climate challenges in underserved urban communities in **Buenos Aires, Nairobi and Rio de Janeiro**.

⁷ https://pmbejd.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/February-2025-Household-Affordability-Index-PMBEJD_26022025.pdf

⁸ Mode share figures have been estimated using Google Environmental Insights Explorer data and could be underestimated due to difficulty in tracking informal transit. 2023 is latest data.

C40 worked in partnership with the Greater **London** Authority to deliver a challenge inviting young Londoners to develop their city as one where everyone thrives, equipping the next generation of professionals with the skills and tools to take bold climate action and learn about sustainable urban planning. 650 young people from over 40 schools, colleges and universities presented their vision and ideas to transform London’s built environment. University students were tasked with redesigning the Pool of London - an area defined as a ‘Key Area of Change’ in London’s City Plan for 2036 - into a greener, more accessible and thriving commercial hub. Meanwhile, school children used Minecraft Education to reimagine their city, with entries feeding into the development of priorities for the next London Plan as part of the Planning for London Programme.

Improving Air Quality

Air pollution is one of the most significant environmental risks to human health. It causes over 7 million premature deaths annually and increases chronic disease burden, disproportionately impacting marginalised and vulnerable communities. Air pollution is also intrinsically linked to climate breakdown, with many drivers of poor air quality being sources of greenhouse gas emissions, such as pollutants caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Mayors understand that public health, the climate crisis and urban air quality are interlinked issues. That is why their efforts to clean the air we breathe, reduce greenhouse emissions and improve the wellbeing of city residents go hand-in-hand.

Madrid and **Barcelona** – two signatory cities to the **C40 Clean Air Accelerator** – in 2024 achieved their best air quality levels since records began, thanks to effective and inclusive air quality actions implemented by their local governments.

Due to the rapid growth of African cities, cities in the continent are experiencing a dramatic increase in air pollution levels mostly due to increased levels of vehicle emissions, industrial activity, and waste burning. C40 is supporting cities across the continent to improve technical capacity and supporting mayoral leadership to design effective



clean policies. For instance, in 2024 **Lagos** was supported by C40 to develop an integrated GHG and air pollution inventory and then set up a network of low-cost sensors to improve its ability to detect air pollution hotspots. Also, **Dakar** developed its first Air Quality Management Plan setting up a new governance framework and programmes to reduce air pollution from main sources under the city control.

Jakarta released a comprehensive strategy encompassing 16 programmes and 68 action plans aimed at reducing emissions from both mobile and stationary sources. Key initiatives include expanding air quality monitoring networks, enforcing penalties on industries violating environmental standards, increasing vehicle emission testing facilities, micro-scale low-emission zones, and promoting electric vehicle adoption.

Highlights

✓

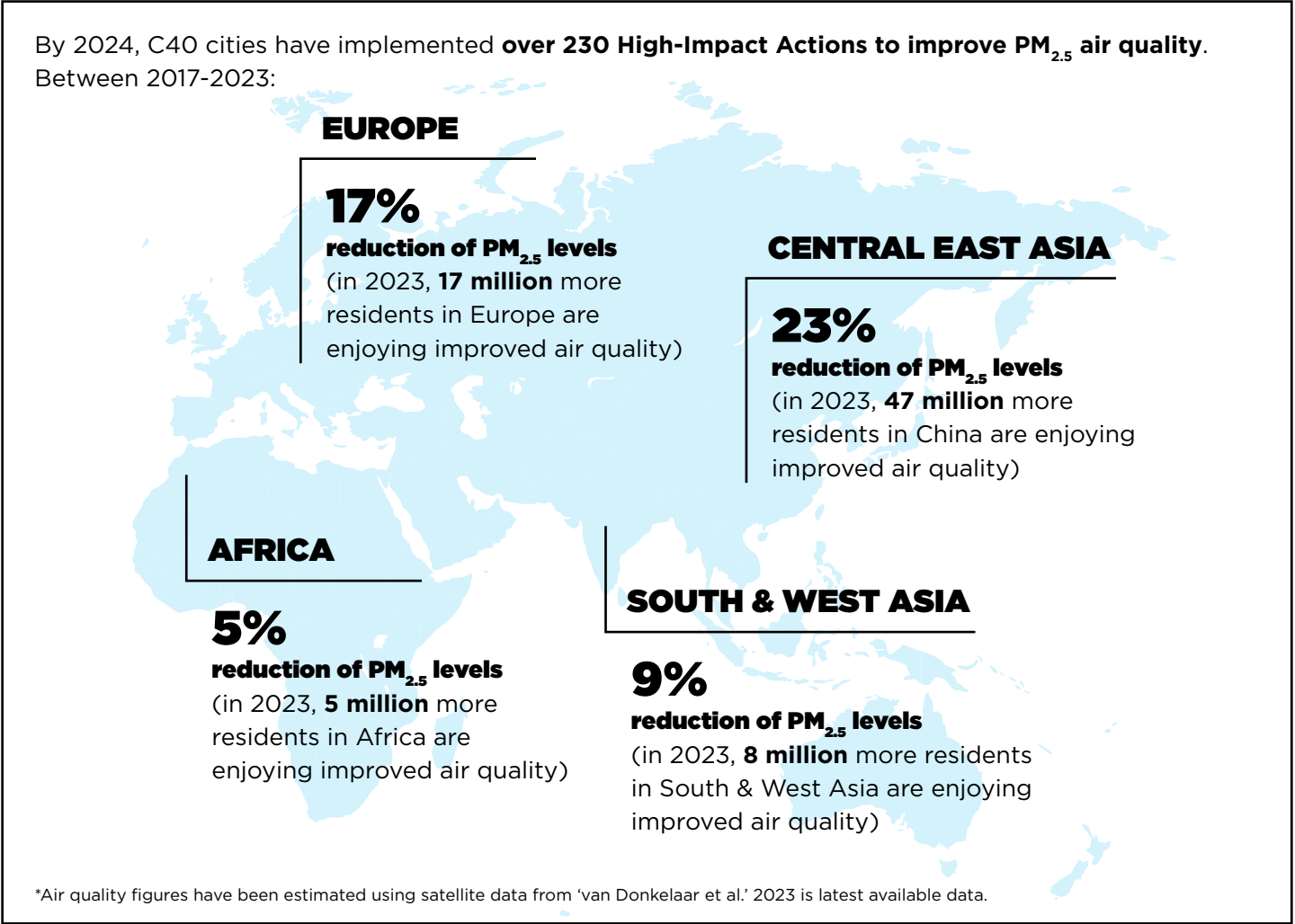
Guadalajara announced plans to launch the first Clean Air Zone in Mexico.

✓

Paris introduced a Limited Traffic Zone in its central arrondissements, restricting motorised traffic without valid reasons.

✓

In **Warsaw**, C40 supported the approval of a low-emission zone by providing data on its benefits, facilitating peer-to-peer learning, and offering assistance on freight solutions.



