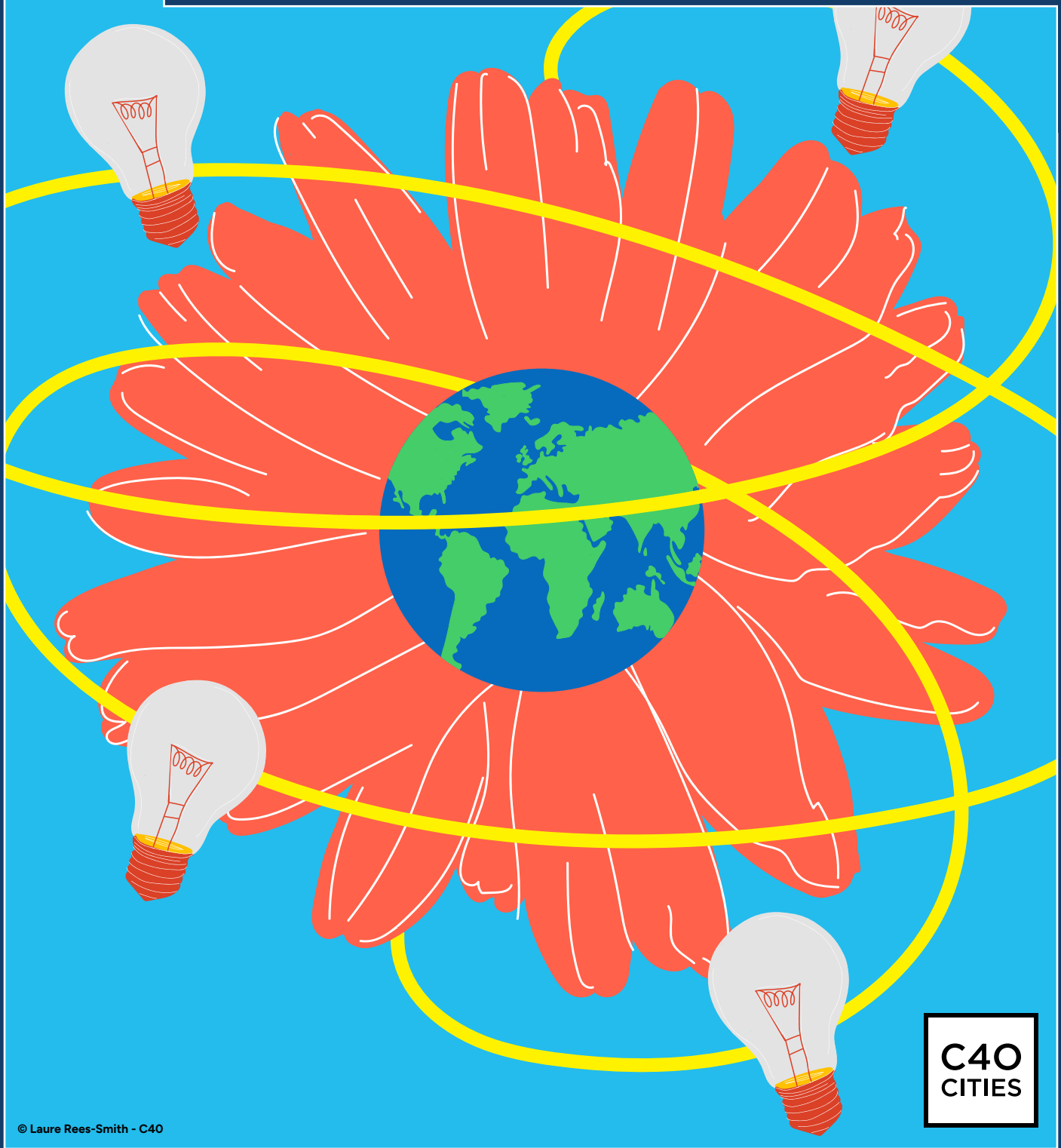
2025

C40 ACCELERATOR PROGRESS REPORT



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C40 CITIES

CONTENTS

Foreword

At the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro, city leaders sent a clear message: while some refuse to listen, and others seek to delay and deny, we're getting on with the job.

From heatwaves and wildfires to floods and rising food prices, the world's cities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Faced with this emergency, though, we refuse to despair. Instead, we see a once in a generation opportunity to build a greener, fairer, and more prosperous world.

Through the C40 Accelerators, 96 cities have committed to translating that shared vision into bold, ambitious action. Together, we're cleaning up the water we drink and the air we breathe, championing affordable public transport, and investing in the green industries which will define the decade to come.

Reflecting on the extraordinary progress signatory cities have made through the Accelerators in the last year, this report sets out how we are pioneering popular, practical policies which are improving our residents' lives right now.

Freetown is harnessing the power of innovation to transform its waste management system, which now employs over a thousand women and young people. By restoring 1,200 acres of forest and planting over 1.2 million trees through its pioneering #FreetownTheTreetown initiative, the city has mobilised millions in climate and development finance and created thousands of good green jobs for residents.

Meanwhile, London is working with businesses to create a greener future for its construction industry and tearing down the barriers that prevent women and black, Asian and ethnic minority residents from getting good green jobs. At the same time, the ULEZ – the first and largest clean air zone in the world – is transforming the fight against air pollution. Last year, levels of nitrogen dioxide in London's air fell below legal limits for the first time – 184 years before experts predicted they would.

Almost a decade since the first Accelerator launched, we find ourselves at a crucial moment. We should be immensely proud of how far we have come together. Per capita greenhouse gas emissions are now falling five times faster in C40 cities than in the rest of the world. Across 81 C40 cities, there are now more than 21 million good green jobs – evidence that we're on track to meet our target of 50 million by the end of 2030.

Confronted with alarming signs of accelerating climate breakdown, though, we have no choice but to go further and faster. At this year's World Mayoral Summit, we decided to do just that. As crucial deadlines approach in 2027 and 2030, signatory cities of all 14 Accelerators confirmed the urgent actions they will be taking to meet their targets in the next 12 months. And 49 cities – including London and Freetown - signed onto one or more of the three new Accelerators we launched, signalling a new commitment to bold, ambitious climate action on urban planning, heat, and food systems.

The challenges we face are as varied as they are vast. But, now more than ever, city leaders must step up and lead the way. At stake is not just the survival of the planet we share, but a greener, fairer, and more prosperous future for the people we serve.

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

&

Sir Sadiq Khan
C40 Co-Chair and Mayor of London

[1] interim 2025 results

Introduction

To sign a C40 Accelerator is to join a global movement of cities leading the way on climate action – cities sharing solutions, amplifying frontline voices, and transforming ambition into measurable progress. Every action taken is a step forward in securing healthier, safer and more inclusive cities for all residents and visitors.

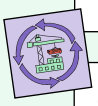
As global emissions and temperatures continue to rise, cities are stepping up their collective efforts to protect those already facing the greatest risks from escalating climate impacts. Between 2017 and 2025, cities around the world collectively made 342 commitments to the C40 Accelerators. This year, 49 cities signed one or more of three new Accelerators launched, and 78 cities reported on their progress since becoming a signatory city and since the last reporting cycle - proof that collective action is driving systemic change. Together, these cities are advancing strategic climate initiatives that phase out fossil fuels, expand equitable access to good, green jobs, and strengthen resilience through increased climate finance and inclusive planning.

This report showcases the 14 C40 Accelerators and the collective progress of their signatory cities. Each Accelerator serves as a political commitment framework that turns high ambition into scalable, replicable solutions. Action by signatory cities is matched with advocacy for inclusive systemic change. The Accelerators provide a model of effective, inclusive multilateralism.

The first 11 sections are dedicated to the existing Accelerators and the comprehensive measures cities are taking to achieve their goals. Cities' varied approaches include direct implementation, peer-to-peer learning, stakeholder engagement and collaboration, and equitable community-led action.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

C40 CLEAN INVESTMENT ACCELERATOR signatory cities are divesting city and public pension fund money from fossil fuels and investing in climate solutions, driving an increase of nearly US$11 billion of investment into green and impact funds since 2023.

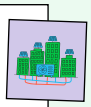


C40 CLEAN CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATOR cities are leading on cleaner construction practices – 60% of signatory cities have an approved pilot for net zero operational and low embodied emissions.

C40 CLEAN AIR ACCELERATOR signatory cities are reducing air pollution through bold, inclusively designed and implemented policies and programmes. Signatory cities have achieved an average 6% reduction in $PM_{2.5}$ and 11% reduction in NO_2 since 2018, improving public health and wellbeing, promoting fairness, and creating good, green jobs. This translates into more than 21,000 lives saved from air pollution, 240,000 years of life gained, and over 48,000 cases of childhood asthma prevented worldwide - saving $47 billion.

C40 GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS ACCELERATOR signatory cities are transforming their urban transport systems by introducing a range of policies to transition away from dirty fossil fuel transport to cleaner zero emission technologies. More than half of signatory cities are now procuring exclusively zero emission buses, with a fleet of more than 12,700 zero emission buses across all cities. The majority of cities have either introduced policies to regulate the circulation of high-polluting vehicles or are working towards this goal.

C40 GOOD FOOD CITIES ACCELERATOR signatory cities are leading a just food systems transition. They have achieved a 16% reduction in food-related emissions averaged across cities by leveraging their purchasing power, while driving progress in food waste reduction and private sector engagement to shift food environments.



C40 NET ZERO CARBON BUILDING ACCELERATOR signatory cities are making buildings healthier, more comfortable, highly efficient spaces, and collectively reported a total floor area of 1.3 million metres squared across new net zero carbon buildings built in the last two years.

C40 SUSTAINABLE WASTE SYSTEMS ACCELERATOR city commitments can collectively prevent one million tonnes of methane annually, with all cities having initiated work to tackle organic waste since the launch of the accelerator in 2023.

All **C40 RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCELERATOR** signatory cities are taking up approaches and actions to increase renewable energy deployment and use, with more than a third of 15 signatory cities being 100% reliant on renewable energy sources for their municipal electricity consumption as of 2025.

C40 WATER SAFE CITIES ACCELERATOR signatory cities are prioritising climate resilience and protecting the most vulnerable communities from high risks of flooding and drought, with 59% of signatory cities progressing towards establishing early warning systems and 54% advancing emergency response measures.

C40 TOWARDS ZERO WASTE ACCELERATOR signatory cities are taking action to reduce food waste with 86% of signatory cities putting collection programmes in place.

C40 URBAN NATURE ACCELERATOR signatory cities are bringing nature back into their cities while centring communities; 79% are implementing major projects such as new parks, green corridors, and tree planting at scale, with 81% engaging local communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of nature-related activities.

The final three sections of the report introduce the newest Accelerators, launched in November 2025. They spotlight the urgent need for action on urban planning, heat, and food systems, with vital opportunities to embed justice and inclusivity at the heart of transformation.

All sections express the need for actions that will create safer, healthier, and more equitable cities. The 96 signatory cities of one or more of the Accelerators represent a collective responsibility to more than 405 million people.

Cities are embedding equity at the heart of their climate action to make a tangible difference to their residents' lives. 58 cities reported on actions they are taking that centre inclusivity. They are fostering the growth of a green job market, ensuring that climate initiatives address the needs of historically marginalised communities, and empowering underrepresented voices in climate policy decisions.

Several cities are on track to achieve commitments by the target years of 2027 and by 2030, and many more are sharing their ambitious and bold plans for the upcoming years. The collective journey continues. This report is a look at cities' current progress and their shared path forward.

C40 ACCELERATORS

2017 Green & Healthy Streets

2018 Net Zero Carbon Buildings & Towards Zero Waste

2019 Clean Air & Good Food

2020 Clean Construction & Clean Investment

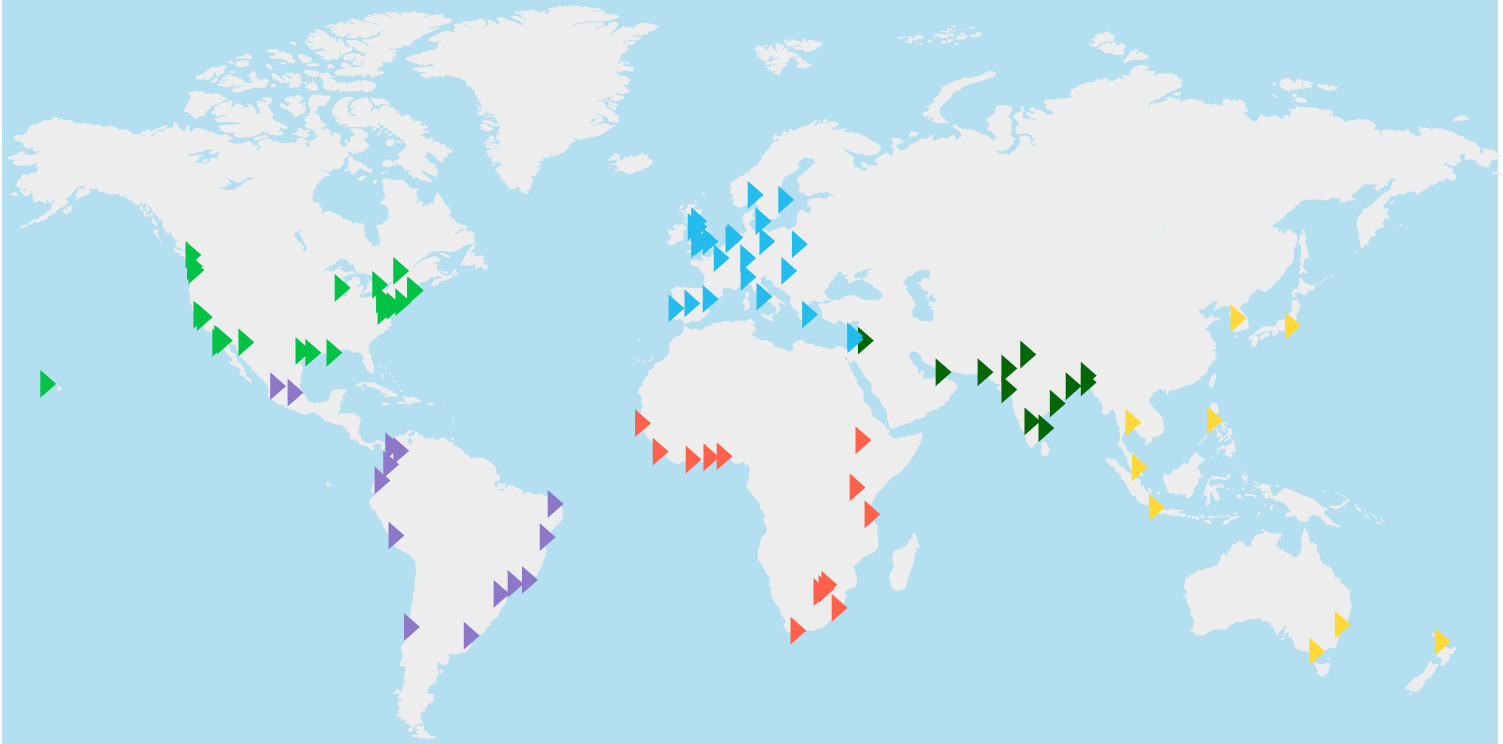
2021 Renewable Energy & Urban Nature

2022 Sustainable Waste Systems

2023 Water Safe Cities

2025 NEWEST C40 ACCELERATORS Thriving Food Systems, Cool Cities & Urban Planning

SIGNATORY CITIES



- Abidjan
- Accra
- Addis Ababa
- Ahmedabad
- Amman
- Amsterdam
- Athens
- Auckland
- Austin
- Bangkok
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- Bengaluru
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- Birmingham
- Bogotá
- Boston
- Buenos Aires
- Budapest
- Bristol
- Cali
- Cape Town
- Chennai
- Chicago
- Copenhagen
- Curitiba
- Dakar
- Dar es Salaam
- Delhi
- Dhaka North
- Dhaka South
- Dubai
- Durban/eThekwini
- Ekurhuleni
- Fortaleza
- Freetown
- Fuzhou
- Glasgow
- Greater Manchester
- Guadalajara
- Haifa
- Heidelberg
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Istanbul
- Jakarta
- Johannesburg
- Karachi
- Kolkata
- Lagos
- Lima
- Lisbon
- Liverpool
- London
- Los Angeles
- Madrid
- Medellín
- Melbourne
- Mexico City
- Milan
- Montréal
- Mumbai
- Nairobi
- New Orleans
- Newburyport
- New York City
- Oslo
- Oxford
- Paris
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Quezon City
- Quito
- Rio de Janeiro
- Rome
- Rotterdam
- Salvador
- San Francisco
- Santa Monica
- San Jose
- Santiago
- São Paulo
- Seattle
- Seoul
- Singapore
- Stockholm
- Sydney
- Tel Aviv-Yafo
- Tokyo
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- Tshwane
- Vancouver
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ACCELERATOR PROGRESS REPORTS

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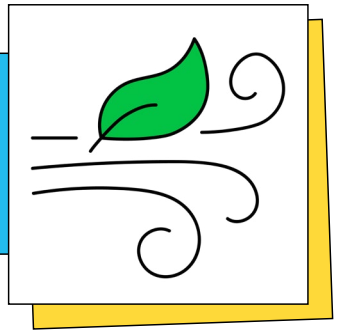
C40 CLEAN AIR ACCELERATOR



How cities are cleaning the air we breathe in an inclusive and equitable way

SIGNATORY CITIES

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

COMMITMENTS

1. **Set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that put us on a path towards meeting World Health Organization final and/or interim Air Quality Guidelines and install and/or maintain reliable city-wide air quality monitoring networks with public data access**

2. **Implement new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions within cities and under their control, in order to meet reduction targets for air pollutants set by cities**

SUMMARY

Air pollution is a silent, global killer, responsible for 7.9 million deaths in 2023 alone. It is the second leading risk factor for mortality globally – ahead of even tobacco and poor diet.

Cities are home to the majority of the global population, where air pollution is mainly caused by the combustion of fossil fuels in the transport, energy and industrial sectors.

Mayors worldwide recognise this reality and are taking action, with **51 global cities** committing to the **C40 Clean Air Accelerator**. The Accelerator provides a science-based framework for cities to protect residents by setting and working towards clear air quality targets. Most signatory cities (88%) have World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guideline-aligned targets to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ and safeguard public health. This translates to cleaner lungs for children, fewer hospital visits for vulnerable groups, and thousands of lives saved.

Signatory cities are demonstrating that targeted, bold and rapid progress is possible. Since 2018, signatory cities have achieved a 6% reduction in $PM_{2.5}$ and an 11% reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). In **Paris**, action including the restriction of polluting vehicles has cut NO_2 nearly in half and $PM_{2.5}$ by more than a third in just 10 years. **Madrid** and **Barcelona** now breathe the cleanest air since records began over 20 years ago. In **Seoul** and **Warsaw**, action including the replacement of old household boilers has slashed $PM_{2.5}$ by 23–30% in under seven years, saving over 30,000 lives in Seoul alone since 2008. The new metro and the shift to electric buses in **Quito** is already improving air quality, with reductions in $PM_{2.5}$ of up to 15% during peak hours in some stations.

Cities know that better data means better action. Thirty-eight cities have expanded their air quality monitoring networks since joining the Accelerator, including through the use of low-cost sensors. Since 2019, signatory cities have expanded from just 250 $PM_{2.5}$ sensors to more than 1,600, and from 49 NO_2 sensors to nearly 900. This has increased capacity to design effective evidence-based policies to address pollution hotspots and main sources of air pollution. In **Houston**, new monitoring is protecting frontline communities near refineries. **Nairobi** launched its first city-owned monitoring network with 50 real-time sensors, and **Johannesburg** measured emissions from 100,000 vehicles, both to guide clean air policies. Data is also helping cities to create long-term plans. **Dakar** has developed its first air quality plan and **Dubai** is adopting a new ambitious 2030 clean air strategy.

Mayors implementing data-driven inclusive clean air actions, prioritising the most vulnerable populations and creating new good green job opportunities. Clean Air Zones are being implemented with an inclusive approach – 66% of signatory cities have implemented or are working towards restricting high-polluting vehicles that are directly impacting residents' health. Signatory cities are reprioritising space for people – 94% are either permanently reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes of transport, or working towards this objective, which benefits lower-income residents who rely on public transport and accessible public spaces.

C40 Clean Air Accelerator cities are also facilitating the transition to cleaner cooking and heating, with 42% having made progress on or implemented actions to eliminate the use of fossil fuels or solid fuels for heating and cooking. Addressing indoor air pollution in homes, especially for lower-income and marginalised communities, can improve health and living conditions, reduce healthcare costs, and combat energy poverty.

Cities are demonstrating real leadership and collaborating with partners to reduce pollution while tackling the climate crisis, which is saving lives, cutting health costs, creating green jobs, and building stronger, more inclusive communities.

IMPACT

BENEFITS FROM CLEAN AIR ACTION

The global cohort of
51 mayors

will save over
450,000 lives
from air pollution across their cities by 2040, gaining

5.4 million
years of life, and saving over

$844 billion
by reducing air pollution to meet their air quality targets

NUMBER OF CITIES THAT HAVE EXPANDED AIR QUALITY MONITORING NETWORKS SINCE JOINING THE ACCELERATOR

A total of 38 signatory cities have expanded their monitoring networks.

Of these, 22 signatory cities have increased their number of $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2 lower-cost sensors.

Between 2019 and 2024, the number of $PM_{2.5}$ sensors has increased from 250 to 1,600, and NO_2 sensors increased from 49 to nearly 900.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSTANTIVE CLEAN AIR ACTION

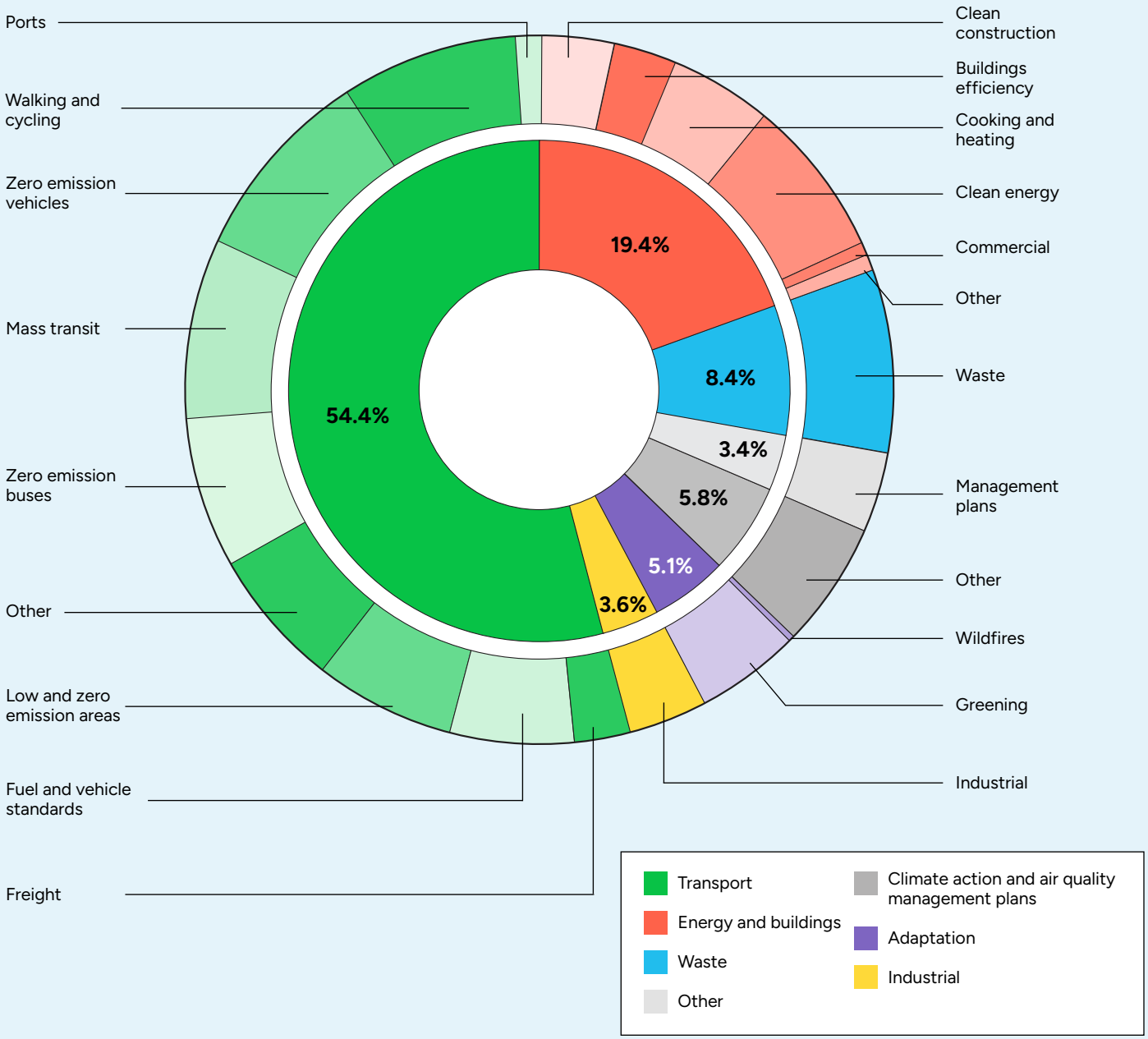
94% of signatory cities are reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes on a permanent basis or are working to achieve that goal (up from 84% in 2023).

66% of signatory cities are procuring only zero emission buses or are working to achieve that goal (up from 62% in 2023).

66% of signatory cities are restricting high polluting vehicles in a significant part of the city or are working to achieve that goal (up from 62% in 2023).

42% of signatory cities are implementing or incentivising a phase out of fossil fuel or solid fuel technologies for heating and cooking or are working to achieve that goal (up from 34% in 2023).

FIGURE 1: Type of actions and percentage of actions corresponding to each sector of implementation under commitment 2.



TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that put us on a path towards meeting World Health Organization final and/or interim Air Quality Guidelines and install and/or maintain reliable city-wide air quality monitoring networks with public data access.

Lagos has added 18 new air quality monitors to its network since September 2024, bringing the total to 60. Monitor locations were guided by equity considerations, to ensure comprehensive data collection across all communities, particularly in historically marginalised and overburdened areas. This network has enhanced data availability for policy making.

Bogotá expanded its microsensor network from 17 sensors in 2023 to 48 in 2024, with a goal of 70 by the end of 2025. This network supports data transparency, public engagement, and the evaluation of clean air interventions like the Urban Zones for Better Air (ZUMAs). Bogotá has also worked on a new, freely accessible educational web platform with real-time air quality data and reports from the city's monitoring network.

Washington, D.C.'s Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) has continued to expand its air quality monitoring network coverage via its hyperlocal air quality monitoring programme. DOEE has installed nearly 50 air quality sensors at residents' homes, while also preparing to deploy 50 more at schools and on District-owned assets near schools. DOEE collaborated with partners in determining the locations for sensor placement based on factors such as schools closest to sources of pollution, higher numbers of children with asthma, and other risk factors. Additionally, DOEE is planning to conduct mobile hyperlocal air quality monitoring and deploy four park bench monitors around the city; their locations were chosen by the local Air Quality Advisory Board, using the parameters provided by DOEE and community input. A publicly accessible map will display readings from these sensors to better inform the public of the local air quality.

Commitment 2: Implementing new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions within cities and under their control, in order to meet reduction targets for air pollutants set by cities.

Mexico City has made progress on clean air action from 2021 to 2024 by expanding mass transit with new Metrobús (BRT) routes and electric vehicles. The city has expanded one Metro Line, and created two new trolleybus lines and three cable car lines, as well as improved access to sustainable transportation in lower income communities.

The **London-wide** ULEZ One Year Report, published in March 2025, shows the successful reduction in the proportion and number of older, more polluting vehicles on roads in Outer London. Thanks to ULEZ, pollutant emissions in 2024 are considerably lower than before. $PM_{2.5}$ exhaust emissions from cars and vans are estimated to be 31% lower in Outer London, and NO_x emissions from cars and vans are estimated to be 14% lower. Reductions have been achieved through a diverse set of measures led by the Greater London Authority (GLA), including electrifying the city's vehicle fleets, introducing over 2,000 zero emission buses, and an ambition for a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2030. Thanks to these actions legal limits for toxic NO_2 pollution were met in 2024 for the first time 184 years earlier than predicted.

Los Angeles has introduced over 550 zero emission semi trucks to the Ports of Los Angeles, significantly moving forward the joint Ports' Clean Air Action Plan goal of all trucks serving the Ports being zero emission by 2035.

Amman is tackling a main source of air pollution in the city – the waste sector. The city has advanced the Al-Ghabawi Landfill project, including an area of 176,000 metres squared to reduce methane emissions, as well as through a biogas-to-energy plant expected to cover 40–45% of municipal electricity needs.

Ekurhuleni's informal settlement management draft bylaw aims to formalise existing informal settlements and prevent further unplanned growth. The bylaw is still at draft stage, while the city continues to work to improve quality of life for residents. Actions include reducing residents' exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution by relocating them in neighbourhoods with electricity and tarred roads. The city has developed a sustainable integrated waste management strategy focused on informal settlements, to address illegal dumping, waste burning and improve waste management.

Warsaw is phasing out polluting fuels for heating, while economically supporting residents in the transition. The city passed a ban on 'non-class' coal and wood boilers in the building sector, decreasing the number in the city from 15,000 to 1,508 between 2017 and 2025. Municipal subsidies were offered to replace old heating devices with environmentally friendly alternatives such as air-source heat pumps. Subsidies covered nearly 100% of the costs of replacing the stoves. Since 2017 the City of Warsaw has granted nearly 3,900 subsidies amounting to approximately PLN 91 million (US$25 million) for the replacement of over 4,000 private smoke-belching stoves and 295 oil heating sources.

INSPIRATION

Bogotá has drawn inspiration from various national and international cities such as **Medellín, Barcelona, Auckland,** and **London** in the development and implementation of its Low Emission Zones (LEZs) and sustainable mobility projects – for example the air quality gains from Barcelona's superblocks, London's ULEZ and Auckland's strategies for transitioning to zero-emission vehicles.

Sydney constantly exchanges information and mutually inspires action with neighbouring local governments, other Australian capital cities, and international cities through networks including C40 and the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance. Breathe London was the initial inspiration to install local sensors in Sydney.

COLLABORATION

Quezon City's air quality management actions, like expansion of active travel across the city, have involved collaboration with stakeholders including youth groups, vulnerable sectors and civil society organisations such as Bikers for Environment, AKAP Para sa Lahat Inc., and the Quezon City Ladies' Foundation, among others. These partnerships have helped implement initiatives like awareness campaigns, community capacity building workshops, and policy advocacy to improve air quality.

