



C40 AT 20



How C40's model
of collaboration will
shape the future of
global climate action





The purpose of this book

To amplify the voices of megacities on the global stage

To mark its 20th anniversary, C40 assembled this handbook as a celebration of inclusive climate action. C40's goal is simple and powerful: using the collective voice and actions of the mayors of the world's largest cities to help the world avoid climate breakdown.

To protect the people and places we love

C40's story is told through the thousands of practical, successful climate actions, large and small, initiated and shared over the past two decades by C40 cities and the mayors who lead them. Those actions have enhanced the welfare of hundreds of millions of people around the world – giving all a chance at a thriving future.

To work together to transform global climate action

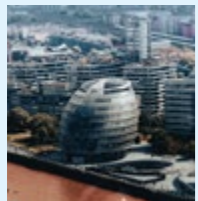
C40's story continues, expanding through multilateral collaboration with national governments and partnerships with corporations, labour unions, non-profit organisations, and individuals. Since its inception in 2005, C40 has encouraged all to examine, discuss, share, and adopt climate actions initiated by cities and be inspired to develop new ones.

This book brings together reflections from some of the people who have played a critical role in C40's journey over the last 20 years:

- The mayors who have led C40: Ken Livingstone (London), David Miller (Toronto), Mike Bloomberg (New York), Eduardo Paes (Rio de Janeiro), Anne Hidalgo (Paris), Eric Garcetti (Los Angeles), Sadiq Khan (London), and Yvonne Aki-Sawyer (Freetown).
- Our strategic funders including Bloomberg Philanthropies, Realdania, and long-standing partner, the Clinton Climate Initiative.
- Those who have worked particularly closely with C40 as Board members, funders, or city officials (in some cases all three!).
- The talented and dedicated people employed by C40 over the last two decades (we have been able to mention only a few, while thanking everyone who has worked so hard to make C40 what it is today).

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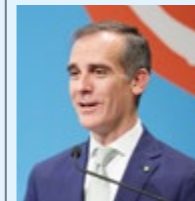
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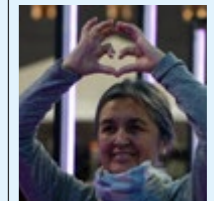
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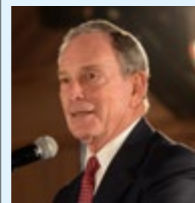
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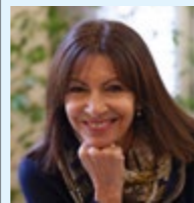
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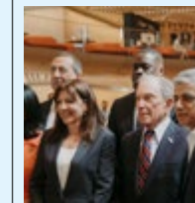
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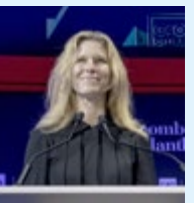
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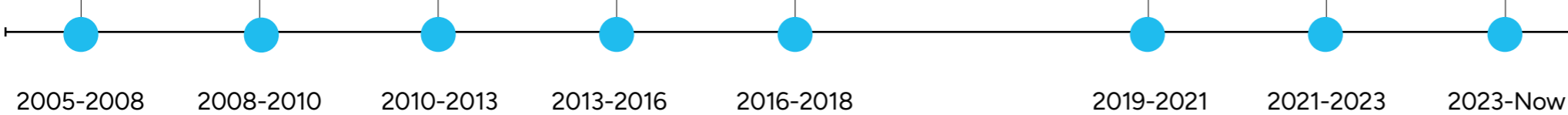
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Beginnings

An introduction

Twenty years ago, on October 4, 2005, representatives of 18 leading cities of the G20 nations gathered in London's City Hall to discuss how to accelerate action to tackle climate change. I was a young adviser to the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and had been tasked with organising this gathering, having recently led the creation of London's first climate action plan.

Little fanfare or media coverage preceded our 'C20' meeting. Since that day, however, while intergovernmental climate negotiations have stalled and frayed, big-city mayors have been quietly working together – collaborating through the network established by Mayor Livingstone that quickly grew to become C40, making their metropolises bastions of green development and demonstrating a model of multilateralism that not only works for cities, but may also be the key to finally halting climate breakdown and creating a world where everyone can thrive.

C40's model of multilateralism

Twenty years on, we might call what emerged from that gathering in London a model of 'municipal multilateralism.' It is an approach to global collaboration that differs significantly from most inter-governmental institutions. For a start, no city

has a right to membership in C40. Membership is based on action – delivery against science-based climate goals and demonstrable collaboration combined with a willingness to share and learn from one another. There are no negotiations in C40. Collaboration is not transactional (it's never: 'I'll only cut fossil fuel consumption, if you cut it more') and the pace is set by cities that want to move fastest. We operate on the basis that every C40 member city is a world or regional leader in something, but none are leaders in everything. This means everyone shares their ideas and everyone learns.

There is plenty of competition amongst these big, globally connected cities to attract investment, tourists, and the brightest talent, for example. But it is not the kind of competition that results in wars of trade barriers. Instead, there is a constant race to the top in C40. Success means adapting another city's good ideas and translating them to a different local context.

The science-based results this model produces are real, endlessly reproducible, and measurable. They work. As a result of tough air pollution regulations in the last decade, for example, 100 million more residents are now able to breathe healthy air.



↑ C40 World Mayors Summit 2022

With its strong, vital and vocal coalition of mayors, C40 serves as a positive, productive example of success, a beacon of hope attracting many allies from all orders of government, businesses, and sectors. It stands as counterweight to actors determined to block action on climate through fear and division.

That's not to say C40 cities claim they've got it all worked out. Far from it. Although C40 mayors and governors have proven themselves remarkably adept at cutting pollution in their cities through the determined use of the practical powers afforded to city halls, global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Investment in fossil fuels has increased, not declined, since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. The theme of our 2019 C40 Summit was 'No one is doing more than cities, but no one is doing enough,' and it still stands.

No one is doing more...

As part of 'doing more,' C40 cities earn membership through climate action and performance, not through membership fees. Every C40 city is required to develop and implement a Climate

Action Plan consistent with the science-based emissions goals of the Paris Agreement to hold the overall average temperature rise to 1.5°C. Today, three out of every four C40 cities are cutting their emissions faster than their respective nation states. Improved public transportation, better housing, more green spaces, well-managed waste – all these actions and more enable city dwellers to live better lives. As does the creation of nearly 16 million 'green' jobs – so far – all supporting the transition to a green economy.

Each of these actions demonstrate that overcoming the climate crisis and building a fairer world is possible and real.

Standing firm against challenges

Today's geopolitical context makes C40's example of successfully working together towards a common goal ever more relevant. In the words of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, 'multilateralism is under attack from all sides.' The President of the United States has withdrawn his country from the Paris Agreement for the second time.



↑ C40 mayors and funders in Paris, July 2024 → Mark Watts at C40 20th Anniversary Reception, June 2025

As cities work together to protect their communities and reduce climate risks, mis- and disinformation propagated by the fossil fuel industry creates confusion and divisions. Global inequality is growing and is perhaps the biggest barrier to overcoming the climate crisis, because most people are, understandably, focused on getting by day-to-day. False narratives – whether about emissions, solutions, or the urgency of the issues – are easier to spread in a context where the cost of living or simple daily survival is top of mind and can delay essential climate measures and hinder cities’ climate progress.

While opinion polls the world over consistently show that most people are, nevertheless, concerned about climate breakdown and want action, accountable and representative government is under threat in many countries. Military conflicts and trade wars absorb much of the energy of inter-governmental dialogue. Despite these challenges, for the past two decades, C40 mayors have effectively worked together across borders

– achieving positive outcomes that benefit their residents and citizens across the world. There are many lessons to be shared.

C40’s keys to success

Three key elements contribute to the success of C40’s model of global collaboration:

1. Membership is based on cities achieving universal C40 Leadership Standards. Membership is earned and annually renewed, grounded on performance and action, not by paying a fee or by right.
2. City climate targets are based on science, not negotiation. Each city is required to meet its fair share of emissions reductions necessary to stabilise global temperatures below a 1.5°C rise.
3. C40’s policies and actions are determined by multiple coalitions of the willing, not by votes requiring unanimity or compromise with the lowest common denominator.

C40’s elected Steering Committee of mayors, gender balanced and with equal representation from each world region, oversees these Leadership Standards and broadly operates by consensus. Leadership and innovation are encouraged. So, for example, when a handful of cities said they were willing to buy only electric buses ahead of market readiness, or to introduce zero-carbon building codes or trial climate budgeting, these became C40 programmes even though the majority of C40 members weren’t yet ready to commit. In most cases, a few years down the line, what was pioneering action quickly becomes mainstream. The membership of C40 encourages a race to the top.



Share, copy, and adapt good things

The basic principle that binds C40 cities together is that if you have done something good, you share it. If you see something good in another city, you copy it and adapt it to your own city’s circumstances.

The power of philanthropy – funders and partners

In these pages, you will read the thoughts and voices of the mayors and city officials who have built and developed C40, and some of the partners who have funded our work or collaborated with us. Since its inception – and in keeping with its collaborative nature – C40 has benefitted tremendously from partnerships with like-minded governments, other non-profit organisations, businesses, youth, trade unions, and individuals. You’ll also find a collection of 97 City Snapshots in this book detailing the impressive array of our member cities’ ambitious climate actions, ranging from Abidijan’s development of an early warning

system for floods to Mumbai’s creation of an urban forest – and all aimed at ensuring city dwellers enjoy better, healthier lives. A particular element of C40’s special sauce is the dynamic tension between the political leadership of mayors and the data-focused drive of philanthropy that supports the network. C40 has grown and gained from a structure that, while enshrining the leadership of mayors in its constitution and Steering Committee, delegates oversight of management to a Board of Directors that balances the views of cities and funders.

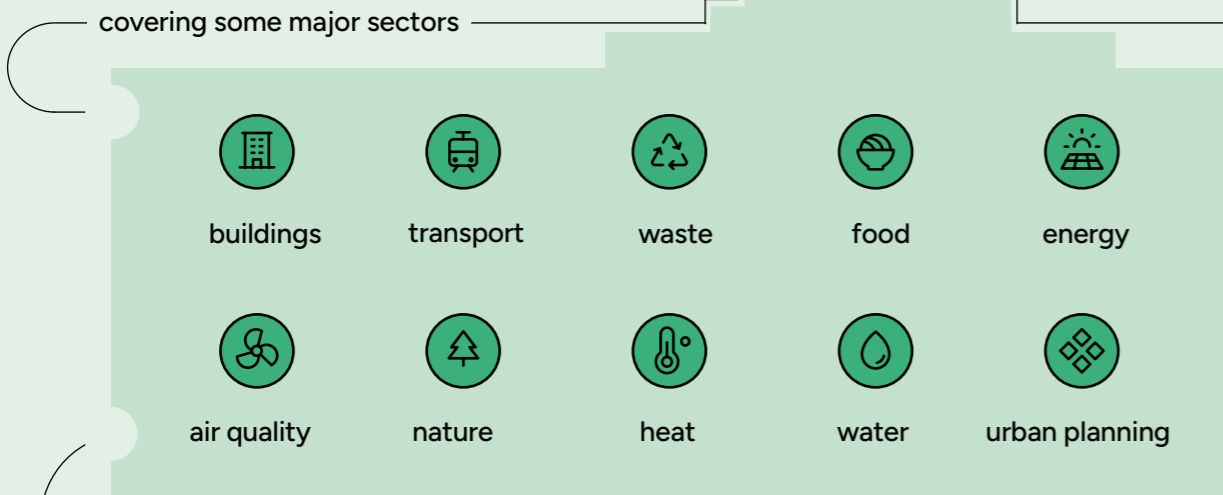
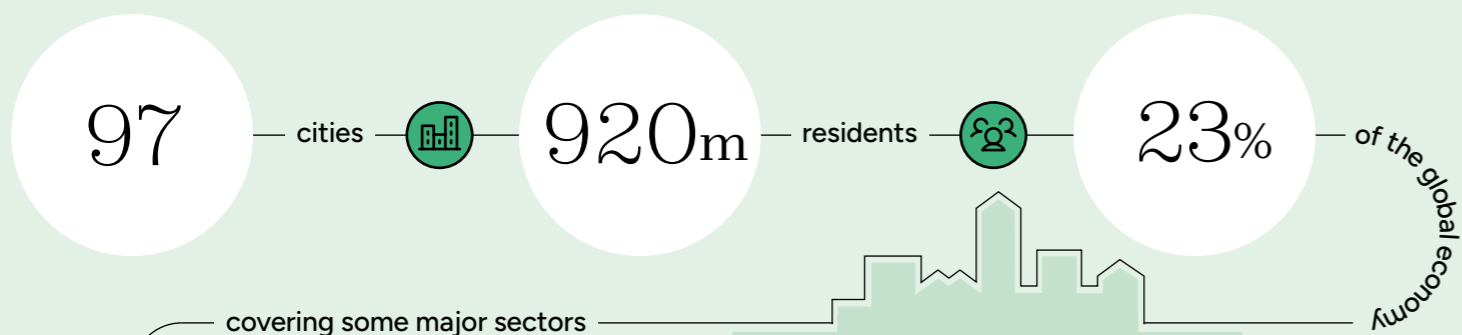
C40 has been particularly fortunate to enjoy the generous and long-term core support of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Realdania, alongside our founding funder, the Clinton Climate Initiative. We owe a particular debt to former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who as our Chair (2010-2013) and then Board President (2013-present) transformed C40 from a powerful but loose alliance of cities into a data-driven, delivery-focused international organisation. We have benefited enormously from both his leadership and his generosity.