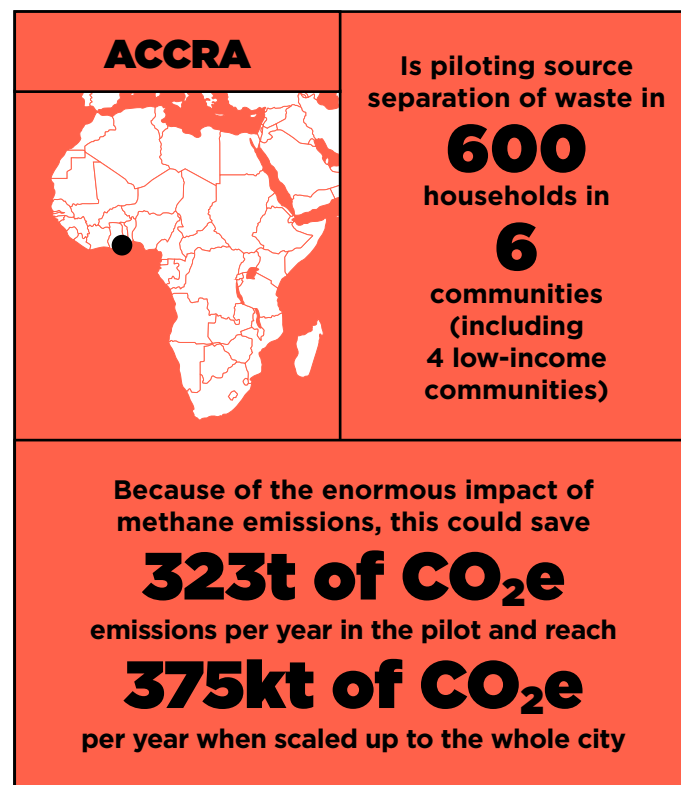
Reducing Waste and Improving Collection

Around the world, sustainable urban waste management practices can improve public health and economic opportunity, promote equity and create resilient infrastructure. When approached holistically, waste and sustainable materials management can help cities reduce 15-20% of their emissions through reduction, avoidance, recycling, and treatment.

C40 is supporting the cities of **Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Dakar, Freetown, Mumbai** and **Ahmedabad** to develop robust waste composition and mass-flow assessments. C40 collaborated with Ekurhuleni to improve their community participation and communication strategies at mini-garden sites that act as collection, treatment and recovery centers for organic waste and provide awareness and learning experiences to nearby residents, reducing waste contamination, transport

and disposal. C40 is providing technical assistance to participating cities to develop data-based, inclusive and locally compatible implementation roadmaps, pilot testing and good practice sharing to set cities on a pathway towards zero waste and deliver cleaner, healthier and more inclusive cities.

To support the informal waste workers that contribute to waste collection and recycling efforts, **Amman** has co-sponsored a Waste Picker Training and Certification Program, targeting 1,800 people by 2025. The city has also issued new instructions to support the organisation of informal workers and integrate them into the city’s solid waste management, which is being implemented from 2023 and 2026. An administrative unit has been allocated to organise the informal sector and integrate waste pickers into recycling value chains. The efforts directly deliver on the commitments of the **C40 Pathway Towards Zero Waste**, where achieving 100% coverage of collection throughout the city is part of the set of targets.



As solid waste represents 25% of **Accra** Metropolitan Assembly's emissions, the city has started to implement a city-wide source separation programme to improve waste collection and treatment of organic waste and divert it from landfills. At least one community compost facility will be set up to produce compost for use within the community, for example greening of public open spaces, backyard gardening and beautification. It will also ensure that the informal waste pickers, who represent the majority of the waste system, will have better working conditions.

Strengthening Urban Food Systems

Cities have strong control over many aspects of urban food systems, and our work in this area helps cities to implement solutions that make it easier for people to eat healthy and sustainable options and waste less food. Doing so will help reduce emissions, improve health and equity, and enhance climate resilience around the world.

The City of **Copenhagen** serves around 115,000 meals every day across more than 1,000 different public institutions, including childcare centres, schools, care homes, and social care services.

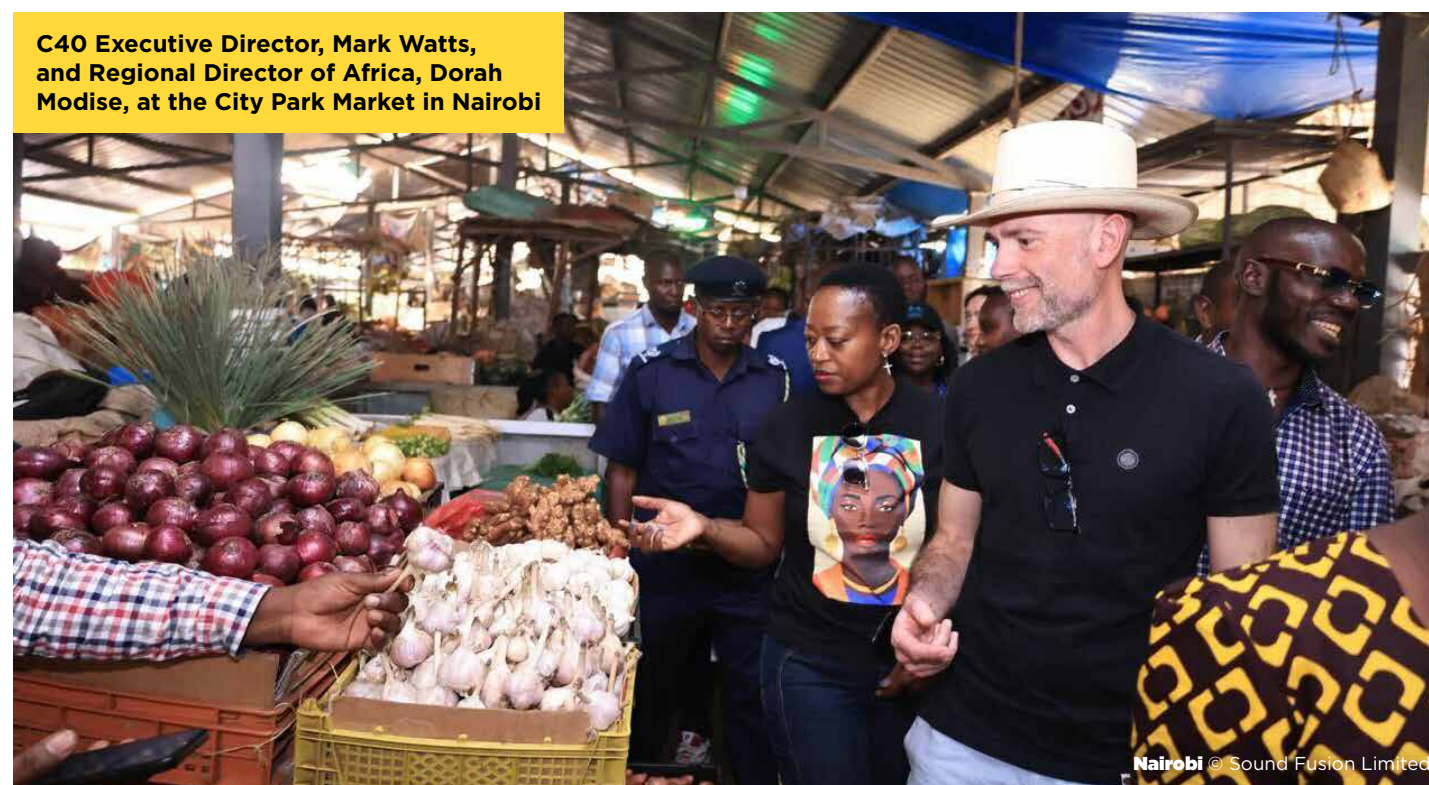
As part of its ambitious Food Strategy, the city aimed to leverage this procurement power to support a sustainable food system, with a target goal of 90% organic food purchases and a 25% reduction in food-related carbon emissions by 2025 against a 2018 baseline. Through menu shifts, culinary training and food education, and changes in contract language, the city determined in 2024 that they had achieved their goals in 2023, ahead of their 2025 deadline. They achieved an 87.4% organic purchasing rate and reduced beef and lamb by more than half, reduced pork by 20% and increased purchases of legumes, nuts and seeds by over 50%. As a result, through 2024, the city's food purchases emitted roughly 32,000 tons CO₂e less than just five years ago.