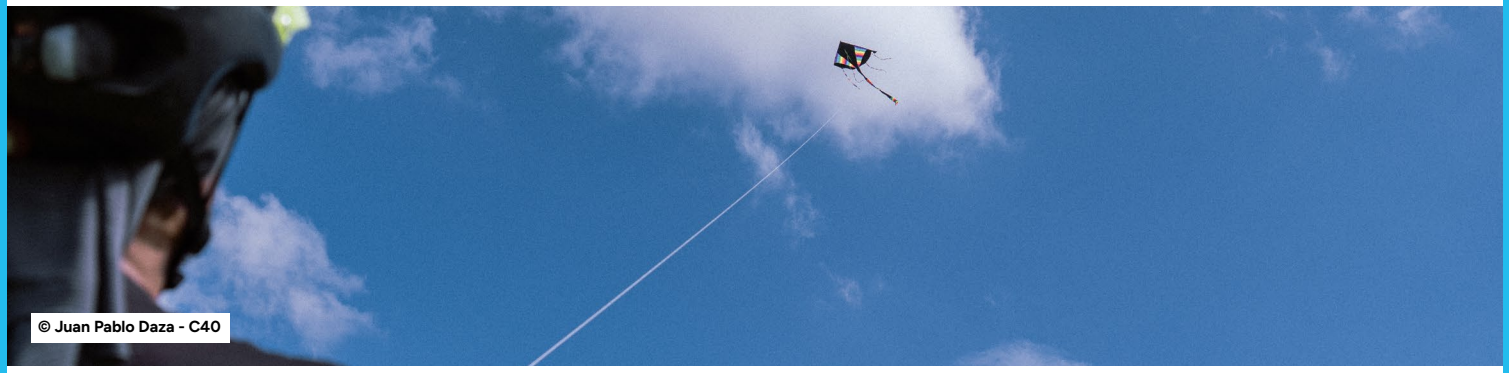
Milan published a call for participation in its Air and Climate Alliance in November 2024, addressed to companies operating in the city. A total of 56 companies have joined, including 21 large, 8 medium-sized, 12 small, and 15 micro companies. By joining the Alliance, businesses have committed to voluntary initiatives and actions contributing to improved air quality, adaptation to climate change, reduction of emissions and awareness-raising. Companies are addressing environmental sustainability through initiatives in energy saving, renewable energy, climate adaptation, circular economy, air quality, mobility, green infrastructure, and public awareness campaigns.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The **Nairobi** City County Air Quality Action Plan 2019–23 delivered major achievements, including the recruitment of a record number of environmental and climate change officers deployed across all 85 wards in the city, promoting local action and oversight as well as increased air quality monitoring, greater community awareness, and multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at promoting cleaner air. Nairobi is now working on updating its Air Quality Action Plan with a multisectoral approach that better connects air quality with tackling inequality and improving public health. The city is creating green jobs for young people while advancing environmental goals. The county has mapped over 600 youth groups actively engaged in the circular economy, diverting waste from landfills and reducing superpollutant emissions like methane or black carbon. These initiatives are building youth livelihoods, advancing climate resilience, and delivering inclusive, measurable impacts for the city's residents.

Bengaluru, with support from C40's Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) programme, provided targeted training and capacity-building for frontline waste workers in three semi-formal worker groups: Link Workers, Marshals, and Identified Waste Pickers. Discussions with 75 waste workers culminated in a high-level city dialogue in July 2025. This dialogue brought together the Bengaluru administration (BBMP), the waste management entity (BSWML), and frontline waste workers, offering a direct platform to present collective solutions developed during consultation sessions.

The outcome was a set of actionable, worker-informed solutions, which BBMP and BSWML will implement in alignment with the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan (BCAP). This initiative will reduce the impacts of air pollution on workers' health through reduced exposure and health checks, as well as support the city's Clean Air Accelerator goals to reduce air pollution from the waste sector.



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CHALLENGES

Barriers to improving air quality can vary across regions and manifest in different ways, while some of them are common across cities in all contexts. They typically fall into the following categories:

- **Financial limitations** can present significant barriers due to the cost of clean air action, such as transitioning to cleaner energy sources, expanding and improving sustainable transport infrastructure, electrifying transport fleets, and/or deploying and maintaining robust air quality monitoring networks.
- **Data gaps** can lead to incomplete understanding of air pollution trends and hotspots. Cities should be able to accurately identify emission sources, develop evidence-based action, and track impact of interventions. Beyond air quality monitoring, cities should also track indicators related to health and equity disparities, and use them to better design, deliver, and evaluate policies
- **Limited capacity of municipal staff** dedicated to air quality work constrains city capacity to effectively implement policies and actions, assess their impacts and increase public awareness. Some activities like air quality monitoring or emission inventory studies require a high level of technical expertise and cities often require external support for the delivery of these.
- **Ineffective intergovernmental and inter-departmental collaboration.** Cities often lack the full authority to address emission sources even within their city limits, depending on regional, federal, or national entities for air quality monitoring, air quality target setting, policy development and enforcement. This dependency can create significant barriers, especially when there is a lack of internal structures for coordination. While these challenges are universal, their manifestation varies by city context. Overcoming them requires clear mandates and mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

Cities are committed to overcoming the main barriers to implementation and reducing the health impacts of air pollution for residents. The WHO announced an updated roadmap for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution, during the second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health in March 2025. In response, C40 Cities Co-chairs Mayor of London and Mayor of Freetown released a statement on behalf of the signatory cities of the C40 Clean Air Accelerator, endorsing and commending the updated roadmap for addressing the health impacts of air pollution. They highlighted the critical role cities play in tackling this crisis, championed the work delivered by Accelerator signatory cities and recognised the need for further urgent action to tackle toxic air across all levels of government.

Signatory mayors are leading the way with planned action, including improving access to data through expansion of air quality monitoring networks; raising residents' awareness; and implementing inclusive clean air action through proven solutions like Clean Air Zones, expanding public transport, electrifying bus fleets, and supporting commercial and private vehicle electrification. Improving access to healthy urban environments and promoting active travel. They are also planning to tackle emissions from the waste sector, expand renewable energy production, and phase out the use of fossil and solid fuels for cooking and heating in the coming years.

FUTURE ACTION

Berlin will plan work in the coming years based on the new European Union air quality limits for 2030. This includes adapting the air monitoring network and expanding data modelling on the impact of potential traffic measures. Berlin will also work to strengthen public participation in air quality planning, and will continue expanding public transport, with plans to increase the number of electric buses to reach a 22% share by 2026, up from 14.5% in 2024.

Jakarta plans to expand its air quality monitoring network and develop early warning systems to protect residents. Over the next two years, the city will also continue to promote modal shift towards public transport, expanding its metro (MRT), bus rapid transit (BRT) and light rail transit (LRT) systems, and implementing Low Emission Zones.

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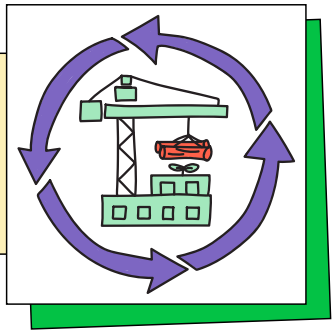
ACCESS THIS STANDALONE REPORT

C40 CLEAN CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATOR



How cities are leading the transition to a decarbonised and resilient built environment

SIGNATORY CITIES

Budapest, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Mexico City, New York City, Oslo, San Francisco

COMMITMENTS

1. Prioritise the better use, repurposing, and retrofit of existing buildings
2. Lead by example with municipal procurement
3. Demand transparency and accountability
4. Establish a joint roadmap with targets towards the 2030 decarbonisation goals
5. Approve one net zero emission flagship project (operational and embodied)
6. Assess the impact that material and design choices will have on climate resilience
7. Advocate for other levels of governments to take action

SUMMARY

With 2.5 billion more people expected in urban areas by 2050, the global building stock will nearly double. This is equivalent to building a city the size of Singapore or New York every month. Building materials, construction, maintenance, and demolition contribute significantly to carbon footprints, and so a whole life-cycle approach to construction is crucial. Construction accounts for over 23% of global CO_2 emissions, with concrete and steel being major contributors. Cement alone represents 8% of global GHG emissions. The sector also consumes over 30% of global resources, damages ecosystems, and generates significant waste and pollution.

The C40 Clean Construction Accelerator**'s 8 global signatory cities** are shifting markets toward low carbon practices and boosting confidence in clean construction. **Los Angeles** and **New York** are collaborating with the private sector to signal growing demand for low carbon construction and electric machinery through the North American Electric Construction Coalition. Cities are pushing for greater action at the national level, which has been frequently cited as a key barrier in this year's reporting. The city of **Oslo** continues to set leadership standards, and recently coordinated with other municipalities in Norway to advocate to the national government for policy changes on sustainable procurement, which are now forthcoming. Many cities continue to use their own procurement to help move the market to low carbon practices, which often involves cross-departmental coordination.

Mexico City is convening a clean construction working group, which will identify underused assets for repurposing, develop low carbon public procurement catalogues, and identify actors from the private sector, civil society, and academia, who can participate in policy development. Recent research shows that a clean construction transition in Mexico City's built environment will create 1.1 million job years by 2050, nearly triple that of a high-carbon, business-as-usual scenario. This growth is largely driven by a significant rise in maintenance and repair work, which will generate many more good green jobs.

This kind of coordinated cross-department action has led to greater understanding of the links between clean construction and adaptation. Cities are increasingly implementing interventions which can deliver joint outcomes for resilience and embodied emissions. In **Los Angeles**, the Energy and Sustainability office established a cross-departmental Climate Cabinet to identify and promote high quality nature-based and bio-based solutions for the built environment. By deploying more tree cover, the city is also reducing the amount of cement-based hard paving, instead using high reflectance permeable paving to reduce heat and flood risk.

Mayors are committed to shifting the values of the global construction industry to collectively value existing building stock, better prioritise retrofits for healthy, comfy buildings, and ensure new buildings and infrastructure embed circular economy principles in their design, material and construction choices. No single actor is able to transform built environment systems alone. However, the signatory cities of the C40 Clean Construction Accelerator are committed to take bold actions and bring together the necessary stakeholders to affect urgent change.

IMPACT

88% **of signatory cities have now approved a pilot construction project for net zero operational and low embodied emissions**

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Prioritise the better use, repurposing, and retrofit of existing building stock and infrastructure

Los Angeles is expanding its Citywide Adaptive Reuse Ordinance, which incentivises the conversion of existing commercial buildings into housing units. This is designed to address housing shortages, reduce vacant space, and extend the lifespan of buildings, while also promoting sustainable development by repurposing existing infrastructure. The ordinance allows buildings that are 15 years or older to be converted into housing without discretionary review. It also enables conversions of parking structures and office buildings, helping address both housing shortages and commercial vacancies. The relaxed planning restrictions make adaptive reuse more financially viable for developers.

Commitment 2: Lead by example with municipal procurement

San Francisco has provided training for staff in the city infrastructure agencies, and updated design and construction guidelines to align with the State of California's embodied carbon standard for new construction and existing buildings, reducing the embodied emissions of common construction materials by 10%. The city has also updated the municipal green building policy to include an embodied carbon checklist to understand the key challenges to addressing embodied carbon. This information is being gathered to build a toolbox of solutions to minimise embodied emissions in city procurement. Project teams must apply life cycle analysis to achieve at least 10% reduction in embodied carbon in at least three product categories or building assembly types. The city applies Whole Building Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) to reduce building life cycle impacts, as well as requiring Environmental Product Declarations.

Commitment 3: Demand transparency and accountability

London planning policy requires GLA and circular economy statements for all major developments, including all those on land owned by the municipality. The city also requires all WLCAs to be publicly available via each borough's planning portal, and publishes annual reports on progress, including data on Whole Life Carbon. The GLA's Be Seen Policy requires applicants to provide accurate estimates and in-use performance data at each reporting stage through the appropriate 'be seen' reporting template.

Commitment 4: Work with stakeholders to establish a joint roadmap and set interim targets towards the 2030 goals

London is one of the pilot cities for C40's VISIBLE project, which aims to test and show that decarbonising buildings can work for people, be socially just, economically viable and result in a regenerative built environment. The city aims to build public and political support to accelerate a just transition in the construction and built environment sector.

The programme delivered pilot projects proving construction decarbonisation strategies, held social and market dialogues to align key community and industry stakeholders considering workers' rights and the availability of good, green jobs.

London is incorporating these principles into the next Whole Life Carbon policy in the next London Plan, as well as launching a green economy design lab bringing together key stakeholders to promote inclusive practices, and ensure workers from minority ethnic backgrounds are able to get into and progress in their careers.

Commitment 5: Approve at least one net zero emission (operational and embodied) flagship project two years after signing

Oslo's Urban Village is a new mixed-use development including commercial space and an affordable housing block set in the Furuset neighbourhood in Oslo. It is one of the winning projects from the first edition of Reinventing Cities. The development includes two six-storey buildings, and over 50% of the site is dedicated to green public space. The project was designed to achieve carbon neutrality for both operational and embodied emissions across their lifespan.

Commitment 6: Assess the impact our choice of materials and construction design will have on our cities' overall resilience to climate impacts

New York is faced with the risk of storm surge. In May 2024, NYC progressed the Battery Coastal Resilience Project to protect lower Manhattan from sea-level rise and storm surge. The proposed design incorporates sustainable and resilient features like salt-tolerant trees, an enhanced drainage system, and permeable pavers. Much of the material is being reused on site, using construction equipment that protects workers and residents from noise and air pollution. The project is expected to reduce embodied carbon by over 50%. The city is also exploring the feasibility of ground-glass pozzolan in coastal resiliency projects. Ground-glass pozzolan is made from recycled post-consumer glass and can replace up to 50% of cement in concrete, dramatically reducing embodied carbon emissions in marine applications.

Commitment 7: Work with and advocate for regional, national and supranational governments to take action

Oslo is working with other Norwegian cities to stimulate a larger market for clean construction, and particularly electric construction machinery. The city's efforts involved advocating for national regulations to facilitate action at the city level. As a result of this effort, in 2025 Norwegian municipalities received legislative mandates under the pollution prevention act to require electrification of private and public construction works.

© City of Oslo

INSPIRATION

Milan drew inspiration from Paris' Plan Local d'Urbanisme bioclimatique (PLUb) while revising the City's Master Plan, where the city aims to strengthen sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. **Madrid, London** and **Oslo** all provided inspiration during the C40 VISIBLE workshop held in March 2025 in Madrid. It provided helpful inputs on the equity aspects of the decarbonisation of the construction sector. Milan also is inspired by other Italian cities, for instance Trento, Bolzano and Bologna for their innovative building regulations.

COLLABORATION

The North American Electric Construction Coalition is a partnership between the private sector and cities, including **New York** and **Los Angeles**. These two Clean Construction signatory cities continue to be active members of the coalition, helping to accelerate the transition to zero emission construction equipment by engaging with industry leaders, advocating for supportive policies, and sharing best practices across jurisdictions and industry stakeholders. These coalition efforts are geared towards engaging directly with construction equipment vendors and providers at a national level to help fast-track the implementation of all-electric construction machinery.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

In 2025, **Mexico City** advanced its participation in C40's pilot project Labour and Cost Impacts of a Clean Construction Transition in Cities, which explores how sustainable construction practices can reshape local labour markets. Findings show that clean construction could generate over 1.1 million jobs annually by 2050, nearly tripling current employment levels - particularly benefitting informal workers. By promoting industrialised construction and woodworking, the city is working to ensure higher wages, safer working conditions, and new training opportunities, building a more inclusive and equitable green workforce.

San Francisco is using its clean construction commitments to advance equity and economic opportunity, as well as cut embodied carbon. By mandating deconstruction and the reuse of reclaimed materials, the city is reducing health risks for contractors and local communities while creating safer, more sustainable jobs. Alongside this, San Francisco is exploring workforce development programmes and small business loans to expand training and support for enterprises in the growing deconstruction and reuse ecosystem; helping build a more circular and inclusive local economy.

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CHALLENGES

Cities face a lack of capacity, with limited resourcing dedicated to clean construction, including low numbers of personnel and low budget allocation. Further still, internal engagement of different departments and agencies can be challenging, while some decision-makers lack a broad understanding of the issues at hand. At the national level there is a significant lack of understanding and motivation, leading to limited legislation and support. Market readiness is a significant challenge – options for heavy-duty, specialist electric machinery are limited, to the extent that some geographies currently have zero procurement options. Access to the electric power grid can also be a challenge for construction sites in certain areas with high energy demand, as well as lack of charging infrastructure at depots and sorting stations. Though there are a growing number of options for bio-based and low carbon materials, there is a perceived cost premium associated with them that is often not true, and a tendency to rely on historic materials and specifications.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

Signatory cities are stepping up in their commitment to clean construction, evident in the ambitious green procurement policies currently in development. Cities are focusing more on baselining carbon associated with materials and construction, with cities now pushing for greater use of Whole Life Cycle Assessments (WLCA), as London is now demanding for large developments, and **San Francisco** is introducing in its public procurement processes.

Sustainable public procurement is a crucial tool to effect market transformation, to demonstrate value in reusing and repurposing buildings rather than demolishing them to build anew, and it is critical for signalling demand for low carbon practices to the construction industry. Signatory cities recognise procurement as one of the most important actions to take before 2030. The city of **Milan** has been active in persuading the private sector to follow this model, slowly but steadily changing previous mindsets. Similarly, cities can create demand for materials and technologies that are not yet commonplace through their procurement standards, as **Los Angeles** is doing by piloting contractual language to support the use of all-electric equipment on Public Works projects. Most importantly, we see the Accelerator as a tool to help bring together stakeholders to collectively deliver the zero carbon transformation of the built environment and our construction practices.

Crucially, cities cannot bring about market transformation on their own, the most important actions between now and 2030 will focus on bringing together stakeholders to grow demand, change business as usual practices, and evolve standard material choices.

FUTURE ACTION

London's spatial development strategy, known as The London Plan, will be updated in 2026–28, and work is underway to review and collect evidence that will support proposed changes. This includes reviewing all WLC data submitted to the GLA through the planning process, as well as proposing amendments to the air quality section of the new London Plan which will seek to promote the use of zero emission construction machinery (NRMM) on construction sites.

San Francisco is carrying out foundational research to examine how to establish a maximum allowance for embodied emissions based on occupancy or construction type. Once the embodied carbon policy has been tested on municipal projects and refined as necessary, these will be extended to include private developments resulting in a citywide strategy by 2026.

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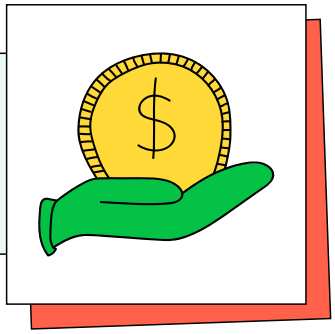


How cities are shifting municipal and pension fund investment to clean, fossil-free assets

SIGNATORY CITIES

Amsterdam, Auckland, Berlin, Boston, Bristol, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Durban/Ethekwini, Glasgow, Jakarta, London, Milan, Montréal, New Orleans, New York, Oslo, Paris, Pittsburgh, Rio de Janeiro, Seattle, Vancouver

COMMITMENTS

1. **Remove and stop investment in fossil fuels companies, from our city assets (e.g. municipal investments/ cash assets/ reserve funds/ trusts) and increase our financial investments in climate solutions, including those that create good jobs and a just, green economy**
2. **Advocate for clean and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency**
3. **Call on our pension funds to remove and stop future investments in fossil fuel companies, and increase investments in climate solutions including those that create good jobs and a just, green economy**

SUMMARY

To create healthier communities and sustainable local economies, investment must be redirected away from fossil fuels and other polluting areas, into sectors that support a cleaner, fairer future for all. This is a major investment opportunity: every dollar of public funding for climate projects can leverage up to four dollars of private investment.

Urban climate action can generate local green jobs and directly benefit residents. Work is needed to unlock private capital to achieve this, and help overcome the significant investment shortfall cities currently face. Every dollar invested in resilient infrastructure could save four dollars in avoided retrofit and disaster recovery spending.

Today, **21 global cities** have signed the **C40 Clean Investment Accelerator**, mobilising investment into clean, fossil-free projects that support climate goals and create good, green jobs. Together, these cities represent 61 million people and over US$1 trillion of municipal and pension fund capital.

Cities are divesting the city's investment portfolios (e.g. cash assets, trusts and reserve funds) from fossil fuel companies, and scaling up their investments in climate solutions. For instance, since 2023, **Copenhagen** has set an objective that 50% of the investments in its investment fund must be green or sustainable, in line with the EU Sustainable Financial Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) definition, by 2030. As municipal budgets are increasingly constrained, cities are also finding ways to innovate financially, with two-thirds developing new financial vehicles like green funds and bonds. **Berlin** introduced its successful €750 million (US$871.8 million) sustainability bond in 2023 and is planning a second issuance for late 2025.

More city mayors than ever are using speeches, op-eds, and events to advocate for an end to fossil fuel financing. A third of signatory mayors have directly engaged with other city leaders to amplify their call for fossil-free finance. The vast majority of cities are also extending their climate leadership to influence and engage with other investors and national governments at public events like the Urban20 and London Climate Action Week, as well as at closed door roundtables.

Cities have steered almost US$11 billion in new capital towards climate solutions and green funds through direct engagement. At the same time, total investments in fossil fuel companies have reduced by about US$230 million from 2023 levels.

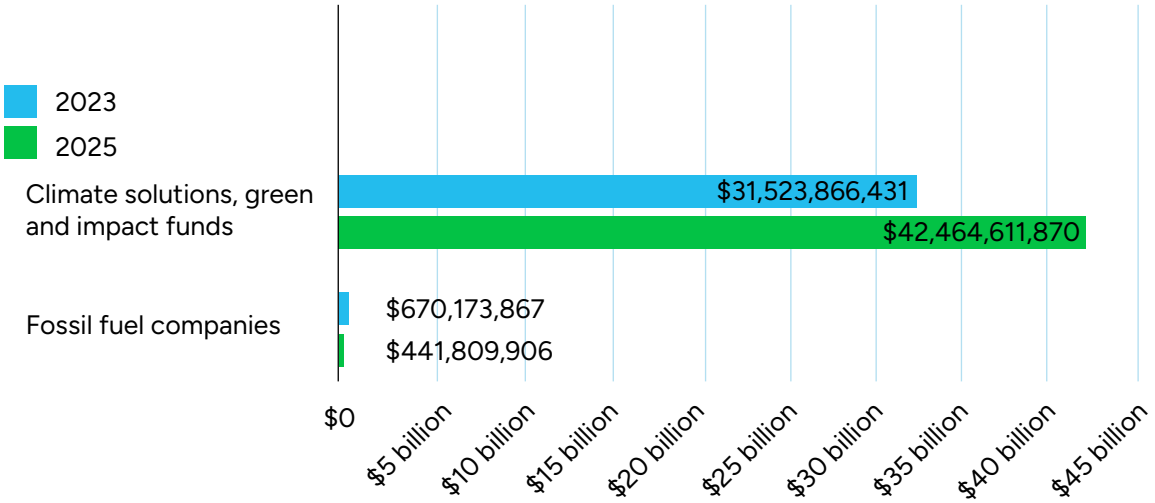
These efforts are demonstrating that a clean investment shift can deliver better outcomes for workers, save tax payers' money, and mean cities can invest more in projects that benefit local communities such as clean energy, EVs, and public parks.

With the sustainable investment agenda under attack in recent years, this is a crucial moment for city leaders to make the case that investing in clean assets can help protect financial returns, reduce risk, and ensure long-term economic stability, all while supporting climate goals.

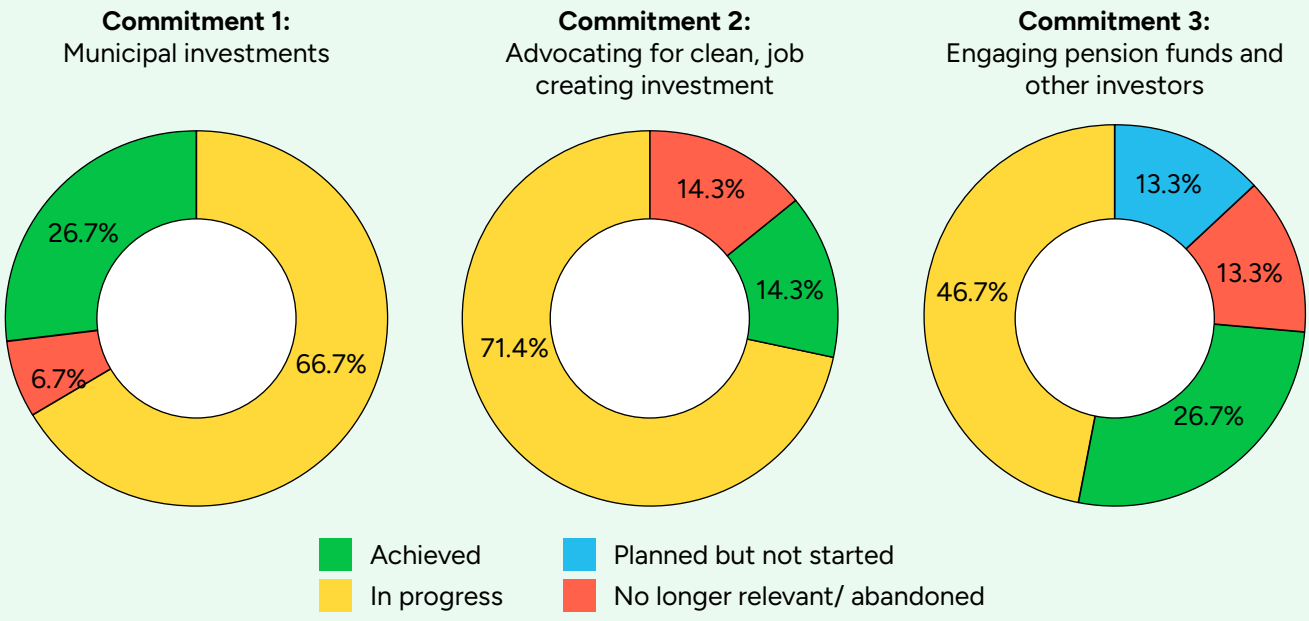
IMPACT

INVESTMENT IN CLEAN VS. FOSSIL FUEL SECTORS BY PENSION FUNDS IN THE NETWORK

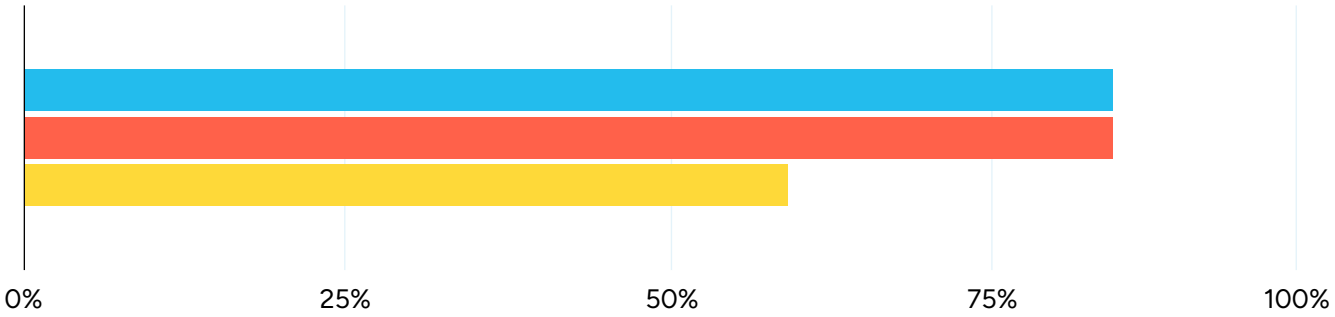
NB. Where up to date figures were not available, figures from the prior reporting period have been assumed provided investment policies related to sustainability have remained consistent.



PERCENTAGE OF CITIES MAKING PROGRESS PER COMMITMENT



CLEAN INVESTMENT THROUGH MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND POLICIES



- Cities that have removed fossil fuel companies from municipal investments (e.g. cash assets/ reserve funds/ trusts), and put policies in place to stop future investments in these companies
- Cities that have increased municipal investments into renewable climate solutions (e.g. from cash assets/ reserve funds/ trusts)
- Cities that have developed financial vehicles (e.g. green city funds/ co-investment funds/ green bonds) to leverage investment into climate projects

86%

of signatory cities have removed fossil fuel companies from municipal investments (e.g. cash assets / reserve funds/ trusts), and put policies in place to stop future investments in these companies.

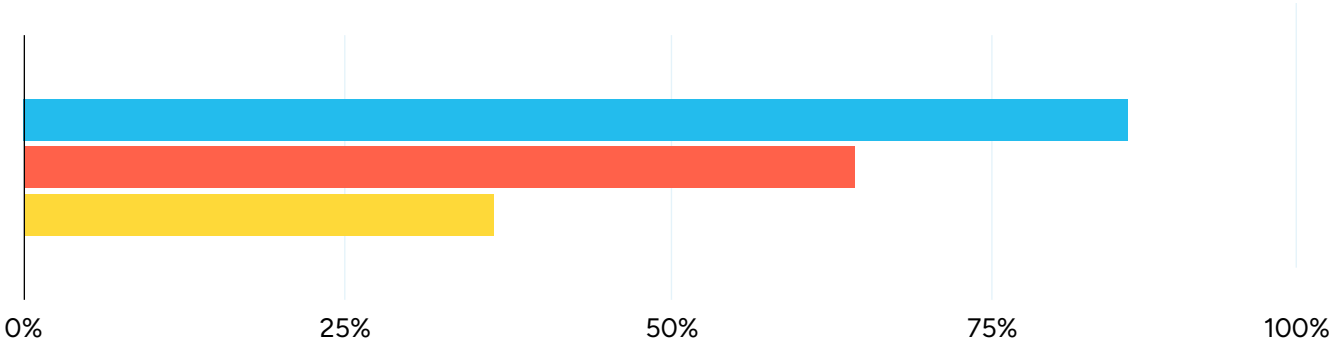
86%

of signatory cities are taking steps to increase municipal investments into renewables and climate solutions (e.g. from cash assets/ reserve funds/ trusts).

60%

of signatory cities have developed financial vehicles (e.g. green city funds/ co-investment funds/ green bonds) to mobilise investment into climate projects.

ADVOCATING FOR CLEAN, JOB CREATING INVESTMENT



- Cities that used their influence to advocate and engage other actors and our regional and national governments, to reallocate investment to green, job creating sectors
- Cities that advocated publicly for an end to fossil fuel finance which supports equitable access to decent jobs
- Cities that engaged with the mayors of other cities to issue a collective call for fossil free finance e.g. to larger (regional or national-level) pension funds, banks or asset managers or regulators

86%

of signatory cities are using their influence to advocate and engage other actors, such as private financial or academic, cultural or health institutions, and regional and national governments, to invest in green, job creating sectors (e.g. calling for regulation of pension funds to incorporate climate-related risks; or creating policies to develop a local sustainable investment market).

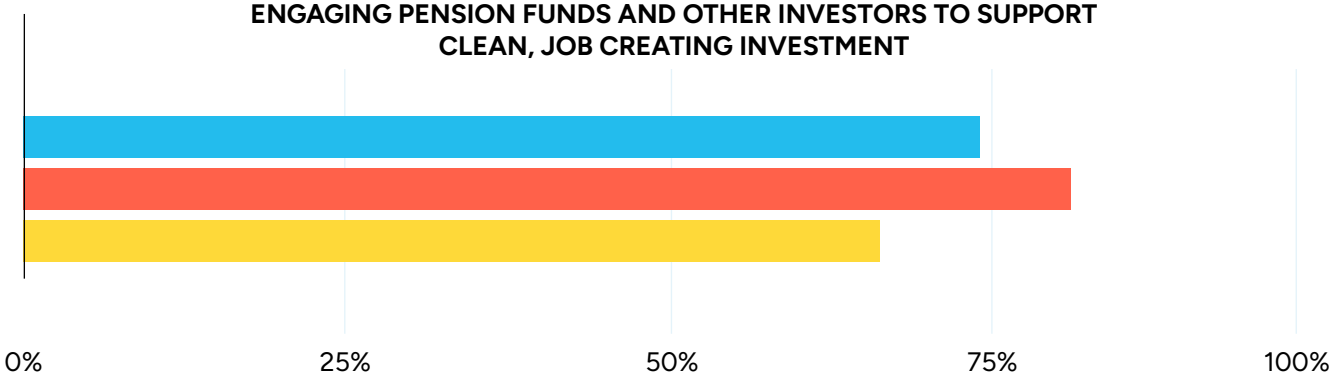
64%

of signatory cities are advocating publicly e.g. in speeches, op-eds or events for an end to fossil fuel finance, including calling for investment in a just transition which supports equitable access to decent jobs.

36%

of signatory cities are engaging with other mayors to issue a collective call for fossil free finance e.g. to larger (regional or national) pension funds, banks or asset managers or regulators.

ENGAGING PENSION FUNDS AND OTHER INVESTORS TO SUPPORT CLEAN, JOB CREATING INVESTMENT



- Pension funds in the network implementing a policy to divest its assets from fossil fuels
- Pension funds in the network implementing a policy to increase investment in climate solutions
- Pension funds in the network that have made a net zero commitment and adopted a credible framework

59%

of pension funds in the network are implementing a policy to divest from fossil fuels.