Cities are where the future happens first

As Executive Director of C40, I am reminded every day of what a unique privilege it is to lead this organisation. While it can be sobering to spend your life focusing on a problem so big it threatens the very future of human civilisation, I wake up each day confident that by the time I go to bed again something that one of our almost 100 member cities is doing will give me renewed reason for optimism. Every day working with my endlessly inspiring colleagues is both productive and fun. Like our mayors and their staff, I know that the 500+ brilliant people who work at C40 today – and the many more who have done so over the years and gone on to work for other amazing organisations – will never stop trying to build a fairer, climate-safe world.

I hope this short history motivates, educates, and enriches you too!

Mark Watts
Executive Director



which has meant

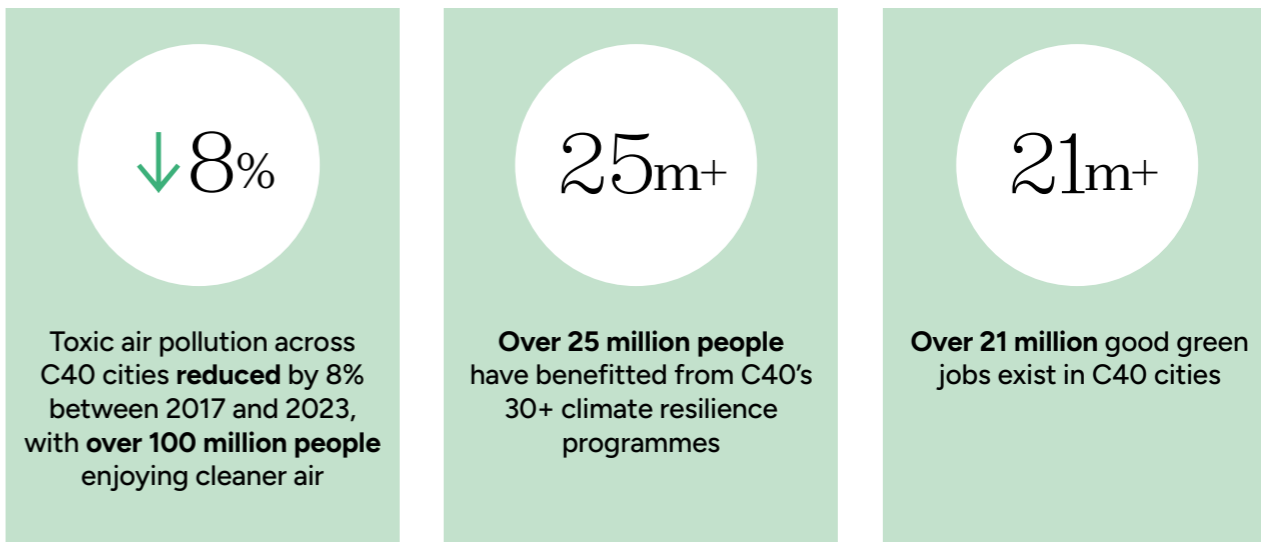
1200+ transformative climate policies implemented by C40 cities.

C40 in numbers

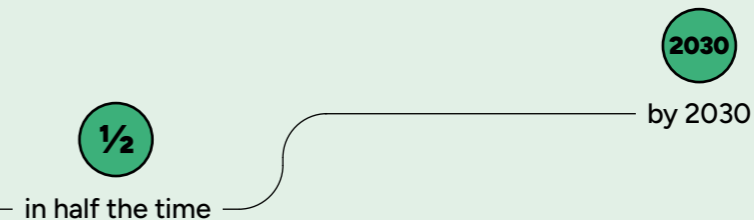
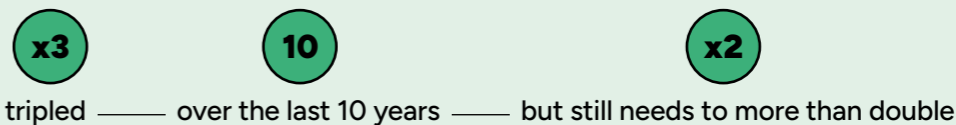
The number of transformative climate policies delivered by C40 cities has **tripled** in the last decade

and now 73% of C40 cities for which we have data have peaked emissions and are now in decline

which has resulted in

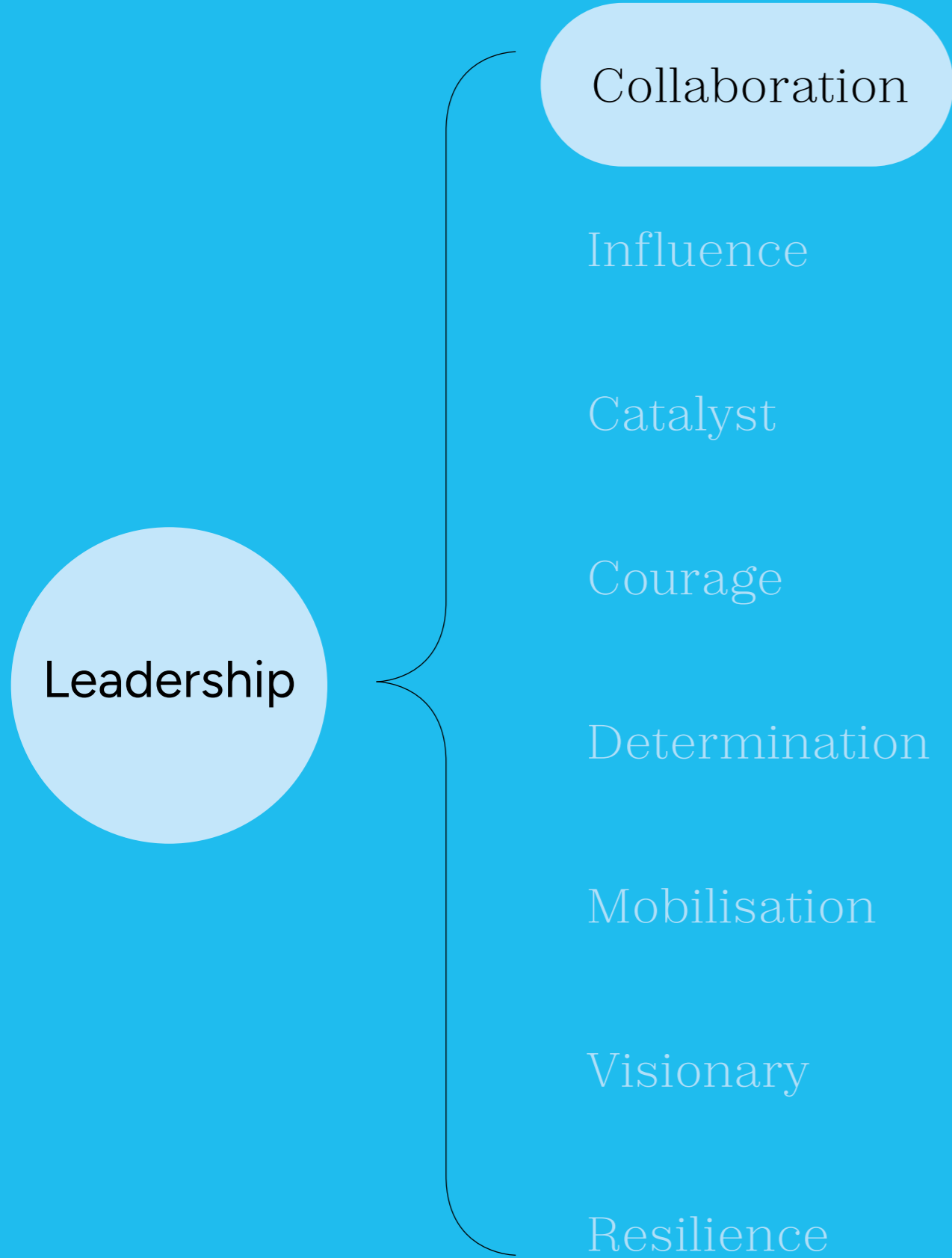


The number of transformative climate policies delivered by C40 has



to avoid dangerous climate breakdown

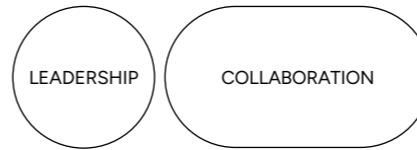




01.



World Economic Forum



Ken Livingstone

C40 CHAIR – 2005-2008
MAYOR OF LONDON – 2000-2008

‘Cities are doing good things and what we need to learn from each other is what’s worked well, how rapidly we can spread that, how rapidly we can copy that.’

KEN LIVINGSTONE, 2007

Working together across national boundaries
C40 was founded on a powerful premise, articulated clearly by Ken Livingstone, then Mayor of London: ‘The fight to tackle climate change will be won or lost in cities.’ In October 2005, he brought the mayors of 18 of the largest cities in the world together to unleash their strength – working collaboratively – to reduce carbon emissions and, in his words, ‘put the world on the path to tackling the biggest challenge ever faced by humanity.’ By 2006 C20 expanded to C40 thanks to a partnership with former US president Bill Clinton’s Climate Initiative. Twenty years later, C40 continues to make good on its promise that cities can lead global change by working together across boundaries and cultures. Numbering nearly 100 cities, representing approximately 920 million people living and working in the wider city, and generating almost 25% of the world’s economy, C40 cities matter.



Getty Images



↑ London buses from the 2000s ↗ Nicky Gavron, deputy mayor of London under Ken Livingstone and the 'mother' of C40

Globally, cities are responsible for more than two-thirds of the world's energy use making them a natural laboratory for introducing initiatives designed to fight climate breakdown. Mayors are on the frontline of the climate crisis. Cities and those who reside in them withstand most of climate breakdown with its extreme heat, flooding, and rising sea levels.

'You have got to act...'

Mayor Livingstone recognised earlier than most that cities are – by necessity – leaders in the collective fight against climate breakdown. A healthy environment is essential if all are to thrive. The challenge of providing that is most evident in densely populated cities where residents can't escape the air, water, and noise pollution that has traditionally been the unwelcome shadow of economic development. But more than that, Mayor Livingstone saw that '[c]ities can't wait for someone else to lead – you have got to act.'

In 2003, Mayor Livingstone grabbed the attention of city leaders around the world with the introduction of a 'congestion charge' on vehicles driving in central London. When, despite global predictions of failure, the policy came in on time and on budget, cut congestion, slashed air pollution, and brought in much-needed revenues for public transport, mayors took notice. His success of transforming vision

into action created a political space into which Mayor Livingstone could convene his peers on an environmental agenda – before then not considered a priority for most big-city mayors.

Bringing cities together

The former British prime minister, Tony Blair, had put 'global warming' on the agenda at the G8 summit held in the UK in July 2005. It proved impossible to advance collective commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions at that meeting. Nicky Gavron, then London's deputy mayor, proposed that cities could step in to collaborate successfully on climate action. The seed was planted.

Keen to produce London's first climate action plan, Mayor Livingstone and Deputy Mayor Gavron leaned heavily on international advice. They looked to Toronto which had a climate strategy put in place by former Toronto mayor, David Miller. That partnership with Toronto gave Mayor Livingstone the confidence to prioritise climate action. With additional input from Stockholm, Copenhagen, and San Francisco, 'Action Today to Protect Tomorrow' was published showing how London could reduce its carbon footprint by 60% in 20 years. Those collaborations sparked Mayor Livingstone to think bigger than his own city. What could happen if every major city had a climate plan and collaborated with one another?

Mayors speaking – directly – to one another

Before C40, nothing like it existed. While there were nascent city networks in existence, there was no organization of mayors of the world's leading cities, let alone one committed to ending climate breakdown.