Since 2023 **Nairobi** has built 17 central kitchens and created 2,000 jobs to feed 310,000 children in 230 primary schools a daily plant-rich meal. By serving healthy and sustainable meals aligned to the Planetary Health Diet, the food and nutrition needs of primary school learners are improved within planetary boundaries. Meals are subsidised for the majority of learners. Enrollment has increased by 34% as a result, and in 2024 the national government funded the expansion of school infrastructure to accommodate more students.

Quezon City has initiated an urban farming programme to empower low-income households to take control of their food security, addressing hunger and malnutrition in vulnerable communities. Since the project's inception, more than 1,000 farms (increased from 40 urban farms) are now in operation, with over 58ha of land dedicated to urban farms, providing sustainable and improved livelihood to more than 25,000 residents; of these, 83% of farmers are female, 5% are senior citizens and 1% account for people with disabilities.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government implemented a food upcycling promotion project in conjunction with businesses to make craft beer. They utilised bread and noodle mill scraps that would otherwise be discarded as ingredients for craft beer, as well as working with several businesses that built a matching system to make upcycled foods. In the future, Tokyo Metropolitan Government will promote the creation of business models able to reduce food losses by utilising food technologies. Tokyo will also operate a matching system for emergency food stockpiles with expiration dates approaching, in order to distribute surplus foods effectively.

Tokyo, Copenhagen and Quezon City are all committed to the [C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator](#).



Connecting Cities through Decarbonised Green Ports & Shipping

Port cities face a dual challenge: as economic hubs facilitating global trade, they contribute significantly to maritime emissions while also bearing the brunt of the adverse impacts of climate breakdown. Through collaborative port and city decarbonisation initiatives, benefits will be unlocked for local communities connected to ports and wider city residents, including improved health and air quality, good green jobs, and enhanced transport connectivity.

The **Los Angeles** Deputy Mayor and multiple officials from **Shanghai** Municipal Transport Commission participated in the C40 Zero Emission Transpacific Container Shipping Regional Workshop in June 2024 in Shanghai. Co-hosted by C40 and the Shanghai Municipal Transport Commission, the first regional workshop brought together key stakeholders from ten cities and ports, as well as from industry, to spotlight. The workshop showcased cities' collective ambition and action to champion emissions reductions from container shipping, highlight replicable best practices, and explore new avenues for port-city collaboration for the decarbonisation of shipping.

The cities of Los Angeles and Shanghai also play a leading role in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Shanghai Green Shipping Corridor, a first-of-its-kind partnership aiming to reduce emissions on one of the world's busiest container routes. In 2024, the Partnership published its first [Annual Progress Report](#) showing steady progress that was made towards the corridor goals, one of which is to deploy reduced or zero lifecycle carbon emission capable ships by 2025.

Alongside C40, **Barcelona** City Council and the Port of Barcelona co-hosted the second annual in-person workshop of the Green Ports Forum, bringing together eight C40 cities and 14 global ports to collaborate on maritime decarbonisation. The Green Ports Forum is a network of C40's port cities, which also published a global [benchmarking study](#) in 2024, that examines the diverse climate

actions undertaken by Green Ports Forum members, identifies key factors influencing collaboration, highlights opportunities for joint action, and offers strategies to strengthen and deepen port-city partnerships.

Creating Climate Resilience

As a result of the climate crisis, cities and residents are facing growing challenges. Many cities are in high-risk locations such as coastlines, floodplains or islands, and most face a threat from climate hazards beyond the scope of past experience. Cities' built environments can also exacerbate these impacts. To protect the lives and livelihoods of urban residents, cities must adapt and improve their resilience to current and future climate impacts.

C40 supports cities to navigate the many adaptation options and strategies available to take action.

C40 finalised Community Resilience Assessments for two communities in **Kuala Lumpur** - PPR Beringin and Kampung Pasir. The Community Resilience Assessment reports evaluate the area's vulnerability and exposure to climate emergencies, such as extreme heatwaves and flooding, in line with the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2040 and Draft Local Plan 2040. Early recommendations from the reports include: extending covered walkways for more shaded areas, enhancing recreational facilities for youth, and expanding the urban community farm to reduce living costs and improve food security.



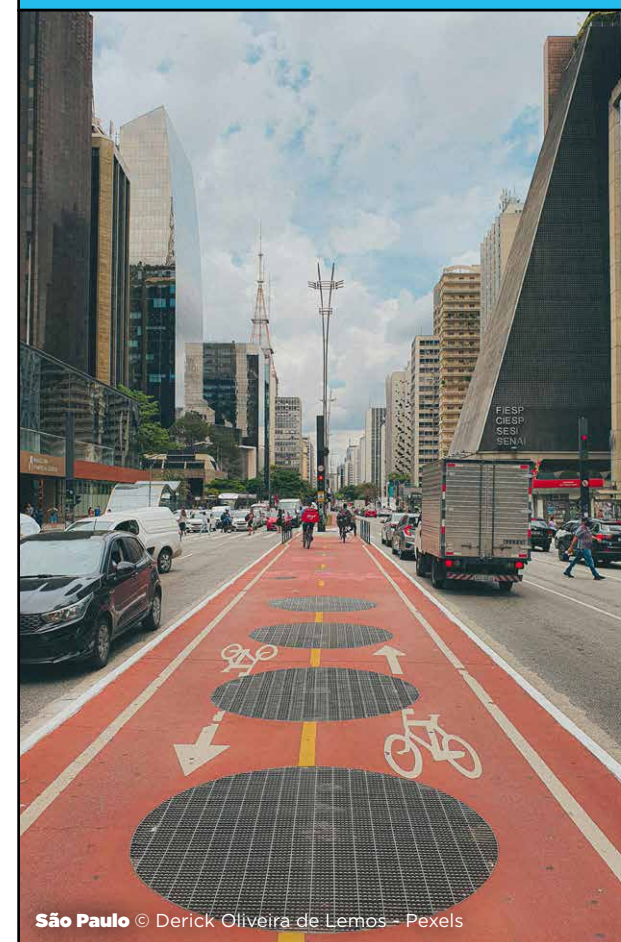
In April 2024, **Miami** (an active member of the Cool Cities Network) published the first draft of their first Extreme Heat Season Plan in preparation for the increasingly warmer, more humid, and more dangerous summers that the city faces. The plan is organised into three main cooling solutions, each comprising short and medium term activities and actions. The plan also includes a heat response protocol.