65%

of pension funds in the network are implementing a policy to increase investment in climate solutions.

53%

of pension funds in the network have made a net zero commitment and adopted a credible framework (e.g. aligned with European Commission's high-level expert group on sustainable finance (HLEG) recommendations for integrity, or similarly credible implementation framework).

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Remove and stop investment in fossil fuels companies, from our city assets (e.g. municipal investments/ cash assets/ reserve funds/ trusts) and increase our financial investments in climate solutions, including those that create good jobs and a just, green economy

Auckland Council reallocated NZ$1.32 billion (US$756 million) in December 2024 from the sale of its shares in Auckland Airport to establish a new Future Fund, introduced to benefit current and future residents, and strengthen Auckland's financial and physical resilience. The fund is managed in line with the council's responsible investment policy, with potential to increase exposure to climate-aligned assets. This marks a shift in capital from carbon-intensive sectors into investments that support the green economy in New Zealand and globally.

Glasgow has allocated £4 million (US$5.3 million) to establish its Model for Climate Investment, a strategic approach to mobilise private finance. The model, which includes distinct delivery and investment vehicles, will build on net zero strategies like the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). This approach creates a sustainable framework to unlock private capital for climate projects, while ensuring a just transition for the city's communities.

Boston has successfully transitioned its entire US$635 million General Fund investment portfolio into funds that consider Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) outcomes, following a multi-year side-by-side comparison of a traditional versus ESG-focused investment portfolio which indicated similar if not better performance in the ESG-focused portfolio. This strategic move aligns the City's financial practices with its sustainability goals. The City collaborates with external investment consultants who use specialised tools like Sustainalytics to perform a quarterly analysis and minimise ESG-related risks.

In addition, the City's US$1.4 billion trust fund approach is multi-faceted, combining a firm's ESG process with detailed quantitative analysis of specific investments to ensure all city requirements are met. The City collaborates with external consultants in conducting periodic reviews of the underlying holdings of each of the City's investment managers to ensure compliance with current ordinances. The goal of this collaboration is to promote positive outcomes in ESG areas, while maintaining the Fund's primary objective of preserving and growing capital over time.

Commitment 2: Advocate for clean and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency

The Executive Mayor of **Durban/eThekwini,** Cyril Xaba, signed a joint open letter to African Ministers of Finance as part of a continent-wide initiative by municipal leaders to advocate for improved climate finance for cities. The letter, signed by 42 mayors and governors from across Africa, called on national governments to take stronger action to support local initiatives. The letter recommends integrating climate and nature priorities into national budgets, developing robust frameworks for municipal finance, and improved access to sustainable funding for cities. At the U20 African Mayors Assembly in Tshwane in June 2025, the South African National Treasury sent an official response to the letter highlighting specific reforms with opportunities for cities' involvement and input, and actionable commitments to cities.

Milan advocates for clean and sustainable finance through participation in international forums and local engagement. As a member of the Urban20 (U20), Milan has consistently supported calls for fossil fuel divestment in U20 Communiqués since 2021. The city also contributes to the Global Commission for Urban Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Finance, promoting approaches to scale up sustainable urban finance. In September 2024, Mayor Giuseppe Sala co-signed a joint letter to Heads of State at the UN General Assembly and Summit of the Future, urging stronger action on fossil fuel phase-out. At the local level, the city promotes clean and sustainable investments through key stakeholder engagement initiatives, such as the Climate City Contract, signed in April 2024 with 25 parties, and the Air and Climate Alliance, launched in early 2025 with 56 local businesses supporting the implementation of Milan's Air and Climate Plan.

Commitment 3: Call on our pension funds to remove and stop future investments in fossil fuel companies, and increase investments in climate solutions including those that create good jobs and a just, green economy

Bristol City Council supports the climate-focused strategy of the Avon Pension Fund, the main pension fund for its employees. The fund aims to achieve net zero financed emissions by 2045, with interim targets to reduce the carbon intensity of its equity and corporate bond portfolios by 69% and 60% respectively, by 2030. Its approach includes reducing exposure to fossil fuel investments, reallocating to sustainable and Paris-aligned portfolios and working with asset managers to influence corporate behaviour through engagement.

New York City's five pension funds; the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS), Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York (TRS), New York City Police Pension Fund, New York City Fire Department Pension Fund, and the Board of Education Retirement System of the City of New York (BERS), have significantly increased their portfolio of climate solutions investments to US$15.6 billion as of December 31, 2024.

As part of a wider climate risk management strategy and in line with their fiduciary duties, three of the systems (NYCERS, TRS and BERS) have already divested from fossil fuels, committed to achieve net-zero portfolio emissions by 2040 and set ambitious targets for further climate solutions investments by 2035.

Oslo is working with the €12.7 billion (US$14.8 billion) Assets Under Management (AUM) Oslo Pension Fund (OPF) to align investment practices with net zero emissions by 2050. The target applies to the fund's corporate and real estate investments. By engaging with the pension fund, the city aims to strengthen climate accountability across a broader scope, including its financial ecosystem, to support long-term emission reduction beyond the city's own municipal operations.

INSPIRATION

In April 2025, **Boston** and **London** joined a knowledge sharing session to explore approaches to reallocate municipally controlled cash assets to ESG funds. During the session, Boston's Treasury team and external investment consultants shared knowledge with London and the London Treasury on the process for shifting general and trust fund investments into ESG funds, ESG fund identification and classification, and how the city has screened its investments for ESG factors using Sustainalytics data. The exchange also addressed expected financial returns, the impact of ESG screening, and options for tailoring ESG assessments by industry or issuer. Participating and contributing to the knowledge sharing session allowed two major financial hubs to explore and develop a detailed understanding of the financial and sustainability-related impacts of asset allocation decisions.

In 2023, the City of **Cape Town,** with support from C40, convened a knowledge sharing session with the Cape Retirement Fund and representatives from the **London** Pensions Fund Authority and the **New York City** Office of the Comptroller – responsible for the city's five public pension funds. The objective was to exchange insights on fossil fuel divestment and clean investment strategies, particularly around ESG integration. London and New York shared approaches to reducing exposure to investments that performed poorly on ESG factors, especially high-carbon holdings, and on their processes for ESG screening, fund selection, and disclosure. The session was also an opportunity for the Cape Retirement Fund to explore how similar strategies might be applied in its own context.

COLLABORATION

The **Montréal** Sustainable Finance Summit in May 2025 served as a platform for international financial leaders and sustainability experts to focus on the transformation of global finance in response to the climate and biodiversity crises. Key outcomes of the summit included the establishment of a new biodiversity finance centre, and formation of new partnerships to scale up impact investing.

New Orleans collaborated with external partners to assess the fossil fuel exposure of its Municipal Employee Retirement System (NOMERS) portfolio, identifying and evaluating the financial case for fossil fuel divestment while aligning with the fund's fiduciary duties. The analysis concluded that divesting from fossil fuels would not breach the Board of Trustees' fiduciary duties to act in beneficiaries' best interests, noting the sector's long-term underperformance relative to the broader market.

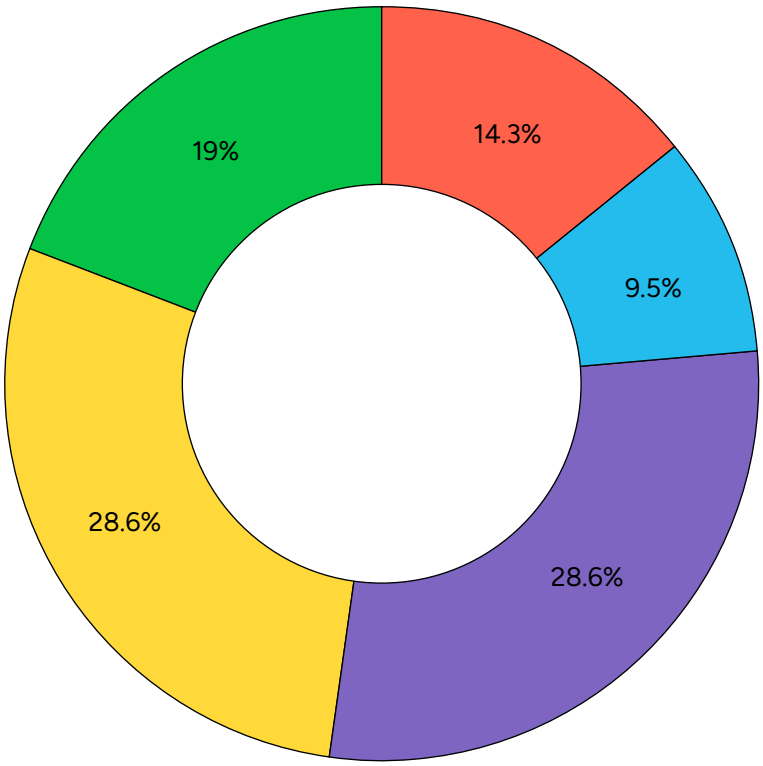
In November 2023, New Orleans presented the case to the fund's Board of Trustees, which referred it to the governance committee for consideration. A poll of local public opinion showed strong local support (67%) for fossil fuel divestment. New Orleans continues to engage with the pension fund to encourage divestment.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Durban/eThekwini Council is increasing investments in climate solutions that create good jobs and ensure environmental, social and economic benefits. In 2024, the council approved the city's first social energy infrastructure partnership for the Smart Solar Project, funded by the European Union (EU) and French Development Bank (AFD). This initiative will deploy solar energy installations across the municipality, with particular emphasis on three priority areas – municipal facilities, low-income households struggling with high energy costs, and vulnerable communities most affected by energy poverty. The project's first phase will create meaningful employment opportunities by recruiting and training local unemployed youth to participate in the installation process, thus expanding renewable energy and youth skills development. In parallel, the city is planning to train approximately 6,000 unemployed young people from historically disadvantaged communities in the Youth for Energy Transition Programme, which will be delivered between the Durban/eThekwini Council and the KwaZulu-Natal Education Development Trust.

Auckland's Regional Grants Programme administers the Auckland Climate Grant, a targeted investment programme to support community-led climate action projects that reduce GHG emissions, build community resilience to climate impacts and support Māori-led responses to climate change. The response grants will either initiate or amplify existing community-led climate initiatives, particularly among priority communities such as Māori and Pacific people. The strategic grants, designed for larger projects that align with one of the priority themes of transport, energy, food and Māori-led initiatives with tangible emissions reduction and/or resilience outcomes. The council aims to ensure that investment in climate action provides a clear tangible benefit to local communities and supports good green jobs.

CHALLENGES



- Advocacy and collaboration (better city to city cooperation and shared advocacy infrastructure)
- Political constraints and governance (limited control, regulatory gaps, political shifts)
- Financial capacity and funding barriers (securing adequate, flexible or innovative finance due to structural and political factors)
- Measurement, evidence and accountability (data, frameworks, tools to access or guide sustainable investment)
- Capacity and resourcing (limitations in staff time, expertise, and ability to deliver)

Cities report a variety of challenges to progress their clean investment goals, from limited capacity and dedicated staffing resources, to a renewed focus by national administrations to bolster fossil fuel projects and undermine investment in climate goals. Notably:

1. Cities face barriers with **financial capacity and leveraging adequate, flexible and innovative capital for climate action.** Structural and political hurdles limit cities' ability to raise capital or leverage investment from the private sector at the scale required to reach net zero, due to the size and risk return profile of urban climate projects, which are often too small to be viable for investors. This results in a persistent struggle to finance large-scale climate projects from renewable energy infrastructure to sustainable urban mobility options. Cities face pressure on budgets and strict financial rules, which results in a significant gap between climate ambition and available capital.
2. **Political constraints and governance issues** are generating significant challenges, particularly for cities in North America where renewed federal support for oil and gas expansion risks undermining clean energy progress at the national and local level. Efforts by cities to effectively engage with public pension funds to encourage a shift away from fossil fuels and towards climate projects and net zero goals have, in many instances, been weakened.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

Between now and 2030, cities will focus on building the institutional and financial capacity, resourcing and architecture to transform climate ambition into investable projects, through their own action and by engaging investors. Strengthening internal capacity will enable cities to convene with investors to innovate funds and approaches that improve the investment-readiness of climate projects, and enhance private sector participation to finance and deliver critical green and resilient city projects.

Mayors are increasingly leveraging their significant power to advocate for clean investment, more sustainable and robust financial systems, and enabling policies needed to increase investment flows to city projects, as well as pushing for a halt to fossil fuel investments. Calling for a shift towards clean investment in the context of recent political headwinds will be a defining task for mayors in the US and beyond.

FUTURE ACTION

London's mayor Sadiq Khan launched a dedicated Climate Finance Taskforce during the Climate Innovation Forum at Climate Action Week 2025, to accelerate private investment into net-zero solutions across the city. Chaired by Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas of the Green Finance Institute, the Taskforce is developing innovative financial strategies to unlock billions in capital for clean energy, sustainable transport, and energy efficiency projects. It aims to deliver actionable proposals by early 2026.

Paris will establish a 'climate budget' – a multi-year investment trajectory of the Climate Action Plan aimed at identifying and monitoring the municipal investments required to implement the actions of the Climate Action Plan in order to meet the planned decarbonisation pathway. In the coming months, the city will invest €7 million (US$8.1 million) to deploy 30 new 'oasis yards' in schools, and €3 million to install shading structures and misting systems to protect against heat. An additional €25 million will be dedicated to creating over 60km of new bike lanes and deploying 3,000 new Vélib' bikes.

C40 ACCELERATOR CLEAN INVESTMENT

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C40 GOOD FOOD CITIES ACCELERATOR

How cities are achieving a Planetary Health Diet for all by 2030, with balanced and nutritious food, reflective of their residents

SIGNATORY CITIES

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

COMMITMENTS

1. **Align food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, ideally sourced from organic agriculture**
2. **Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets**
3. **Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline**
4. **Work with residents, businesses, public institutions, and other organisations to develop an inclusive and equitable joint food strategy, and incorporate this strategy into the City's Climate Action Plan**

SUMMARY

Action on food systems is vital to achieving global climate goals. By 2050, 80% of all food produced will be consumed in cities, up from 70% currently. In C40 cities, emissions from food consumption range from 8% to 30% depending on the region, and animal-based food represents roughly 70% of those emissions. Research shows that without significant changes to how we produce and consume food, emissions from the sector are expected to rise by 38% by 2050.

The C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator is an ambitious, science-backed effort of cities to tackle the global climate crisis through the lens of our food systems. The **16 signatory cities** are committed to work with residents to achieve a Planetary Health Diet for all by the year 2030, underpinned by concrete and actionable measures designed to transform urban food systems.

In this third reporting period since the launch of the Accelerator in 2019, cities have made significant and exciting strides in areas where they have the most direct control, including food procurement. Cities are using their purchasing power to influence supply chains and promote healthier, more sustainable options within public institutions. Cities including **Paris, Stockholm, Barcelona, Montréal,** and **Copenhagen** are recognising that consumption-based emissions, of which food is a large component, must be addressed head-on through broader climate planning to meet their climate goals.

This year, several major themes have emerged from the collective work of these cities. The first is the importance of investing in education and training for the public and municipal workers. **Copenhagen**, **New York, Milan,** and **Toronto** are upskilling their culinary and kitchen staff in order to transition to more plant-rich diets and reduce waste in their canteens and food service programmes. **Lima, Seoul, Tokyo,** and **London** are using strategic public education campaigns to shift behaviours to increase plant-based eating and reduce household food waste.

Cities are also focusing on data collection to monitor their progress. From piloting an app that helps reduce food waste in schools in **Oslo**, to utilising the World Resources Institute's Coolfood calculator to measure the climate impact of their food purchases, cities are employing digital data collection and analysis to track impact. Creating this feedback loop helps to inform and refine their strategies for implementing their procurement policies or measuring reductions in food waste with greater precision.

Transforming urban food systems cannot be accomplished by cities alone. **Quezon City, Seoul, Oslo,** and **Guadalajara** are forging stronger partnerships among diverse staff within their own governments whose work touches food, collaborating across departments to break down silos. In **Paris**, they are also building bridges with neighbouring municipalities to collaborate on common goals and build sustainable food supply chains.

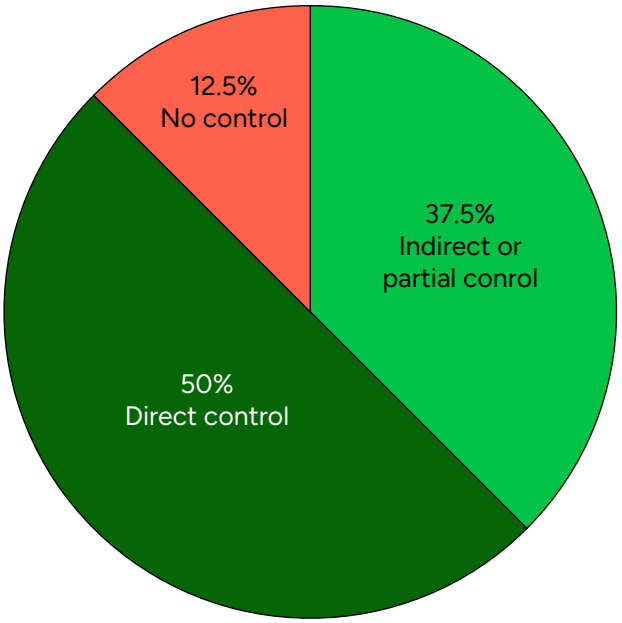
By committing to the C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator, cities are transforming their food systems to facilitate a just climate transition that supports the health and dignity of all people within planetary boundaries.

IMPACT

Aligning food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet

CITY ACTIVITY

Cities' institutional arrangements for meal provision in major public facilities



Half of signatory cities (50%) have direct control over the food served in schools, hospitals, and shelters, enabling them to implement changes to menus, tenders, and staff training more readily. A further 38% of signatory cities report indirect or partial control, meaning they influence food provision agreements with operators or through new directives and plans, rather than directly. These governance structures shape how cities are able to advance alignment of public meals with the Planetary Health Diet and underscore the importance of using every lever available to drive procurement practices that deliver healthier, more sustainable public meals.

69%

of signatory cities are aligning school feeding programmes with the Planetary Health Diet.

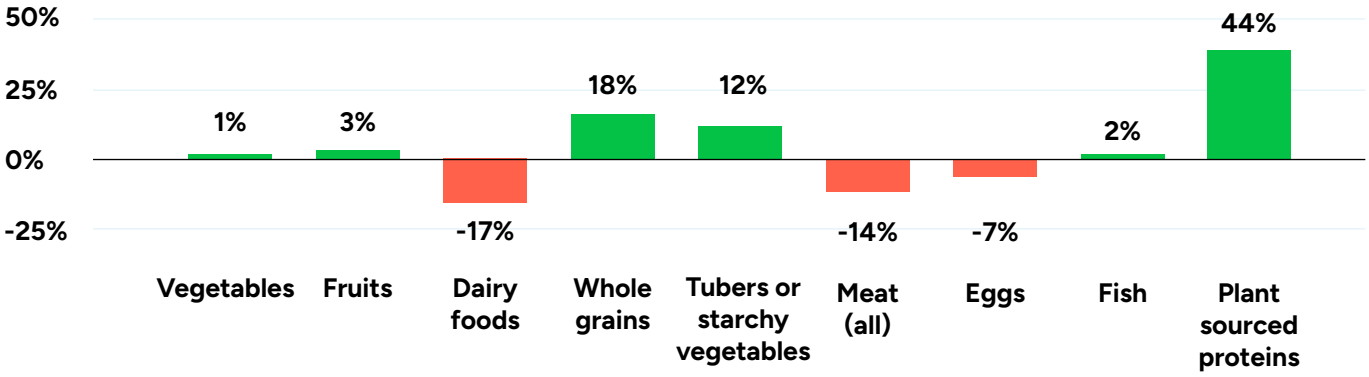
IMPACT

Assessment of signatory cities' public food procurement alignment with the Planetary Health Diet

Data from 11 cities were analysed, with 7 providing detailed breakdowns across all food groups that allow benchmarking against the Planetary Health Diet.

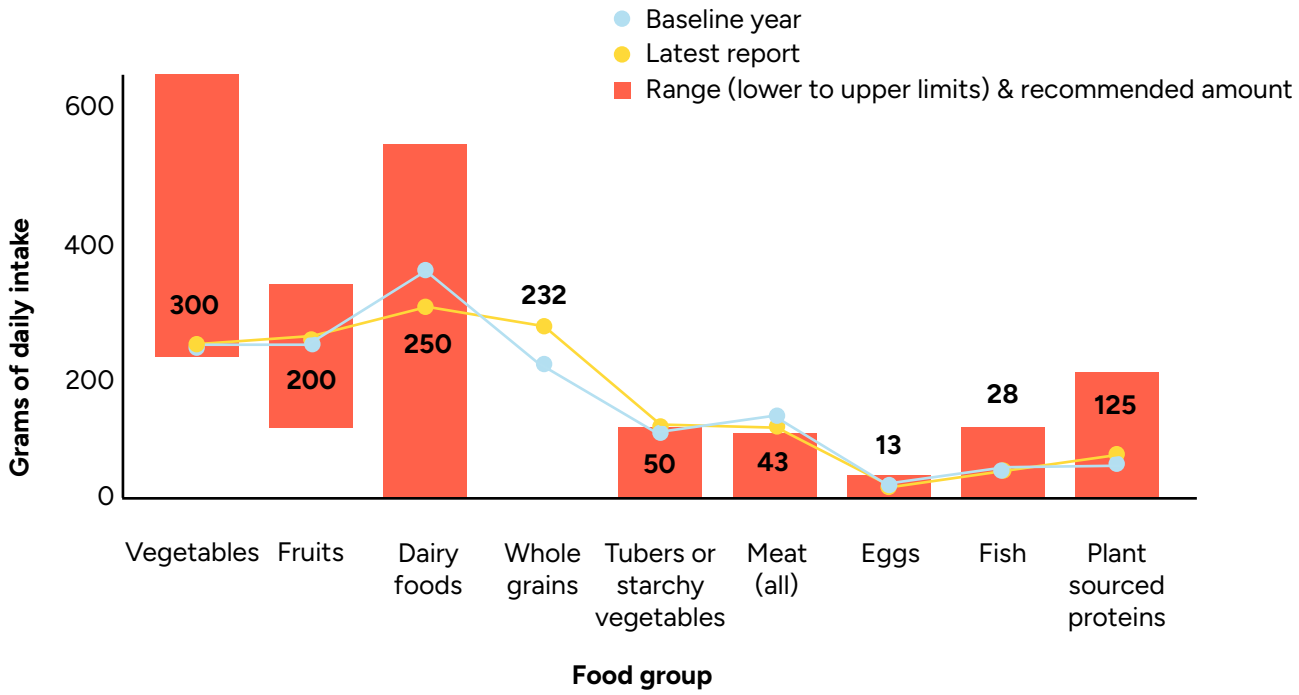
The results highlight strong momentum. Five of the cities have already achieved significant progress, with **Milan, Copenhagen,** and **New York City** achieving reductions in food-related emissions from public food procurement of 34%, 32%, and 29%, respectively. Across the full sample of 7 cities, procurement of high-emission foods has declined – meat by 14%, eggs by 7%, and dairy by 17% – while plant-based foods have increased substantially (+44%). The other increase of note is fish (+2%).

% change in annual volume of publicly procured food from baseline year to latest report



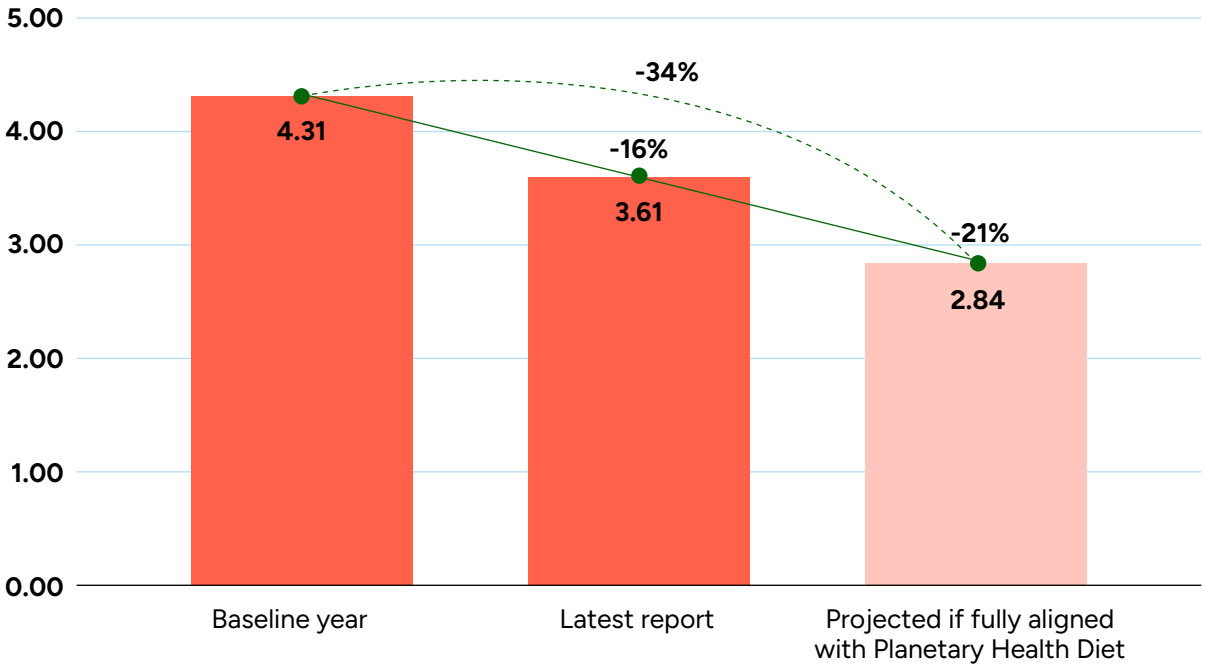
When compared to the Planetary Health Diet, cities are heading in the right direction. Meat remains at the upper end of the recommended range and plant-based proteins are still below target, but eggs, fish, and dairy are already broadly within recommended levels.

Public food procurement and PHD alignment from baseline year to latest report



Across the 7 cities, food-related emissions **have fallen by 16%**. Excluding one outlier city with particularly high volumes and slower progress, the reduction among the others is even stronger at 27%. If all cities were fully aligned with the Planetary Health Diet, the aggregate emission reduction could reach 34%.

kg CO_2e per tonne of publicly procured food from baseline year to latest report



Increase of healthy plant-based food consumption through food environment

CITY ACTIVITY

50% of signatory cities are developing programmes to support and/or engage food businesses in minimising food-related carbon emissions

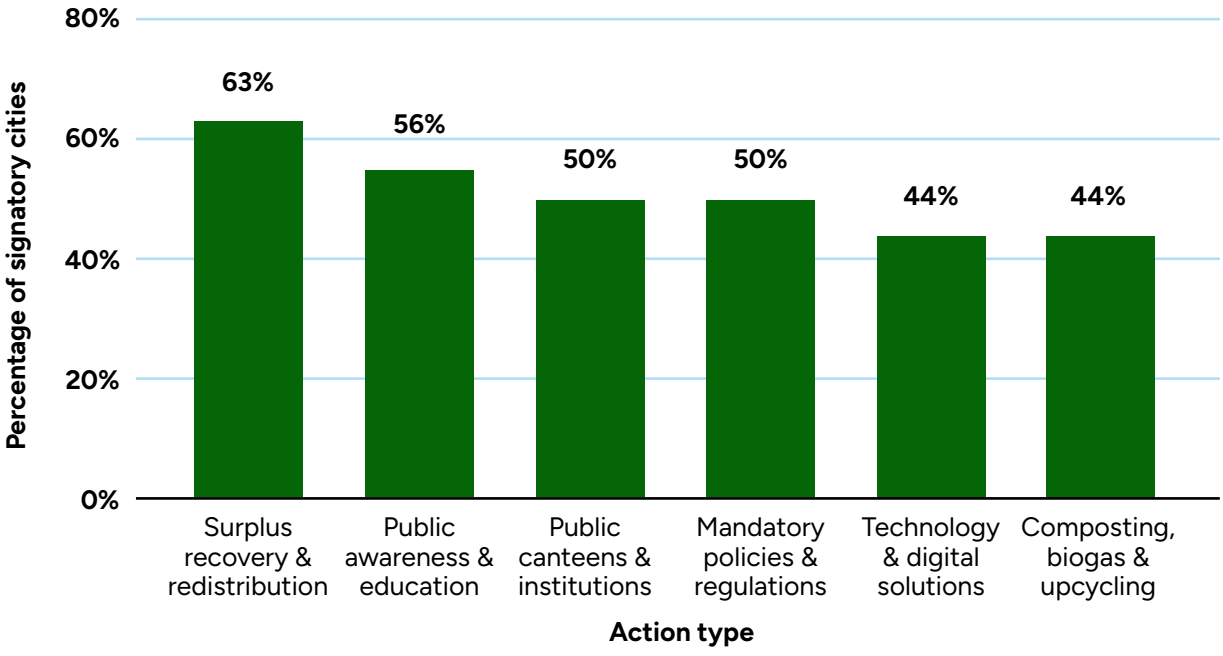
IMPACT

Impact has not been measured, as we are still in the early phase of co-developing a framework that cities can use to engage with private sector consumer-facing food businesses.

Reduce food loss and waste by 50%

CITY ACTIVITY

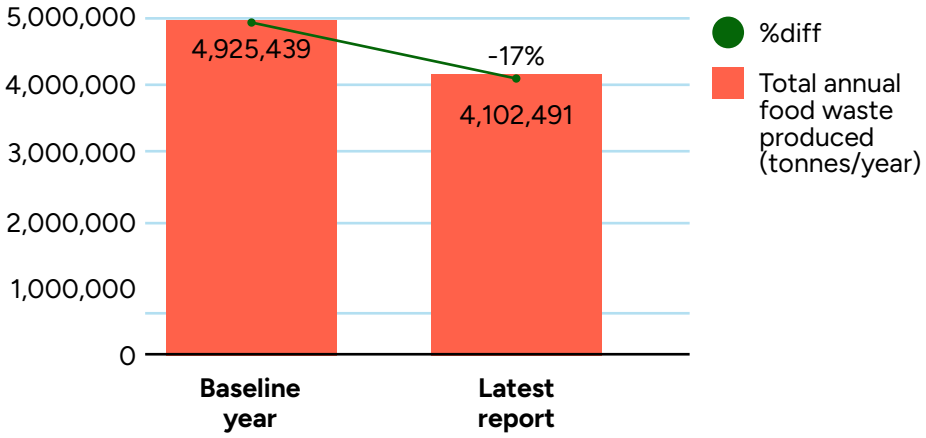
Cities' approaches to food loss and waste reduction.



Assessment of signatory cities' food waste reduction

A total of 15 out of 16 cities submitted data on annual total food waste, of which 9 provided information assessed as sufficiently accurate and appropriate for analysis. Across these cities, total food waste generation has **decreased by 17%** since the baseline year.

% change in annual volume of food waste produced from baseline year to latest report



TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Align food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, ideally sourced from organic agriculture

Paris is leveraging its purchasing power in public food procurement to drive a significant shift towards a more sustainable food system. Parisian schools, colleges, and nurseries now offer two completely vegetarian menus each week, with a daily plant-based option also being phased in. This policy has led to a remarkable reduction in the meat served in public catering, dropping to just 6kg per person per year – well below the 16kg annual target outlined in the Planetary Health Diet. This shift towards plant-based foods has resulted in a marked 14% reduction in food-related GHG emissions since 2016, putting the city on track to meet its broader climate and carbon neutrality goals.

Quezon City is using its procurement policies to create a healthier, more resilient food environment for the most vulnerable residents. Through a strategic shift in public hospital menus, the city now ensures that 60% of all food items served are whole foods. This commitment to healthier options has led to a 93.3% patient satisfaction rate. Furthermore, the city has taken bold steps by eliminating unhealthy food and beverages from public schools. Officials believe this policy has been instrumental in reducing the stunting rate among children under five-years-old to below 1%, a figure that stands in stark contrast to the national average of 21.3%.