Mayor Livingstone was inspired by two facts:

1. A global initiative makes practical sense as climate breakdown has no respect for national boundaries.
2. This network would give mayors of the greatest cities around the world an opportunity to directly collaborate and share ideas.

Building on each others' experiences

President Bill Clinton was quick to recognise the potential of C40. As he said, 'cities are in the "how" business.' In 2006, the Clinton Climate Initiative entered a partnership with C40 to facilitate the sharing of effective climate action amongst member cities through the hiring of city advisors. This ensured that C40 cities had effective climate leads. It kickstarted the ability of cities to drive climate policy, share ideas, and adapt solutions across the world.

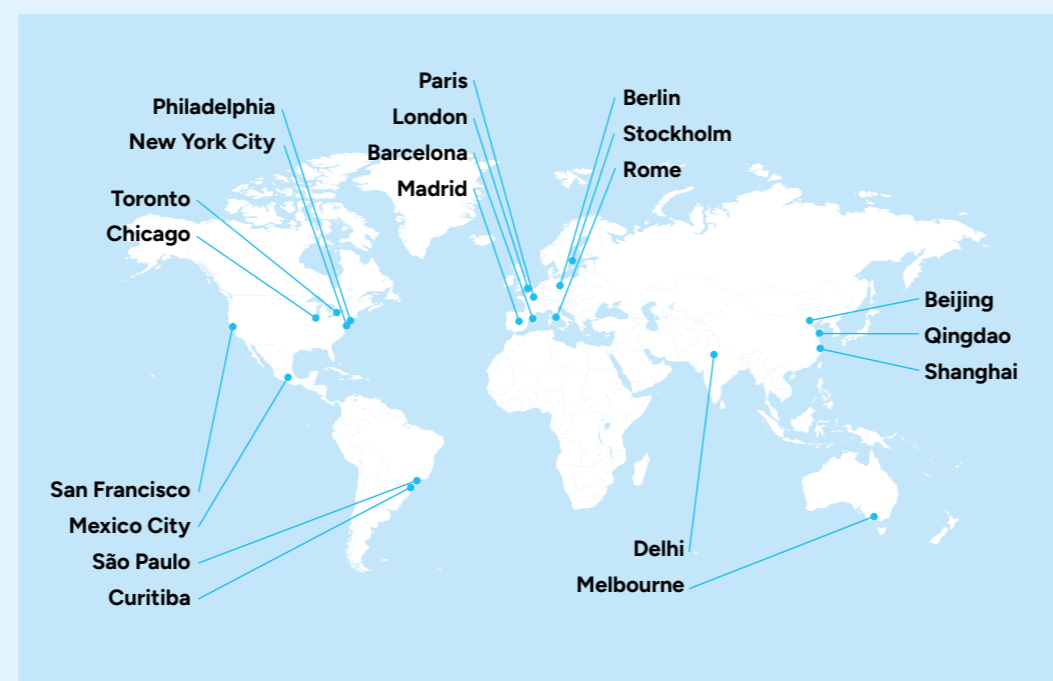
In 2007, the promise of C40 accelerated. Mike Bloomberg, then mayor of New York, hosted the second C40 Summit, bringing together 36 mayors from all corners of the world all of whom arrived with an array of actions, successfully introduced in their cities. An impressive roster of business leaders attended – including the president of Citibank – drawing attention to the power and potential of C40. Major banks promised finance. Climate insurers were clear about risk. Clean energy providers demonstrated what was possible. They could see that C40 cities were taking the lead to avoid catastrophic climate change, well ahead of most national governments.

Today, C40 has fulfilled that early promise. Connecting hundreds of cities to exchange best practices and share practical actions, 75% of C40 cities report they have taken faster climate action because they participated in the C40 network. Collaboration on a global scale – the power of the united voices of mayors of the world's major cities. That is the power of C40.



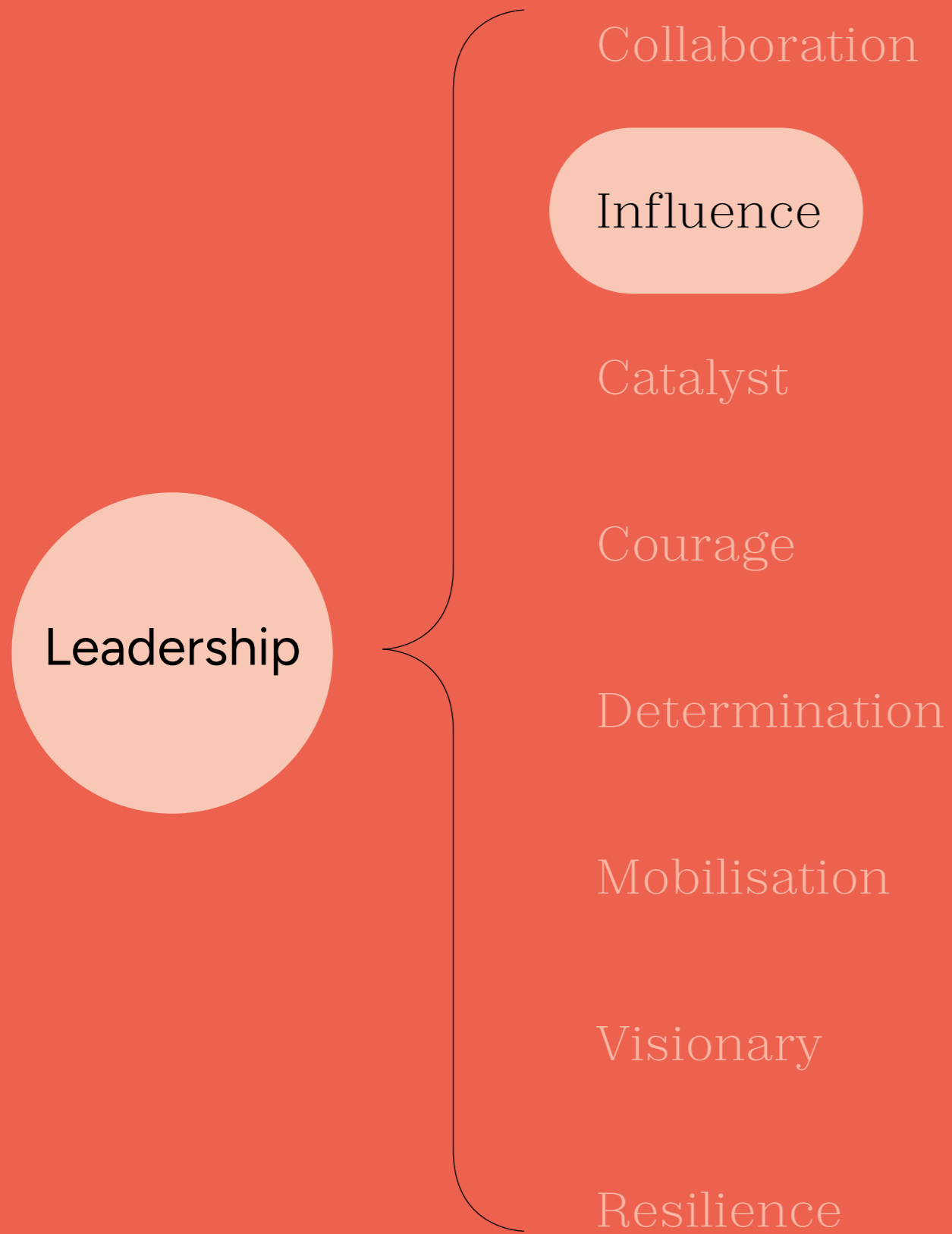
↑ Looking towards London's financial district

The original C40 Cities

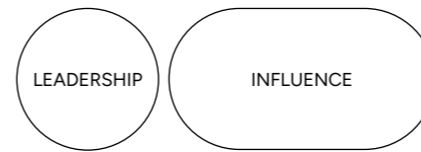


‘The whole point of C40 is that it’s where mayors break down barriers. They’re all dealing with similar problems, but in different cultures and different cities. They learn from one another. They collaborate and adapt what they learn to their needs – and advance things quicker in their cities. That’s always going to work.’

SIMON REDDY
FORMER C40 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – 2007-2012



02.



David Miller

C40 CHAIR – 2008-2010
MAYOR OF TORONTO – 2003-2010

‘ Within each of their respective nations, C40 mayors are natural leaders with strong voices. By uniting their voices, city leaders are leading the world in reducing emissions. United, their strength is their ability to create action across governments and across the world.’

DAVID MILLER, 2008



Pechke



Prime Minister's Office, India

↑ A demonstration in Copenhagen during COP15
 ↑ Former Indian prime minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing delegates at COP15 in Denmark, 2009

A powerful new voice on the global stage

The influential role of C40's mayors was demonstrated, unequivocally, at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009. Despite urban areas generating 75% of global carbon emissions combined with significant abilities to reduce them, cities were not considered significant powers on the international stage – until C40, then chaired by former mayor of Toronto, David Miller, demonstrated that city-based climate action matters.

COP15 was expected to be the conference where broad agreement was reached amongst nation states on climate. Those hopes proved unrealistic. The world then waited another six years for the Paris Agreement. At the same time as global climate talks were failing at COP15, a public event in Copenhagen, showcasing C40 cities, shifted the narrative, demonstrating the influential role cities play in leading climate action.

C40, in partnership with the City of Copenhagen, hosted the Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors, parallel to COP15. Free to all, this public event took place in the square at City Hall, with more than 100 mayors in attendance. Under the slogan 'While Nations Talk, Cities Act,' cities from Copenhagen to Cape Town and from Bogotá to Beijing presented their successful city-based climate actions, all of which improved the lives of residents and lowered carbon emissions. The contrast with the failed COP 15 talks – at a soulless, remote convention centre – could not have been more vivid. Climate activists, journalists, and world leaders noticed the inspiring events occurring in the centre of Copenhagen, led by mayors. Cities gained their rightful place, front and centre, on the global climate stage.



↑ Riverdale Park East in Toronto, Canada

The Copenhagen Climate Summit followed a series of similarly inspiring events, including the first C40 Summit in New York City (2007), the C40 Adaptation Summit in Tokyo (2008) and the C40 Summit in Seoul (2009). By 2009, journalists from virtually every country in the world were paying close attention and began attending C40 summits.

In 2010, the City of Rotterdam and C40 hosted the Delta Cities Conference. More than 1,000 delegates from academia, business, civil society and mayors came together to learn about and share information about adapting to the increasing severity of storms demonstrated by Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans in 2005. Together, these events reinforced a fundamental message: cities are driving action on the climate crisis. Cities are collaborating and sharing their knowledge. Cities are leading. The collective and individual voices of mayors around the world are strong and powerful.

Mayors and the 'expectation of action'

Despite the differences amongst the cities they serve and the powers they possess, mayors have one critical thing in common: they are expected to act and deliver on the very practical needs of the residents of the cities they lead. Historically, transportation, housing, parks, water and sewerage systems, waste management, and services for low-income residents – these are the responsibilities that occupy city leaders. Climate change has radically added to that list of responsibilities, as mayors swiftly respond to protect their residents from rapidly increasing extreme weather events such as flooding, storms, fires, and extreme heat. The expanding catalogue of actions taken by cities around the world demonstrates that cities are often more capable of quickly and effectively dealing with climate matters than their national governments. Mayors have stepped up, filling a leadership vacuum, acting when national governments have refused to take the action required to avert climate breakdown.

Extending beyond city boundaries



Green shipping

Green shipping corridors are growing globally because of the leadership of Los Angeles and Shanghai. Both have responsibilities for ports located in their cities and none over the high seas – but the world has recognized their influential voices and both cities are utilising that influence.



Fossil fuel-free pension funds

The global divestment movement began to have strong results once New York and London – two of the world's leading financial hubs – announced they would be divesting their cities' pension funds of fossil fuels. These actions, combined with so many others, demonstrate that C40 mayors don't just react to change, they drive it.

The engine for action, powered by mayors

As the credibility of cities to take science-based action on the climate crisis grows, so grows the influence of cities, working together, to lead initiatives on the global stage. So grows the necessity for cities to continue filling the role of climate change leader.

Today, cities lead not just their own areas of responsibility, but by influencing change well beyond their remits and even their own geographies. C40 cities lead systems change – across systems they do not regulate or own. Big-city mayors make decisions that shape national and even global markets. C40 mayors have a platform and a voice that extends beyond their city boundaries.

Leadership means standing up for doing the right thing when it may be difficult to do. Leaders offer hope – the belief that the future will be better than today. Mayors possess the power and influence to make change happen. Standing for climate action during the 2008 financial crisis was hard. C40 mayors stood firm. Staying the course during the COVID-19 pandemic was tough. C40 mayors stood firm. Today, climate action is under renewed attack from economic crises, geopolitical instability, isolationist policies, and vested interests. C40 mayors continue to stand firm.