Actions and recommendations from C40's 'Effective emergency preparedness for flooding and drought' guide launched on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2024 are being actively implemented through technical assistance on early warning systems provided to two cities (**Rio de Janeiro** and **Lagos**) through C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund. In addition, **Tshwane** has established new ways of working to better coordinate and improve access to early warnings and responses following a transversal management workshop informed by the guide's recommendations in September 2024.

Heat protocols were launched by **Rio de Janeiro**, the first city in Brazil to have established heat protocols which include heat data in the city risk level and has specific guidelines for each level of heat risk.

SÃO PAULO



Mayors know that increasing biodiversity and green spaces in cities is one of the best ways to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, while also improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

São Paulo is one of 41 cities that has set ambitious goals for green space as part of C40's Urban Nature Accelerator. São Paulo has signed a decree expropriating 10.9% of the city's private green area to create a vastly enlarged series of protected forests and public parks. When complete, the total area of public green space will be the size of Paris and the largest land purchase ever secured by a mayor for green areas within a city.

One of the aims of the project is to support biodiversity, identifying areas carefully to be able to prioritise native forests and watersheds. The initiative will transform the city for those who live there, with thousands of people gaining access to green space for the first time. It is estimated that 10,000 jobs will be directly created through the parks, and many more indirectly. Increasing green space in urban areas is an effective way to reduce flood risk in cities by increasing permeability. The new park maintenance staff are being trained as firefighters too, in response to the increasing wildfire risk caused by climate breakdown.

Improving Access to Finance for Cities

Climate action needs to scale up dramatically and at pace, to do this cities need improved access to finance, C40 works towards driving and supporting an enabling environment for this to happen.

Teresina, a non-C40 member city in Brazil, is embarking on a financing agreement with two development banks, after receiving support from C40 to develop a compelling resilience project concept note and pitch at the 2023 UrbanShift Adaptation Finance Academy for Brazilian Cities and the 2024 Investors Roundtable in Latin America. The programme aims to conserve water resources and banks in northern and southeastern river basins by scaling up successful solutions they have previously implemented elsewhere. An estimated 200,000 inhabitants, approximately 25% of the city's population, stand to benefit from these interventions.

Curitiba is embarking on a financing agreement with three development banks after receiving support from C40 on developing a compelling adaptation project concept note. During the C40 Adaptation Finance Academy in 2023, the city pitched the project and networked with representatives from multilateral development banks interested in financing nature-based projects focused on building climate resilience through adaptation. The project aims to connect existing natural wetlands to form a flood containment and water reserve basin and provide programmed park space for residents; it will also serve as a transition space between the Reserve and the urban landscape of the surrounding region, Umbará/Ganchinho PDR.

In 2024, **Phoenix** secured approval of US \$60 million for work which will add thousands of trees and shade structures to the city over the next five years. Phoenix, the hottest big city in America, has been a leader on resilience to extreme heat with the [Cool Cities Network](#).

Supporting cities to mainstream climate through all their plans and processes

As a membership requirement, all C40 cities use the necessary governance structures, financial, regulatory and other tools at their disposal to address the climate crisis and mainstream their equitable climate targets into the most impactful city decision-making processes.

Across all regions, C40 cities are taking action to mainstream climate in their master plans, sectoral plans, financial allocations, city procurement processes and governance systems, financial planning and budgeting structures and processes in an inclusive and equitable way.

Climate mainstreaming is the systematic integration of climate commitments and considerations in governance and decision making to institutionalise action on climate change. Without embedding climate systematically in governance and institutionalisation, we cannot achieve the scale of action required to tackle the crisis confronting us.

Climate mainstreaming is a pivotal vehicle to support cities to move from planning to implementation.

Climate Budgeting and Finance

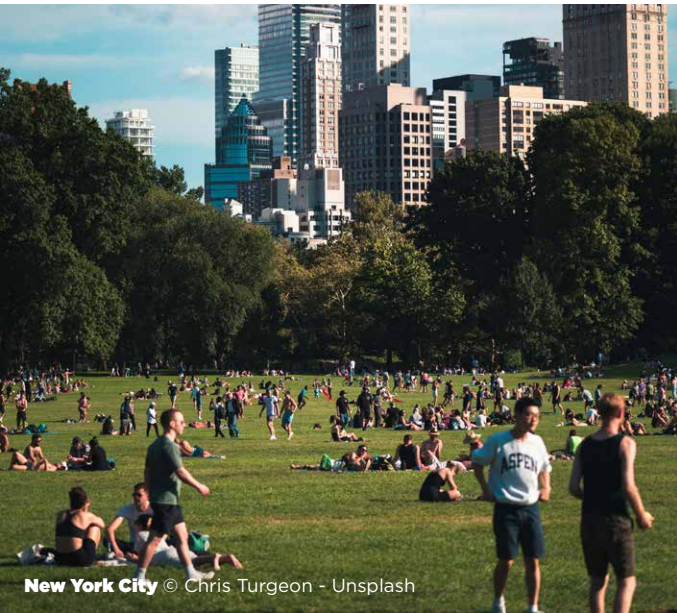
C40 supports cities to implement climate budgeting, which is a governance system that mainstreams climate commitments and considerations into decision-making on policies, actions and budget through integrating climate goals and targets from the city’s Climate Action Plan in the existing financial budget process and assigning responsibility for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting across the city government. It is a way for cities to turn their climate commitments into measurable actions.

Cities are advancing their climate budgeting approaches, paving ground for integrating mitigation and adaptation considerations and

applying principles of equity and inclusion in the process. Examples are wide-spread across regions; from **Rio de Janeiro to Montréal, London, Copenhagen, Ahmedabad and Seoul**. Many more have climate budgeting in the pipeline.

Building on city best practices, 2024 saw the launch of a global step-by-step guide to climate budgeting, a handbook on GHG emissions quantification for climate budgeting and many new Knowledge Hub articles with practical “how to” tips.

New York City published the city’s climate budget for financial year 2025, becoming the first major city in the US to implement climate budgeting. By embedding climate considerations into all budget decisions, the city clearly demonstrates climate leadership by turning its long-term commitments into immediate action. The city is pioneering approaches to embed adaptation and equity considerations into the financial budgeting process.



Mumbai published the city’s first climate budget in 2024 and is gradually expanding and improving the approach to ensure robustness. Mumbai has been gathering department-wise suggestions for improved and new climate measures, piloting a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework to measure progress, and is aiming to foster a citywide push for sustainability by engaging administrative wards, metropolitan, and parastatal agencies. Being the first Global South city with a climate budget, after committing to it in their Mumbai Climate Action Plan (2023), the city is paving the way for

approaches adopted to the situational context focusing on adaptation and social considerations.