Commitment 2: Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets

Barcelona is engaging small businesses and retailers through its Green Trade programme, focused on encouraging the public and market traders to adopt more sustainable products. The city has created a special label to highlight products in its 38 municipal markets that meet certain criteria, such as being local, organic, or direct from producers. To support this initiative, Barcelona is running promotional campaigns for the public and providing support for traders, including training on business strategies and networking with producers. Since 2022 the number of businesses registered has increased from 570 to 619, with many also receiving personalised advice and training.

New York City is engaging both the private sector and the next generation. The city launched the Plant-Powered Carbon Challenge, which calls on leading institutions to reduce their food-related emissions by 25% through shifts to more plant-rich menus. Already, 20 major organisations, including Columbia University and the U.S. Open, have joined the challenge. Simultaneously, NYC is investing in culinary and food education across its public schools, helping students understand the importance of healthy, sustainable eating. This includes providing grants to 190 schools for food education programmes and renovating over 90 additional cafeterias to create more welcoming spaces. These actions represent a comprehensive strategy to shift eating habits across the city.

Commitment 3: Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline

Tokyo has shown remarkable progress in food waste reduction, already achieving its 2030 target of a 50% reduction. Tokyo has set even more ambitious goals, aiming for a 60% reduction by 2030 and a 65% reduction by 2035. To achieve this, the city is strengthening its policies. Key actions include new public awareness campaigns through booklets, videos, and media partnerships, as well as providing subsidies to small and medium-sized businesses for equipment and recycling costs.

Seoul is leading in establishing innovative infrastructure to manage food waste reduction. The city is promoting the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based food waste meters that enhance both convenience and waste reductions.

Milan has established three additional Food Aid Hubs to combat food loss and waste in supermarkets, canteens, and food markets, bringing the total to eight hubs in the network. These hubs annually recover over 700 tonnes of surplus food, which is then used to support approximately 4,000 vulnerable households. Since 2023, the initiative has expanded to include open-air food markets to further enhance open-air markets to further enhance their food redistribution efforts.

Quezon City is actively implementing three innovative composting strategies. This includes using 43 community biodigesters to convert over 4,200kg of food waste into biogas and soil conditioner, training hundreds of people through its Bokashi Composting programme, and utilising rapid composters at public markets to transform over 100,000kg of biodegradable waste into valuable compost.

Commitment 4: Work with residents, businesses, public institutions, and other organisations to develop an inclusive and equitable joint food strategy, and incorporate this strategy into the City's Climate Action Plan

Copenhagen is actively working to integrate its food system goals into its broader climate strategy. As the city nears the end of its first Food Strategy (2020–25), it is in the process of renewing and updating its ambitions for the next phase. This renewed strategy will continue to focus on nutrition and climate-friendly meals. In a major step, Copenhagen has initiated the development of its Climate Strategy 2035, which will address emissions from citizen consumption. To ensure this new plan is comprehensive and inclusive, the city is engaging in direct dialogue with key actors across the food value chain. Copenhagen is also hosting several citizen assemblies to involve residents in the collaborative process of developing new actions.

Guadalajara has adopted 'Raíces Comunitarias', a new social policy that guarantees the right to food for its most vulnerable populations, and centres the government's responsibility of care to its residents. This includes providing food rations that align with the Planetary Health Diet, establishing urban gardens in marginalised communities, and implementing comprehensive waste management programmes focused on organic waste and circular economy principles.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INSPIRATION

New York City has adopted a new messaging strategy around climate-friendly meals inspired by Washington, D.C. Public Schools (DCPS). During a recent C40 US Working Group meeting, DCPS shared how they successfully integrated more plant-forward meals by avoiding explicit branding. Instead of designating a specific 'plant-based' day, they opted for a non-branded approach, and added these options to their daily menus throughout the week. This has helped normalise plant-based meals for students and staff. Inspired by this successful approach, NYC plans to replace their 'Plant-Powered Fridays' with a non-branded, rotating plant-forward day starting in fall 2025.

Stockholm recently released its new Environment Programme and Climate Action Plan that sets ambitious food-related targets, including a 50% cut in consumption-based emissions by 2030 and increased procurement of organic food. To achieve these goals, Stockholm is also developing a new Food Programme in 2025. This programme will reinforce the city's climate and environmental goals while also improving public health and food security. The initiative is closely informed by the principles of the Planetary Health Diet and inspired by the work of other cities, such as **Copenhagen,** which has achieved an 88% organic food procurement rate, and has also been actively developing a new food strategy and integrating food systems into its new climate action plan.

COLLABORATION

Paris is working closely with AgriParis Seine, a regional cooperation association bringing together seven founding members, including Paris and five other municipalities, to build a low-carbon logistics chain to connect the cities with food producers in the surrounding Seine basin. This collaboration, launched in July 2023, is crucial for ensuring a stable supply of high-quality, local and organic products for Paris' collective catering, such as in schools and public institutions. It also supports farmers by ensuring fair pay, and encourages the transformation of regional agriculture.

A number of cities are working with partners on developing climate-friendly recipes. **Stockholm** is a partner on the PLATE research programme at Stockholm University developing science-backed, climate resilient meals. **Toronto** is working with culinary students from George Brown College to develop recipes that use more plant-based proteins. **Milan, New York,** and **Copenhagen** all work with external partners on culinary training and recipe development to support their public meal programmes. Developing tasty, plant-forward recipes is a key area of investment for many cities supporting a shift towards more sustainable, climate-resilient diets.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Copenhagen employs approximately 1,750 staff in its public kitchens, a workforce composed largely of women, ethnic minorities, and unskilled workers. These workers benefit from targeted training programmes to enhance their sustainable culinary skills, opening pathways for career advancement. Building on this approach, the city has launched a new contract with a culinary advisor (2025–28) to continue developing skills across its kitchens and support the implementation of Copenhagen's Food Strategy.

Quezon City's Community-Based Urban Farming Programme has helped establish 1,439 urban farms, and the number of urban farmers has more than doubled since 2023, now totalling 43,272. The programme primarily supports marginalised groups – including women, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, and solo parents – by helping them establish urban farms that provide sustainable livelihoods and promote community food security. Complementary initiatives, led by the Public Employment Service Office, include training through the Bokashi Composting programme and support for urban farmers to sell produce at the monthly Fresh Market Programme at City Hall, further strengthening green employment and local enterprise.

CHALLENGES

Many cities have acknowledged that assessing the impact of education campaigns and messaging of interventions has been a challenge. Furthermore, despite remarkable progress, cities have also begun to document the climate-related challenges that are impacting their ability to meet these food systems goals. A primary concern is the effect of changing weather patterns, which are already affecting agricultural yields and threatening the stability of food supply chains.

This serves as a powerful reminder of the urgency of this work. It highlights that the goal of the Accelerator is not just about achieving a set of metrics by 2030, but about proactively building a resilient and climate-adapted food system that can withstand future disruptions and safeguard the wellbeing of residents for decades to come.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

Cities are tackling a key area of opportunity to reduce emissions by addressing the nexus of food waste and food insecurity. **Toronto, Quezon City, Montréal** and **London** are all expanding their circular economy strategies to address food loss and waste through redistribution and recovery, with many of their target beneficiaries being residents experiencing food insecurity.

While cities have made significant progress in areas like public food procurement, the next frontier for transforming urban food systems is developing partnerships with the private sector. Private businesses have a huge impact on our food choices and, consequently, on a city's climate emissions. To address this critical gap, cities are expanding their focus beyond areas of direct control, building alliances with private companies and securing investment and commitments from them that contribute to more comprehensive strategies for shifting diets and addressing food waste generated throughout city boundaries.

FUTURE ACTION

Seoul plans to progressively increase the proportion of eco-friendly agricultural products delivered through the Seoul Eco-friendly Distribution Centre for meals in schools, kindergartens, and daycare centres within the next year. This expansion builds upon a system that already minimises carbon emissions by reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The city will continue the introduction of plant-based meals into its schools and other public facilities through its Good Diet programme, which emphasises the positive health benefits of a diet rich in plant-based foods. Concurrently, Seoul will enhance its waste treatment infrastructure by expanding food waste recycling facilities to boost public treatment capacity.

Oslo has streamlined the coordination of its food waste portfolio by hiring a full-time food waste coordinator to work on reducing food waste from Oslo's public kitchens. Following the completion of a pilot project testing the use of a new digital tool for measuring food waste in kindergartens, the city will work on developing and implementing a citywide food waste action plan.

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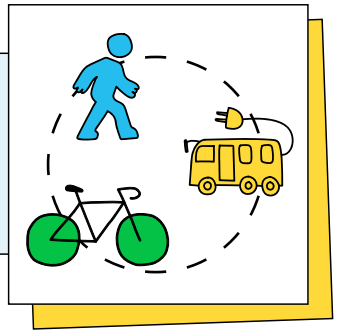
C40 GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS ACCELERATOR



How cities are transforming urban transport by 2030

SIGNATORY CITIES

Amsterdam, Auckland, Austin, Barcelona, Berlin, Bogotá, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Heidelberg, Jakarta, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Medellín, Mexico City, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Rotterdam, Santiago, Seattle, Seoul, Tokyo, Vancouver, Warsaw. Non-C40 cities: Birmingham, Greater Manchester, Honolulu, Liverpool, Oxford, Santa Monica, West Hollywood

COMMITMENTS

1. Procure, with partners, only zero emission buses from 2025
2. Ensure a major area of the city is zero emission by 2030

SUMMARY

The urban transportation sector is the fastest-growing source of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions, and the leading cause of urban air pollution globally. Policies that address transportation emissions, including expanding public transit, introducing low emission zones or clean air zones, and developing walking and cycling infrastructure, can cut emissions, boost public health, and improve economic productivity. Transport is vital for cities, especially to address the climate crisis.

The C40 Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator is designed to reduce urban transport emissions, and was launched in 2017 as C40's first groundbreaking Accelerator. Since its introduction, it has driven high-impact action to decarbonise transport in cities, now uniting **35 signatory cities** spanning five regions worldwide, made up of 28 C40 cities and 7 cities outside of the C40 network.

The target deadline for the commitment to procure exclusively zero emission buses is this year, 2025. Cities have made significant strides to transition their municipal bus fleets from dirty fossil fuel-powered buses to cleaner zero emission technologies. As of September 2025, 16 signatory cities are now procuring exclusively zero emission buses, with many making significant strides towards the target. Since joining the Accelerator, signatory cities have collectively deployed more than 12,700 zero emission buses to serve their residents, and zero emission buses comprise more than 13% of the total fleet of signatory cities, with some cities operating as many as 80% of the fleet as zero emission. Despite the progress that cities have made, cities must continue to be supported to accelerate the transition to zero emission buses and not return to procuring polluting diesel or compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

Signatory cities also have just five years left until the 2030 Accelerator commitment to ensure a major area of the city is zero emission. As of 2025, no city in the world has introduced a full zero emission area. However, there have been notable milestones in 2024 and 2025 as cities continue to introduce the necessary stepping stone policies towards this ambitious commitment, including clean air zones, low emission zones, limited traffic zones, zero emission zones for freight, large-scale pedestrianisation, and school streets. In the Netherlands, **Amsterdam** and **Rotterdam** have operated a zero emission zone for vans and trucks since 1 January 2025, made possible by ambitious national legislation. In **Madrid**, the city's low emission zone expanded city-wide in 2025, covering all vehicles operating in the city and bringing cleaner air to residents. Meanwhile, **Jakarta** is incorporating learnings from the Kota Tua LEZ pilot into its development of an expanded emission-free zone through its Breathe Jakarta programme. This includes traffic regulation based on emission category, spatial redesign, and targeted restrictions in heritage zones and commercial districts.

Mayors continue to lead the way by implementing bold action towards the C40 Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator commitments, transforming their streets into greener, healthier and more livable places for all.

IMPACT

ZERO EMISSION BUSES

57%
of signatory cities are procuring only zero emission buses and therefore meeting commitment 1.

More than 12,700
zero emission buses have been deployed across signatory cities since joining the Accelerator.

This includes more than 12,400 battery electric buses and 300 hydrogen buses.

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ZERO EMISSION AREAS

50%
of signatory cities have a low emission zone in operation, regulating the access of high-polluting vehicles to specific areas of the city, up from 27% in 2022.

79%
of signatory cities are reallocating road space from cars to active and sustainable modes on a permanent basis, up from 35% in 2022.

86%
of signatory cities are implementing measures to improve the public transport network, including network coverage, speed, frequency, reliability, accessibility, resilience, safety, affordability, comfort and convenience, up from 45% in 2022.

25%
of signatory cities are introducing the key measures to promote transport electrification, with 68% progressing towards this goal.

46%
of signatory cities are procuring only zero emission vehicles for the municipal fleet and specifying zero emission vehicles in municipal procurements, with 14% progressing towards this goal.

68%
of signatory cities are implementing a programme of action to reduce road danger, in order to ensure people walking, cycling and using public transport are safe and feel safe, with 29% progressing towards that goal.

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Procure, with partners, only zero emission buses from 2025

Berlin has already achieved its goal to procure exclusively zero emission buses ahead of the 2025 target. Between 2019 and 2024, the number of electric buses in the fleet increased to 228, representing 14.5% of the fleet of 1,565 buses. The city aims to increase this proportion to 22% by 2026 (347 electric buses in absolute terms), while simultaneously expanding electric vehicle infrastructure, with the first all-electric bus workshop coming into operation at the end of 2024 and two new all-electric bus depots will be completed in 2025. Berlin aims to have a completely emission-free bus fleet by 2030.

Mexico City has made significant strides to electrify the urban bus fleet. The city has electrified lines 3 and 4 of the BRT Metrobus system, deploying a total of 149 electric buses to service these lines. In 2025, the construction of two new lines was also announced. For the Red de Transporte de Pasajero (RTP) system, 50 electric buses have been acquired and new charging stations are under construction. Furthermore, the city has transformed the trolleybus system by replacing the old trolleybus units, as well as constructing the first elevated trolleybus line in the world. Several line expansions were also carried out to provide greater service coverage.

Oslo's public transport agency, Ruter, has procured only zero emission buses since 2022. In 2018, they set a target to reach a fully zero emission fleet by 2028. By setting a clear goal at an early stage and giving incentives for bus operators to offer zero emission buses in public tenders, most bus contracts in the city transitioned to zero emission by the end of 2023. As of 2025, more than 80% of the city's buses are zero emission (487 of 544 buses).

Santiago has incorporated more than 2,500 electric buses into its Red mobility system – making it the largest zero emission bus fleet outside of China. By the end of 2025, more than 70% of the city bus fleet will be zero emission. This significant transition has improved air quality, reduced local emissions, and raised service quality with modern, accessible, and quiet vehicles.

Commitment 2: Ensure a major area of the city is zero emission by 2030

CLEAN AIR ZONES

Auckland's Access for Everyone (A4E) programme is working to limit motorised through-traffic; prioritise access to city centre destinations; create new spaces; improve access for servicing, freight and delivery; and favour public transport, walking and cycling. A4E has also created separate networks for private vehicles, essential services, public transport, and walking and cycling, all within the same collection of streets.

Proposed changes to the network reduce emissions in the city centre, particularly through the Queen Street Valley, by reducing general traffic volumes.

Copenhagen's Low Emission Zone expanded on 1 March 2025 to the municipal border Tårnby. Vehicle restrictions apply to diesel-powered passenger cars, lorries, buses, vans and minibuses, requiring them to have a particulate filter or be at least Euro 5 standard (Euro 6 for lorries and buses). In December 2024, the Danish Government introduced national legislation that permits municipalities to establish zero emission zones from 2025. In response to this new legislation, the City of Copenhagen is working to select a zero emission zone. The zone is expected to be ready in 2027/28 and will apply to buses, passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

In 2021, **Rio de Janeiro's** Low Emission District was established by the Reviver Centro Programme, with the aim of implementing actions to reduce GHG emissions in the city. In 2024, the city joined the global Breathe Cities programme, supporting the preparation of studies for urban requalification and active mobility in the Low Emission District area, electrification of the city's bus fleet and improved air quality monitoring. For the Low Emission District, an avenue project will be drawn up, taking into account active mobility, green infrastructure and an Active Mobility Implementation Plan for the whole area. New low-cost sensors will also be installed to monitor air quality. The city will work to expand the cycling infrastructure; develop the Active Mobility Implementation Plan and draw up an executive project for Chile Avenue; as well as implement the pilot project for the Laneshift Zero Emissions Freight Transport Station.

WALKING AND CYCLING

Seoul continues to promote a range of policies to promote walking and cycling and build a pedestrian-friendly city. The city is implementing road space reallocation projects to secure safe and pleasant pedestrian areas and build bike lanes that allow for safe cycling. As a result, the city's bicycle lane network has been extended to more than 1,300 kilometres (16% of the total general road length). The city is converting car-centred roads – particularly major arterial roads – into spaces that prioritise sustainable transport modes, while also designating key neighbourhood roads as 'pedestrian environment improvement zones' where the city installs or widens sidewalks, removes obstacles to walking, and improves overall accessibility. As of May 2025, the city has completed road space reallocation projects along 9 routes totaling 11.36km, and designated 75 areas as pedestrian environment improvement zones. To support short-distance travel, the city's bike-sharing system – Ddareungi – provides 45,000 public bicycles across Seoul at approximately 2,700 rental stations.

In **Vancouver,** pedestrianisation efforts are underway in the historic neighbourhood of Gastown. Water Street is a one-way commercial street in downtown that runs through this area and sees high volumes of vehicles. The long-term design is being informed by seasonal pilots. In Summer 2024, the street was substantially closed to motor vehicles and was transformed into a bike-permeable public space with art installations, patios and public seating. In Summer 2025, the pilot includes new public spaces, car-free Sundays, and a counterflow bike lane to close a major gap in the cycling network.

Austin's Living Streets programme is a low-cost initiative created to make neighbourhood streets around Austin safer for families to walk, bike and connect with their neighbours. The programme offers residents a set of options for activating neighbourhood streets to create opportunities for safe, community-building throughout the city. To qualify for the programme, a street must meet certain criteria, like an incomplete sidewalk and the need for safe recreational space. The programme also requires 60% of neighbours to agree to implementation. If approved, no construction is necessary. The Austin Transportation Department sets up construction cones and barrels with signs limiting vehicle traffic. There are three versions of street closures available to neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Block Parties, Healthy Streets, and Play Streets. In 2025, there were 37 participating streets in the programme.

ZERO EMISSION FREIGHT

Urban freight transport in **Warsaw** has a huge impact on congestion, pollution and illegal parking. To address these challenges, the city is working with the private sector through research projects to understand their priorities and needs. In 2024 and 2025, the city conducted a pilot study, Warsaw Zero-Emission Freight Transport: Development of Efficient, Zero-Emission Urban Logistics, to explore and propose zero-emission delivery solutions for the New Centrer of Warsaw. At the end of 2025, there were more than 2,000 electric trucks registered in the city.

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

Los Angeles continues to facilitate the transition to zero emission vehicles. The city's network of commercial and public electric vehicle (EV) chargers increased from 30,000 in 2023 to 37,500 at the end of 2024. Over the course of 2024, the number of EVs registered in the city increased by nearly 50,000, from 164,000 to 212,000. EV drivers continue to utilise the city's curbside EV chargers too, with weekly per charger utilisation increasing by 71% in 2024, with total weekly kWh consumption up by 82%.

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INSPIRATION

Milan has taken inspiration from international best practices through participating in C40's Urban Logistics Technical Working Group, aimed at guiding the development of a strategic and operational plan to transition toward more sustainable freight distribution. In particular, Milan has learned from Brussels' stakeholder engagement processes, about the creation of micro-hubs for load consolidation and the use of cargo bikes from **London** and **Paris**, how to manage loading and unloading zones from **Barcelona,** exploring pricing policies from **Oslo** and **New York,** night-time deliveries from **Stockholm,** and the implementation of limited traffic zones (LTZs) and zero emission zones from **Rotterdam.**

Bogotá's Clean Air for Urban Areas (ZUMA) programme has been inspired by **London's** Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Taking lessons from London's ULEZ, Bogotá developed the ZUMA programme, with the aim of reducing toxic emissions in highly polluted areas, especially where marginalised communities live. Although Bogotá's approach is more localised than London's, the city adopted key elements such as the environmental vehicle labelling system, adapting it to their local context.

COLLABORATION

Seattle has partnered extensively with community groups including Lake City Collective, Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association, and Capitol Hill EcoDistrict on initiatives like Healthy Streets and Home Zones that advance the Low-Pollution Neighborhoods programme. At Pike Place Market, the city collaborated with the Preservation and Development Authority and local businesses to pilot improved delivery and vehicle access management, enhancing experiences for businesses and pedestrians. Additionally, the city has hosted two youth summits in the past two years to engage young people in co-creating solutions for transportation-related climate challenges.

Rotterdam has engaged extensively with the private sector on both zero emission city logistics and the sustainable mobility climate alliance.

ZERO EMISSION CITY LOGISTICS: The municipality works together with the logistics sector through the community Logistiek 010. There are more than 3,300 member organisations. This began in 2020, when the municipality entered into a covenant with 76 parties to work together towards zero emission city logistics. All parties have outlined actions as part of this covenant. This covenant has supported the city to successfully roll out its zero emission zone for logistics in January 2025.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY CLIMATE ALLIANCE: More than 150 large employers in Rotterdam have now joined the Sustainable Mobility Climate Alliance, representing more than 150,000 employees. They aim to reduce CO_2 emissions by 50% by reducing vehicle kilometres travelled in their business operations and employee commutes, encouraging more cycling, walking and use of zero emission vehicles. Participating businesses also offer a generous mobility package for employees to encourage more sustainable travel.

Medellín has strengthened strategic alliances with multilateral entities, development banks, research centres and international organisations such as C40 Cities, ICLEI and UN Environment. These alliances have facilitated the transfer of technical knowledge, access to green finance and the adoption of best practices for the energy transition of public transport.

Tokyo established a 'Cooperative Council for the Promotion of Charging Equipment in Apartment Buildings', consisting of charging service providers, EV sales companies, and other related parties. The council aims to promote the adoption of charging equipment in existing apartment buildings, which are considered to have particularly significant challenges, by sharing case studies and expertise. It also identifies the needs and challenges associated with installing charging equipment in Tokyo apartment buildings, and facilitates matching based on individual circumstances.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Bogota's Urban Zones for a Better Air (ZUMA) initiative involves citizen participation and community governance, and ensures that clean air and other social and economic benefits are monitored and fairly distributed to support healthier and thriving communities. In its initial stages, the city developed and used a socioeconomic equity index to identify and prioritise areas for its implementation. The index included metrics across health, population, service delivery, and land and housing, as well as the integration of the multidimensional poverty index. The index helped the city identify and prioritise the site of Bosa-Apogeo for the first ZUMA, which was designed using social characterisation and mapping activities in order to identify citizens' perceptions of the main problems and possible solutions related to air quality in the territory. These actions have allowed a contextualised approach to local realities and have strengthened the link with the community.

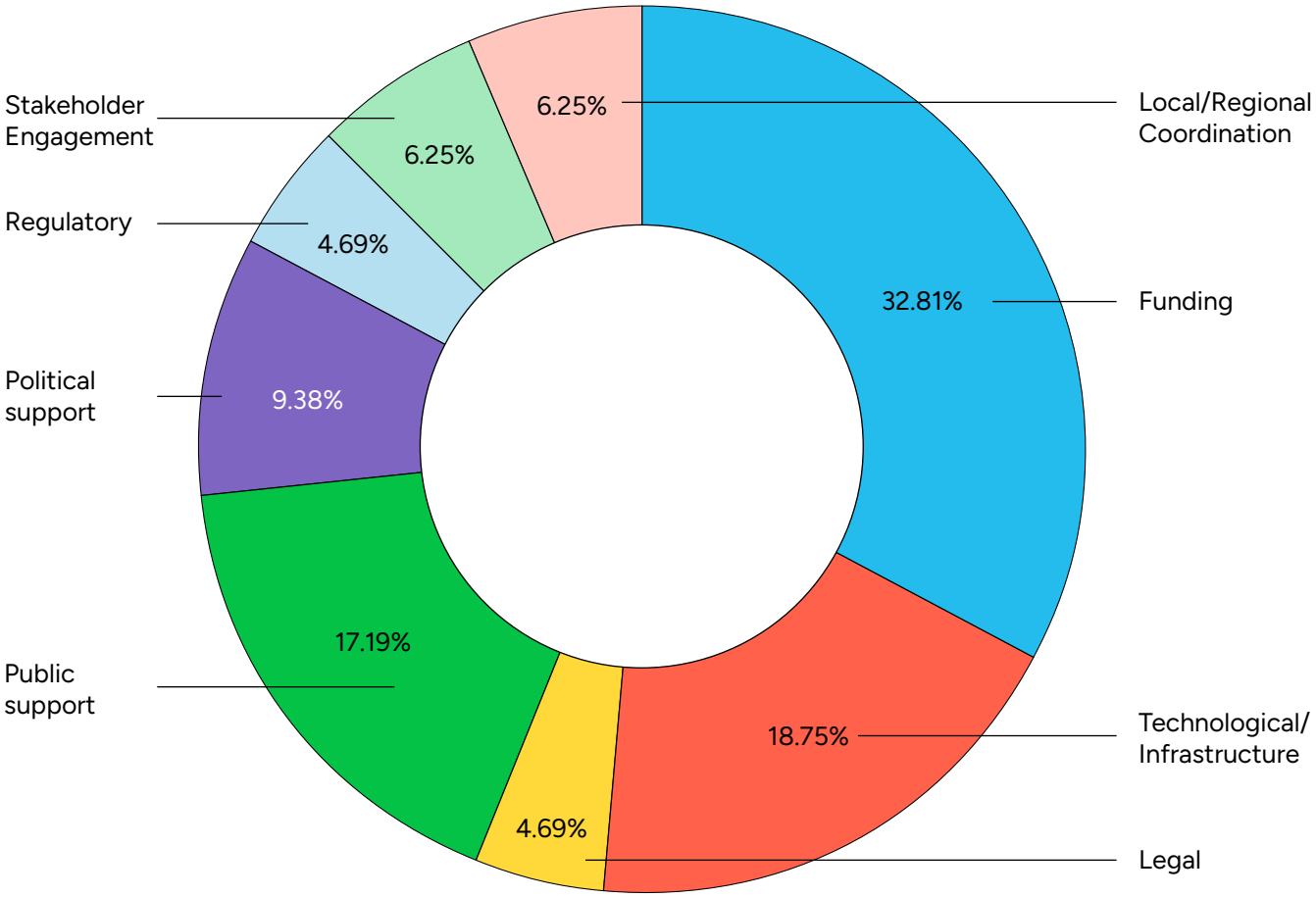
Having successfully delivered the first ZUMA, the city is developing a baseline and monitoring of indicators that include metrics related to citizen perception and variables with a focus on equity, thus allowing for a more accurate assessment of the social impact of the actions implemented.

Jakarta has an air quality monitoring network (SPKU) with 111 stations, used to map exposure levels in vulnerable neighbourhoods. The city is carrying out exposure and social vulnerability mapping efforts using air quality and social data, to understand which neighbourhoods are most affected by pollution, and who might be most impacted by any new policies and regulations. To design and implement an inclusive and fair transition to low emission vehicles and zones, the city is involving local communities and small business owners in planning discussions – especially students, women, the elderly, and residents of outer districts who rely more on non-motorised transport. Jakarta has prioritised infrastructure improvements in areas with high pedestrian activity, poor air quality, and limited access to public transport; implemented inclusive design including tactile guides, ramps, and curb cuts to support people with disabilities and elderly residents; and consulted the community for planning processes such as sidewalk and bike lane projects, especially in dense kampung neighbourhoods and areas near schools and markets.

Jakarta uses SPKU air quality data to track pedestrian pollution exposure. Surveys and walking audits (often done with school children and residents) help assess safety and accessibility. Pilot projects also use Jakarta Mobility Index and transport equity mapping developed with support from local NGOs and academic partners.

CHALLENGES

Summary of the different challenges faced by cities and associated % of cities that mentioned it



Despite cities' progress, distinct challenges to meeting the commitments remain. Funding and technological/ infrastructure challenges, including the deployment of charging infrastructure, remain key barriers to zero emission bus deployment and supply. The fossil fuel lobby is a powerful force, and pressures cities to adopt gas as a transition fuel.

Cities are also navigating a complex and unstable economic and political landscape, which sees car reduction policies attracting growing scrutiny and becoming susceptible to the rise of misinformation and disinformation. There is a well organised and well funded opposition working to destabilise cities' ambition. To counteract this, cities must win the public argument and demonstrate the wide-ranging and equitable benefits to city centres with fewer cars and a more sustainable urban transport system, for all communities and businesses.

This is particularly important as cities look to scale and expand existing policies, which is critical for meeting 2030 targets and signalling the end of fossil-fuel transport in our cities.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

In addition to their Accelerator commitments, 12 signatory cities have a target for a 100% zero emission bus fleet in or before 2030. C40's goal is to collaborate with cities, funders and wider stakeholders through programmes such as the Zero Emission Bus Rapid-deployment Accelerator (ZEBRA), to support cities on their transition to a zero emission bus fleet by 2030.

There are five years left for signatory cities to take the transformative action necessary to ensure that a major area of the city is zero emission. Many cities are introducing stepping stone policies to disincentivise private vehicle use, facilitate the transition of high mileage vehicles to zero emission, and make streets more people-friendly.

Across the world, cities are adapting their ZEA policies through a broader Clean Air Zone approach suitable for their local context. Cities are also continuing to expand their protected walking and cycling networks, making it easier and safer for people to choose active travel. Despite the funding shortfalls since COVID-19, public transport ridership levels are slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels as cities continue to invest in improving and expanding bus, metro, rail and tram services.

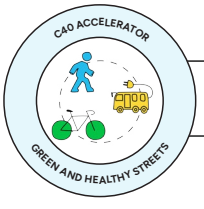
At the same time, cities must encourage the uptake of electric vehicles by providing accessible and convenient electric vehicle charging infrastructure, while recognising that simply switching to EVs is not a silver bullet and comes with associated impacts, including road danger and non-exhaust and embedded emissions.

FUTURE ACTION

Paris' long term objective is to reduce the number of vehicles circulating in the city. By 2026, the city aims to halve the number of on-street parking spaces in the city, which is currently around 60,000 spaces. Since 2020, more than 18,500 on-street parking spaces have been removed, rebalancing public space in favour of walking, cycling and public transport.

Rome is working to transform its public transport network. The renewal of the bus fleet is underway and to date, 110 of 411 twelve-metre electric buses are in circulation, with delivery of the remaining electric buses expected to be completed in 2026. By 2026, the entire fleet will have been renewed with a minimum emissions standard of Euro 6. The city is aiming for a 100% zero emission fleet by 2035. In addition to the city's bus fleet, the city has expanded the metro C line with two new stops in Autumn 2025, with a further four new tram lines also under construction or in the process of being opened. To further modernise the network, 121 new trams have been purchased and will arrive in 2026.

Cape Town is pursuing its transition to electric buses, despite the challenges. The city has awarded a tender for the supply and delivery of 12 meter low entry battery electric buses. The contract was activated in July 2025 and is awarded for 36 months, with delivery of 30 battery electric buses expected between January and March 2027.



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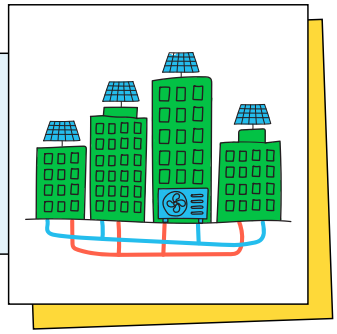
C40 NET ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS ACCELERATOR



How cities are maximising energy energy efficiency and eliminating fossil fuels in buildings

SIGNATORY CITIES

Cape Town, Copenhagen, Durban/Ethekwini, Heidelberg, Johannesburg, London, Los Angeles, Medellín, Melbourne, Montréal, New York City, Oslo, Paris, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Stockholm, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Tshwane, Vancouver, Washington, D.C.