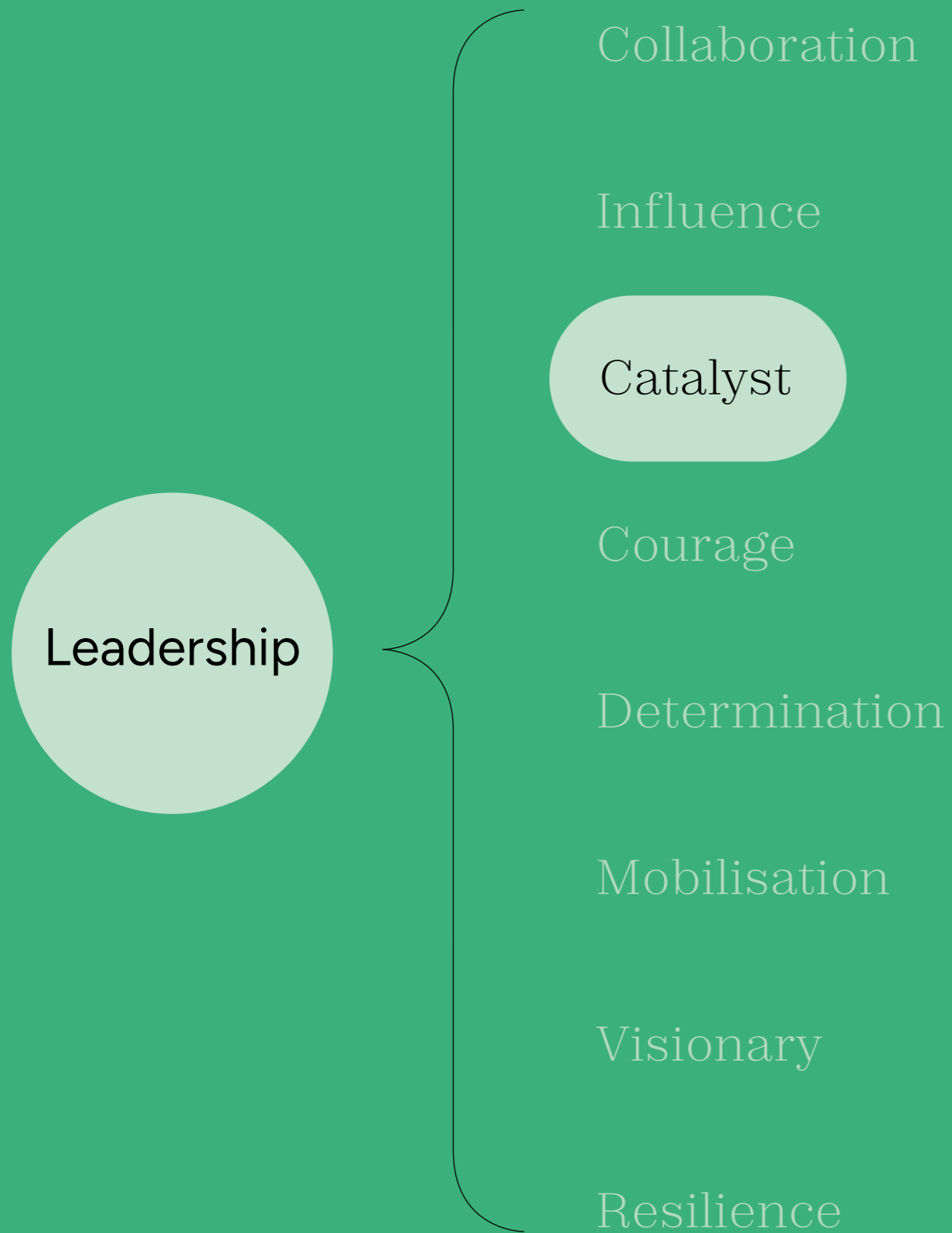
‘ Individually cities’ projects are going to transform their communities but collectively they will set a new global benchmark that can change the world.’

BILL CLINTON
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
C40 WORLD MAYORS SUMMIT IN SEOUL, 2009

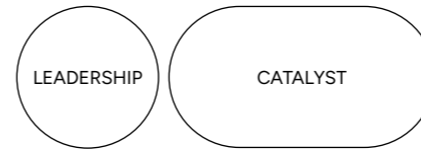


C40 World Mayors Summit
in Copenhagen, 2019

Thomas Ewaldsen / C40



03.



Mike Bloomberg

PRESIDENT, C40 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2010-2013
MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY – 2002-2013

‘The reason C40 has been successful is that we have stayed true to our roots. We have always been data-driven. Science and data inform our decision making, not politics or ideology or wishful thinking. And the data is clear on this – the need for climate action is only growing more urgent.’

MIKE BLOOMBERG, 2019

'In God we trust. Everyone else bring data.'

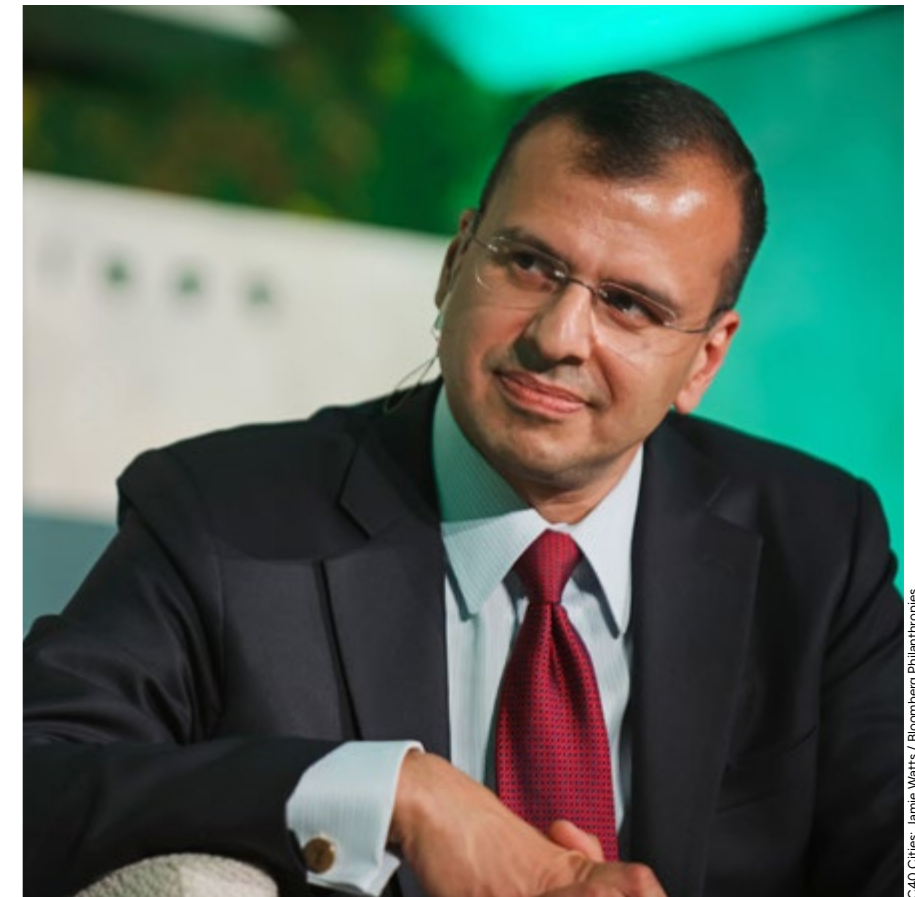
This favourite phrase from Michael Bloomberg isn't just a saying – it's a principle. As a three-term Mayor of New York City, Mike Bloomberg turned that ethos into action, embedding data and accountability into every aspect of urban governance, including on climate.

In 2007, he launched PlaNYC, a first-of-its-kind strategic sustainability plan that integrated emissions reductions with urban planning. Amongst its groundbreaking features were the first-ever comprehensive inventory of citywide carbon emissions from all sources and a bold policy requiring commercial buildings to publicly disclose energy performance. This transparency sparked market pressure for energy improvements and generated data that building owners, tenants, and the city could use to identify gaps, target investments, and drive deeper change. The result: sustained, measurable progress that continues to shape New York's environmental trajectory. Under Mayor Bloomberg's leadership, New York's carbon emissions fell by 13% in just six years.

You can't manage what you don't measure

Data and science are the foundation of effective climate action. Collecting data – whether through monitoring carbon emissions or measuring local air quality – allows cities to understand the scope of their challenges and implement solutions that work. As Mayor Bloomberg says, 'If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.' By leading with data, he transformed measurement into action, integrating a pragmatic, science-based approach at the heart of New York City's climate strategy.

PlaNYC began with the ambitious goal of making New York's air the cleanest amongst major US cities – a goal once unthinkable given the city's decades-long reputation for sooty, smoggy skies. Under Mayor Bloomberg's leadership, New York installed a citywide street-level air quality monitoring system that pinpointed heavy heating oil as a major source of local pollution. The city responded with



↑ Rohit T. Aggarwala
← Tree planting ceremony at the C40 Large Cities Climate Summit in São Paulo, 2011

‘Cities are the leading centres of business and innovation and media. These are the places that radiate ideas around the globe. When cities act, the world listens.’

ROHIT AGGARWALA

ROHIT T. AGGARWALA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE C40 BOARD (2012-2013); CURRENT COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CHIEF CLIMATE OFFICER, NEW YORK CITY

a coordinated strategy – engaging the real estate sector, natural gas utilities, heating oil suppliers, non-profits, community groups, and major lenders – to introduce new regulations, infrastructure upgrades, and cleaner fuels. The impact was dramatic. By 2013, the city’s air quality had reached its cleanest levels in more than 50 years, preventing an estimated 800 deaths and 2,000 emergency room visits and hospitalisations annually compared to 2008. Measure it, manage it. That principle didn’t just improve air quality – it extended lives. During his time as mayor, average life expectancy in New York City rose by more than three years.

The ability to measure, the ability to act

99%

of the global population live in areas exceeding safe air quality limits – despite breathing clean air being a fundamental human right.

6.7 million

premature deaths are caused by air pollution each year. It costs the global economy US\$225 billion in lost labour every year.

60

cities have air quality monitoring systems in place, up from just 9 in 2015. Cities tackle dirty air by expanding city-wide air quality monitoring, restricting polluting vehicle use, electrifying vehicle and bus fleets, shifting to clean energy sources and promoting walking and cycling.

100 million

people enjoyed improved air quality between 2017 and 2023 due to an 8% decrease in fine particulate matter concentration between 2017 and 2023.



↑ Public and active transport in New York

Clickwise from bottom left: Zhen Yao, Yoav Azz, Trevor Hayes

Brooklyn Bridge,
New York City



Sharing data, learning, and developing solutions
Mayor Bloomberg's commitment to data collection and transparency helped shape C40's data-driven model, where mayors from around the world come together to exchange ideas and develop and scale climate solutions. His early support catalysed cities worldwide to develop emissions inventories and, thus, comprehensive climate plans. Today, all C40 cities know exactly where their greenhouse gas emissions come from and the actions they need to take to reduce those emissions. This commitment to measurement drives accountability and real-world results: There are now 16 million green jobs across C40 cities, and that number is expected to grow to 50 million by 2030.

Delivering climate action worldwide – changing the structure of C40

As C40 Chair, Mayor Bloomberg transformed C40 from a powerful, but loose, mayoral network into a professional international organisation. Ensuring financial support for all cities worldwide, he championed the incorporation of C40 as a non-profit organisation in 2011. With the status of incorporation, C40 was able to attract major philanthropic backing. Major funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies helped attract other core funders, including Realdania, which enabled C40 to build technical capacity to serve cities worldwide. More than a decade later, these partners remain C40's Strategic Funders.