Mayor of **London** and C40 Co-Chair Sadiq Khan has announced a new £100 million fund to accelerate decarbonisation through energy efficiency and clean energy solutions, towards the city’s ambitious target to reach net zero by 2030. The London Efficient and Decentralised Generation of Energy Fund is a partnership with Sustainable Development Capital LLP, a leading investor in low-carbon infrastructure, and marks a key milestone in leveraging private investment for London’s Green

“

The fund will support hundreds of companies as we build a better, cleaner and greener London for all.

Sadiq Khan
Mavor of London

”


Finance Fund (part of the city’s Climate Finance Facility). Founder and CEO of SCDL stated that **“C40 has made clear [that] cities are vital agents of change when it comes to net zero. With The Fund, London continues to lead by example.”** Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40, highlighted that by **“reducing the demand for energy and increasing the uptake of clean energy, this initiative will contribute significantly to phasing out the use of fossil fuels in the city - reducing emissions and improving air quality.”**

Boston has moved all its cash in its investment portfolio (US \$168 million) to funds with a stringent environment focus whilst maintaining strong financial performance, and has also created a US \$100 million Housing Accelerator Fund investing in mixed income public-private housing projects.


Seattle successfully passed its Transportation Levy to fund critical sustainable transport initiatives including the Low-Pollution Neighborhoods, which will prioritise active travel and reduce pollution from urban freight. This new funding will help realise the city’s 2022 commitment to establish Low Pollution Neighborhoods” by 2028. The zones will employ a community oriented and holistic approach to make walking, biking, and public transit the preferred option for more trips, accelerate transport electrification and reduce air pollution.

With C40’s support, cities are able to create financeable and innovative climate projects


✓ Projects supported by C40’s Climate Finance Facility are expected to:



leverage **US \$1 billion** in investment in climate finance by 2026



avoid **3,4 million tons** of GHG emissions in 30 cities worldwide



increase **2 million people’s** resilience towards climate change

✓ C40 has also accelerated the expansion of critical technological solutions, like electric buses in Latin America, where investors have committed to **US \$1 billion** in investment in the region’s e-bus market.

Supporting cities to innovate and explore new approaches to climate action

C40 cities play a critical role in innovating and taking inclusive and resilient action to reduce emissions beyond their direct control and foster new approaches to climate action, working with key actors to create tomorrow's solutions and making low-carbon options the easiest, healthiest and most affordable choices for everyone.

Across all regions, C40 cities are taking action to reduce emissions from urban consumption, both within and beyond city boundaries. This offers new opportunities for cities to address inequalities and secure a better future with improved benefits such as air quality, health and wellbeing, jobs, affordability and resilience.

C40 cities are demonstrating this, through C40's networks and Accelerators such as Clean Construction, Good Food Cities and Green and Healthy Streets. They are scaling solutions and improving urban services such as affordable and low-carbon housing, offering healthy, plant-rich meals in municipal schools, providing sustainable public transport, and working with businesses to drive innovation and provide low-carbon options.

C40 supported **Barcelona** and **Glasgow** (a non-C40 member city) in exploring and implementing interventions through policy, power and partnerships to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support greater health and wellbeing for all.



Barcelona City Council is promoting a new line of action which provides a governance structure as well as technical assistance for entities in the More Sustainable Barcelona network to contribute to addressing pressing city issues of decarbonisation and drought through their own spheres of influence. Currently, 58 businesses and community organisations and 13 schools have committed to reducing emissions by 10-15% annually until 2030, while 39 businesses and community organisations and 24 schools have committed to reducing water use by 10-15% by 2026.

Glasgow City Council held workshops to bring together staff and local partners to better understand how to develop local solutions to address vulnerability to socioeconomic and climate shocks. This collaborative process ultimately laid the foundation for a programme which supports community-led climate action to address interconnected environmental and social challenges.



In 2024, work continued to electrify the heavy trucking sector. **Curitiba** ran the city's inaugural demonstration of electric trucks for solid waste collection, evaluating the performance of trucks from JAC, Volvo, BYD and Volkswagen. The results and insights from this demonstration are helping Curitiba as they open the bidding process for the city's waste collection company. India kicked off a first-of-its-kind project along the 350km Bengaluru-Chennai highway corridor, with 20 heavy-duty electric Ashok Leyland trucks carrying loads up to 55 tonnes for the next six months. This was officially announced in Delhi in December, alongside a demonstration run of an electric truck along the 'Golden Quadrilateral' highway network, which connects the major cities of **Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai** and **Kolkata**.



Nanjing issued the "Nanjing Building Sector Carbon Peak Implementation Plan" promoting green and low-carbon construction with following priorities:

- Advance the development of new construction industrialisation, represented by prefabricated buildings. Promote the standardisation of components and the adoption of prefabricated decoration. By 2025, prefabricated buildings should account for 60% of new construction, and prefabricated decoration should cover 30% of new finished housing.
- Improve the utilisation rate of construction waste, aiming to reach 55% by 2030.
- Avoid massive demolition and construction, extend the life of buildings, and implement the renovation of existing buildings.
- Promote green building material certification and encourage government-funded projects to prioritise the use of green building materials.
- Explore establishing a dynamic evaluation system for green construction in engineering projects, driving green and low-carbon upgrades to traditional construction techniques. Actively promote energy-saving construction equipment and monitor energy consumption for critical equipment.

Tshwane has made significant strides in addressing its water security challenges, and a cornerstone of this effort was the development and public launch of the city's Water Security Strategy. Guided by this strategy, Tshwane identified several early-stage projects aimed at bolstering its water resilience. In 2023, with support from C40, Tshwane submitted a key project to the Urban Municipal Development Fund. This initiative focuses on augmenting the city's water supply through enhanced utilisation of groundwater. The city's efforts resonate with a broader regional trend of innovative water security

initiatives. The cities of **Lagos** and **Johannesburg** have joined Tshwane in leveraging advanced data management techniques to strengthen water security strategies as well as working to identify funding sources, develop actionable project proposals, and engage with potential investors and donors to drive urban water security initiatives forward. Lagos stands out with its groundbreaking early warning system project, designed to improve community preparedness and resilience to water-related disasters. Meanwhile, **Dakar** is implementing a technical assistance project focused on enhancing access to water and sanitation in public secondary schools whilst in **Freetown**, efforts are underway to design an effective rainwater harvesting system, addressing local needs and supporting communities.

Freetown has secured funding for a pilot demonstration of 15 electric three-wheel vehicles in the western corridor of the city. This project aims to introduce sustainable transportation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance road safety by promoting better quality three-wheelers, and optimise energy use.

Inclusive Climate Action

C40 supports cities to implement inclusive climate action. This approach ensures the benefits of transformative climate actions are shared equitably, by bringing together local organisations and communities with local governments to create the institutional conditions needed to bring together climate action and social inclusion.

Through its **Inclusive Climate Action Fund**, C40 has supported the city of **Dar es Salaam** to build resilience and tackle loss and damage whilst delivering climate outcomes for informal communities. Support focused on building the technical capacity of city technical teams, informal waste workers and community-based waste organisations in a selected informal settlement to increase collection and recycling rates and reduce GHG emissions while prioritising resilience building for informal workers. It has also supported informal workers and waste pickers with access to waste management equipment and personal protective equipment to improve the health and safety of workers and their resilience in periods of climate stress.