COMMITMENTS

1. **All new buildings are net zero carbon by 2030**
2. **All existing buildings are net zero carbon by 2050**
3. **All municipal buildings are net zero carbon by 2030**

SUMMARY

Buildings are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for over half of total city emissions on average, and contributing over a third of global energy-related CO_2 emissions. Buildings are also a significant source of air pollution, producing more NOx emissions than vehicles in some cities, as well as the largest source of $PM_{2.5}$. The **27 global signatory cities** of the C40 Net Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator are committed to implementing policies that will place all buildings on a pathway to net zero carbon.

By 2060, the world is projected to add 230 billion metres squared of new buildings, or an area equal to the entire current global building stock. It is therefore vital to introduce codes and regulations to ensure new buildings are energy efficient, use renewables, and do not depend on fossil fuels. Accelerator cities are developing long term decarbonisation roadmaps with mandatory building codes and regulations implemented at specific milestones. Best practice includes the use of performance based codes, prohibiting the use of fossil fuels in new buildings that are highly energy efficient. **Washington, D.C.** sent a clear market signal with the Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act of 2022, which codified the goal of adopting a net-zero energy, all-electric standard by the end of 2026. This gives the industry plenty of time to change and adapt their practices and specifications.

Existing buildings, many of which were not constructed with effective energy codes, will continue to exist for many years to come and their energy performance must be improved. The City of **Toronto** is currently working on establishing Building Emissions Performance Standards to accomplish GHG reductions from existing buildings in the city. If adopted by council, these standards will require existing buildings, with years of advance notice, to be retrofitted to reduce GHG emissions.

Data analysis is the bedrock of policy development for existing buildings, and our signatory cities have continued benchmarking the energy consumption of many building typologies, enabling them to set effective codes. **Seattle** has seen remarkable success with wide ranging support mechanisms to make the energy reporting process friction free. The collection of data directly enables the implementation of mandatory energy performance standards for existing buildings, the highest impact action for this particular sector.

Cities are continually innovating with other mechanisms to make homes healthier, more comfortable, highly efficient and with lower emissions. **San Francisco** is leveraging the regional air quality board to implement a policy that effectively requires electrification at time of replacement for heating equipment in existing buildings, therefore removing harmful sources of

indoor air pollution that have been proven time and again to cause illness and death, with an exaggerated impact on women and children.

Cities are also going beyond the requirements of the Accelerator, by taking action to address operational and embodied emissions in the codes they are introducing, adopting a whole carbon approach. The City of **Stockholm** is currently considering what embodied emission limits they might apply, based on a metric of kgCO2e/m^2 of floor area, and **Medellín** is introducing policy to shift production systems towards a circular economy and low carbon supply chain for materials.

Cities continue to lead from the front by adopting the most ambitious and wide reaching policies for their own municipal buildings first, before applying these measures to other building owners. This approach enables them to grow supply chains, build up knowledge and expertise, and share information on implementation challenges. Through all these measures, residents benefit from having low carbon buildings that are healthy, comfy and resilient.

IMPACT

74% of C40 signatory cities have implemented policies or roadmaps to ensure all new buildings will be net zero carbon before 2030

61% of C40 signatory cities are implementing policies to deliver net zero carbon municipal buildings through retrofits and/or renewable energy requirements

78% of C40 signatory cities are implementing retrofit programmes for existing, privately-owned buildings, progressing the city towards the target for net zero carbon by 2050

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure NEW buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030

Melbourne has spent many years developing a new building code in close collaboration with the Victoria State government, which holds the power to enact mandatory building policy. The policy will require new developments to meet best-practice sustainability standards, nearly net zero carbon standards, and prioritise high levels of energy efficiency and electrification. There is the potential for the policy to be used in other jurisdictions, therefore multiplying its potential impact.

Vancouver introduced a requirement in 2025 for new buildings to be nearly zero carbon, with carbon intensity limits set at 3 kgCO2e/m^2 or less in larger residential buildings, and 1.5 kgCO2e/m^2 in smaller residential buildings. These limits effectively eliminate the use of fossil fuels for heating and hot water in new buildings in Vancouver.

Commitment 2: Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure ALL existing buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2050

Seattle has carried out extensive recording of energy consumption in its buildings to establish benchmarks. Compliance rates are very high – 89% of nonresidential buildings and 97% of multifamily buildings have reported their detailed energy and fuel consumption data. This has been achieved with robust outreach, third-party data support, and training. The city uses benchmarking data to drive policy development. It also enables them to track high and low performers, and identify building owners to target for retrofit programmes and rebates, such as those offered by the city utility, Seattle City Light.

Tokyo's first-of-its-kind cap and trade system imposes absolute carbon reduction obligations on large existing buildings, and it has been in operation since 2010. Since then it has achieved a 31% carbon emissions reduction compared to the baseline due to progress in energy efficiency measures and the use of low-carbon electricity and heat, in spite of extreme heat in summer and an increase in the number of users as a result of restored economic activities. From 2025 the system will be strengthened again, this time setting minimum carbon reduction thresholds of 50% for office buildings and 48% for factories. These measures only cover the large buildings, but Tokyo has also raised requirements for smaller buildings through the Global Warming Countermeasures Reporting System (effective in April 2025), which requires small and medium-sized businesses to report their CO_2 emissions. New targets of 35% reduction have been set for energy conservation and 50% for renewable energy consumption. All of these efforts support the aim of halving carbon emissions by 2030.

Commitment 3: Own, occupy and develop only assets (municipal buildings) that are net zero carbon in operation by 2030

Cape Town has been implementing energy efficiency retrofits across its portfolio, reaching a total of 188 buildings as of May 2025. This includes works to replace inefficient split-unit air conditioning systems and upgrading lighting. The city is a leading South African municipality on Energy Performance Certificates, with 72 of their buildings certified, and there is ongoing work to renew certificates and make more buildings compliant. This process has raised awareness around driving greater energy efficiency across departments. Cape Town has an active programme that supports rooftop solar deployment and implementation, offering initial sizing and cost, and creating a procurement vehicle for building operators to access service providers. To date, the city has generated 4,217 MWh from a total installed capacity of 2,636 kWp. This financial year 120 smart electricity meters with automated outputs have been installed, with a total of 1,519 smart electricity meters installed up to May 2025 in 1,073 municipal facilities (71.6% of the 1,499 facilities listed for metering).

Sydney's new Environmental Strategy 2025–30, proposes ambitious targets: an 85% emissions reduction (2006 baseline), 30% total energy reduction (2023 baseline), and complete elimination of fossil gas. The City of Sydney has already achieved a 76% reduction against its 2006 baseline (100% with carbon credits) through ongoing electrification, refrigerant reduction, and renewable electricity use, publicly reporting its progress annually via Climate Active.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INSPIRATION

Vancouver and **New York** have inspired **Montréal** with their regulations on energy and GHG disclosure and rating systems for buildings. In part, this influenced Montréal's new regulation regarding GHG emissions limits in new buildings including the prohibition of emitting appliances such as those fuelled by oil or gas in new residential, commercial and institutional buildings. Also, new regulations on the disclosure and rating of GHG from large buildings, with a view to introducing a GHG rating for buildings. With these new regulations, the goal of zero-emission new buildings by 2030 is already assured. The city is now monitoring new building permit applications and assisting with their implementation. In addition, the City of Montréal is continuing its work on the energy efficiency of new buildings.

Washington, D.C. has greatly benefitted from continued learning and coordination with other jurisdictions pursuing and implementing similar policies. While the District was the first in the nation to pass a Building Energy Performance Standard, we have been closely tracking **New York City, Boston** and others as their programmes are being rolled out. On the Net-Zero Energy codes front, the city has been closely following New York State, Massachusetts, Washington State and others in their development and implementation of innovative stretch codes. C40 has been a key partner in facilitating those peer connections to enable shared learning.

COLLABORATION

Copenhagen aims to reduce energy use by 20% in 2035 compared to 2019 through the Energispring (or Energy Leap) Programme, and will track this using overall city consumption data. The public-private partnership includes 40 of the city's largest building owners covering around 40% of the total floor area in Copenhagen, and members agree to a target of reducing heat consumption 3% yearly in participating buildings.

The public-private partnership engages private building owners in energy efficiency activities through competition and the sharing of solutions. Despite being voluntary, this has shown significant energy savings across a large portion of the city.

Medellín is carrying out joint technical assistance and training activities with CAMACOL, the Colombian Chamber of Construction, and the World Bank's IFC, which have provided training on incentives for sustainable construction to municipal officials. Similarly, activities have been carried out with the city's academic sectors and some independent builders' groups. Some indirect actions have been developed with ICLEI.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Vancouver is rolling out the Multi-Family Resilient Upgrade Program, which provides capital incentives and concierge support to retrofit social housing, market rentals, and condominiums – helping reduce GHG emissions and increase resilience to overheating. The programme builds on earlier city-led pilots such as the Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator and the Non-Profit Resilient Retrofit Grant, which showed strong demand for decarbonisation retrofits and identified key barriers and opportunities for scaling. This initiative supports Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan, which commits to halving building emissions by 2030 while creating healthier and more climate-resilient homes for all.

Medellín established the District Circular Economy Policy in 2025. The policy fundamentally changes production and consumption systems helping to develop circular construction practices and the redirection of materials away from landfill. It sets the stage for the city to introduce governance and strategies needed to make changes in supply chains and to analyse their impact across social, economic and environmental measures. The policy will initiate cross-sectoral partnerships with a focus on generating equitable green jobs, with a preference for employing those from low-income communities.

CHALLENGES

The kinds of policies required to meet the aims of this Accelerator require a substantial amount of data collection, analysis, modelling, and stakeholder engagement. Once they are in the implementation phase they require skilled enforcement teams to ensure the huge diversity of buildings in a given city are compliant. Developing the capacity to deliver this is a huge challenge.

Each individual building faces its own unique set of retrofit challenges leading to low building retrofit rates, including issues such as low electrical capacity, deferred maintenance issues, and disruption to homes and businesses to complete retrofit works, and crucially there are often severe finance gaps that prevent projects from being bankable.

Many cities have to rely on policy levers outside their control, particularly those held by other levels of government, in order to shift the market. These barriers make it difficult to drive large-scale, coordinated action across the built environment.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

The case for zero emission and resilient buildings has only grown stronger over time, and signatory cities are showing just how many benefits there are for residents in the transition to fossil free, high efficiency buildings. Heating, cooling and cooking are emotive topics, and choice remains an important discussion. However, cities are learning better ways to communicate these issues, and are better equipped to make the case for the benefits of electrification and decarbonisation. In a forward thinking move, the City of **Portland** has drafted a building code including carbon performance standards that would incrementally reduce building emissions every five years from 2030 to 2050.

Signatory cities are playing a key role in decarbonising heat in buildings. In **Heidelberg** there are plans to shut down fossil fuel plants in the district energy system before 2030, and in **Montréal** actions are underway to electrify boilers in their downtown district energy system. In **Medellín**, further biogas production is being planned in wastewater plants and landfill sites, which will reduce future reliance on fossil fuels in buildings.

Signatory cities have further developed thinking around neighbourhood strategies and improving community amenities, housing quality and comfort levels, all while driving down emissions and improving health, while crucially avoiding displacement of communities. **Washington, D.C.** is redeveloping the historic Barry Farm neighbourhood, with a commitment to achieve Passive House certification, and there are plans to install one of the largest district geothermal installations in the US.

Signatories continue to lead from the front by accelerating the decarbonisation of municipal buildings, and in **Tshwane** the administration is setting up an Energy Task Team, which is working on scaling up solar systems in city owned buildings, as as delivering energy efficiency and cost savings.

As signatory cities continue their groundbreaking approaches, they are limited in their ability to scale these solutions through lack of finance. New, long term, low payback investment options are needed, accounting for increased climate resilience and acknowledging all the co-benefits that are achieved. Upgrading existing buildings remains the greatest challenge for policy makers and financiers, given the complex and disruptive nature of building retrofit projects. Cities look to the future by helping aggregate demand for new technologies, driving down costs through public procurement, and securing and blending finance to make the transition as smooth as possible.

FUTURE ACTION

Montréal has 35 municipal building decarbonisation projects that are underway and due for completion in 2026. Within its total portfolio of 538 centrally managed buildings, the city has gone from having 281 to 306 buildings with carbon-neutral status in the period between 2021 and 2025. This has been possible through the removal of fossil fuels which can be replaced with locally available clean electricity, though there remains further opportunities for improved controls and higher energy efficiency. The City of Montréal is also working on a decarbonisation plan for municipal buildings that are not managed by the city.

Oslo will continue to decarbonise the district heating system which provides heat to the majority of the buildings in the city, with 75% of Oslo's total energy use taking place in buildings. The district heating system in Oslo utilises surplus energy from waste management facilities, sewage and data centres, in addition to bioenergy and electric boilers. Liquefied natural gas and fossil gas now only account for 1.6% of input energy to the system and the use of fossil fuels is being phased out of the district heating system. A carbon capture facility is being installed to capture residual emissions from one of the heat sources on the heat network, scheduled to begin operation in 2029.

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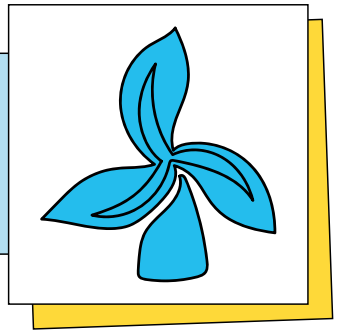
C40 RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCELERATOR



How cities are accelerating their energy transition

SIGNATORY CITIES

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

COMMITMENTS

Municipal commitment:

- Lead by example, either by switching municipal electricity consumption to 100% renewable energy by 2025 or deploying renewable energy systems on all feasible municipal assets by 2030.

City-wide commitment:

Cities will adopt one of the following pathways in line with their objectives, priorities and context.

- *Accelerating renewable energy transition:* Use 100% renewable electricity citywide by 2035 and fully decarbonised energy to cook and heat and cool buildings within the city no later than 2050.
- *Enabling energy access with renewables:* Achieve universal access to reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies by 2030 and use 100% renewable electricity citywide by 2050.
- *Maximising local renewable energy:* Deploy clean energy systems for electricity, heating, cooling and cooking to achieve 50% of the assessed feasible potential within the city by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

SUMMARY

Decarbonisation of energy remains essential to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Cities host more than half of the world's population and make up over 75% of universal energy demand. They therefore hold the key to a global fossil-free energy future, with more affordable, accessible and secure energy supply systems, resilient communities, local green jobs and improved air quality. Despite the accelerated proliferation of renewable energy supply, fossil fuel use is still significant, and energy transition challenges are amplified by global geopolitics and socio-economic factors like rapid urbanisation. To fast-track progress and overcome existing challenges, cities need to step up in their critical role of championing a just energy transition.

The **C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator** was launched at a UN High Level Dialogue on Energy in September 2021. The Accelerator has **15 global signatory cities** demonstrating their leadership by joining the Accelerator and committing to accelerate the full decarbonisation of electricity, heating, cooling and cooking while phasing out fossil fuels. The Accelerator's commitment focuses on municipal and citywide energy use.

Cities are adopting various approaches to fulfil their municipality commitments, including: deployment of renewable energy systems on public assets; sourcing renewable energy through market based mechanisms, such as Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) and green tariffs; and meeting municipal demand from city-owned utilities that supply clean electricity. Cities are meeting their citywide Accelerator commitments using: partnerships and engagements with businesses and communities, sharing information and knowledge; use of regulatory powers over buildings; actions to address financial barriers; and providing support to innovative and emerging energy technologies. In **London**, Transport for London (TfL) entered into a 15-year PPA for renewable energy supply to the city's tube network in 2025. **Sydney** installed a total of 2 megawatts (MW) of solar on its properties by 2025, and **Paris** developed solar potential maps and a city registry. **Lagos** hosted clean energy hackathons that encourage women-led startups to develop renewable energy solutions.

Between 2023 and 2025, signatory cities collectively phased out over 20 MW of non-renewable energy supply. In the same period, four cities implemented new renewable energy procurement models, highlighting a major shift towards more democratised and digitalised renewable energy sources. Additional cities also raised their renewable energy ambitions and targets, including **Seoul** and **Lagos**, increasing their 2030 renewable energy targets to 3 gigawatts (GW) and 2 GW respectively. Limited jurisdiction over energy supply is a major challenge for cities tackling the energy transition. Signatory cities including **Montréal, San Francisco, Sydney, Seoul** and **Tokyo** began implementing renewable energy mandates and ordinances for buildings to foster local renewables deployment. Increased advocacy for renewable energy use was evidenced in cities like **Tshwane** and **Vancouver**, along with escalated adoption of innovative and emerging technologies, such as community solar and energy storage projects in **Buenos Aires, Los Angeles**, and **Melbourne**.

Since the Accelerator's launch, all signatory cities have come a long way in decarbonising their energy use. As of June 2025, more than a third of Accelerator cities were 100% reliant on renewable energy sources for their municipal electricity consumption. The majority of the remaining cities recorded increased renewable energy reliance to power city operations since 2021. Under the city-wide commitment, 8 of the 15 cities reported that all households within their boundaries had access to clean electricity or clean energy for heating and cooling.

The successes of the C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator cities will inspire other stakeholders, including utilities, businesses, and other cities and levels of government, to shift away from expensive and polluting fossil fuels and give way for a clean energy future – with healthier communities, more green jobs, and fairer, more inclusive cities.

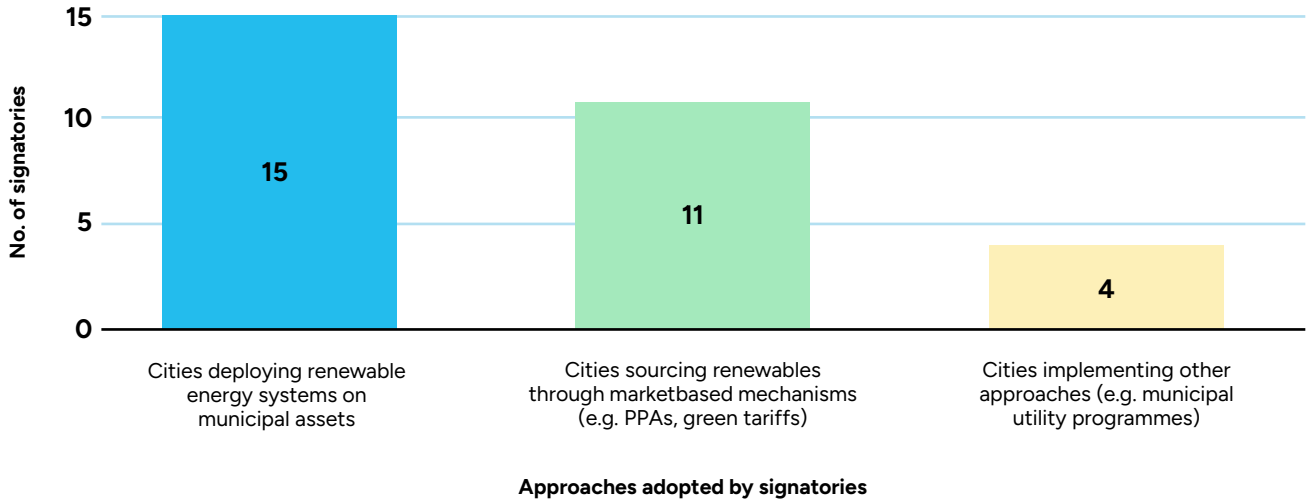
IMPACT

Progress on Accelerator commitments as of 2025:

33%

of signatory cities have achieved the municipal commitment, while 40% are progressing.

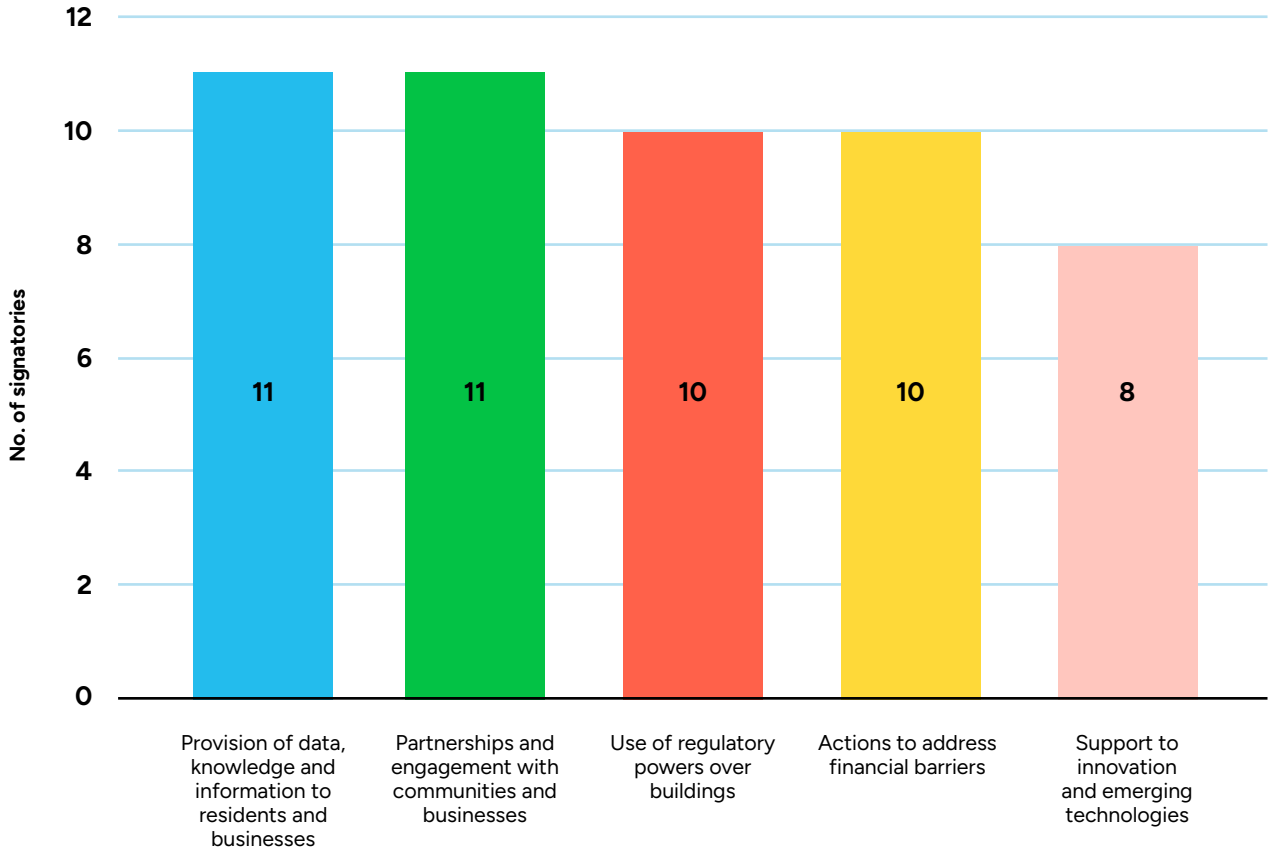
Main approaches cities are adopting to meet the municipal commitment (number of cities using that approach):



60%

of signatory cities are on track to meet the citywide commitment.

Main actions cities are taking to meet the city-wide commitment (number of cities taking that action):



Over 20 MW of non-renewable energy was phased out by signatory cities between 2023 and 2025, an equivalent of 17,520 American homes no longer being powered by fossil fuels.

100%

of signatory cities are implementing actions towards grid decarbonisation (either building-scale or large scale).

67%

of signatory cities are using regulatory powers over buildings to boost renewable energy use.

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Municipal commitment: Lead by example, either by switching municipal electricity consumption to 100% renewable energy by 2025 or deploying renewable energy systems on all feasible municipal assets by 2030

Buenos Aires had a total renewable energy installed capacity of 2 MW on its assets as of 2025, up from 1.6 MW in 2023. This was a result of various city initiatives such as the enactment of law 6.646, on the use of renewable energy in public buildings. The law legally established the promotion and incorporation of clean energy into municipal consumption to align with the city's environmental commitments and a strategic plan for energy use from renewable sources in public buildings. The city also launched a PPA tender to facilitate electricity supply service from renewable sources to 12 local government buildings (12,850 MWh/year) in 2023.

Melbourne prioritises 100% renewable energy, as stated in its Climate Change Mitigation Strategy. Its assets are already being supplied by 100% renewable electricity under the 10-year Melbourne Renewable Electricity Project power purchase agreement. Other initiatives include: Power Melbourne, a groundbreaking network of community batteries; a Gas Free Operations programme to shift city assets to 100% renewable electricity, which was awarded A$2.5 million (US$1.6 million) in grants from the federal government in 2025; and expansion of solar PV. The city has rapidly grown its renewable energy generation, bringing the city's total solar capacity across council-owned buildings to 1.35 MW as of 2025, avoiding approximately 900 tonnes of CO_2 emissions per year.

City-wide commitment: Accelerating renewable energy transition: Use 100% renewable electricity citywide by 2035 and fully decarbonised energy to cook and heat and cool buildings within the city no later than 2050

Los Angeles has launched one of the largest solar and battery energy storage projects in the US – the Eland Solar-plus-Storage Center project. The city's energy utility (LADWP) has a 25-year PPA with the project's owner, Arevon Energy, Inc. The energy supply from the project will meet 7% of the city's energy consumption needs and power over 266,000 households. It will also increase the city's clean energy share to above 60%, moving towards the goal of being powered by 100% clean energy by 2035.

Copenhagen is implementing a number of actions to reach its target of being supplied by 100% carbon neutral electricity. These includes the retrofitting and modernisation of the city's main Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants to phase out fossil fuels – mainly coal. As of 2024, the city had nearly net zero district heating, and about 80% of its electricity production was carbon neutral. Copenhagen also has a newly approved Energy Strategy, and new 2035 targets of 330 MW of heat pump capacity, 550 MW of heat boiler capacity and 75 MW rooftop solar PV within city limits.

City-wide commitment: Enabling energy access with renewables: Achieve universal access to reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies by 2030 and use 100% renewable electricity citywide by 2050

Tshwane issued a Request for Information (RFI) that aims to identify 1,000 MW of renewable and clean energy projects from independent power producers (IPPs), which the city can then contract to power the local grid. The RFI was advertised in December 2023 and closed in February 2024. In 2025, Tshwane also approved the Embedded Generation policy – encouraging the use of renewable energy technologies by providing guidelines and regulating the connection of generators into the city's electrical grid. The Energy Wheeling policy was also ratified – aiming to facilitate access by generators to wheel and sell energy to off-takers.

City-wide commitment: Maximising local renewable energy: Deploy clean energy systems for electricity, heating, cooling and cooking to achieve 50% of the assessed feasible potential within the city by 2030 and 100% by 2050

Montréal is focusing on expanding the deployment of renewable energy for consumption by private buildings to reach its goal of net-zero buildings by 2040, as its buildings are already 100% powered by the Hydro-Québec electricity grid. Biomass, geothermal and photovoltaic energy sources are being assessed and explored. The city solely uses biogas from a former landfill, Saint-Michel Environmental Centre, to cogenerate electricity and heat, and plans to commission new projects to utilise all municipal biomass (sludge and organic waste) to produce energy. The city also intends to: deploy more geothermal systems for heating and cooling, with the city currently having a total of 33 systems for municipal buildings; study its additional solar potential and heat recovery mechanisms for buildings; and explore other interventions.

Seoul is aiming for 50% of its renewable energy generation to come from geothermal energy, and maximum local renewable energy to be attained by deploying systems on all feasible municipal assets by 2030. As of 2025, the city has a cumulative renewable energy capacity of 1,545 MW, covering both the public and private sectors. In addition, the city launched an efficiency improvement programme to replace outdated geothermal equipment. In 2024, nine public and three private facilities received support from the programme. A comprehensive geothermal expansion plan was also prepared by the city, and, between 2022 and February 2025, 65 MW of geothermal systems had been installed as a result of major city-led initiatives such as the Garak Market redevelopment. Over the same period, 16.6 MW of additional solar PV was installed.

INSPIRATION

San Francisco delivered a joint presentation with the city of **Boston** in 2023 during a convening organised by Architecture 2030, where they reviewed and learned from their complementary renewable zoning policies, for example the San Francisco Environment Code Chapter 30 (Ordinance 220-19).

Copenhagen's work with energy flexibility has been inspired by Swedish cities, including **Gothenborg.** The city is interested in the fact that some Swedish utility companies have the option to turn off electricity to consumers as part of a security of supply strategy.

COLLABORATION

The **Tokyo** Metropolitan Government (TMG) is working with national and local governments and businesses to strategically promote the spread of next-generation solar cells, to reach its target of 10 MW capacity by 2035. Since 2023, TMG has been working with companies to conduct verification projects for solar cells, like the one at the Tokyo International Cruise Terminal.

Vancouver aims to reduce upfront costs for energy upgrades and lower electricity rates to support electrification and energy efficiency for all city residents, including economically disadvantaged groups. It is achieving this through advocacy and collaboration with other stakeholders, including the utility BC Hydro and provincial government. Examples of such initiatives include the BC Hydro's residential rebates and free programmes.

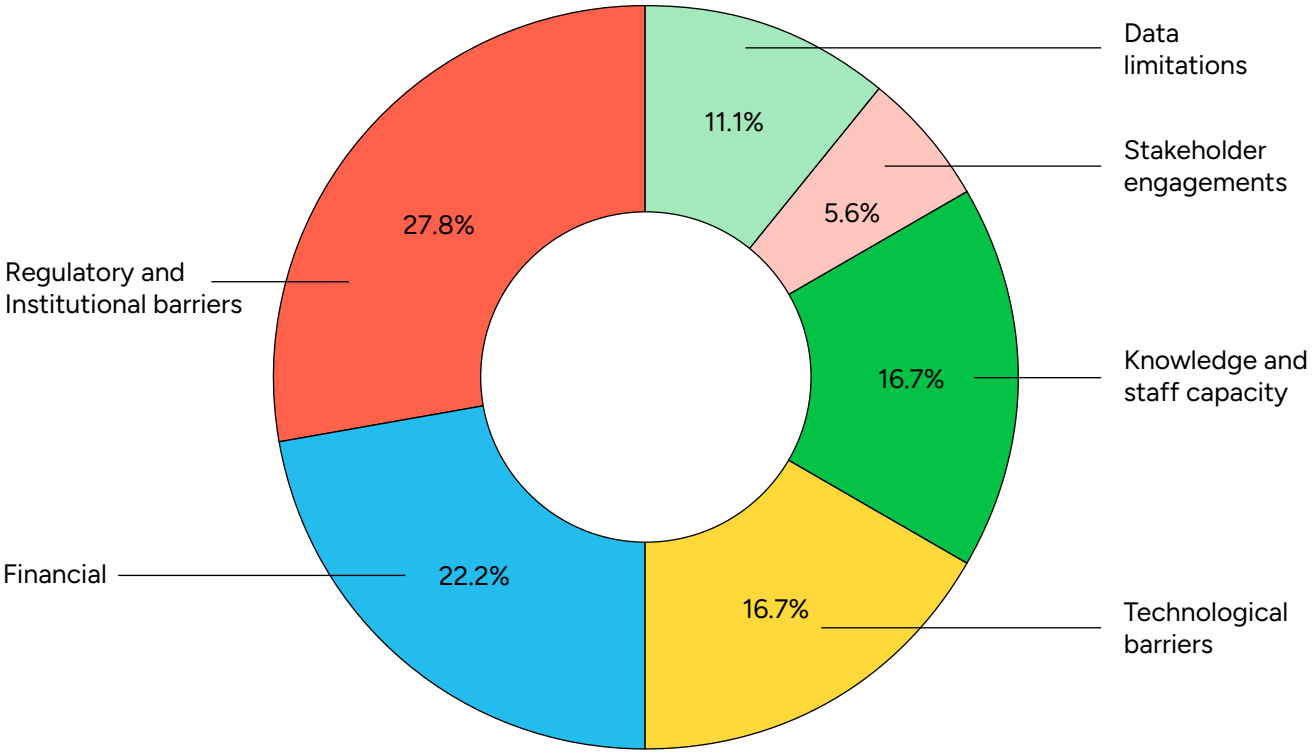
EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Lisbon launched the 'Loja Lisboa Clara' in April 2025, a one-stop-shop for climate and energy that focuses on residential decarbonisation, and supports the most vulnerable households. Integrated into the national Espaço Energia network, this physical hub helps residents access information, technical support, and funding – particularly those experiencing energy poverty.