Staying true to our roots

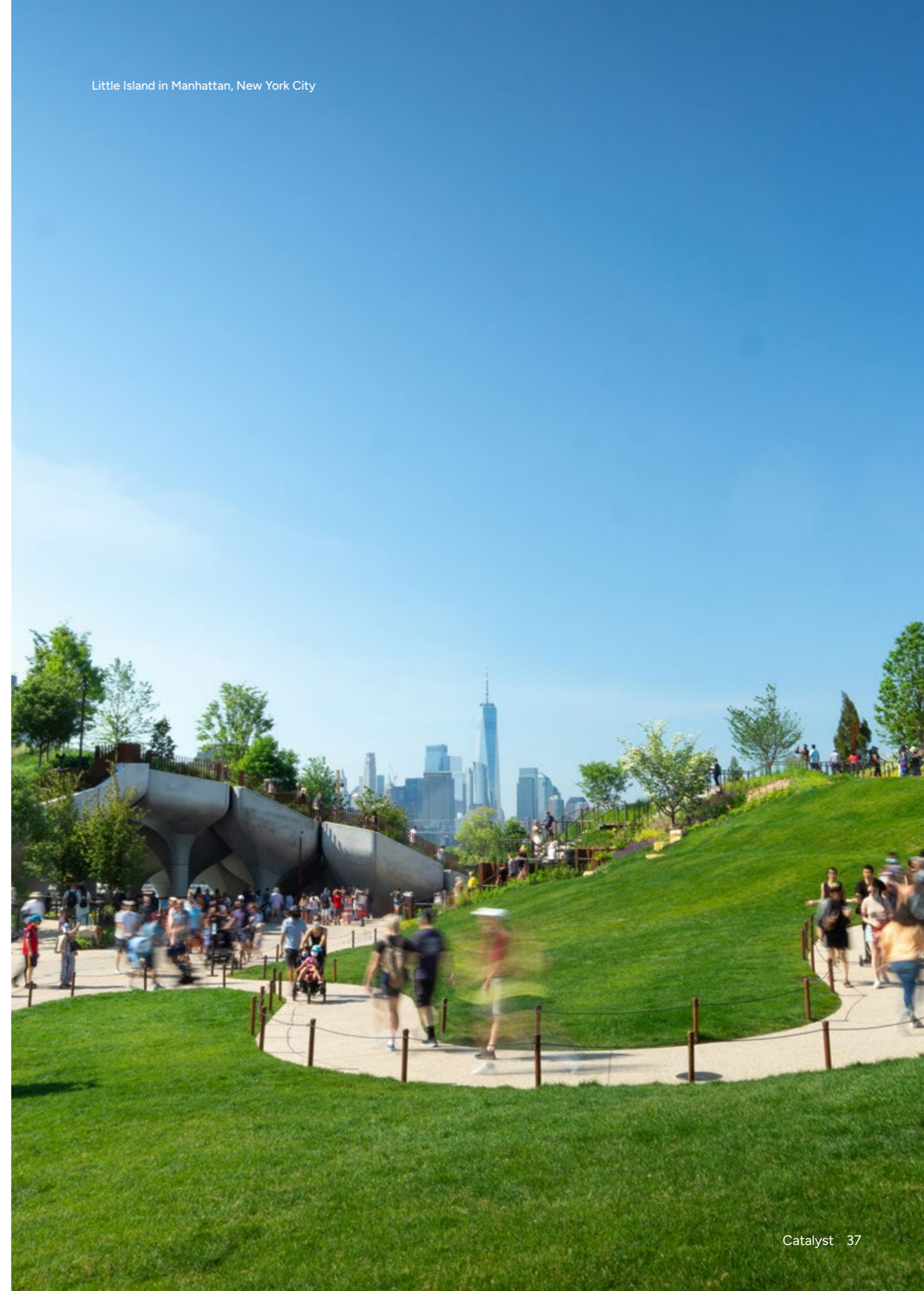
As President of the C40 Board of Directors, Mayor Bloomberg continues to drive progress, inspire action, and strengthen the global commitment to climate leadership. As United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, he continues to step in to ensure that the United States meets its global climate obligations. Twice – following

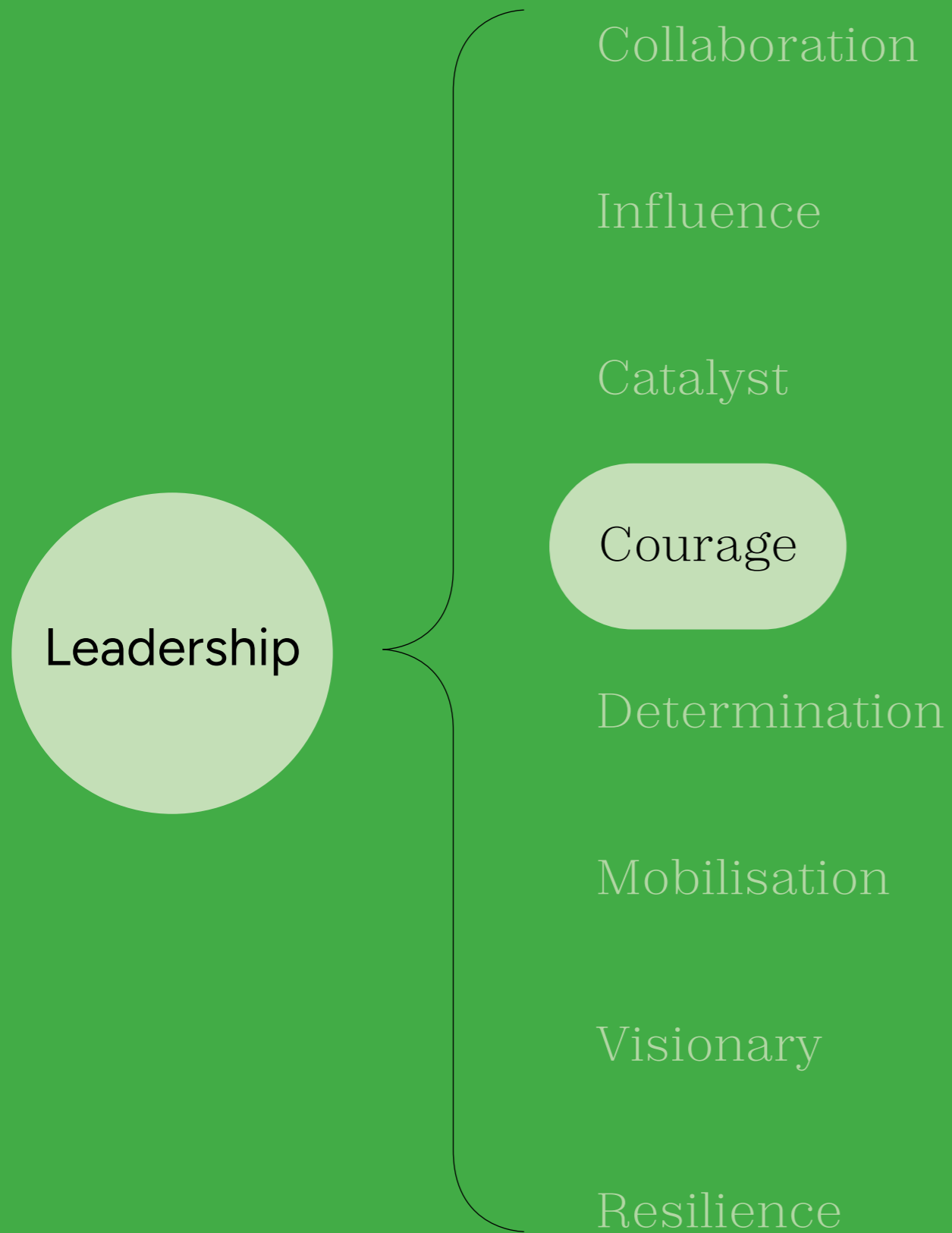
both US withdrawals from the Paris Agreement – he stepped up to ensure that the country's funding and reporting obligations to the UN Climate Change Secretariat were met, while empowering cities, states, businesses, and the public to uphold the nation's commitments. From convening mayors at COP21 to launching the Local Climate Action Summit at COP28 and co-hosting the Local Leaders Forum at COP30, Mayor Bloomberg has long recognised that local leaders drive global progress – and he's brought them together at major climate moments to help lead the way, reinforcing C40's strong voice at UN Climate Summits.

In addition to all the work he has led to support cities in their climate efforts, he has been a global leader in the effort to reduce coal pollution and expand access to clean energy. The Beyond Coal campaign he launched in 2011 has helped to retire more than two-thirds of US coal-fired power plants and more than half of Europe's, and through Bloomberg Philanthropies, he is working to help countries across the world ensure that growing energy needs are met with clean sources. He has also helped to lead the charge in engaging financial firms in the effort to increase clean energy, building public-private partnerships to knock down barriers to investment, particularly in developing economies.

A continuing dedication to data

In an era of rising climate misinformation, Mayor Bloomberg's dedication to data and accountability is more essential than ever before. The funding Bloomberg Philanthropies provides in support of C40's data-driven approach is a critical part of our work, and it gives C40 a credibility that few other organisations can match.





04.

LEADERSHIP

COURAGE

Eduardo Paes

C40 CHAIR – 2013-2016

MAYOR OF RIO DE JANEIRO – 2009-2016 & 2021-PRESENT

‘Taking actions on climate change: that is what we are here for.’

EDUARDO PAES, 2016

A diversity of new voices

‘What happens in our cities drives the globe,’ said Eduardo Paes, mayor of Rio de Janeiro, on becoming the first C40 chair from the Global South – a simple sentence highlighting his commitment to the collective power of cities worldwide. During Mayor Paes’ tenure as chair, C40’s membership grew deliberately, broadening from its origins representing the major cities of the wealthiest nations to welcoming more cities from Africa, Latin America, and Asia including China. By the end of Mayor Paes’ term, more than 50% of C40 cities were from the Global South. Today, that number stands close to 60%.



J.P.Engelbrecht, City Hall of Rio de Janeiro



↑ Former Mayor of New York City, Mike Bloomberg, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, and Former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, at the C40 10th anniversary event in New York City, 2015.

'A good excuse to get things done'

Mayor Paes was elected C40 chair at a unique moment. Rio had just hosted the pivotal Rio+20 environmental summit and was preparing to stage both the FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games. He saw those events as 'a good excuse to get things done,' leveraging them to transform the city's infrastructure especially in underserved areas. The legacy of these events brought tremendous benefits through the acceleration of urban development projects, revitalising abandoned central areas making them vibrant, and expanding public transportation. For example, Rio's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system was launched, inspired by other C40 cities. BRT lines now total 150 kilometres, carrying about 620,000 passengers daily. An estimated 100,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year will be saved over 20 years, with \$23 million in yearly savings. Expanding BRT connected remote areas and provided more inclusive, efficient, and clean transportation, reducing travel times for vulnerable populations – in some cases by half.

Levelling the playing field

But Mayor Paes had bigger plans. He saw these events as a way to shift global attention to cities of the Global South. By expanding C40's membership, he anticipated the advantages of new voices – not just for Global South cities, but also for mayors in Europe, North America, Japan, and Australasia, who soon learned from cities like Bogotá about express bus services and Shenzhen about electrified bus and taxi fleets.

While the bulk of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are produced by consumption in the wealthiest countries, it is people in the least well-off places who bear the brunt of climate impacts. That disparity is further entrenched by the huge barriers that Global South cities face in accessing finance. That is why Mayor Paes created the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) in 2015 to mobilise finance for climate action projects in low and middle-income countries.

'Caring about the environment means caring about people'

CFF-supported projects are crafted to be low carbon and climate resilient while improving cities for those living in them. The programme also builds capacity and knowledge sharing in ways that can be financially sustained into the future. Collectively, 38 projects around the world have been supported by CFF – to date, leveraging more than US\$650 million in new investment. By 2030, that amount is estimated to increase to more than US\$1 billion.

Solar Pyramid



Daniel Castellano - SMCS

Curitiba received support for a solar project using photovoltaic cells on a deactivated landfill and solar panels on bus terminals. Launched in 2023, the Solar Pyramid is expected to:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions by 90,000 tonnes between 2020-2050 – equivalent to taking 20,000 cars off the road.
- Save over US\$500,000 annually.
- Provide enough energy for 43,000 low-income households each month.

Other cities – Rio, Dakar, Jakarta, and Kuala Lumpur – are following Curitiba's lead. 18 Brazilian cities (including 15 non-C40 cities) have expressed interest in learning from its success.



Beth Santos/Rio de Janeiro City Hall

↑ Porto Maravilha Project in Rio de Janeiro

Standing strong in the face of threats to C40's climate agenda

Continuing the legacy of Mayor Bloomberg, under Mayor Paes' leadership, C40 continued to be data-driven, working with the World Resources Institute and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to standardise the way in which cities counted and reported emissions. This led to the Compact of Mayors and the Global Protocol for Community Scale Emissions – with Rio the first fully compliant city.

The Compact of Mayors created a strong, united statement from thousands of cities in the run-up to the critical UN climate change conference in 2015, adding to the positive pressure which resulted in the COP21 Paris Agreement. Mayor Paes was rightly convinced about the importance of city-led diplomacy, creating a dedicated 'City Diplomacy' team at C40 to drive forward this important work.

During his tenure as chair, Mayor Paes was courageous and clear-eyed about concerns that the Paris Agreement could be weakened by changes in government. He remained convinced that climate efforts would continue independently, led by cities. His own city continues to serve as an example to the world – particularly during years when Brazil's national government supported an anti-environmental agenda.