C40 is partnering with **Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Johannesburg, and Tshwane** to collaborate with national and local actors to understand and align perspectives on the roles of local governments and stakeholders in delivering a just transition, and building community resilience. This has led to the appointment of the mayors of Cape Town and Tswelopele as Commissioners on the South African Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), recognising municipalities for their role in achieving a fair transition within the Just Transition Framework and showcasing the effectiveness of open dialogue among mayors, PCC, the South African Local Government Association and C40. With C40 Support, Ekurhuleni has initiated a process of establishing the first local Just Transition Commission among South African cities to serve as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on just transition. In 2024, the delivery of a joint two-day cities dialogue with these five South African C40 cities, non-C40 cities, civil society, youth, private sector representatives and national government, continues to strengthen partnerships to achieve a fair transition.



Addressing extreme heat and wildfire smoke vulnerability is a priority for **Vancouver**. The city aims to provide cooling support and services during extreme heat events and has been distributing critical supplies such as Cool Kits and DIY air filters. Over 2024, C40's Inclusive Climate Action Cities Fund supported Vancouver to expand this programme, partnering with disability-serving organisations to provide appropriate and accessible cooling and air quality support to people with disabilities. Stakeholder engagement with individuals with physical disabilities informed the development of recommendations regarding how to improve accessibility of the City's Cool Kits, and



identified the most effective and inclusive cooling devices, particularly for people with Spinal Cord Injuries. Based on the findings, the city and its partners procured and distributed cooling vests to 150 people with a variety of disabilities and chronic health conditions during the summer of 2024.

C40 united: How our global peer network is creating lasting good green jobs

Over 2023-2024, C40's Good, Green Jobs and Just Transition peer group has been working to provide practical examples of how cities are advancing climate and social goals together. The 14 cities are showing and rolling out policies and programmes to create local green jobs, skill populations and ensure everyone in the city can access and benefit from new good green jobs.

The group has participated in 16 virtual meetings where city representatives shared challenges, best practices, and practical workforce examples such



as how to quantify and ensure better access to decent green employment.

This collaboration helped cities focus on shared objectives, including addressing barriers and inequalities to make the workforce more inclusive for vulnerable groups (i.e., young people and migrants), addressing sectors that have historically had barriers to entry, and improve cross-departmental collaboration in the city.

Over half of these cities are now implementing local green jobs programmes informed by the learnings from the group, and some have created cross-departmental collaborations as a result.

Supporting cities to lead, engage, influence and inspire stakeholders and other cities to take inclusive climate action

When C40 mayors come together as a collective voice, it can drive momentum to shift national, regional and even global policies, markets and debates. Our network is able to engage and influence stakeholders and institutions, share knowledge across our network and outside of member cities, and also inspires thousands of other local authorities around the world.

C40's advocacy, campaigns and diplomacy work is a central component of one of our core global Leadership Standards that all C40 mayors must abide by. For cities, this work could take the form of engaging in global processes, signing on to Accelerators and communiqués, co-signing open letters or attending high-level meetings, building coalitions of partners and engaging urban residents all with the aim of positively influencing targeted national, regional and global discussions and decision-making related to climate change, economy and development, as well as building more support for inclusive climate action within cities.

In 2024, C40 cities worked together to positively influence the G20 Presidency through the U20 engagement group of the G20, co-convened by C40 and UCLG as detailed above, ensured the voice of mayors and actions of cities was heard in the UNFCCC negotiations in priority areas for cities, including on the just transition work programme, in the operationalisation of the loss and damage fund, and recognition of the key role cities play as implementors of climate action. Additionally, C40 supported the UNSG's Local and Regional Government's advisory group, which included six C40 mayors, to put forward recommendations to the the Pact of the Future, which as a result included a mandate for the UNSG to make recommendations on how cities and subnational governments could have a stronger role in the UN, especially in relation to localising implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

C40's campaigns on fossil fuel phase out, clean air and green jobs all engaged broad public support for these key topics, as well as increasing the partnerships with the youth movement, broader climate movement, business, and institutional partners. For example, at New York Climate Action week, C40 mayors joined governors on a call for an end to the era of fossil fuels, with a joint statement to Heads of State that was also shared on billboards around the city. Mayors including C40 Co-Chairs the Mayors of London and Freetown, the Mayor of Paris, the Mayor of Montréal among

“

Moving money from polluting fossil fuel subsidies to local climate action is vital in order to create sustainable, affordable energy access for everyone.

Yvonne Aki-Sawyer
Mayor of Freetown

”

others brought this message to the global stage with interventions at high profile events.

Mumbai is installing more than 50MW in solar PV panels on the rooftops of 27 bus depots and surrounding areas to power Mumbai's fast-growing electric bus fleet. This project will contribute to decreasing the city's carbon emissions and improving air quality. As Mumbai is leading on e-bus deployment in India, this project has the potential to demonstrate a successful example of municipal solar rooftop installations. This project was the centrepiece of an event - known as the Energy Showcase - in September 2024, featuring energy projects from Latin America, Africa and Asia and representatives from 25 other cities interested in replicating such approaches.

Medellín is implementing nature-based solutions along the riverbank and nine feeder streams in the north of the city, for a total of 300,000 m² (to be developed in three phases). This will reduce the risk of flooding for 390,000 people, while reducing the urban heat island effect and increasing access to green recreational space including community-centred infrastructure, walking and cycling paths and outdoor sports facilities. The project is included in the local development plan - "Medellín te quiere" - which will serve as a roadmap for implementation over the next four years. Medellín showcased its efforts to ten Latin American cities and four development finance institutions in September 2024 at a first of its kind 'Financing Inclusive Climate Action Academy', which aimed to bring together city officials and finance experts to develop a joint understanding of how to best integrate equity and inclusion in project proposals.

Cape Town is developing a 60 MW city-owned, large-scale solar power plant - the first of its kind in South Africa. This project will increase Cape Town's energy independence, making it less vulnerable to rolling blackouts, and will significantly contribute to the development of its green economy. It will also positively impact air quality in the city. To wrap up the project support phase, Cape Town presented its efforts to 15 cities and five national organisations, aiming to kickstart a wave of replication across South Africa.

Athens publicly opposed and refused to apply national legislation that would offer a building height bonus to developers in return for compliance with basic energy efficiency requirements. Taller buildings are more energy and material intensive, resulting in increased greenhouse gas emissions that outweigh the benefits of basic energy efficiency improvements that the legislation aims to promote. Greece's Council of State, the country's highest administrative court, sided with Athens' decision on building heights, and ruled these new building regulations as unconstitutional. The Athens City Council has also introduced tax exemptions for vulnerable households to mitigate energy poverty.

In **Milan**, we introduced the 'Milano Futura Ora' campaign to support the city's plans to foster active and zero emission mobility actions, strengthen car restrictions, encourage behavioural change and improve air quality.