The Loja Lisboa Clara is a key tool for distributing Vale Eficiência vouchers, a grant-based national programme that provides free energy efficiency upgrades for economically vulnerable families. By connecting residents directly with support and ensuring access to climate benefits for low-income groups, Lisbon is advancing a just and inclusive energy transition.

Lagos State is advancing equity, inclusion, and collaboration in the energy sector through a mix of renewable energy deployment, gender-focused programmes, and public-private partnerships. The Lagos State Development Plan (2025–50) prioritises low-income and underserved areas, using mini-grids and solar home systems to improve access, particularly in rural and peri-urban communities. The Solar Power Naija Initiative, a collaborative project with the Federal Government and World Bank, has provided over 100,000 subsidised solar systems to low-income households. Gender inclusion is addressed through the Women in Energy Empowerment Programme (WEEP), training women in solar installation, maintenance and entrepreneurship.

Challenges faced by cities



CHALLENGES

Data limitations, financial barriers, regulatory and institutional barriers, technological barriers, knowledge and staff capacity, and stakeholder engagement are among the most common challenges faced by signatory cities. Regulatory and institutional barriers were the highest reported challenges, mainly caused by cities' limited jurisdiction over the energy supplied within their boundaries. This challenge has been overcome by cities through various ways, such as collaboration with energy utilities and other entities, deployment of renewable energy systems on municipal assets, and use of regulatory powers over buildings to incentivise solar installations.

Prerequisite funds needed for renewable energy deployment are becoming more difficult to raise for cities, as they have many competing priorities to address with limited resources. Therefore, cities are taking up emerging approaches to access additional funds, including application to grants and climate funds, and using innovative financing models to address their financial hurdles. Low stakeholder engagement, limited data and knowledge, and staff capacity on renewable energy solutions can be addressed through advocacy, capacity building and sharing of information and data on public platforms.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

The next five years remain pivotal for signatory cities to successfully achieve their commitments, ahead of the 2030 target year. **Lisbon** plans to install another 2.2 MW of solar power on its municipal assets by 2027. **Paris** is aiming to increase the green share of its district heating network energy mix from 50.7% in 2024 to 75% in 2030. The continued implementation of city energy actions and plans requires collaborative stakeholder processes to fast-track progress and address pressing challenges encountered along the way. One collaborative approach is the city of **London**'s Solar Together Programme – a group-buying initiative facilitated by the city to help households and small businesses address the challenge of high costs of energy equipment.

To address existing and future challenges and help implement energy plans, C40 is supporting signatory cities to find tailored solutions through various avenues like city-to-city knowledge-sharing sessions and workshops. Extra support will be offered to signatory cities lagging in progress to help them gain momentum in the transition. Technical assistance for the decarbonisation of energy supply and demand is also being offered to various cities through programmes like the 24/7 Carbon Free Energy Project and South African Energy Project. As 2030 approaches, C40 Renewable Energy Accelerator signatory cities continue to set the pace for ambitious climate actions and advance the energy transition.

FUTURE ACTION

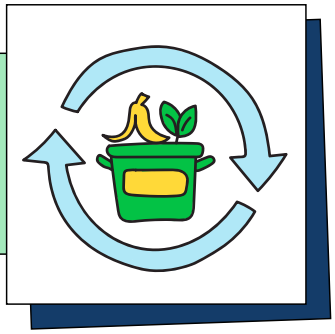
Paris has embarked on the second phase of its Énergiesculteurs programme, promoting solar panel installations on public building rooftops. The initiative is expected to run from 2025 to 2029 and add 1.7 GWh of renewable electricity. The first phase (2022–25) had a goal of 750 MWh/year and was implemented by an energy cooperative – Enercitif.

Sydney will begin to implement its recently endorsed environmental strategy 2025-2030. The strategy proposes increased targets for city operations, including 85% reduction in emissions based on 2006 levels, 30% reduction in total energy based on 2023 levels, and elimination of fossil gas.

C40 ACCELERATOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

ACCESS THIS STANDALONE REPORT

C40 SUSTAINABLE WASTE SYSTEMS ACCELERATOR



How cities are creating cleaner, equitable and climate-resilient cities through sustainable waste management

** We are pleased to share that the Pathway Towards Zero Waste Accelerator has been renamed the **C40 Sustainable Waste Systems Accelerator.** The new name recognises the Accelerator as an initiative in its own right, alongside the Towards Zero Waste Accelerator, and acknowledges different realities and opportunities faced by cities on the path to a zero-waste future. The C40 Sustainable Waste Systems Accelerator responds to the opportunity to cut short-term methane emissions from the high content of organic waste in signatory cities, while also taking inclusivity as a guiding principle.*

SIGNATORY CITIES

Accra, Amman, Buenos Aires, Curitiba, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka South, Durban/eThekwini, Ekurhuleni, Fortaleza, Freetown, Nairobi, Quito, Rio de Janeiro and Tshwane

COMMITMENTS

1. **Provide citywide waste collection services**
2. **Treat at least 30% of organic waste**
3. **Reduce waste disposal emissions by at least 30%**

SUMMARY

Sustainable waste management accounts for up to 35% of overall municipal emissions in some cities, driven primarily by methane from organic waste, which is mostly disposed of at dumpsites and landfills. Targeting food waste and improving disposal practices, with action such as closing dumpsites, capturing landfill gas, and developing sanitary landfills, is critical for cities to achieve meaningful and lasting climate progress. Achieving universal waste collection is foundational, as no waste can be properly managed if it is not first collected. Expanding collection enables treatment and safe disposal. It also reduces illegal dumping, improves air quality, and makes cities cleaner and healthier for residents.

The C40 Sustainable Waste Systems Accelerator was launched in October 2022, with now **14 global signatory cities** in three regions – Latin America, Africa, and South and West Asia. The city of Fortaleza has recently signed up. It is designed to help cities improve waste management practices and reduce methane emissions. If delivered, the commitments could prevent the annual generation of one million tonnes of methane collectively.

Waste is a pressing issue in these regions, with waste volume forecasted to double by 2050. Yet these cities are united in their ambition to tackle the most harmful impacts of the waste sector and to build systems that are cleaner, more equitable, and climate-resilient.

Most cities are now reporting for the second time since the launch of the Accelerator in 2022. Progress is visible with waste collection coverage expanded, and most cities now reach 80–90% of coverage. Success has been greatest where cities adopted inclusive approaches, working with cooperatives, the informal sector, and residents in informal settlements.

Cities including **Dhaka South** and **Amman** are introducing their first organic treatment infrastructure. Composting pilots are underway in nearly all cities, large-scale infrastructure is being commissioned in some, and biodigesters are starting to be assessed in a range of cities currently. **Buenos Aires** stands out with infrastructure that is capable of treating more than the target of 30% of the city's organic waste.

Innovative solutions are also taking root, from briquette production in **Freetown** to the use of black soldier fly larvae for organic waste treatment in **Dar es Salaam**.

Signatory cities are prioritising larger waste generators such as schools, businesses, and markets, where organic waste streams are more homogeneous and collected in bulk, reducing costs and logistical barriers for treatment. These sites are becoming testing grounds to understand where facilities can be located, how responsibilities can be shared between generators and municipalities, and what role the private sector can play in treatment. In cities including **Curitiba** and **Tshwane**, small and large public markets are emerging as common entry points. Increasing the treatment of organic waste is proving critical to ease pressure on landfills, many of which are nearing capacity or lack adequate technology. Cities are introducing soil covering, improving disposal practices, and capturing landfill gas. As these projects scale, they are expected to deliver substantial emissions reductions in the coming years.

Overall, cities have reported 134 actions across the three commitments. The first two commitments around collection and organic treatment account for the majority of these actions, while those on the third commitment, reducing emissions from waste disposal, often involve large-scale projects such as the decommissioning of dumpsites. The actions cities are taking on the C40 Sustainable Waste Systems Accelerator are improving daily life by creating cleaner neighbourhoods, reducing air pollution and flooding, and making communities more liveable. They are also creating new employment opportunities, better working conditions for informal workers, and more inclusive access to services, alongside environmental improvemen ts that benefit the most vulnerable communities. For example, **Accra** is implementing a women-led source separation and compost project in partnership with People's Dialogue. Market vendors and women in low income communities and informal settlements are trained in source separation and composting. Together, these steps are laying the foundation for cleaner, healthier, and more resilient cities.

IMPACT

100%

of signatory cities that reported are on track to meet their commitments

7 cities

have already achieved the target of universal collection, while 3 have advanced towards the target since signing in 2022

134 actions

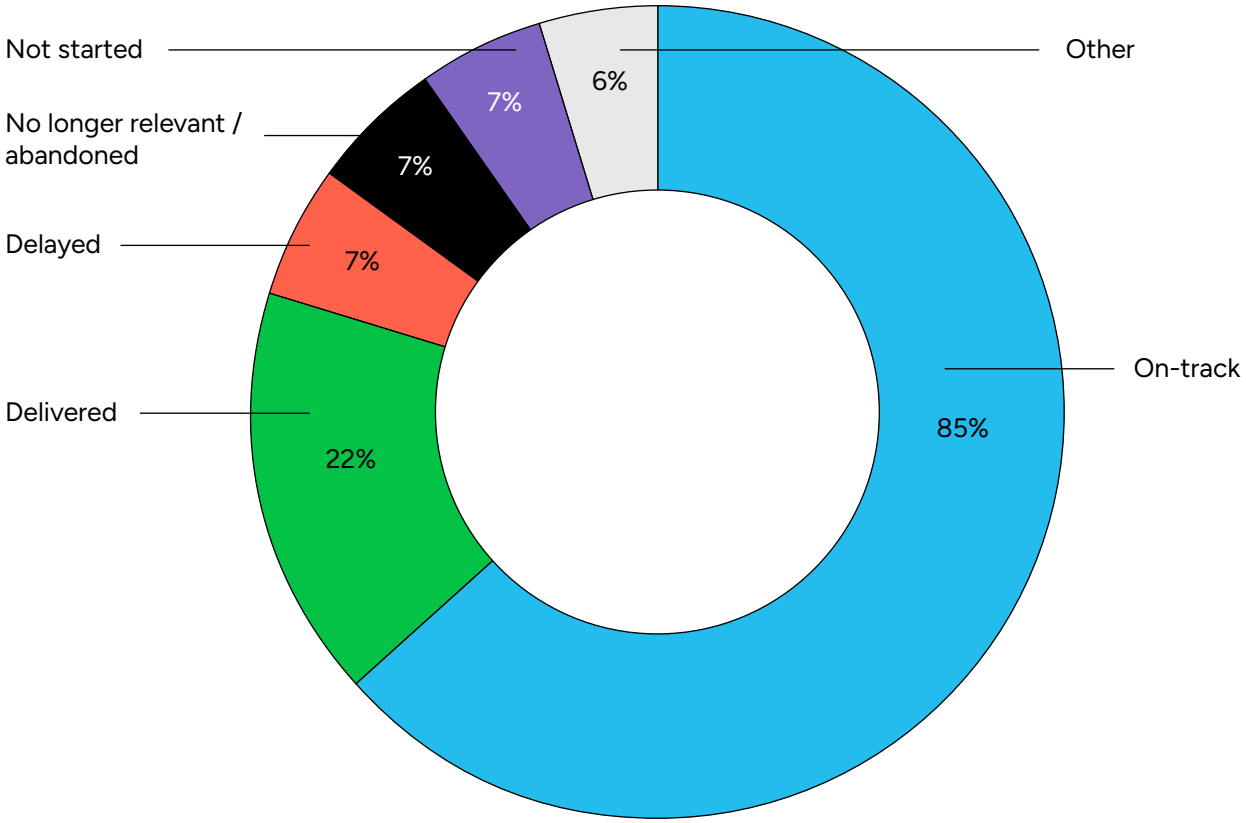
have been developed by cities since signing, of which 107 are on track or delivered

Buenos Aires

as the first out of 13 reporting cities has already surpassed 30% of organics treatment ahead of the target date of 2030

ACTIONS PER COMMITMENT

CITY ACTIONS BY STATUS



TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Provide timely city-wide waste collection services

Freetown has restructured its entire waste system by dividing the city into eight collection blocks managed by licensed private companies, supported by new by-laws requiring household registration and digital payment systems. Upgraded transfer stations are being developed as hubs for sorting, composting, and recycling, creating jobs and improving service reliability.

Quito has achieved near-universal municipal waste collection, reaching 98.5% coverage through a wide range of services. To close the remaining gap in rural and hard-to-access areas, the city is rolling out a new management model that decentralises services, upgrades equipment, strengthens infrastructure, and fosters innovation through strategic partnerships.

Commitment 2: Treat at least 30% of organic waste

Buenos Aires is installing a composting plant with a capacity of 78,000 tons per year, to process the waste produced by all large generators located within the city limits. Installation is expected by 2030. A pre-feasibility study was conducted in early 2025, and work will begin on a feasibility study by the end of 2025, which will be financed by the Interamerican Development Bank.

Curitiba has launched its Household Composting Programme (PMUC), implemented through Ecopoints strategically located throughout the city, facilitating residents' access to organic waste drop-off. The programme is also expanding composting sites, providing additional infrastructure to support organic waste treatment and segregation.

Commitment 3: Reduce waste disposal emissions by at least 30%

Rio de Janeiro is already converting over 75% of landfill biogas into clean energy and biomethane, which fuels vehicles and industry, while excess gas is flared to reduce methane emissions. To further decarbonise, the city is introducing biomethane- and natural gas-powered waste collection trucks in 2025 and monitoring methane emissions via satellite imaging with the Netherlands Institute for Space Research.

Durban/eThekwini aims to enhance its landfill gas programmes by improving existing gas recovery operations at Bisasar Road and Mariannhill, capturing and converting methane into electricity. The city is also extracting and treating gas at the newer Buffelsdraai site, capping and rehabilitating closed landfills to mitigate fugitive emissions. Feasibility studies are underway to explore upgrading the captured landfill gas into biomethane for use as vehicle fuel, particularly for municipal fleets.

INSPIRATION

Accra drew inspiration from the Zero Waste Street concept piloted in communities in **Paris**, where households are mobilised to practice source separation and composting, leading to the implementation of a Zero Waste Street in Accra as well.

COLLABORATION

Ekurhuleni partners with OXFAM South Africa (SA) to advance waste minimisation, recycling, and separation at source, as well as to establish recycling centres. OXFAM SA also supports capacity-building initiatives targeting youth and corporations. Youth organisations run education and awareness campaigns, which the city supports with resources and active participation. The city also collaborates with government departments, such as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and the Gauteng Department of Environment, alongside community-based enterprises, Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), and the private sector.

Tshwane has collaborated with the private sector to support green waste diversion at the city-owned garden sites. Previously sent to landfill, the material is now shredded and picked up for further processing as compost by the city's partners. Currently, five sites are participating in the diversion programme with plans to expand to two remaining sites.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Freetown City Council (FCC) has implemented a comprehensive reform of its waste management system, creating substantial employment opportunities for youth and women. Under the new system, over 1,200 youth will be employed as waste collectors through contracted waste management companies, alongside over 200 administrative and support roles across eight waste collection blocks. A new digital waste management platform, including mobile and accessible payment systems, will engage youth as digital ambassadors and mobile money agents, generating sustainable income streams. Meanwhile, six transfer stations serving as material recovery facilities and composting sites, will expand women's participation in the green economy through waste sorting, composting, and plastic recovery. These initiatives are part of FCC's broader commitment to transforming the city's waste management sector, fostering cleaner communities and a more sustainable urban environment.

Rio de Janeiro launched its first municipal food bank at Ecoparque do Caju in 2024, implemented by the city's Municipal Urban Cleaning Company (Comlurb) with support from the Secretariat of Social Assistance. The initiative addresses food and nutritional insecurity while reducing food waste, serving over 250 socially vulnerable residents in the Caju neighbourhood, one of the city's lowest healthy diet indicator (HDI) areas. Each month, more than 3,500kg of fruits and vegetables are collected and redistributed with support from the Zona Sul supermarket chain, combining social support with environmental responsibility, and fostering community resilience.

CHALLENGES

Cities in the C40 Sustainable Waste Systems Accelerator face a set of common challenges. Financial constraints limit investment in infrastructure such as composting facilities, biodigesters, and recycling plants. Access to financial markets is often difficult, and budgets rarely allow for upfront project development steps such as feasibility studies. Smaller projects face an additional barrier: markets for outputs like compost or energy usually only become viable at a larger scale, making decentralised solutions harder to sustain, even though they have a range of benefits. Even when financing is secured, finding the right financial models, for instance balancing user fees against potential revenue from biogas or energy recovery, remains a challenge. Cities also highlight gaps in technical capacity to design, operate, and monitor large-scale treatment systems. Regulatory frameworks are often outdated, failing to mandate separate collection or to clearly define the responsibilities of different actors. Difficulties in data collection or usage, or also limited citizen engagement such as waste separation, further complicate progress. Land scarcity and inadequate collection infrastructure also create operational bottlenecks.

Addressing these barriers, for example through innovative financial models that blend public, private, and community resources, or stronger citizen engagement in areas such as source separation, creates an opportunity to unlock the full potential of cities' sustainable waste strategies. By tackling these challenges head-on, cities can not only accelerate progress toward their zero waste goals, but also deliver broader co-benefits, from green job creation and local economic development to healthier, more resilient communities.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

The priority for the next five years is to scale up their pilot schemes, while also developing markets for compost, digestate, and biogas, and strengthening partnerships with local enterprises that can put recovered materials to productive use.

To sustain momentum, cities will need targeted technical assistance, innovative financing models, and clear regulatory frameworks, for example to mandate separation and treatment. Embedding these measures into laws, budgets, and institutions will be critical to ensuring that today's pilots evolve into permanent, resilient waste management systems capable of delivering the 2030 targets.

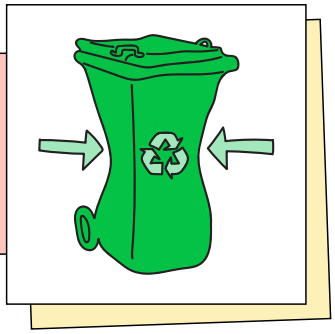
FUTURE ACTION

Dar es Salaam's Green City Market Road Map 2025 is designed to guide efforts toward treating at least 30% of organic waste by 2030. The city has allocated budget to scale up diversion facilities in 2025–26, with preparatory steps such as identifying suitable sites already underway.

Dhaka South is aiming to capture 100–120 tons of raw waste in the new composting plant at Matuail (which will produce approximately 20 tons of compost per day). The plant infrastructure is complete, and operations are expected to begin by the end of 2025.

ACCESS THIS STANDALONE REPORT

C40 TOWARDS ZERO WASTE ACCELERATOR



How cities are moving towards more circular, sustainable and zero waste communities.

SIGNATORY CITIES

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

COMMITMENTS

1. **Reduce the municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% by 2030 compared to 2015.**
2. **Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2015; and**
3. **Increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030.**

SUMMARY

The waste we generate contributes significantly to the climate crisis. Food loss and waste alone account for 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while plastics generate 3.4% of global emissions – a number that will only continue to grow, as the amount of plastics being produced is expected to triple by 2060. Moving towards zero waste not only keeps valuable resources out of landfill, it makes circularity a part of our everyday lives and reduces our collective carbon footprint.

The **C40 Towards Zero Waste Accelerator** was launched in 2018 with a group of ambitious cities that chose to take the action needed to make their communities more circular, sustainable and ultimately zero waste. Today, **21 global signatory cities** are leading the way by getting food waste out of the waste stream, making reuse and repair a part of their local economies, and tackling challenging sectors and materials.

Signatory cities have come a long way since committing to the Accelerator. The majority of signatory cities are on track to meet their goal to reduce their waste generation by 15% by 2030. Disposal rates are generally tracking steady downward declines. More and more cities are taking action on the circular economy to reduce waste by fostering repair and reuse initiatives as a means of keeping goods and materials in circulation for as long as possible. From **Sydney's** Circular Economy Statement, to **Tokyo's** demonstration projects for the sustainable use of plastics, and **San Francisco's** successful efforts to convert over 100 businesses to reusables through the city's Commercial Reuse Program, cities are making circularity a part of their local economies. But more work will be needed to help meet the interrelated challenges of climate and resiliency that cities face. ReLondon's work on circular neighbourhoods, for instance, has been piloting real world, on the ground solutions for circularity in **London's** boroughs on everything from food, textiles, electronics, and plastics and packaging waste.

Action on food waste is one of the most impactful climate solutions to reduce methane and its impact on climate breakdown. Across the Accelerator, signatory cities are diverting an average of 30% of their food and organic waste from disposal. Cities such as **Auckland**, **New York**, **Rotterdam**, **Melbourne**, **Los Angeles**, **Montréal**, **Sydney** and **Washington, D.C.** continue to roll out and scale up their food waste collection systems, while **Milan's** innovative Food Waste Hubs go even further by tackling prevention and food insecurity through food recovery as well. These actions by signatory cities have a powerful impact, given that methane contributes 87 times more to global heating than carbon dioxide.

Cities are striving to embrace circularity and truly make waste a resource that is integrated back into the economy. While these changes may take time, they will ultimately have the greatest impact on how we live, consume, use and reuse our goods and materials from our current, take, make and waste society.

IMPACT

76%

of signatory cities are on track to reduce their municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% by 2030 compared to 2015

100%

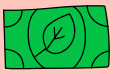
of signatory cities have taken action to restrict single use/non-recyclable materials

86%

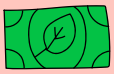
of signatory cities have food and organic waste collection systems in place to keep food waste out of landfills

8

signatory cities are currently diverting 50% or more of their waste



Good, Green Jobs



Portland's deconstruction requirements have fostered the development of a small deconstruction cluster, creating between 30 and 40 new good green jobs in this sector. This is out of a total of approximately 2,600 jobs the city has created in the waste sector.

ReLondon, **London**'s strategic body to improve waste and resource management across the city's 33 boroughs, has delivered a successful business support programme to catalyse London's circular economy. The programme has enabled a diverse community of nearly 200 businesses to access £630,000 in grants and 1,200 hours of expert advice to explore, pilot and scale circular economy business models. This has helped divert at least 11,500kg of waste from traditional waste streams through reuse or other strategies, while supporting the creation or safeguarding of 630 green jobs.

21 cities

have saved over an estimated

110 million tonnes

of waste from going to disposal over the

8 years

the Accelerator has been in place

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Reduce municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% by 2030 compared to 2015

Los Angeles City Council approved the Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Strategy in October 2024, which outlines an ambitious roadmap for meeting source reduction targets and key policy proposals.

The city also launched the Reusable Foodware Program, which provides small grants to help dine-in food establishments transition away from single-use foodware by providing funding to purchase reusable foodware (e.g. cups, plates, bowls, etc). The programme successfully transitioned 120 food service establishments from disposable to reusable foodware for their dine-in operations.

Vancouver's Circular Food Innovation Lab has helped identify causes of food waste along business supply chains and test prototype solutions. Run in partnership with Emily Carr University and participants from Vancouver's food sector, findings from the project will help to inform the development of future city policy for reducing wasted edible food. The project also brings Indigenous representatives, food recovery organisations and food businesses together to co-create a roadmap and education materials to advance an equitable circular economy of food.

Commitment 2: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2015

New York implemented mandatory curbside composting for all residents in October 2024. While the city has been providing curbside collection of organics for over a decade, this marks the first time every household in all five boroughs has been served. This effort is part of a broader set of New York City Department of Sanitation composting services, which also includes 24/7 smart composting bins, and school-based collection to support composting education for the next generation.

Rotterdam has been actively expanding its collection of food waste from multi-unit dwellings and has added another 5,000 households to the 22,000 multi-unit dwellings that already have access to food waste collection. The city has also successfully increased the amount of glass packaging diverted, with a campaign which resulted in an increase of 30% diversion in neighbourhoods. This campaign will run in more neighbourhoods and the city will also introduce a campaign on the separate collection of paper and cardboard as well.

Commitment 3: Increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030

Copenhagen launched a new plan for waste 'Ressource- og Affaldsstrategi' (RAS30) on 1 January 2025, with an increased focus on waste from commercial business and construction. Key areas of the plan include strengthening the sorting practices of residents and collaboration with waste managers and housing associations on construction waste and improving the sorting practices of companies.

Melbourne's High-Rise Residential Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) dehydrator programme has expanded, now operating in ten residential and mixed-use buildings, up from five residential buildings in 2023. The expansion aims to thoroughly test the feasibility of separating organic materials between residential and commercial occupants within the same building. To date, the programme has successfully diverted 49 tonnes of organic material.

Melbourne's Food Organics Butler Service has also significantly increased its diversion of food waste from the commercial sector. To date, 311.5 tonnes of organics have been diverted through this service, and underscores the service's critical role in the city's commercial organic waste strategy.

INSPIRATION

Toronto looked to **Portland's** Rip City Reuse programme at the Moda Centre to see how reuse at large event venues can work in practice, and in particular, how to choose durable, high-quality reuseables, provide clear communication to users, collection options and staff training. Toronto has used Portland's insights to apply the city's own Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw to larger event venues for reusable cups and containers.

London's work on circular neighbourhoods such as the ReLondon initiative 'Heston in the Loop', has been a valuable learning resource for **Tel Aviv-Yafo.** The city co-hosted a joint session with ReLondon in 2024 on Reuse and Repair as part of the city's month-long 'No Need' (to buy) November campaign. The 'No Need' November campaign marked its fourth year with a notable increase in public participation and the establishment of new city partnerships. Five new NGOs and municipalities also joined the campaign after being provided with guidance on how to organise events and a city-wide campaign.

COLLABORATION

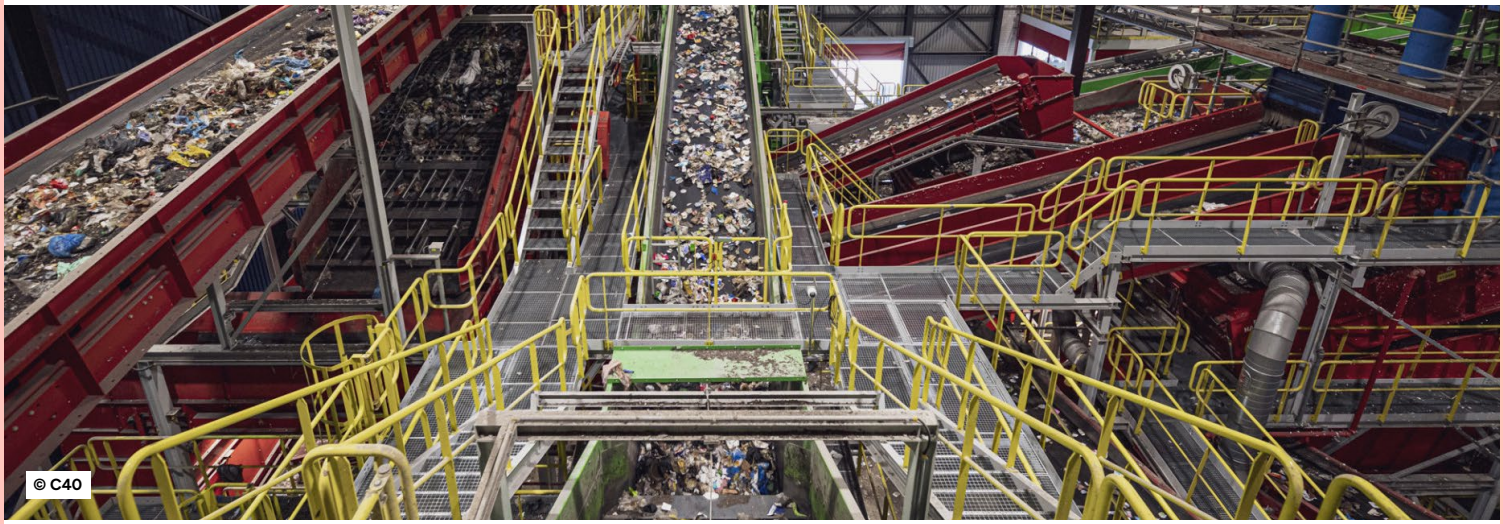
Portland held a deconstruction training workshop with Portland Youthbuilders, a local deconstruction contractor, and a non-profit housing developer, Sabin Community Development Corporation, in July 2025. Students received training and gained exposure to the field of deconstruction and salvage materials sales. This training is a great example of bringing multiple partners together for shared goals of affordable housing, good green job training, and construction and demolitions debris reduction.

Washington, D.C.'s Department of Energy and the Environment donation and reuse programme partnered with local universities to support move-out donation and reuse drives, helping to divert 80,000 pounds of material from landfill. District universities collected items from their spring move-out that were then redistributed in the fall for their incoming students, with priority given to first-generation students.

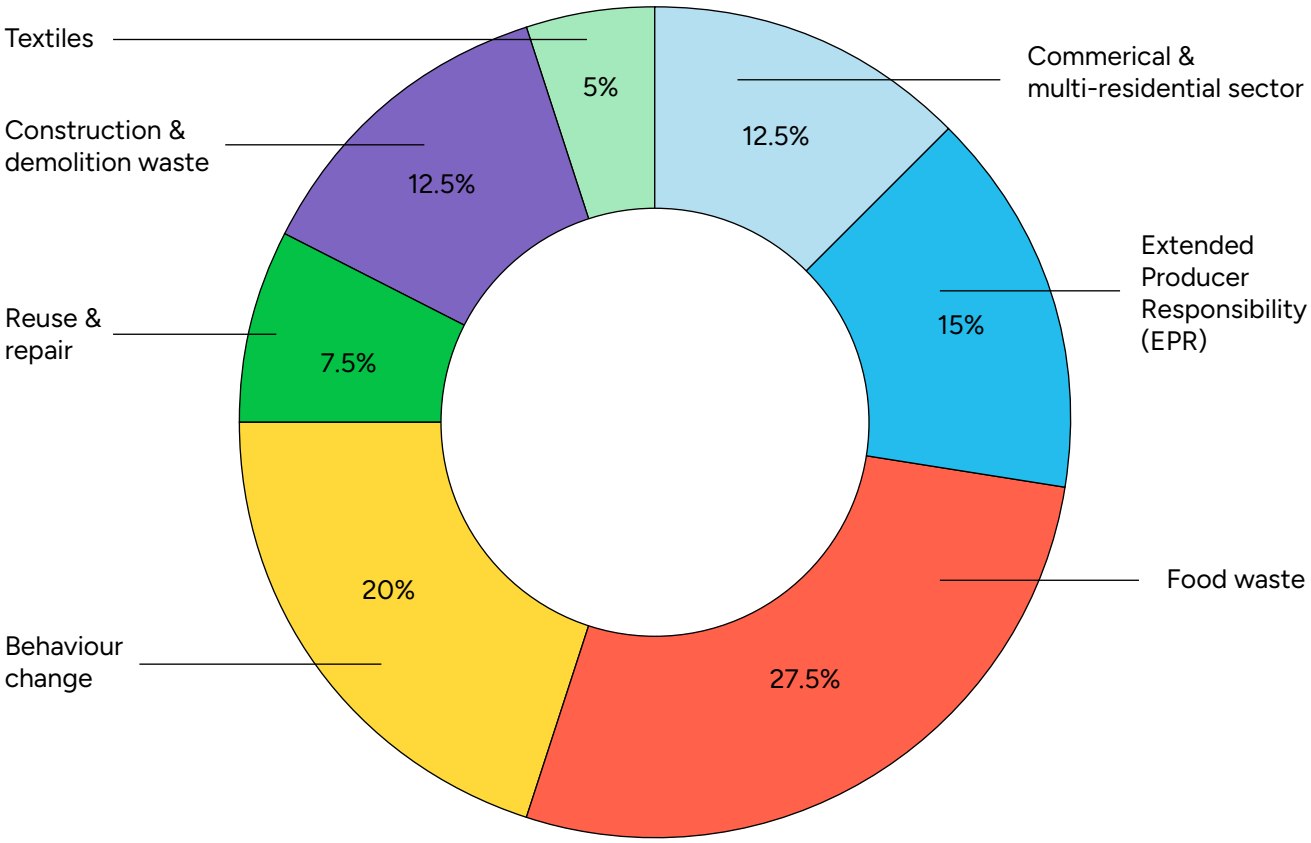
EQUITY AND INCLUSION

In the past year, the Mayor's Office of Food Justice in **Boston** advanced efforts to connect food-insecure residents with fresh, healthy recovered food by completing a Food Recovery Assessment and funding infrastructure to store and distribute perishable recovered and donated food. Grants supported over a dozen organisations, including food pantries, food recovery groups, and a collaborative food access hub. Over the next one to two years, the city will prioritise and implement recommendations from the assessment and help develop the hub, with a focus on roles the city can play in unlocking more recovered food from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.