When Mayor Paes handed the reins of C40 to the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, they agreed that, even as the ink was drying on the Paris Agreement, C40 cities would need to show strong, consistent leadership to turn the accord into practical action.

‘If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go further, go together. And C40 cities have managed to do both – delivering urgent climate action and building resilient communities.’

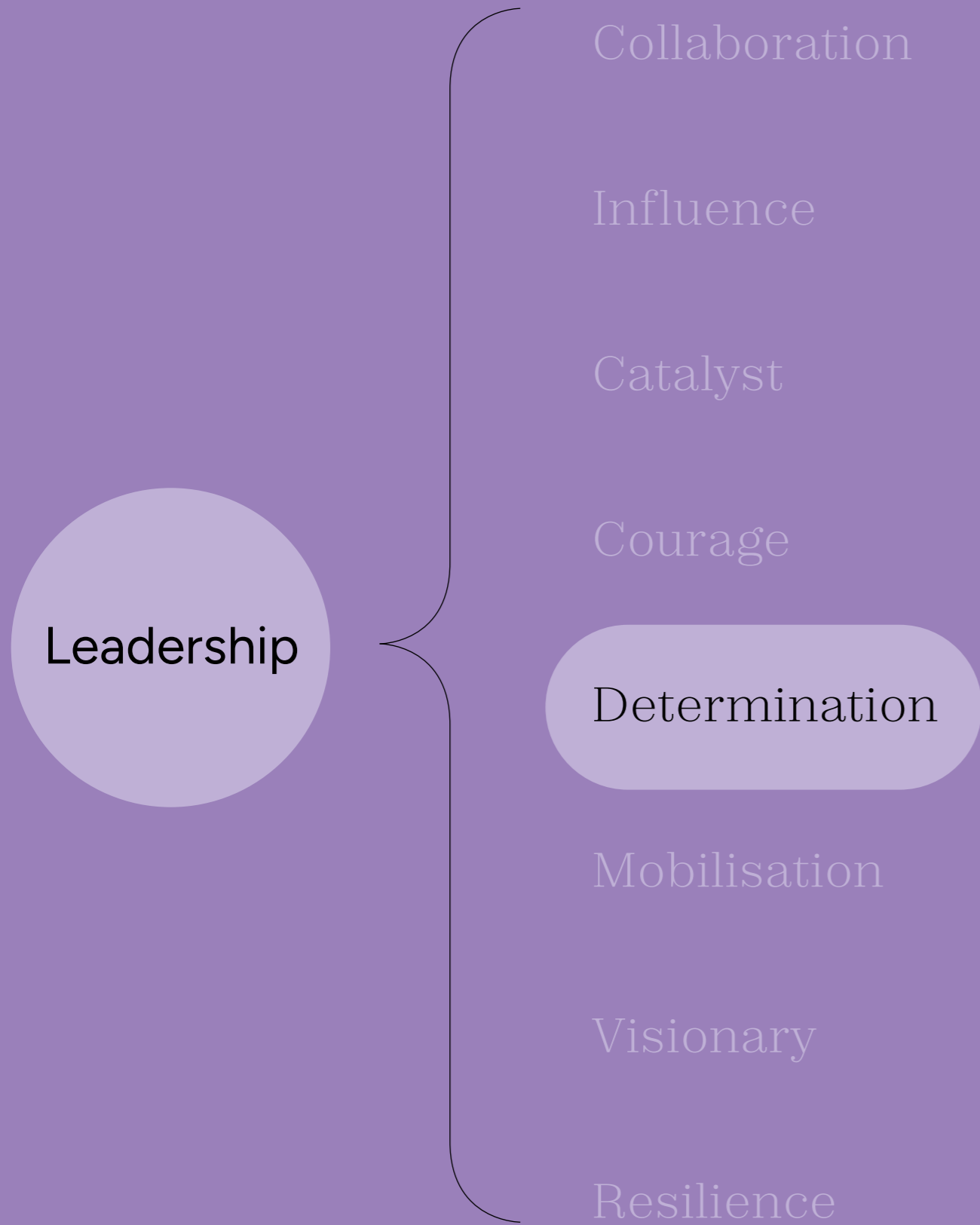
ANTHA WILLIAMS
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM AT BLOOMBERG
PHILANTHROPIES AND MEMBER OF THE C40 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



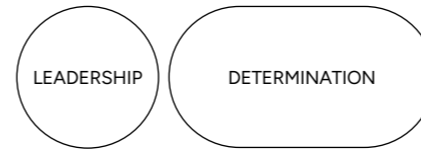
↑ Antha Williams



Beth Santos/Rio de Janeiro City Hall



05.



Anne Hidalgo

C40 CHAIR – 2016-2019
MAYOR OF PARIS – 2014-PRESENT

‘There are three things we need to do: Act, act, and act again.’

ANNE HIDALGO, 2016

The city as a champion

During the years Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, served as C40 Chair, she was a model for both how to use her position as a city leader and how to use her city itself to champion the fight against climate breakdown in urban areas. That bold work, aimed at increasing the influence of mayors and their cities in global affairs, began before she assumed her role as chair and has continued long after.



73%
of C40's member
cities have peaked
their emissions

11.5%
reduction in per capita
emissions across
C40 cities since 2015
compared to...

1.5%
increase in national
per capita emissions

In 2015, Mayor Hidalgo co-chaired with Mike Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, the Climate Summit for Local Leaders in Paris – coinciding with COP21, also in Paris. The summit brought the loud, clear voices of local and regional governments to the COP21 negotiations. The world listened. Cities and the vital roles they play in addressing climate change could not be ignored. The Paris Agreement – with its science-based objective of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and of pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels – reflected the priorities and needs of local communities around the world.

All C40 cities demonstrate their commitment to cutting emissions

But the Paris Agreement was only a critical starting point for C40 cities. Instead of assuming that national governments now had the climate crisis under control, C40 set out to lead the implementation of the Paris Agreement. A year later in 2016, as Mayor Hidalgo took over as C40 chair from Mayor Paes, the two city leaders introduced the Deadline 2020 Programme, asking every member city to demonstrate their commitment, through concrete action, to cutting their emissions in line with the 1.5°C limit.

A decade after the Paris Agreement was signed, the vast majority of national governments have yet to publish emission reduction plans compatible with the 1.5°C limit of the accord. Yet, as a result of Deadline 2020, it has been a condition of C40 membership for every city to produce science-based climate action plans, detailing reductions in carbon emissions in sectors including buildings, energy, transport and waste through 'people-first' planning policies. Today, Today, 73% of C40's member cities, for which we have data, have peaked their emissions. Collectively, per capita emissions across C40 cities have reduced by 11.5% since 2015.

← Climate Summit for Local Leaders in Paris, 2015



Abdel Mijed Assiz Lizarazo / C40

↑ Bogotá has pioneered the training of women as bus drivers

Accelerators are a mechanism to drive High-Impact Actions

What are the Accelerators?

Since the C40 Accelerators were first launched in 2017, they have supported mayors and their cities to drive impactful climate action.

The C40 Accelerators set out ambitious actions cities are taking to meet science-based targets to collectively halve emissions in C40 cities by 2030 and increase climate resilience.

How many are Accelerators are there?

There are 14 Accelerators:

- Clean Air
- Clean Construction
- Clean Investment
- Green and Healthy Streets
- Good Food Cities
- Net Zero Carbon Buildings
- Renewable Energy
- Towards Zero Waste
- Pathway Towards Zero Waste
- Urban Nature
- Water Safe Cities
- C40 & UN-Habitat Urban Planning
- C40 Cool Cities
- C40 Thriving Food Systems

Who is involved in the Accelerators?

To date 90 cities (75 C40 cities and 15 cities outside of the C40 network) have signed at least one or more of the Accelerators.

There have been a total of 268 commitments (249 from C40 cities and 19 from cities outside of the C40 network) made by cities in every region.

A practical, effective approach

Cleaning the air that city dwellers breathe by reducing pollution continues to be a top health priority for Mayor Hidalgo. C40's Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator was launched in 2017, recognizing that traffic is globally responsible for up to one-quarter of particulate matter in the air. Pioneering mayors pledged to procure only zero-emission buses from 2025 onwards and to ensure that a major area of their cities are zero emission by 2030. Today, 31 cities procure only zero-emission buses, and 72,000 electric buses are operating in these locales.

Programmes like this – with clear and tangible health benefits – are in sync with Mayor Hidalgo's practical and determined approach of engaging the support of urban dwellers while resisting efforts from vested interests to thwart her climate ambitions. Today Parisians enjoy more than 1,400 kilometres of bike lanes. The river-side highway that blighted the centre of Paris has been removed, replaced with public spaces. 'Paris Respire' was introduced in 2016, encouraging green living by designating certain areas of the city as car-free zones on Sundays and public holidays. Efforts continue to ensure the River Seine is safe for swimming and bathing.



Leonardo Di Marnici

↑ Parco Sempione and the Arco della Pace in Milan



By 2026, 170,000 trees will be planted in the city. Mayor Hidalgo invited all Parisians to propose ways to better utilise under-used public buildings and that initiative, 'Reinventer Paris,' metamorphosed into a popular C40 international programme, 'Reinventing Cities.' These are but a few of the initiatives launched during her term as C40 Chair, and all mesh seamlessly with her belief that 'ecology bears a close relation to equality.'



↑ Women and Climate Session, 2015

As Mayor Hidalgo points out, 'In the same way that the defence of nature cannot be separated from the defence of culture, the fight for the environment goes hand in hand with the fight for gender equality.' As first female Chair of C40, Mayor Hidalgo saw an essential part of her role as galvanising the international community to focus on the nexus of gender and climate issues.

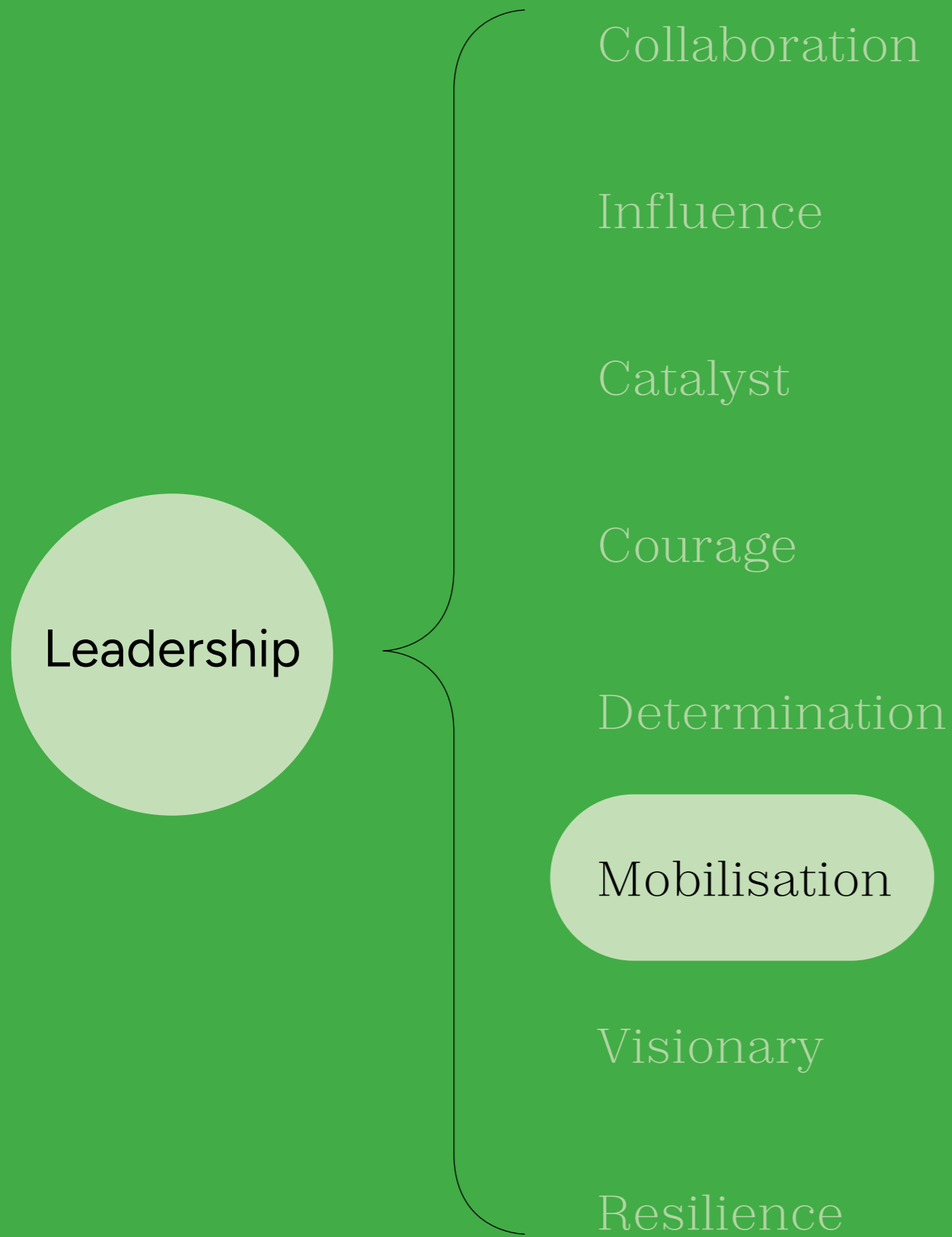
That priority became reality in 2016 when she launched the C40 Women4Climate initiative to support and celebrate women leaders who are

driving climate action forward. Women4Climate has successfully supported thousands of young women in more than 40 programmes in 22 cities worldwide, building and mentoring a strong community of climate leaders empowered to make a difference – with the same determination Mayor Hidalgo has demonstrated in her actions to transition to a more sustainable future.