C40 engages with business networks and leading businesses who are committed to developing more sustainable, resilient and equitable communities. In November 2024, C40 for the first time gathered 17 cities, five businesses and four NGOs in person to discuss and share knowledge on how the private sector could be involved in city climate action planning and policy dialogue with cities, how to build trust and effective governance structures to work with the private sector, how to engage with small and medium-sized enterprises in the climate transition, and how to help upskill workers and foster the creation of good green jobs.



Cairo © Earl Aldrin Burgos from C40

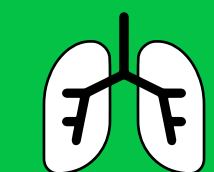
In 2024 C40 engaged in:



Peer learning via workshops with youth climate leaders and city officials in Lagos and Nairobi.



Capacity building via trainings for youth climate leaders to support advocacy efforts



Direct assistance to Lagos and Nairobi on the health benefits of policy measures that improve air quality and contribute to climate mitigation.



Advocacy via the World Urban Forum workshops in Cairo with multiple stakeholders to conceptualise ideal urban futures utilising AI.

C40 and our cities work with youth climate leaders to change the status quo and build a brighter future for all. The Children, Cities and Climate Action Lab, a collaborative effort of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, C40, YLabs, and UrbanBetter, focuses on generating new evidence on the health benefits of climate actions for young people in over 40 cities globally.

Mayors provide global platforms for youth to share their views on key green transition issues (e.g., [African Youth Statement](#)), collaborate with union movements to influence global climate negotiations (e.g., [cities and unions pledge to tackle climate change and inequality together](#)), share best practices to inspire other cities and stakeholders (e.g. Good Green Jobs Youth Fairs Guide, [Achieving the Just Transition: A Toolkit for City Leaders Across the Globe](#)), and call on global actors to break down barriers to local delivery (e.g., [African mayors unite for climate action implementation and green job creation](#)).



C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy

Headed by **David Miller, the former Mayor of Toronto**, the [C40 Centre](#) provides mayors, policymakers, and city practitioners with the evidence, analysis, and policy guidance needed to implement progressive and equitable climate action. Highlights of 2024 included a Mayoral Masterclass at the U20 Summit - a private mayoral conversation between Mayor Anne Hidalgo and 14 other mayors on how climate action wins elections. Speakers included: **Mayor Anne Hidalgo** of Paris, **Mayor Valerie Plante** of Montréal, **Mayor Sadiq Khan** (via video message) and **Sarah Brown**, Director for Mayoral Communications from the London Mayoral Office. Based on the mayors' enthusiastic feedback, the Centre is working to deliver further masterclasses in 2025.

In 2024, the Centre co-produced two new seasons of the [Cities 1.5 podcast](#) with University of Toronto Press, with three more coming in 2025. Cities 1.5 has listeners in 1,200+ cities, across 110 countries, spread over every continent (except Antarctica). Recent analytics show that Cities 1.5 is in the top 25% of podcasts worldwide (based on download rates per episode within the first seven days of release). In 2024 the Centre also published two calls for papers and two new issues of the [Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy](#), quadrupling its download numbers, with its most popular issue on [Ecological Economics](#) totalling 11,664 downloads. The [Centre newsletter](#), which covers the latest thought pieces and updates, also doubled its subscribers over the last year.

IV. 2025 - 2030 Business Plan

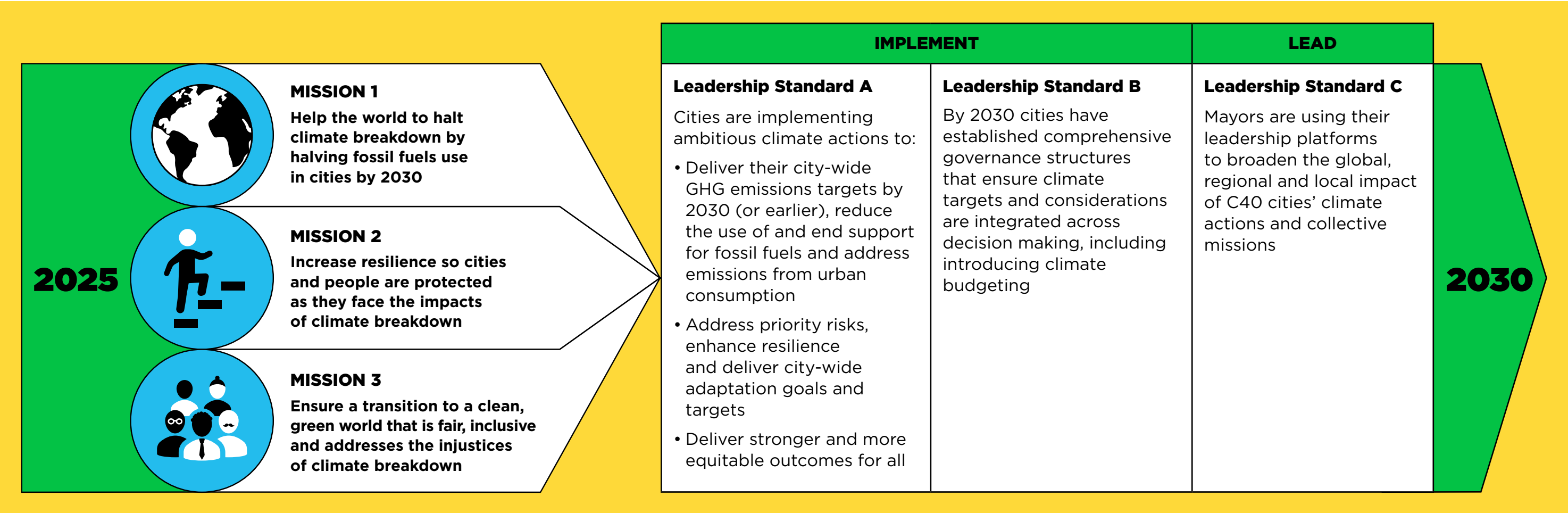
The 2030 deadline for halving emissions across our C40 cities is fast approaching and global emissions are still increasing. C40's Steering Committee has updated, simplified and strengthened our Leadership Standards for the new 2025-2030 Business Plan, further signalling the ambition and commitment of C40 mayors as climate leaders. The overarching focus of our membership requirements will continue to be on the implementation of member cities' climate action plans, while driving cities to ensure climate action is mainstreamed in every government department and agency. In turn, delivery in line with these goals and targets empowers C40 mayors, individually

and collectively, to be credible leading climate advocates on the local, national and international stages. The Business Plan sets out how C40 will support mayors to achieve their collective vision for 2030.

It is evident to anyone who looks at the data that the key to stopping climate breakdown is to stop burning fossil fuels. It is equally clear that the transition to clean energy must be accompanied by reducing inequalities in our societies, ending poverty and creating jobs and opportunities for everyone. That is why C40 has adopted the missions set out in the diagram below.



During the new Business Plan period 2025-2030, C40's support will be organised to ensure cities successfully deliver C40's three collective missions and three Leadership Standards as set out in the diagram below.



V. Governance

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 C40 co-chairs, is currently 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 entities or representative offices in the UK, Belgium, Denmark, South Africa, India and China.