The **New York City** Department of Sanitation worked closely with City Council and advocates to develop its Waste Equity Law, which cut permitted capacity at private waste transfer stations in four historically overburdened neighbourhoods, which have long experienced disproportionate impacts from private carting operations such as truck traffic, noise, and emissions. The law aims to advance environmental justice and ensure no district would become overburdened in the future. The law eliminated 10,000 tons of private waste transfer capacity per day, reducing truck traffic in traditionally marginalised and underserved neighbourhoods while preserving capacity to expand the city's recycling and composting programmes.



CHALLENGES



While the majority of signatory cities are on track to reduce their waste generation rates on a per capita basis, they also face significant challenges when it comes to reducing the amount of waste disposed, and significantly increasing their diversion rates. While many cities have successfully diverted a large range of waste materials from their residential sectors, commercial businesses and multi-residential sectors are proving to be more difficult to service and engage. Recycling streams are also becoming more lightweight and less profitable, with an increasing amount of harder to recycle plastics replacing more valuable materials such as metals and glass.

More action on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) at the state and national level are also needed to support cities in their efforts to reduce waste. While cities are often hubs of innovation when it comes to circularity, those efforts can be even more effective when other levels of government put incentives or regulations in place to help drive more upstream change.

Cities can and must do more to divert food waste to higher end uses, as well as ensuring a resource as valuable as food is not being wasted in the first place. More effort is also needed to shift consumption, waste generation and disposal habits towards more sustainable reuse and repair behaviours, while also tackling harder to manage materials that are still ending up in the waste stream, such as construction and demolition waste and textiles.

HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

There are just five years until the C40 Towards Zero Waste Accelerator 2030 commitments are to be met. Diverting more food waste from landfill is a key priority for cities, given its high climate impact and the need to preserve dwindling landfill space. This will take innovation and leadership such as actions taken by **Montréal,** which piloted a shift from weekly to bi-weekly waste collection in one of the city's 19 boroughs. After 12 months, the pilot showed an average reduction of 10% in the amount of household waste collected, and an average increase of 30% in the amount of food waste collected. These results have prompted the city to roll out the same change to collection schedules in all of their boroughs.

Shifting consumption and waste habits is also needed to move the needle on Accelerator commitments. Cities such as **Philadelphia** are meeting this challenge by developing strategies to more effectively engage residents and reduce waste. The City's Department of Sanitation, in partnership with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives, is working with multiple city departments to release a Zero Waste 2035 Plan in 2026. **Paris** has also recently released an ambitious Waste Prevention Plan (2024-2030), with strategic priorities spanning every waste stream.

Fostering a strong culture of reuse and repair by making it more accessible and affordable is seen by many cities as a long-term solution to move towards circularity. **Sydney** is taking action to make the circular economy a reality by providing grants to support local social enterprises in textiles and electronics and help them scale up to ultimately become self-sufficient.

While signatory cities still have a way to go before achieving all of the ambitious commitments under the Accelerator, they are finding new and innovative ways to make a meaningful impact for their residents and show other cities how circularity and zero waste are real world solutions to the climate crisis.

FUTURE ACTION

In 2026, **Auckland** will be trialling a reduction in refuse collection frequency from weekly to fortnightly, as another tool to prompt behaviour change and encourage residents towards greater waste minimisation. If adopted, it is expected to increase diversion from landfill to recycling, food scraps and other alternatives.

Stockholm's mobile solutions such as the popular PopUp Re-use facility 'Popup Återbruket' and the truck-based re-use solution 'Returrundan' (like an ice cream truck for re-use and recyclables), are gaining popularity, and will be scaled up continuously along with the city's solutions for textile and hazardous waste collection.

C40 ACCELERATOR TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

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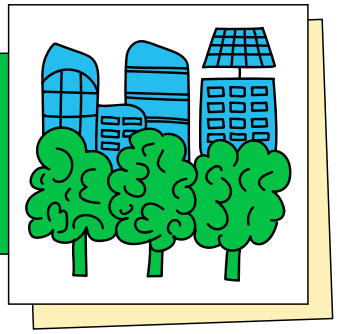
C40 URBAN NATURE ACCELERATOR



Making cities greener and more resilient with solutions from nature

COMMITMENTS

2-year commitments:

1. Make nature goals public
2. Develop support and skills building programmes for green jobs
3. Develop a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities
4. Conduct gap analysis and mapping to show where new greening is needed
5. Accelerate action to address governance barriers to implementation and mobilise access to investments and resources

5-year commitments:

6. Implement new or enhanced public green spaces and green streetscapes in areas with the greatest impact on the most vulnerable
7. Complete a baseline natural vegetation inventory and undertake natural capital accounting to raise awareness of the associated value of urban nature
8. Develop new inclusive governance frameworks, practices, and programmes
9. Update climate action plan adaptation actions to reflect ambitious nature targets

SIGNATORY CITIES

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

SUMMARY

As cities worldwide grapple with climate breakdown and rapid urbanisation, the need for inclusive, resilient, and nature-rich urban environments has never been more urgent. Cities are poorly planned around urban sprawl and car dependency, while nature is pushed out. Meanwhile, the climate crisis significantly exacerbates risk in cities. Urban areas are especially vulnerable to rising temperatures due to the urban heat island effect, with cities up 10°C hotter than surrounding rural areas. By 2050, 1.6 billion urban residents are projected to face extreme heat, with over 800 million vulnerable to sea-level rise and over 650 million facing water scarcity.

Nature can heal, mitigate climate breakdown impacts and safeguard cities from climate hazards. Equitable access to nature improves mental and physical health, supports social cohesion and community wellbeing, and builds more inclusive economies. With roughly half of the world's annual GDP – US$44 trillion – dependent on nature, a shift toward a nature-positive economy is necessary. By 2030, this transition could create 395 million jobs and US$10.1 trillion in business value, while contributing to healthier and more resilient communities.

The C40 Urban Nature Accelerator was launched in 2021 to support mayors to increase and enhance nature in their cities, reduce climate risk and vulnerability, support wider ecosystem services, and make green and blue spaces accessible and equitably distributed. To achieve this, **41 global cities** have committed to deliver on one or both of the pathways to increase green and/or permeable

spaces and ensure access to green or blue spaces by 2030 in line with their objectives, priorities and context.

Signatory cities have made significant progress toward Accelerator commitments from 2023–25. Nearly half of reporting cities have met Pathway 1 (49% up from 43% in 2023), which requires that at least 30% of the city built-up surface area is green or permeable. Similarly, 74% of cities reporting on Pathway 2 (up from 52% in 2023) have ensured that 70% of their population has access to a suitable green or blue space within a 15-minute walk.

A total of 30 cities have implemented major nature and resilience projects such as creating green corridors, new parks, or undertaking large-scale tree planting initiatives, often coupled with strong community engagement. **São Paulo** has established 300 rain gardens, opened 6 new urban parks, created 3 conservation units, and planted more than 250,000 native Atlantic Forest trees since joining the Accelerator. The city also designated its first Municipal Forest with 250 hectares of protected land. In **Chennai**, 143 urban parks and 16 sponge parks have been developed to mitigate flood risk and support groundwater recharge in vulnerable zones. The city has also launched three flagship parks, spanning 38.8 acres of green space focused on biodiversity and flood resilience.

Many cities have also updated policies, plans, or strategies to better integrate nature, from embedding green infrastructure in masterplanning documents to developing standalone biodiversity strategies. These actions have begun to shape more coherent and long-term approaches to nature in urban contexts. **Barcelona** has recently updated its Climate Plan to incorporate explicitly nature-related goals – focusing on nature's ability to combat climate hazards like extreme heat and flooding. **Seattle**'s new Tree Code ensures that each tree of a certain size that is removed will be replaced with two others, and that heritage trees are protected.

Signatory cities are also strengthening their institutional capacity to deliver on nature goals. To improve decision-making, 31 cities have started creating robust baselines through mapping, gap analyses and monitoring of nature and biodiversity. Fifteen cities have secured new funding for nature, either through national or multilateral sources or by allocating greater resources within municipal budgets. In parallel, 25 cities have developed support structures or skills-building programmes for green jobs, ensuring local communities benefit directly from investments in nature. In **Lima**, for instance, the 'Lima Verde' Urban Tree Planting Programme has planted 260,000 trees (with a survival rate of over 85%) and trained more than 12,800 people on urban tree planting and maintenance – including residents, students, authorities, and volunteers. In **Dhaka North**, community volunteers are also receiving urban nature training, and in **Dhaka South**, local communities have been involved in tree planting projects. **Tokyo** has been training volunteers in greenspace maintenance and conservation in conservation areas, so that community members can learn how to protect and restore natural sites.

Investing in green and permeable spaces reduces flooding risks and mitigates urban heat, making communities safer, liveable, and more resilient in the face of a changing climate. Green jobs programmes are providing new skills and creating sustainable livelihoods for all, but particularly young people, women, and marginalised communities. By involving residents in planning and decision-making, cities are ensuring that the benefits of nature are shared more equitably. C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities are demonstrating that urban nature is fundamental for building more climate-resilient, healthy and equitable cities. By harnessing solutions from nature, we can create better lives for urban residents everywhere.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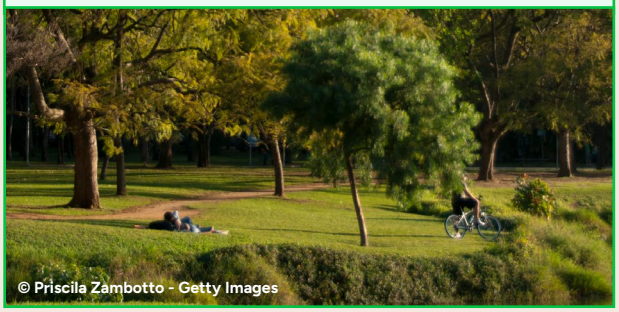
IMPACT

49% (17 out of 35 cities reporting)

have achieved
Pathway 1: Green and permeable cover
(30-40% of the total built-up city-surface area is green and/or permeable space)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74% (17 out of 23 cities reporting)

have achieved
Pathway 2: Equitable access to nature
(70% of the city population has access to a fit for purpose green or blue space within 15 minutes)


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COMMITMENTS

95%
have made their nature goals public

84%
have developed support and skills building programmes for green jobs

95%
have developed a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities

87%
have conducted a gap analysis and mapping of where new greening is needed

92%
have accelerated action to address governance barriers to implementation, and mobilised access to investment and resources

MAIN ACTIONS CITIES HAVE TAKEN IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

81%
are engaging local communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of their nature activities

81%
are collecting data on, measuring, and mapping biodiversity and nature

79%
are implementing major projects such as new parks, green corridors, and large-scale tree planting

66%
are implementing green jobs programmes related to nature

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Commitment 1: Make nature goals public

Medellín promotes itself as a green city through its City Development Plan 2024–27 and ambitious Renaturalisation Plan, where nature is treated as a key pillar. The Renaturalisation Plan brings together existing city strategies and plans with multi-scale planning and urban greening efforts, while providing guidance for major challenges concerning urban nature in Medellín.

Sydney's goals and targets for enhancing urban nature are laid out in The Greening Sydney Strategy. The city's targets include achieving a minimum of 40% total green cover, including 27% tree canopy cover, by 2050. In 2023, the city also adopted updated versions of several key documents following a comprehensive review: Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, Tree Species List, Community Gardening Strategy, Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan, and many more.

New Orleans' updated Climate Action Plan, published in December 2022, contains ambitious nature goals. These include 40,000 trees planted by 2030, at least 10% canopy coverage in all neighbourhoods in the next decade, and completing at least 15 additional green infrastructure projects by 2035, which will divert an additional 80 million gallons.

Commitment 2: Develop support and skills building programmes for green jobs

Freetown's community tree-growing initiative #FreetownTheTreeTown has generated 2,825 direct green jobs in tree nursing, planting and maintenance, plus over 4,000 indirect green jobs, more than double the 2023 baseline. Of these direct green workers, 67% are women, 95% are youth, and all live in economically disadvantaged communities with high and recurring risks of climate impacts, including coastal and hillside informal settlements.

Toronto supports green infrastructure (GI) maintenance through its equity-focused GreenforceTO programme, which recruits and trains individuals for green jobs. Entering its fifth year in 2025, the programme's three mini-projects are an expansion of the 2023 sod alternative pilot programme, a redesign of resource intensive sites, and an 'adopt a GI' programme that engages with the community to raise awareness about GI maintenance and scale across the city.

Austin's Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) connects communities historically excluded from environmental fields to over 700 meaningful, well-paying green jobs. The newly created Green Infrastructure job family opens clear, long-term career pathways in stormwater management, ecological restoration, climate resilience and more. The Parks and Recreation Department's Arborist Job Family promotes professional growth and advancement in tree care and urban forestry.

Commitment 3: Develop a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities

In **Durban/eThekwini,** the Biodiversity Management and Climate Change departments have partnered to deliver capacity building workshops in marginalised communities, with the aim of sourcing and incorporating Indigenous knowledge to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

Karachi's council has, for the first time, representation of transgender minorities. The councillors partake in the execution of greening initiatives within the wards and zones they represent. Vulnerable communities have also played an active and important role in the development of the city's Climate Action Plan.

Under **Buenos Aires'** urban planning laws, residents of vulnerable neighbourhoods actively participate in decision-making on actions to be taken in their respective neighbourhoods through Participatory Management Tables (MGP). This also includes actions taken in favour of nature, provided they take place in the neighbourhood.

Commitment 4: Conduct gap analysis and mapping to show where new greening is needed

Paris is protecting residents' health through urban nature by developing a green space deficiency map, which is now embedded in the regulations of the Local Bioclimatic Urban Plan and in the new Paris Health and Environment Plan, adopted in November 2024. The plan identifies areas most exposed to climate hazards and inequalities, highlighting where new greening is needed, existing spaces that should be improved, and access gaps. The city has set goals to ensure equitable access to nature and greenery to reduce social, territorial, and environmental health inequalities.

Guadalajara has placed nature at the core of its strategy to address urban heat islands and improve resilience and quality of life. Guadalajara has mapped urban heat islands and existing urban nature, and identified priority areas for new greening. Nature is now a central pillar of the city's planning. Within this framework, the city launched the Comprehensive Urban Tree Management Plan, which calls for planting over 20,000 trees annually, producing native species, consolidating 70 green corridors, monitoring and managing urban trees, creating new green spaces on former concrete sites, and promoting a tree-adoption campaign for residents. Guadalajara has seen the reduction of heat islands across the city.

Commitment 5: Accelerate action to address governance barriers to implementation and mobilise access to investments and resources

Freetown is registering its tree assets under the Verra Carbon Standard, creating a sustainable revenue stream for ecosystem-based adaptation and job creation by unlocking private sector investments through voluntary carbon markets. The city has also mobilised over US$2 million in climate and development finance through multilateral funds in the last two years.

Mumbai institutionalised an independent Environment and Climate Change Department in 2024 to steer the implementation of the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP). In the same year, the city also released its first climate budget, which directly integrates MCAP targets into Mumbai's financial planning, and will be updated annually to guide future investments. The climate budget also helps monitor progress and identify funding gaps, as well as bridge those gaps through external financing mechanisms.

Montréal is prioritising investments in nature-based solutions through its first-ever climate budget, presented in 2024. This process integrates climate considerations into all city investments, specifically targeting a minimum of 10-15% of the city's ten-year investment programme for projects dedicated to climate change adaptation, including urban nature activities. This ensures that resources are directly aligned with Montréal's broader ecological transition and resilience goals.

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INSPIRATION

In drafting its Green Plan, **Milan** took inspiration from the work done by other European cities – in particular **Paris, Barcelona,** and **London** – in developing integrated plans and strategies for urban green management and climate adaptation. The city is also inspired by the experience of Paris and Barcelona on creating 'school oases' – redeveloping and opening schoolyards to the public and using them as cool spaces and spaces for socialising.

Austin's green infrastructure initiatives have drawn inspiration from leading practices in cities across the country and around the world. By studying successful approaches in places like **Portland, Paris,** and **Phoenix** – where green streets, rain gardens, and urban forestry are used to manage stormwater and reduce heat – Austin has adapted and tailored these strategies to meet local environmental and equity goals.

Rio de Janeiro's Extreme Heat Protocol – the first municipal heatwave response protocol in Brazil – was inspired by the protocol established by **Paris.** Passed by a decree in 2024, Rio de Janeiro's heat protocol establishes guidelines for alerts, mitigation, and protection of vulnerable groups along different 'heat levels' which are classified based on a combination of the city's average temperature and relative humidity.

COLLABORATION

Many of **Salvador's** actions focused on promoting employability and green jobs were carried out in partnership with the private sector. For the city's urban garden and orchard programme, the selection, implementation and maintenance of green spaces are carried out in partnership with various stakeholders, with an emphasis on residents in vulnerable neighbourhoods and the LGBTQ+ community.

In **Seattle,** the Green Seattle Partnership programme works with staff from Seattle Parks and Recreation, professional contractors, community organisations, and individual volunteers to restore urban forests in the city. The city's Forest Stewards are core volunteers who coordinate restoration activities in their neighbourhoods, while the community organisations often support hiring youth and underrepresented residents to lead restoration activities.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Chennai's TN-SHORE initiative, launched in February 2024, is restoring 1,076km of coastline with active participation from local communities. Residents are directly involved in mangrove planting, coral reef protection, and sustainable fishing practices, gaining practical skills while contributing to the health and resilience of their environment. By positioning communities as custodians of their coastline, TN-SHORE supports livelihoods, fosters social inclusion, and strengthens ecological resilience, ensuring that both environmental and economic benefits are equitably shared.

Athens' Climate Forum and Youth Climate Action Council, established in 2024 by the Deputy Mayor for Climate Governance and Social Economy, brings together representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector, and city governance. Together, they co-design climate initiatives, participate in workshops on nature-based solutions and green space management, and ensure the voices of vulnerable or traditionally underrepresented communities are included in decision-making. Projects such as the Podoniftis River regeneration in northwestern Athens exemplify this approach, fostering inclusive planning, community engagement, and equitable environmental outcomes.

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CHALLENGES

Limited financial resources to work on nature, and difficulties tapping into national or multilateral funds to implement nature-based solutions

Cities need support with **defining key indicators** and **building methodologies, data collection and monitoring systems**

Governance challenges, including **silos** and **lack of cross-departmental cooperation**, as well as **limited knowledge of the many benefits** of nature-based solutions, and **limited staff capacity** pose a barrier

Lack of vacant land to be developed as green public spaces, with nature provision often not prioritised

Difficulties in greening private spaces, and **incentivising residents and private actors** to do so

Lack of financial resources and staff for **maintaining nature** projects in the long-term

Lack of available water for nature is an issue that will worsen with the climate crisis

Although many challenges remain and can threaten or backtrack progress, signatory cities are actively looking for ways to address these in various ways. **Toronto** recently approved an operating budget of C$85.1 million (US$61 million) to support urban forestry and urban nature, consisting of C$25.3 million for tree planting and natural area management and C$48.4 million for tree maintenance – exemplifying that nature can, and should be, prioritised in municipal budgets.

Through its participatory budget programme, **Quito**'s residents participate in the analysis, discussion and decision making on at least 60% of each zonal administration's budget. **London** periodically updates its tree canopy and green cover assessments to ensure decisions on nature are made based on the latest available data. **Curitiba** has strengthened inter-sectoral coordination between municipal departments, expanded institutional capacity and reduced administrative barriers. **Rome** successfully recovered over 70 hectares from building development, planned for greenspace provision instead. **Rotterdam** provides subsidies to residents and private owners to implement greening activities, such as creating green roofs and depaving their gardens.

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HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

The next five years will be crucial in scaling ambition and action so all signatory cities successfully meet their 2030 commitments. Since the launch of the Accelerator, cities have made excellent progress toward nature-rich urban environments, with a significant number of cities having already met their pathway goals, and a majority having fulfilled their two-year commitments.

Signatory cities' work to embed nature is more important than ever as climate-related hazards like extreme heat and flooding become more frequent across the globe. Cities are collecting biodiversity data and mapping nature against socio-economic indicators. **Stockholm** has recently finished updating its mapping of existing green infrastructure, informing actions to be taken to meet the city's biodiversity goals. **Tel Aviv** completed a municipal nature survey of 200 sites, with 68 receiving in-depth assessments, to identify areas lacking in ecological infrastructure. **Los Angeles** is currently conducting sophisticated 10m-resolution nature equity mapping to identify the city's most vulnerable communities. Signatory cities will also continue updating plans and strategies, laying the foundation for more ambitious nature actions. **San Francisco, Copenhagen** and **Rio de Janeiro** are currently updating their climate action plans to centre nature as key for climate adaptation, whereas **Berlin's** climate action plan is due for revision in 2026.

By building upon progress already underway and exchanging knowledge and best practices through city-to-city networks, and with C40's continued support, cities can further accelerate action and overcome barriers to become greener and more resilient by 2030.

FUTURE ACTION

Quezon City is set to open 34 new city-owned parks and develop 4.9 kilometres of GORA (Green, Open, Resilient, and Accessible) Lanes – dedicated pedestrian corridors that encourage walking, reduce reliance on motorised transport, and expand green public spaces. The city will continue actively implementing the One Million Trees Programme to boost climate resilience and air quality, the Generation Restoration Project to transform the former Payatas dumpsite into a green space, and the Green Resilient Cities Initiative to enhance social housing through green infrastructure.

Montréal plans to build about 1,319 new bioretention cells on the street (9,600 square metres or 2,600 cubic metres) and 7 sponge park projects (5,000 square metres). These projects are currently being designed, and will be mostly built in 2026. About 40 other sponge park projects (roughly 29,000 cubic metres) are currently in the works.

Guadalajara will plant more than 20,000 trees, continue strategic planning in the most climate-vulnerable neighbourhoods to mitigate the urban heat island effect, recover and reclaim grey spaces for more than 1,700 plantings, promote an 'Adopt a Tree' initiative so that citizens can request a tree, and continue the monitoring and technical management of the city's urban trees.

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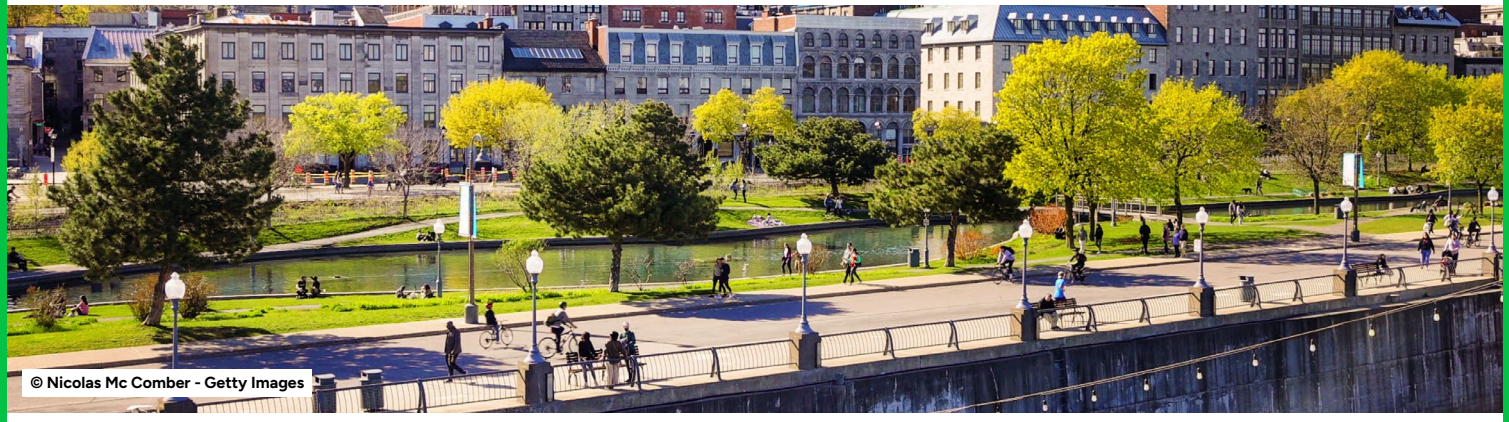

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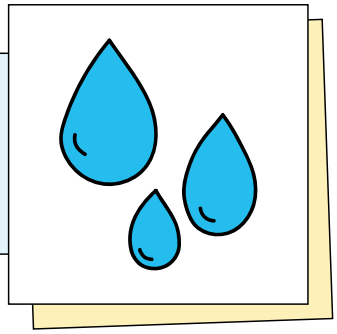
C40 WATER SAFE CITIES ACCELERATOR



Increasing urban resilience to water-related climate impacts

SIGNATORY CITIES

Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Copenhagen, Freetown, Fuzhou, Jakarta, Lisbon, Los Angeles, Milan, New Orleans, New York City, Oslo, Phoenix, Quezon City, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Rotterdam, Tokyo, Tshwane

COMMITMENTS

Core Commitment: Protect the city's most vulnerable communities at high risk of flooding and drought by 2027 (or 4 years after joining the Accelerator) by

- Establishing early warning systems in the most vulnerable areas where communities face a high-risk of flooding and drought
- Developing emergency responses to protect all people during critical events with actions such as ensuring safe and accessible shelters and provision of basic needs

Universal Access Pathway: Achieve equitable universal access to clean water efficiently by 2030 by

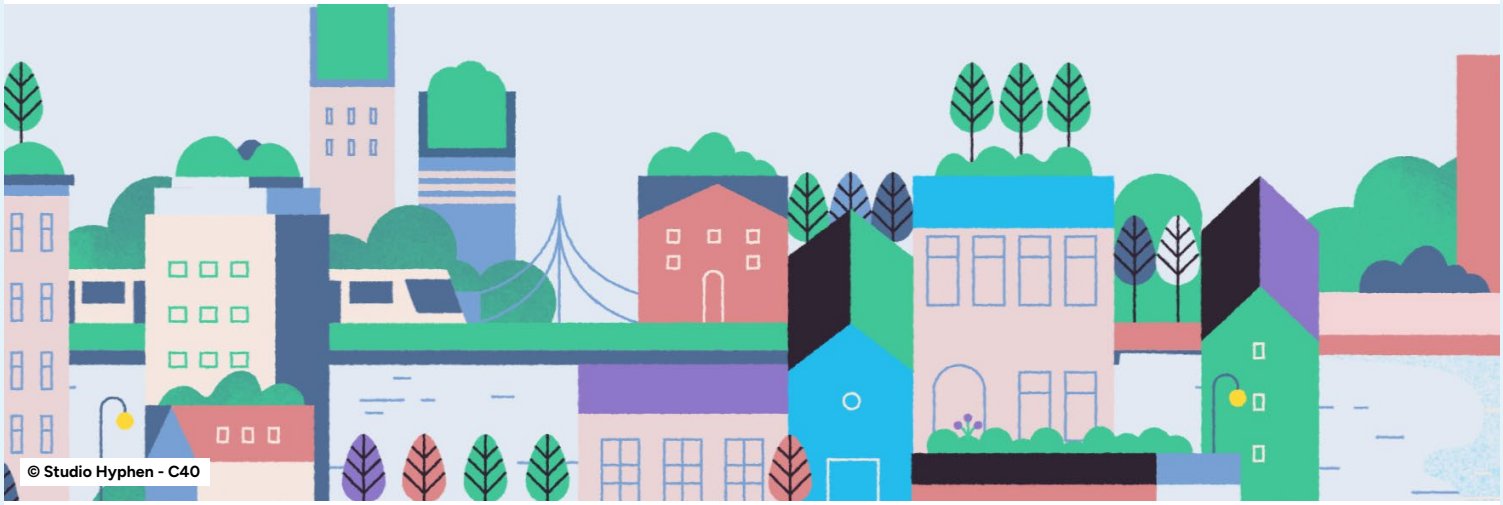
- Reducing at least 20% of water demand
- Increasing at least 15% of water supply

Flood Reduction Pathway: Safeguard people and the city's critical infrastructure from major flood events by 2030 by

- Increasing at least 20% of stormwater retention and infiltration to significantly reduce flood risk by 2030
- Restoring at least 3 of the city's water bodies to significantly reduce flood risks and improve water quality

Net Zero Pathway: Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in city water and wastewater systems by 2035 by

- Meeting 100% of total annual energy consumption of the water and wastewater system by renewable energy sources
- Capturing and utilising at least 50% of biogas from wastewater plants



SUMMARY

Urban areas are increasingly vulnerable to water-related climate impacts, which account for 90% of global disasters. The **C40 Water Safe Cities Accelerator** was launched in 2023 to help cities address the challenges of too much, too little, and too polluted water. In the first two years of the Accelerator, **20 global cities** have become signatory cities, taking ambitious action to transform their water systems and safeguard their communities. As signatory cities, they pledge to protect their most vulnerable populations from the high risks of flooding and drought, and commit to at least one of three pathways – achieving equitable universal access to clean water by 2030, safeguarding critical infrastructure from major flood events by 2030, and achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in city water and wastewater systems by 2035.

All signatory cities are working to protect their most vulnerable communities by establishing early warning systems and developing emergency response measures. **Lisbon** has established 86 new evacuation points and an SMS alert system for real-time warnings, while **Quito** and **São Paulo** both implemented their first-ever early warning systems. **Tshwane** has increased personnel to strengthen its emergency response capacity.

Signatory cities to the universal access pathway are committed to decreasing water demand and/or increasing water supply. To reduce demand for potable water, **Lisbon** is using reclaimed water for street and green space maintenance. To increase supply, cities including Tshwane have upgraded their distribution systems for better efficiency, and **Jakarta** is expanding its waterpipe network to guarantee more residents have access to clean water.

Cities are taking action to safeguard people and infrastructure from major flood events by increasing stormwater retention and/or restoring urban water bodies. **Milan** has integrated sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) to reduce flood risk, and **Rotterdam** has similarly transformed several streets and squares to create more permeable surfaces and retention ponds. To progress on restoring water bodies, **Quezon City** has developed a Water Quality Management Plan with clear actions to test, monitor, and improve the quality of its main rivers. In line with this pathway, **Oslo** has done work to open streams, such as with the Klosterenga park which supports water retention.

On the net-zero pathway, cities are committed to powering their water and wastewater systems with renewable energy and/or capturing biogas from their treatment plants. **Los Angeles** is actively working to increase the share of renewable energy used in its water and wastewater systems. Meanwhile, **Copenhagen** has enhanced its technology to capture more biogas at the Damhusåen wastewater plan, and in a similar effort, **Bogotá** is constructing a new treatment plant, Canoas, specifically designed to capture and utilise biogas in its water treatment procedures.

These ambitious actions are crucial for building resilience against climate change, and are delivering tangible benefits that improve residents' quality of life. From ensuring safer, more reliable access to clean water to strengthening defenses against extreme weather, these efforts are creating more sustainable and liveable urban environments.

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IMPACT

This inaugural reporting period for the C40 Water Safe Cities Accelerator reveals ambitious commitments and significant early progress from signatory cities.

Key takeaways from the first year of reporting include:

Protecting frontline communities: As outlined in the Accelerator's core commitment, cities are prioritising the safety of their most vulnerable communities. Over 50% of signatory cities have progressed towards establishing crucial early warning systems in high-risk areas and developing emergency response plans to protect people during flood or drought events. Actions reported include strengthening forecasting and alert dissemination and improving emergency protocols.