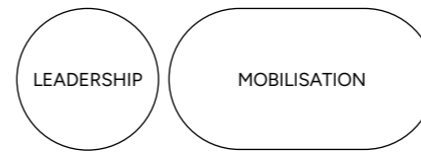
As she began her term as C40 Chair, Mayor Hidalgo quoted the French author and traveler, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: 'Our task is not to foresee the future, but to enable it.' During her tenure, she did just that by applying the method she advocates – 'knocking down walls and putting up bridges.'

'The ambition of C40 has grown over its two decade existence and with it so too has its potential.'

JESPER NYGÅRD
MEMBER OF THE C40 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND FORMER CEO OF REALDANIA



06.



Eric Garcetti

C40 CHAIR – 2019-2021
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES – 2013-2022

‘We are fighting for nothing less than our right to live, our right to thrive, and our right to leave a better world for our children and grandchildren.’

ERIC GARCETTI, 2019

A Global Green New Deal

Under the leadership of Los Angeles mayor, Eric Garcetti, many more voices joined C40’s coalition of the willing, rallying to deliver a healthier, fairer zero-carbon future. In 2019, he began his tenure as Chair of C40 by recognizing that the 2020s would be a make-or-break, defining decade for our planet. He committed to making it the decade of climate action by launching C40’s Global Green New Deal. Justice and equity are the critical elements of the Global Green New Deal. It placed inclusive and science-based climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making with the goals of creating thriving, equitable, green communities for everyone, addressing ecological preservation, and giving

a seat at the table to those disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. Through the Global Green New Deal, Mayor Garcetti mobilised the voices of young people, political leaders, investors, businesses, labour unions, civil society, and communities across the globe.

Mobilising in the face of COVID-19

No one could anticipate how significant the principles and actions of the Global Green New Deal would become only a few short months after its introduction, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Within hours of global recognition of the severity of the pandemic, Mayor Garcetti called an extraordinary online C40 meeting, which over 50 mayors joined. Overnight, C40 nimbly transformed from being a climate action network to sharing ideas and practical support on how to

tackle a crisis that – like climate breakdown – was affecting everyone, everywhere, all at once, but with worldwide impacts that were immediate and often deadly.

As Mayor Garcetti recalled: ‘When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our cities in early 2020, it brought suffering and loss – and the most profound economic upheaval of our lives. In the face of this unprecedented set of challenges, C40 members didn’t flinch – we doubled down on solutions that saved lives and livelihoods.’ Though the Global Green New Deal was not conceived with the pandemic in mind, its flexible structure accelerated a green and just recovery. Cities provided other cities with direct support, sharing training and technical assistance, creating green jobs, improving indoor air quality, and reducing energy poverty.

↓ UN Secretary General António Guterres at the C40 World Mayors Summit, 2019



‘System change, not climate change!’



AFP / C40

The overarching goal of the Global Green New Deal is the delivery of inclusive climate action and a just transition to a green economy. So, what does this look like in projects taking place in C40 cities?

Barcelona

Reducing energy poverty and improving the resilience of frontline communities.

Accra

Unleashing co-operative ownership to improve waste management, providing secure income and employment to informal workers.

Los Angeles

Just transition in the energy sector with a focus on worker, union and civil society engagement, and development of green jobs and greener sources of energy.

Warsaw

Tackling air quality and energy poverty among low-income groups, and coalition building among key stakeholders for city climate action.

Cape Town, Durban, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, and Tshwane

Working collectively to strengthen skills, knowledge and capacity on a just transition for action at the city level.

The container ship, Seaspac Bellwether, arrives at the Port of Los Angeles



↑ A gathering of C40 mayors at a COVID-19 webinar, March 2020

Building a healthy recovery

Recognising the economic and social recovery from the pandemic would come to be as important as the immediate health response, Mayor Garcetti created the Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force in April 2020, and appointed the mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala, to lead these efforts to rebuild, mitigate, and adapt to the combined effects of climate change and the pandemic.

Mayor Garcetti also recognised the need to look at the supply chains that power the global

economy to make smart, sustainable changes. With this in mind, he established the C40 Green Ports Forum, convening cities and ports, with the goals of mitigating air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. That decision later led to the creation of the world's first green shipping lane between Los Angeles and Shanghai.

Mobilising a global campaign

Recognising the urgency of the decade of climate action, at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, Mayor Garcetti led C40 to propel the biggest pledge outside of national pledges, ensuring that more than 1,000 cities joined the Cities Race to Zero, a campaign to put the world on track to halve emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Their collaborative action has the potential to reduce global emissions by more than the equivalent of the fifth highest-emitting country in the world today. According to Mayor Garcetti, 'C40 has both solutions and standards that will save our planet, invest in our people, and leave no one behind.'



2.5million

visitors to the C40 Knowledge Hub from 28,000 municipalities worldwide

80%

of city users who provided feedback said the information they gained will help them take climate action

GRILLOT / AFP / C40

↑ Los Angeles State Historic Park in downtown Los Angeles



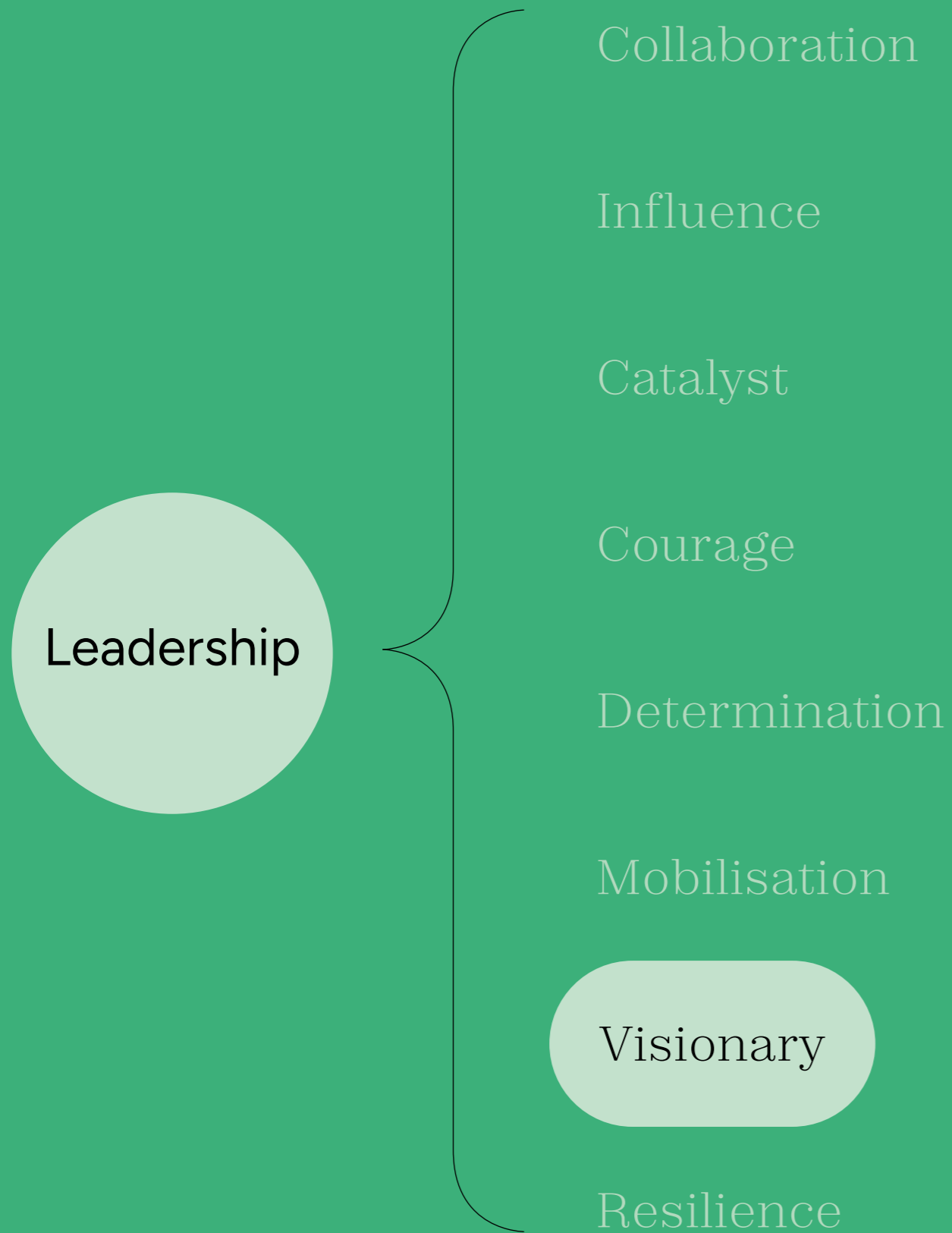
‘The strength of C40 – its importance – comes from mayors who can directly see the impacts of climate change on their citizens. The actions they take on climate are the ones that citizens want – better housing and better jobs, for example. It’s the mayors’ mission to help their citizens. That gives them a really strong collective voice.’

SHIRLEY RODRIGUES
MEMBER OF THE C40 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FORMER LONDON
DEPUTY MAYOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Garcetti’s goals – sharing solutions and setting standards

Mayor Garcetti saw the possibility of sharing C40’s achievements with everyone – city practitioners, policymakers, and anyone interested in climate solutions but particularly youth, with the goal of ‘raising up the next generation of scientists and artists...dreamers and doers.’ As one of his first acts as C40 Chair, Mayor Garcetti convened the first meeting of C40’s Global Youth Advisory Group. In 2019, C40’s Knowledge Hub was created, an online platform allowing all to access the breadth and depth of knowledge gained by C40 cities. Today, the Knowledge Hub has reached 2.5 million visitors in 28,000 municipalities worldwide, and 80 % of city users who provide feedback say the information they gained will help them take climate action.

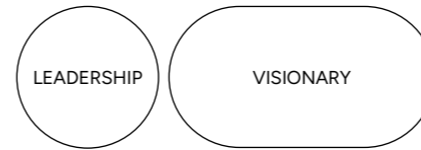
Mayor Garcetti knew that strong leadership is a critical element of strengthening the confidence of the public in cities’ ability to tackle the climate crisis. ‘Leadership needs to come with a vision,’ he said. To ensure that vision can be effectively delivered by all C40 cities, in 2021, he introduced new Leadership Standards – mandatory membership criteria for all C40 cities, ensuring the vision of a just, resilient, zero-carbon future becomes a reality – with no one left behind.



07.



Sarah Bastrin



Sadiq Khan

**C40 CHAIR – 2021-2023, C40 CO-CHAIR 2023-PRESENT
MAYOR OF LONDON – 2016-PRESENT**

‘It’s easy to get angry at the dither and delay from some quarters. But our cities offer grounds for hope... we’re the ones willing to make tough calls.’

SADIQ KHAN, 2023

A believer in collective climate action

When Mayor Sadiq Khan was first elected C40 Chair in 2021, he arrived with a reputation as a ‘mover and doer’ in successfully tackling climate breakdown, characterising it not just as a matter of planetary safety, but of social justice. Mayor Khan took square aim at the twin challenges of air pollution and the climate crisis through the world’s largest clean air zone – London’s Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) which restricts access to certain areas for high-emission vehicles. By 2021, the ‘clean air’ zone had expanded 18-fold covering four million people and reducing exposure to toxic air in London’s city centre by 50%. By 2023, the ULEZ expanded to all of Greater London, safeguarding the health of nine million Londoners. Under Mayor Sadiq Khan, pollution levels have reached legal limits for the first time. In 2019, experts predicted this would take 193 years yet it’s been achieved in just nine, 184 years early.