Steering Committee⁹

Africa



Governor Sakaja Arthur Johnson - Nairobi, Kenya



Minister - Governor Ibrahima Cissé Baongo - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Central East Asia



TSE Chin-wan, Secretary for the Environment and Ecology - Hong Kong, China

East, Southeast Asia & Oceania



Mayor Oh Se-hoon - Seoul, South Korea



Governor Yuriko Koike - Tokyo, Japan

Europe



Mayor Sadiq Khan - Co-Chair of C40, London, United Kingdom



Mayor Anne Hidalgo - Paris, France



Mayor Giuseppe Sala - Milan, Italy

Innovator Cities



Governing Mayor Eirik Lae Solberg - Oslo, Norway



Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr - Co-Chair of C40, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Latin America



Mayor Federico Gutiérrez - Medellín, Colombia



Mayor Eduardo Paes - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

North America



Mayor Valérie Plante - Montréal, Canada



Mayor Kate Gallego - Phoenix, United States

Board of Directors¹⁰

Michael R. Bloomberg,
President of the C40 Board,
UN Secretary-General Special
Envoy for Climate Ambition
and Solutions, and 108th
Mayor of New York City
(President of the Board)

Antha Williams,
Head of Environment
Program, Bloomberg
Philanthropies

Bruce Lindsey,
Counsellor to the Chair of
the Board for the Clinton
Foundation

Jesper Nygård,
CEO of Realдания

Jennifer Semakula Musisi,
Independent

Hongpeng Lei,
Global Director, Climate at
the Children's Investment
Fund Foundation

Shirley Rodrigues,
Deputy Mayor for
Environment and Energy,
London

Sri Haryati,
Undersecretary for
Economic Affairs and
Finance, Jakarta

Vittoria Beria,
Head of International Affairs,
Milan

Details of our **Senior Leadership Team** can be found [here](#).

Modern Day Slavery

C40 has a zero-tolerance approach to modern day slavery and human trafficking, and 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](#).

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 (DIAR) Board to oversee delivery of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and action plan and monitor progress against KPIs. The Board is co-chaired by our Executive Director, Mark Watts, and the Regional Director of East/Southeast Asia and Oceania, Milag San-Jose Ballesteros. Other members include C40's Management Team and representative staff from teams across the organisation. C40 offers internal channels for staff to provide input to the DIAR 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 [Statement of Principles on Diverse and Inclusive Panels and Events](#).

^{9, 10} As at 31 December 2024.

VI. Funding & Partnerships

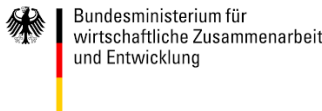
The strategic direction of C40 is determined by an elected Steering Committee of mayors, currently co-chaired by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer. The former three-term mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg, serves as President of the C40 Board of Directors, 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 — also receive support from public partners, such as the British, Danish and German governments. In addition, some of C40’s most innovative programmes enjoy important and catalytic support from other smaller philanthropic partners.

Strategic Funders



Climate Planning and Implementation Partners



Major Funders¹¹

- Carrier Foundation
- Clean Air Fund
- The Climate Pledge
- ClimateWorks Foundation
- Curt Bergfors Foundation
- European Climate Foundation
- European Union
- Fondation L’Oréal
- Global Environment Facility
- Global Methane Hub
- Grundfos Foundation
- Ingka Group
- Laudes Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Porticus Foundation
- Robertson Foundation
- Uber
- Urban Partners
- William & Flora Hewlett Foundation
- World Resources Institute
- Z Zurich Foundation

Funders¹²

- Bugaboo
- The Climate Change Collaboration
- Climate Mayors, a project of Resources Legacy Fund
- Community Jameel
- Federal Express Corporation (FedEx)
- Google
- Google.org
- International Business Machines (IBM)
- KR Foundation
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- Novo Nordisk
- Oceans 5
- Rambøll Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Stichting SED Fund
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wellcome Trust

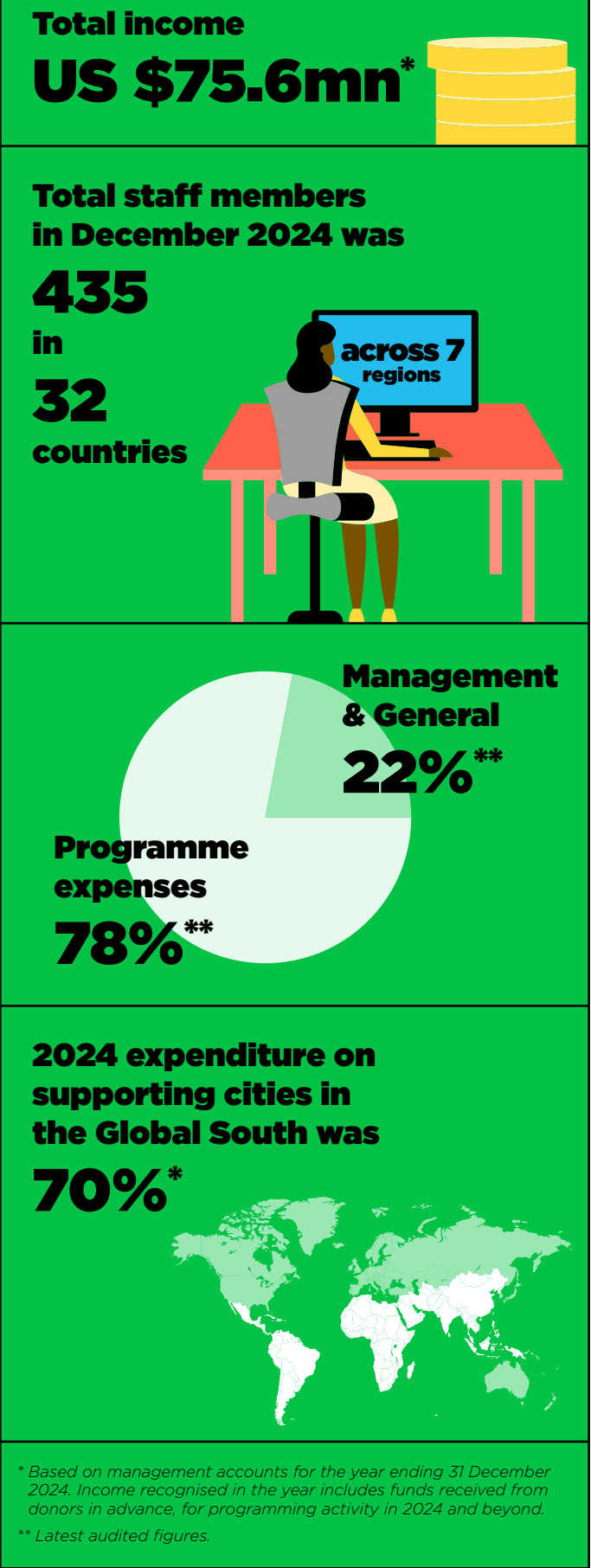
Global City and City Network Partners

- 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)

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

The C40 Cities Finance Facility is jointly implemented with Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and is currently funded by: the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

2024 Financials



¹¹ Funding exceeds \$1 million.
¹² Funding below \$1 million.



[C40.org](https://www.c40.org)