Safeguarding water supply: A high percentage of signatory cities to the universal access pathway are making progress on managing water resources, with 90% advancing towards increasing their water supply, and 70% actively working to reduce water demand. Practical steps taken by signatory cities include diversifying water sources, upgrading infrastructure, and implementing leak detection to conserve water.

Enhancing flood resilience: To protect communities and critical infrastructure from major flood events, cities are progressing toward their goal of increasing stormwater retention and infiltration. 70% of signatory cities are actively working on projects like installing retention basins and rain gardens to help their city absorb water to reduce flood risk.

Decarbonising water systems: Signatory cities to the net-zero pathway are demonstrating best-practice in powering their water operations with renewable energy and utilising biogas from wastewater. This includes increasing their renewable energy production capacity and optimising technologies to capture wastewater biogas.

Overall, signatory cities have quickly moved from commitment to action, implementing a diverse set of solutions to deliver a water-safe future for their residents, from early warning systems and emergency preparedness to green infrastructure and energy system upgrades.

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Core Commitment: Protect the most vulnerable communities at high risk of flooding and/or drought

Lisbon has deployed an advanced flood sensor system, with 10 sensors strategically placed in high-risk areas, including road tunnels, metro stations, and other low-lying zones. The system provides civil protection authorities with a 15-minute lead time, enabling an efficient and coordinated response to stop traffic, close metro stations, and activate water pumps. This technology helps to protect the 9.8% of the total city population who live in these areas, reducing the risk of both economic and human losses. In a further commitment to flood prevention, the city plans to install 50 new sensors in coastal regions, river valleys, and other low-lying areas.

Pathway 1: Achieve equitable access to clean water efficiently

Fuzhou has established 43 key monitoring areas in the city's most critical districts, where it has deployed a total of 204 leak detection devices, including acoustic water listeners and noise recorders. These devices detect the unique sounds of escaping water from underground pipes, allowing for the rapid warning, investigation, and precise location of leaks.

Pathway 2: Safeguard people and the city's critical infrastructure from major flood events by 2030

New York City addressed flood risk and combined sewer overflow by installing 100,000 square feet of porous pavement in Brooklyn in 2024. This new permeable area allows stormwater to drain into the ground, reducing the volume of water entering the sewer system. For every one-inch rainfall event, this infrastructure can manage approximately 62,317 gallons of stormwater. As part of its green infrastructure strategy, the city plans to add an additional 500,000 square feet of porous pavement in Brooklyn by the end of 2026, with projects also planned for the Bronx.

Pathway 3: Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in city water and wastewater systems

Copenhagen increased its biogas utilisation in 2024, driven by a new thermal hydrolysis process at the Damhusåen wastewater plant. This upgrade delivered increased biogas production from the same amount of organic waste, a key part of the city's push for a climate-positive and circular economy. The new process contributed towards a 5.59% increase in biogas captured and utilised, rising from 12,337,681 Nm^3/year in 2023 to 13,027,242 Nm^3/year in 2024. This gas is then used in the city's gas network for cooking, improving overall efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

INSPIRATION

Copenhagen's pioneering Cloudburst Management Plan has become a model for other cities facing increased flood risk due to heavy rain. Developed collaboratively with municipalities, utility companies, and other stakeholders, the multi-year plan makes a strong economic case for using combined blue-green solutions, like parks and permeable roads, alongside traditional sewer systems. The city has since collaborated with other C40 cities, including **São Paulo** and **New York City**, to help them create their own flood management strategies.

Lisbon is actively implementing its Strategic Water Reuse Plan and is now looking to a range of global cities to help improve and scale up its efforts. The city is learning from best practices in cities like **Austin**, which measures demand for both potable and non-potable water and plans for a more circular water system. It is also studying **Phoenix**, which has successfully expanded the uses of its recycled water. In turn, Lisbon is sharing its own experience in managing water for green spaces with other cities, such as **Fortaleza**, fostering a collaborative approach to urban water resilience.

COLLABORATION

Tshwane has significantly strengthened its disaster risk governance by fostering collaboration across departments and with a wide range of stakeholders. The city's Disaster Management Plan is fully integrated into its main Integrated Development Plan, ensuring that risk reduction strategies are coordinated across various municipal departments and projects, from budget planning to infrastructure management. This comprehensive approach is supported by a quarterly Municipal Disaster Management Advisory Forum, which brings together public and private stakeholders and NGOs. Additionally, Tshwane has established a Community Emergency Response Team to train volunteers, further extending its collaborative network and enhancing community preparedness for hazards like flooding and drought.

Quito is working to enhance water supply management and distribution during emergencies by successfully integrating institutional and community efforts. The Metropolitan Public Water and Sanitation Company (EPMAPS) and municipal civil protection units, specifically the Metropolitan Directorate of Risk Management, have partnered to build capacity across the city by developing and delivering a train-the-trainer programme for officials on humanitarian standards. This is complemented by direct capacity-building and simulations for residents, managed through local Community Risk Management Committees (CRMCs). These partnerships align technical preparedness with grassroots organisational capacity for fair and equitable distribution. The power of this collaboration was demonstrated during a major water emergency in July 2025, where the active involvement of the CRMCs was essential in managing and ensuring the equitable supply of water to approximately 5,500 people daily using alternative methods like portable bladders. This initiative is supported through C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Rio de Janeiro is implementing a community-based early flood warning system (CBFEWS) as part of its Climate Action Plan, in response to severe flooding risks in the Acari river basin. The system is designed to reduce disaster risks and strengthen the resilience of frontline communities. The system actively engages local residents in data collection, information dissemination, and training sessions, ensuring that communities are key stakeholders in both preparedness and response. By empowering residents with knowledge and tools, the CBFEWS enhances local flood response capabilities and builds long-term community resilience. This initiative is supported through C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund.

São Paulo is currently implementing a project to advance environmental education in four vulnerable areas of the city. Community members will participate in a tailored training programme to become Environmental Monitoring Agents, contributing to climate resilience and water security. The initiative raises awareness of ecological issues, builds knowledge of local environments, and develops skills for community-based problem-solving and transformative action. Training local leaders as environmental education agents strengthens knowledge dissemination, fosters community empowerment, and motivates broader participation in sustainable practices. The project also supports green job creation, through the hiring of four environmental education agents, and is delivered through C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund.

CHALLENGES

Cities highlight a lack of financing as a major obstacle. The high cost of new water infrastructure, coupled with the need to upgrade existing, ageing systems, presents a significant financial burden. This is further complicated by the expensive technology required for effective early warning systems and other advanced solutions.

Cities also face complex governance and coordination issues. Unclear water management roles between local governments, national governments, and utility companies can create policy hurdles and slow down progress. This is especially true for cross-departmental coordination needed for emergency response, and for cities that lack power over the upstream areas where their water resources are located.

Cities must also contend with practical and social challenges, including growing water demand due to population growth, a lack of physical space to implement large-scale nature-based solutions for flood reduction, and public acceptance of using reclaimed water. Additionally, in some cases, mitigation is prioritised over adaptation, which can delay essential protective measures. Finally, many cities are forced to deal with the impacts of pollution from upstream activities, a challenge often beyond their direct control.


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HOW CITIES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTION

The next five years demand ambitious and targeted action to make cities water safe by 2030. All cities will continue to work towards the core commitment of protecting the most vulnerable populations through early warning systems and emergency preparedness. Cities are working to significantly improve forecasting and monitoring capabilities, exemplified by **Buenos Aires'** ongoing efforts to design a dedicated hazards monitoring centre and **Tokyo's** work to expand observation capabilities such as river surveillance cameras to support early warning systems.

Cities will enhance water security by driving down demand through methods like leak detection and behaviour change, and by increasing supply via infrastructure upgrades and diversification, such as **Freetown's** plan to construct new dams. Simultaneously, cities will continue to safeguard people and critical infrastructure from major floods through innovative projects that focus on retention and infiltration, like **Quezon City's** water-storing basketball courts and **New York City's** use of porous concrete. Cities will also continue to address flood risk through water body restoration, such as **New Orleans'** 'living shoreline' project to restore natural wetlands. Additionally, cities are focused on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in water and wastewater systems by 2035, concentrating on 100% renewable energy use and biogas capture. Cities won't have to navigate these challenges alone. Through knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices within the Urban Flooding and Water Security networks, combined with tailored technical assistance, cities will receive the support needed to achieve their Accelerator commitments. By building upon this progress and collaboration, signatory cities can make significant strides towards a water safe and resilient future for all their residents by the end of the decade.

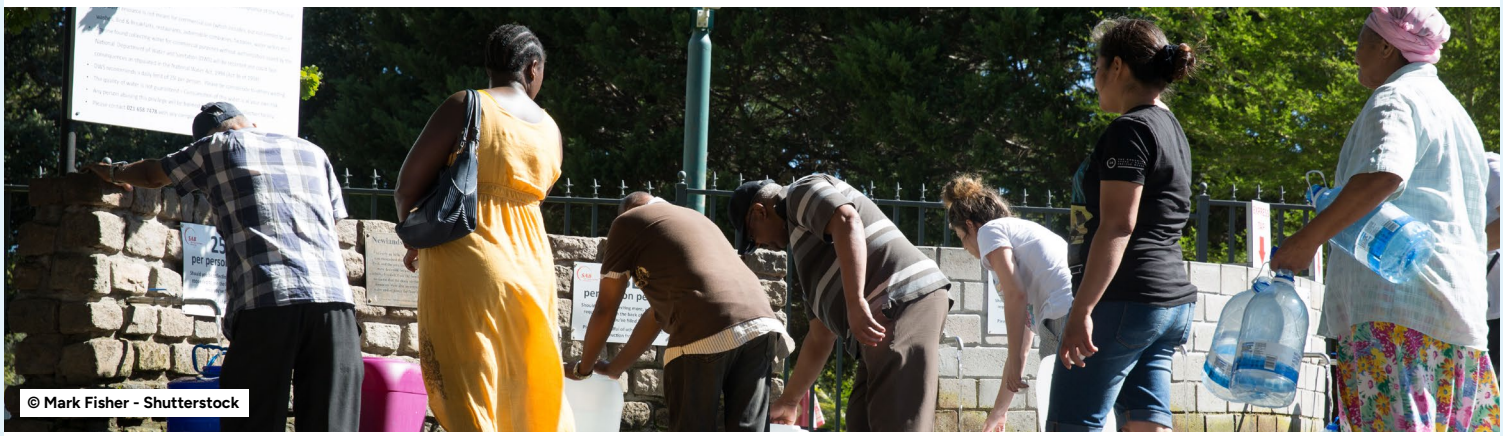
FUTURE ACTION

Rotterdam is implementing 50 street-level projects between 2022 and 2026, including the renovation of 15 city squares. These initiatives are part of the 'Rotterdam Goes Green' agenda and climate adaptation efforts, aiming to increase permeable surfaces and integrate nature-based solutions like rain gardens and retention ponds. These solutions are designed to mimic the natural dynamics of soil, allowing stormwater to infiltrate the ground, recharge the aquifer, and slowly release water to waterways. This approach prevents the oversaturation of the drainage system during heavy rainfall, effectively reducing both urban flooding and combined sewer overflows.

Quezon City is launching a three-year project to address high storm runoff by integrating rainwater harvesting systems and detention basins into 138 basketball courts and open spaces. The Rainwater Harvesting Detention Basins Project will be implemented in 50 priority barangays and is a collaborative effort between the city's Engineering Department and partners including the Parks Development and Administration Department, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

C40 ACCELERATOR WATER SAFE CITIES

ACCESS THIS STANDALONE REPORT



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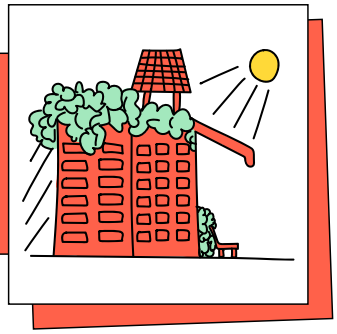
NEW ACCELERATORS

Warsaw, Poland_ © City of Warsaw - C40

C40 COOL CITIES ACCELERATOR



How cities are protecting lives and leading the transformation to cooler, safer and fairer cities

SIGNATORY CITIES

Accra, Ahmedabad, Amsterdam, Athens, Austin, Barcelona, Bengaluru, Boston, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Durban/eThekwini, Fortaleza, Freetown, Guadalajara, Karachi, London, Melbourne, Milan, Mumbai, Nairobi, New York City, Paris, Phoenix, Quezon City, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Salvador, Santiago, Singapore, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Tokyo, Tshwane, Vancouver

WHAT IS IT

The C40 Cool Cities Accelerator strengthens city resilience to the impacts of urban heat. Through this Accelerator, city mayors are empowered to lead coordinated efforts to protect the frontline communities experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, cool their cities, and drive systemic change.

Mayors of C40 cities are already responding to heat by increasing tree canopy, building shade, depaving streets, and working towards safer indoor temperatures; protecting vulnerable residents; and using climate projections to coordinate with stakeholders on emergency response and preparedness.

This Accelerator recognises the urgent need to increase the current local response to keep up with the pace and intensity of urban heating. Leadership across city agencies, the private sector, and city residents is needed now to see vital cross-cutting action against rising temperatures.

The C40 Cool Cities Accelerator provides the dedicated framework to equip mayors with the tools and structure needed to deliver a strategic, coordinated and cross-departmental response to warming cities, and instead build cooler, safer, and fairer places for all.

WHY IT'S NEEDED

Extreme heat stands as the deadliest weather-related disaster, contributing to an estimated 546,000 deaths globally each year.

By 2050, the **number of urban residents exposed to life-threatening temperatures is projected to** increase five-fold, threatening the wellbeing and prosperity of billions if we leave our cities to overheat.

Globally, extreme heat is projected to cause US$2.4 trillion in lost labour productivity by 2030 as it becomes too dangerous to work outdoors in key sectors like construction and agriculture.

Direct economic losses from heat stress for 12 of the world's major cities are already estimated at US$44 billion annually – a figure projected to nearly double by the 2050s.

Heat is a lethal and accelerating climate threat in cities. This silent killer is intensifying, due to rising global temperatures and the urban heat island effect, where materials like concrete and asphalt absorb and re-radiate heat. Extreme heat is a multiplier of inequity, disproportionately harming the most vulnerable, including the elderly, infants, outdoor workers, women, people with disabilities, and those living in low-income communities. Existing social and economic disparities are deepened, as these residents often lack access to cooling measures, live in buildings that can't withstand high temperatures, and in neighbourhoods with less green space and fewer opportunities to find cool places to escape from extreme heat.

Direct economic losses from heat stress for 12 of the world's major cities are already estimated at US$44 billion annually, stemming from a loss in labour productivity and most likely leading to diminished worker incomes. These costs ripple through city economies, straining essential services, reducing overall economic activity, and felt most by those already struggling to get by.

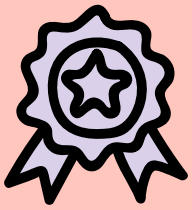
COMMITMENTS BY MAYORS

PROTECT

We commit to protecting residents from extreme heat

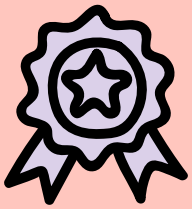
WITHIN TWO YEARS, WE WILL:

- **Establish and authorise heat leadership** and a cross-agency heat governance structure with clear coordination protocol.
- **Activate heat-health awareness outreach and Early Warning Systems** informed by climate data to protect the health and livelihoods of vulnerable communities.
- **Deploy cooling solutions** during heat emergencies, such as at designated cooling centres and critical facilities, home and work based cooling support, and outdoor cooling pop-ups.



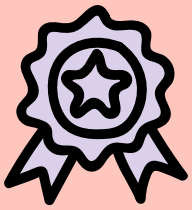
ATHENS, FREETOWN, LOS ANGELES, MELBOURNE, QUEZON CITY

Chief Heat Officers (CHOs) are appointed officials who are responsible for creating a unified response to extreme heat within their cities, addressing the issue of multiple agencies working in parallel, often without coordination. Although not the only effective heat governance structure, CHOs have overall demonstrated a positive impact on cities' abilities to plan and respond to heat emergencies.



AHMEDABAD

As a part of its Heat Plan, the city shares heat alerts via TV, radio, SMS, and WhatsApp, while also supporting frontline workers like teachers and health staff to deliver door-to-door heat safety messages in low-income and informal settlements. Following the implementation of the heat plan in 2013, mortality on extremely hot days has dropped by 27%.



BUENOS AIRES

The city has created a network of 51 cool shelters (Refugios Climáticos), and is using heat maps to identify where more are needed. Residents can view a map of all the sites online, with descriptions of each site's facilities. The map also includes areas where residents can access clean, free drinking water.

TRANSFORM

We commit to cooling our city for the future by investing in medium- and long-term solutions

WITHIN FIVE YEARS, WE WILL:

- **Update building codes and promote cool buildings** by implementing policies and regulations for safe indoor temperatures in a sustainable way, such as mandating cool or green roofs, improved insulation, or renewably powered active cooling for new and existing buildings.
- **Create a network of cool corridors and public spaces**, such as by increasing tree canopy, green cover, and shading, cooling or depaving streets, and deploying water features to make public spaces and routes accessible and comfortable.
- **Future-proof critical infrastructure for increasing temperatures** by assessing climate vulnerability and implementing design standards to ensure essential services like energy grids, water supply and public transportation.

AUSTIN

In April 2025, Austin's City Council adopted a property maintenance code which requires all homes to have some form of mechanical cooling equipment in place that can keep the temperature indoors at or below 85°F (29.4°C). This code is applicable to all 'habitable' rooms in a home – any of the rooms that people regularly occupy. Austin views this new code as a public health necessity, and crucial to the wellbeing of their residents, especially renters.

MILAN

As part of its Piano Aria Clima (Air and Climate Plan), the city is using a number of strategies to create cooler public spaces. One of these is the depaving strategy – under which the city is planning on halving its impermeable grey areas by 2030 and replacing them with permeable green areas.

FIND THE FULL 2025 COOL CITIES ACCELERATOR REPORT HERE

LEARN MORE

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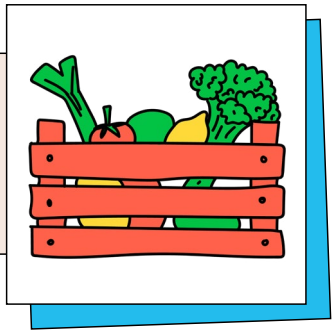
C40 THRIVING FOOD SYSTEMS ACCELERATOR



How cities are addressing food and nutrition insecurity and creating thriving food economies within planetary boundaries

SIGNATORY CITIES

Accra, Cape Town, Curitiba, Dakar, Fortaleza, Guadalajara, Johannesburg, Lagos, Medellín, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Tshwane

WHAT IS IT

In 2025, a working group of cities from Africa, Asia, and Latin America co-created the C40 Thriving Food Systems Accelerator to identify key ways of advancing food and nutrition security, while building thriving food economies that generate good green jobs within planetary boundaries. The Accelerator sets out four ambitious commitments to be achieved within the next decade.

Signatory cities across Africa, Asia and Latin America are powerful drivers of a just food systems transformation, grounded in innovation, community leadership, and deep local knowledge. Mayors and communities are already pioneering bold solutions: collaborations with neighbouring towns to increase the availability of sustainable and healthy food, regenerate land and create good green jobs; markets that minimise food waste and improve food safety; and school meals that nourish children and support local farmers. These are not isolated projects – they are the building blocks of a new urban food future that is resilient, healthy for people and the planet, and grounded in justice.

WHY IT'S NEEDED

People living in cities **consume more than half of all food produced globally**, and due to rapid population growth and urbanisation, this figure is **expected to rise** to 80% by 2050.

Current food systems fail urban needs, with an estimated 76% of food insecure people **living in urban and peri-urban areas**, and women, children, marginalised ethnic groups, and migrants disproportionately affected.

Food systems contribute approximately one-third of global GHG emissions.

Food systems drive biodiversity loss, deforestation, and water overuse compounded by a third of all food being wasted.

Cities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America are home to the majority of the world's urban population. While the C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator presents a globally relevant framework, cities from these regions underscored the need for a co-created strategy tailored to their unique realities. These cities are among the most vulnerable to climate change, and face a dual challenge: reducing food and nutrition insecurity while revitalising local food economies and laying the foundation for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food systems.

Cities in these regions are at the forefront of climate disruption, experiencing severe impacts like droughts, floods, heatwaves, and erratic rainfall that repeatedly disrupt food production and distribution, exacerbating food insecurity and existing inequalities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Rapid urbanisation often outpaces infrastructure, compromising food access and safety, while new development risks locking cities into carbon-intensive pathways and leads to the loss of vital urban agricultural land. This vulnerability is heightened as agriculture remains a cornerstone of many regional economies.

COMMITMENTS BY MAYORS

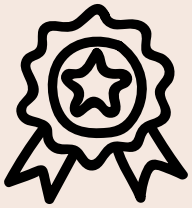
To ensure every resident has access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food, improve livelihoods, and build a thriving future for their city, mayors commit to annually take steps to:

WITHIN 10 YEARS:

- **Provide a healthy and sustainable daily meal for every child:** Establish a universal school feeding programme aligned to a locally relevant planetary healthy diet.
- **Create safer, cleaner, and more affordable markets:** Sustainably modernise our city's market infrastructure to improve food safety and minimise food loss and waste.
- **Boost local food businesses:** Foster good green jobs and increase the supply of diverse and healthy food that is sustainably produced, by partnering with neighbouring towns to develop farmer and small and medium enterprise support programmes.

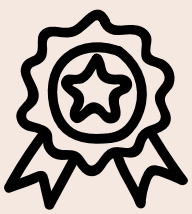
WITHIN 2 YEARS:

- **Secure a thriving food future:** Co-create an integrated food system strategy that is reflected in the city's Climate Action Plan and disaster preparedness mechanisms.



CAPE TOWN

A redesign is underway at Cape Town's Smiley Market in Langa, a culturally significant market where women have informally sold prepared sheep's heads for generations. Through the AfriFOODLinks programme, vendors worked with a design firm to create a new framework that addresses their needs for better access to clean water, waste management, and defined spaces for cooking and serving. The framework was finalised in 2025 with municipal partners and promises to improve conditions for both traders and customers.



CURITIBA

Pro-Metrópole is a public-interest, non-profit governance initiative launched in August 2017 to coordinate metropolitan development across the 29 municipalities of Greater Curitiba. It pioneers integrated urban and peri-urban food governance to build a metropolitan common market, enhancing local cohesion through shared infrastructure and policies, and embedding cross-sector coordination across urban planning, agriculture, mobility, and food security. It also supports small businesses and family farmers, while ensuring inclusive, participatory governance focused on sustainability, climate resilience, and equitable food systems.

NAIROBI

Since 2023, Nairobi's Dishi na County school meal programme has provided daily hot plant-based meals to 310,000 children in 230 primary schools. To achieve this, the city built 17 central kitchens and created 2,000 jobs. Parents pay a nominal fee of KES 5 (US$0.04) for the KES 45 (US$0.35) meal, with subsidies covering the rest. The programme has increased school enrollment by 34%, and there are plans to expand the service to more students, especially those in informal settlements.

SÃO PAULO

São Paulo's approach to their food work is spearheaded by its Food and Nutrition Security Coordination (COSAN), established in 2015, which aims to ensure universal access to sufficient, quality food for all residents. This involves advocating for food security and equality across all city policies, including the Municipal Master Plan, which notably recognises the importance of urban agriculture. A key initiative is Sampa+Rural. São Paulo also implements programmes to combat food waste and loss. These efforts align with São Paulo's Municipal Climate Action Plan (PlanClima SP), demonstrating a commitment to a low-carbon, resilient food future.

C40 ACCELERATOR THRIVING FOOD SYSTEMS

LEARN MORE

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C40 & UN-HABITAT URBAN PLANNING ACCELERATOR

How cities are creating a climate-responive urban planning model

SIGNATORY CITIES

Accra, Amman, Athens, Barcelona, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Chicago, Copenhagen, Curitiba, Dar es Salaam, Durban/eThekwini, Fortaleza, Freetown, Guadalajara, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Karachi, Lima, Madrid, Medellín, Milan, Paris, Portland, Quezon City, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Tshwane, Vancouver

WHAT IS IT

To support cities in achieving their climate goals and building better cities, C40 & UN-Habitat co-created the C40 and UN-Habitat Urban Planning Accelerator, a climate-responsive approach that prioritises people, the planet, and shared prosperity. The dominant urban planning model of the 20th century is characterised by sprawl, car-oriented development, and rigid land-use zoning. This has made cities highly emissions-intensive, and negatively impacted the health and quality of life of many residents. Rapid population growth, combined with unplanned expansion, has also dramatically increased cities' exposure to climate hazards. Reimagining how cities are planned and designed is key to addressing the climate crisis and building urban environments that are more inclusive, just and people-centred.

Signing this Accelerator confirms that mayors are committed to planning cities that are less emissions-intensive, protecting communities from climate risks and creating vibrant, inclusive places where everyone can thrive. Together, signatory cities of the Accelerator will work to advance six key commitments, striving for compact, connected cities that are polycentric (i.e, with multiple centres), alongside risk-informed, nature-positive and inclusive development.

The C40 and UN-Habitat Urban Planning Accelerator offers a dedicated framework for action, providing mayors and their technical teams with the knowledge and tools needed to move beyond outdated planning models, and instead set cities on a lower-carbon, climate-resilient pathway for decades to come.

WHY IT'S NEEDED

Urban land area is now expanding up to 50% faster than population growth. If current trends continue, urban areas could triple in size by 2050.

The IPCC reported that adopting a better urban planning model that is compact, mixed-use and transit-oriented, could cut emissions by up to 25% by 2050.

Between 1990 and 2020, **green spaces in and around cities have** shrunk by 28.7%.

Some **20% of the world's population live in inadequate housing** – with more than 1 billion urban residents residing in slums and informal settlements.

Urban planning is one of the most powerful tools for climate action. Through spatial plans, policies, legislation, building codes and municipal by-laws, urban planning sets the blueprint for how cities grow and evolve. That is why good urban planners are the best climate leaders. The choices they make today will determine whether cities can meet climate targets and deliver healthier, more equitable lives for generations to come.

Climate-responsive urban planning is about enabling sustainable and resilient development. This means designing and regulating urban areas to create places that allow people to live happy and healthy lives, without compromising the needs of future generations. By integrating environmental considerations in all the planning and design steps for the urban fabric, climate-responsive planning directly promotes climate action.

Urban planning is a city function that crosscuts all urban systems, from transport to buildings, natural environment, public space and community development. It regulates the urban landscape through a framework comprising spatial plans, policies and legislation. Additionally, it may be complemented by separate regulations, such as building codes or by-laws. Urban planning can therefore be understood as a multi-level and multidisciplinary process that shapes urban and territorial development. Effective planning requires coordination across sectors and collaboration between municipalities, particularly when addressing cross-cutting challenges such as the climate crisis.

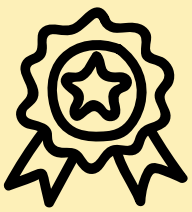
COMMITMENTS BY MAYORS

We commit to adopting a climate-responsive urban planning model by 2035 by:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through **compact, polycentric, and connected development.**
- Reducing climate vulnerability through **risk-informed, nature-positive, and inclusive planning.**

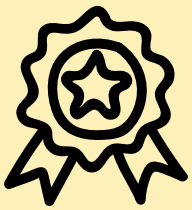
Within 10 years (by 2035), we commit to incorporating the following objectives into the city's master plan and/or other relevant land-use plans:

- **Compact:** Prioritise regeneration and densification over urban sprawl.
- **Polycentric:** Adopt a polycentric model and foster mixed-use neighbourhoods.
- **Connected:** Steer new development near transit hubs to encourage residents to adopt sustainable mobility patterns.
- **Risk-informed:** Restrict new development in areas of high climate risk.
- **Nature-positive:** Secure and protect land for nature to shield against extreme weather events.
- **Inclusive:** Mandate adequate and affordable housing to improve resilience for the most vulnerable.



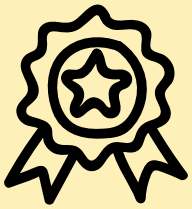
CAPE TOWN

Since the early 2000s, the City of Cape Town has leveraged its statutory Urban Development Edge (UDE) as the core planning instrument to manage metropolitan growth and actively counter low-density urban sprawl. The UDE establishes a legally defined perimeter, which facilitates containment, preservation and inward densification. This containment strategy has helped to preserve the city's 81,775 hectares of critical biodiversity and conservation land. The complementary Coastal Edge policy further reinforces this compact strategy by precluding urban development in the high-risk coastal zone, ensuring the city's outward expansion is simultaneously constrained both on the landward (sprawl) and seaward (climate risk) boundaries.



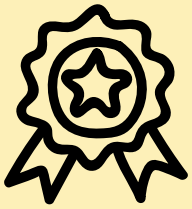
BARCELONA

Barcelona's Superblock (Superilla) model reclaims urban space to foster polycentricity and mixed-use neighbourhoods. The strategy severely restricts vehicle traffic, reallocating an estimated 60% of street space for social, cultural, and commercial uses like green areas and plazas. Simultaneously, Local Plans (Pla d'Usos) govern ground-floor activities to ensure functional diversity and 'urban mixticity'. This combination has measurably boosted commercial vitality, with the number of local shops in Superblock areas rising by up to 30%, supporting vibrant and decentralised local economies.



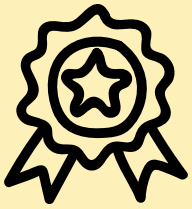
CURITIBA

In the 1960s, Curitiba pioneered the comprehensive use of transit-oriented development (TOD), integrating transport and land-use planning to manage rapid urban growth and shift the city's evolution away from a radial, car-centric model to one centred on its high-capacity Bus Rapid Transit corridors. Zoning and land-use regulations were strictly implemented along these corridors mandating high-density, mixed-use development immediately adjacent to the transit lines. This strategy has incentivised residential and commercial growth around high-capacity transit, leading to a more compact urban form, high public transport ridership rates and reductions in transport related CO_2 emissions (eliminating around 27 million automobile trips annually). While Curitiba's current TOD efforts remain largely consistent with its origins, recent focus has expanded to include measures to address equity and displacement concerns.



QUEZON CITY

Quezon City has established a robust model for proactive urban development by making disaster risk reduction central to its Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This strategy is fundamentally driven by an understanding of environmental risk, aiming to safely accommodate urban population growth without exacerbating existing exposure or putting new development at risk. Central to this effort is the classification of over 3,000 hectares as strictly 'non-buildable' zones. These designated zones specifically encompass high-risk sites like steep landslide-prone slopes and introduce mandatory easements along waterways.



AMMAN

Amman is promoting nature and green space through mandatory quotas embedded directly into its zoning and building regulations. This metric identifies the minimum percentage of green infrastructure required on a new development plot, with different levels for different land-use categories. The calculation includes dedicated landscaped and planted areas, with requirements scaled by construction project type: industrial sites must allocate a minimum of 5%, while residential, mixed-use, and service facilities (such as hospitals and schools) must dedicate 10% to 15% of the plot area to nature respectively. The residential quota introduces a sustainability measure, by demanding the use of low-water-demand plant varieties. This ensures private developers prioritise and allocate space for urban nature and water resilience, with the Green Building Standards further encouraging the voluntary adoption of measures like permeable surfaces for better stormwater management.

PORTLAND

The City of Portland utilises a robust Inclusionary Housing (IH) Programme to confront a significant housing deficit, estimated at 63,000 units needed by 2045 for low- and moderate-income households. The IH mandate requires developers to apply for permits to either provide affordable units or pay a substantial fee-in-lieu. The programme strategically links affordability requirements to financial incentives under the Transit-Oriented Development programme, concentrating new low-income housing in transit-accessible, opportunity-rich neighbourhoods. The inclusion mandates are high, requiring, for example, up to 50% of units to be affordable at 80% Area Median Income (AMI), or 25% at 60% AMI.

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