← A London bus

↓ Mayor Khan meeting with Pope Francis, May 2024



Vatican Media

Confronting disinformation through education

Achieving these climate milestones was not easy. Mayor Khan was dogged by criticism fuelled by disinformation. He powered through by investing the time educating Londoners about the consequences of air pollution. Residents learned that toxic air in cities worldwide leads to seven million deaths annually and a host of health issues ranging from asthma to dementia, including permanently stunted lungs in children. 'Once Londoners were aware climate breakdown wasn't just an environmental but also a health hazard, we had permission to bring in bold policies. That's why it's so important to bring people with you,' he said.

A firm believer in collective action, Mayor Khan shared successes in London for other cities to adopt and adapt. He had pioneered Breathe London, an air quality monitoring project launched in 2019 which maps and monitors air pollution across the city. Today, more than 20 C40 cities have implemented or are planning to implement similar clean air zones. Breathe Cities is now a global 14-city initiative, reaching 77 million people and deploying 1,000+ sensors. Backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Clean Air Fund and inspired by London's success, a further 76 cities have been engaged in knowledge-sharing to create air quality plans.

Creating good, green jobs – following London's lead

Mayor Khan's visionary approach to paving the way to a sustainable, resilient future for all was evident in his leading of mayors at the C40 World Mayors Summit in 2022 to commit to creating 50 million good, green jobs by 2030. Education lays the groundwork, and London exemplifies the way ahead. The city's Green Skills Academy is an example for other cities to follow, having trained more than 6,500 people and securing green jobs for 3,350 by focusing on skills development in retrofitting, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and low-carbon transport.



↑ A poster for the Clean Air Wins campaign in London

A visionary leader on the global stage

In his role as Chair of C40, Mayor Khan was invited to address the UN's Climate Action Summit in 2023, alongside national leaders. His remarks focused on cities as the 'climate titans' tackling the climate crisis and accelerating the green transition. He reminded the audience that urban areas consume 75% of global primary energy which translates into cities possessing enormous power to accelerate the shift to net-zero. Pointing out that fossil fuels are at the root of the climate crisis and that C40 had just pledged to cut fossil fuel consumption by half in the next seven years, he issued a clear warning: 'The choice you face is simple: Get on board or get left behind as we race to a greener age.'

C40's Climate Budgeting Programme

In 2021, Oslo, the city that pioneered 'climate budgeting,' began sharing its success with the programme with 12 C40 cities across five global regions. C40 introduced its Climate Budgeting Programme, piloting it with 12 cities across five global regions. Cities were introduced to the principles of climate budgeting, focusing upon integrating climate targets from the cities' climate action plans into the overall financial budgeting processes – putting climate issues at the heart of each cities' decision making.

Success bred success. By 2030, all C40 cities will adopt climate budgeting, embedding climate targets into their ordinary budgeting processes – turning long-term climate commitments into funded and measurable actions.

'We can't have a transition that is not just'

Acknowledging that Global South cities bear the brunt of climate breakdown they have done little to cause, Mayor Khan made it a priority to level the financial playing field by allocating two-thirds of C40's budget to supporting climate action in those cities, supporting them to use their 'might and muscle' to accelerate the green transition. He recognised that strengthening C40 cities, through unity, would also empower them to defeat the current politics of fear and division through practical policies and climate action that improve the health and wellbeing of people around the globe.

In 2023, C40 announced its new co-chair model, building the resilience and strength of the network – and its member cities – to champion inclusive global climate leadership. The model requires one mayor each from the Global South and one from the Global North to sit at the core of C40's leadership – bringing a diversity of perspectives to inform C40's direction by reflecting the distinctive and varying challenges that global cities encounter due to their diverse social, political, and economic contexts. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer was elected as Co-Chair of C40, joining her strong voice with that of Mayor Khan.

According to Mayor Khan, 'We'll continue to be the climate doers, not the delayers of our time. And continue to champion the cause of climate justice – from Global North to Global South – so that we can deliver a safer, fairer, and brighter future for all



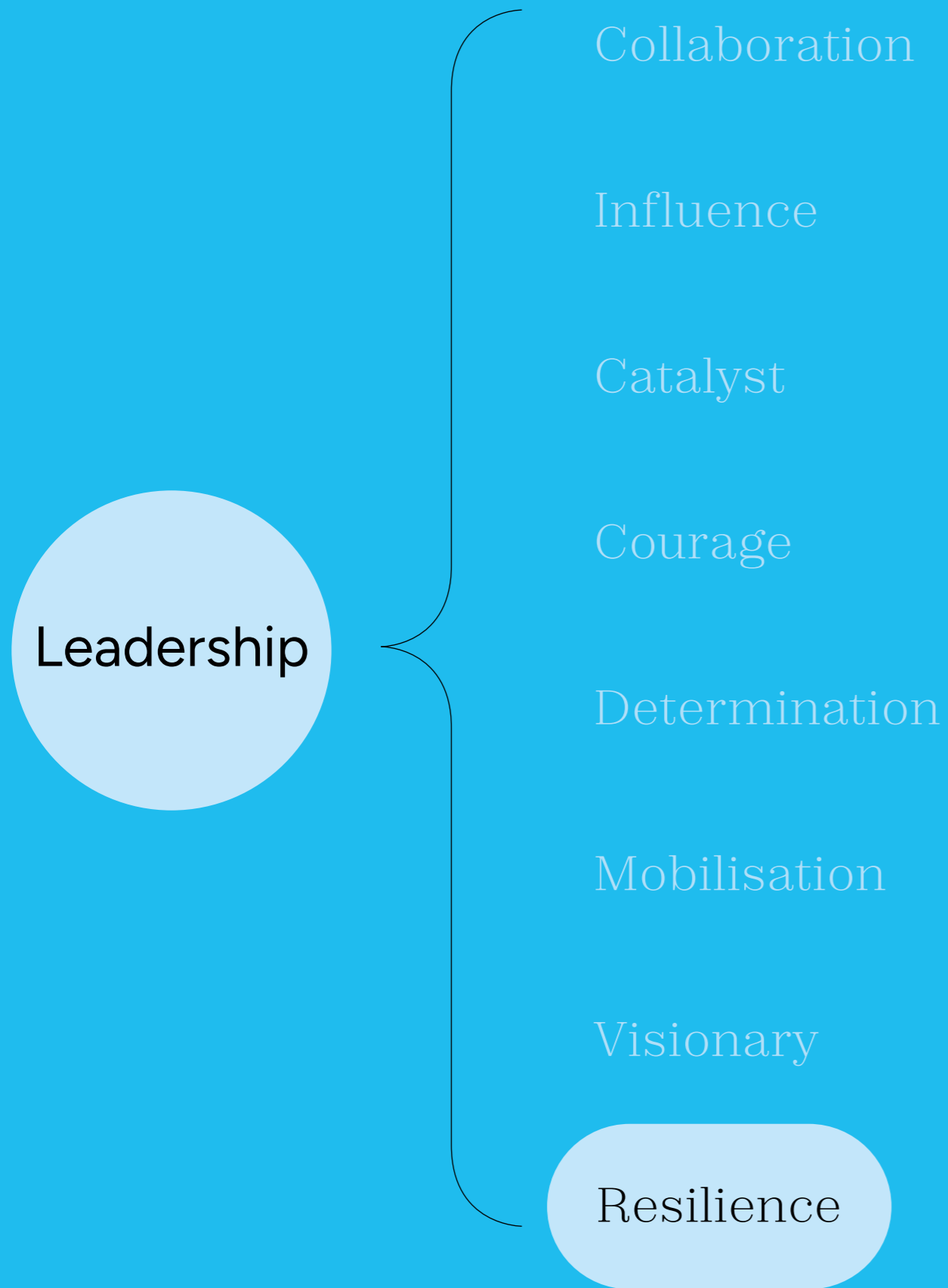
C40 Cities

↑ From Paris to Belém: 10 years of the Paris agreement mayoral convening in June 2025
→ Mayor Khan and Selwin Hart, UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, at the C40 Steering Committee meeting, September 2023

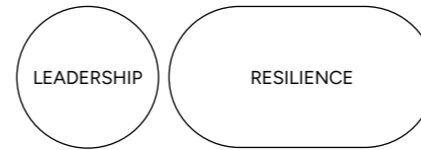


Scout Tufankjian - Bloomberg Philanthropies - C40





08.



Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr

C40 CO-CHAIR 2023-PRESENT
MAYOR OF FREETOWN – 2018-PRESENT

‘Mayors are on the frontline of the climate crisis. With cities, integrity matters because we have no choice. We face the realities of what happens, we are facing the challenges of addressing the impacts of loss and damage in our communities caused by climate change. At the same time, we are delivering ambitious action on the ground to reduce fossil fuel demand and increase resilience.’

YVONNE AKI-SAWYERR, 2023

Building resilience, building strength, building inclusivity

For the first time in C40's history, the position of C40 Chair is shared by Sadiq Khan, mayor of London, and Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, mayor of Freetown. Together, Freetown and London serve as a perfect microcosm of the global climate crisis threatening all cities – two cities both facing dramatic climate challenges but with climate risks arriving in very different forms. For London, a major focus is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly those from transportation and buildings. Freetown faces a broad range of serious climate risks – flooding, landslides, deforestation, sea level rise, and coastal erosion – to name a few.

C40 – a beacon of unity, an exemplar of action

Mayor Aki-Sawyerr and Mayor Khan share a strong commitment to building healthy, equitable, and resilient communities by raising the bar on climate ambition around the world. Growing inequality and spreading polarisation, compounded by the promotion of disinformation, mean the world is in a perilous moment. Mayor Aki-Sawyerr has long recognised the importance of the global majority in the fight against the climate emergency, knowing that communities – like hers – most affected by climate breakdown are usually the least responsible for its cause.

Freetown became a member of C40 in 2019 – the same year as C40's Global Green New Deal was launched to tackle both inequality and the climate crisis together and the same year Mayor Aki-Sawyerr introduced Transform Freetown, an initiative focusing on four categories: resilience, human development, a healthy city, and urban mobility.

The climate action initiatives supported by C40 mayors aligned with those she was proposing in Freetown. Mayor Aki-Sawyerr knew she was about to implement bold actions but would not proceed until she had garnered the understanding and support, through hundreds of focus groups and discussions, comprised of residents, members of the private and public sectors, and those in the international community via NGOs and development partners.



↑ Mayor Aki-Sawyerr with youth climate leaders at the Copenhagen Climate March, 2019



- ← A view of Freetown
- UK government funded solar-power coldroom facility at Nairobi food market



C40 Cities

‘We know that so much is possible...’

Mayor Aki-Sawyerr is often asked if it’s difficult to get residents interested in climate change. Her response? ‘In our case, it’s not hard, because the consequences of climate change are intensely felt in our parts of the world. We suffer greatly from flooding and landslides, hence my concern with the environment and being able to mitigate those impacts... Out of the process of consultation came 19 measurable targets that we’re working toward under Transform Freetown. We report against them every year back to the city, back to our residents. It has been a way of introducing greater accountability, of holding our feet to the fire, and it’s very much community owned and community driven.’

Creating a resilient city for all

Also via Transform Freetown, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr aims to develop 120,000 dignified jobs for women and youth by 2028. Her commitment to good green jobs for youth parallels her dedication to ensuring that Freetown’s young people are not just participants but leaders in shaping a sustainable future for the city. Building on initiatives including the Freetown Youth Climate Council launched in 2024, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr is leading the development of guides for cities and young people on how to establish similar youth climate councils in their own cities, mainstreaming the voices and involvement of young people in urban climate action worldwide by sharing the success of Freetown’s youth.



Speaking together, with one strong message

In 2023, Mayor Khan and Mayor Aki-Sawyerr delivered C40’s message to the world in the strongest possible terms. In their letter to the national leaders attending COP28, the Co-Chairs wrote of an inescapable truth: ‘The era of fossil fuels is coming to an end.’

Over the past two decades, C40 cities have demonstrated that the climate crisis is a problem with no single solution but, rather, hundreds of varied, creative and workable ones. The two mayors highlighted C40 cities’ climate successes in moving away from fossil fuels through well-

known, practical initiatives including improving the energy efficiency of homes, schools, and offices, expanding and electrifying bus fleets worldwide, and driving the creation of good green jobs – all with the benefit of improving the health of their citizens. However, that fossil fuel era cannot end, the mayors explained, without working in partnership across all levels of government, the economy, and society to accelerate collective progress. To meet the challenge and urgency of the climate crisis, collective, multilateral action is essential. It is possible. C40 mayors have set the example for the world to follow.



↑ Mayor Aki-Sawyerr visiting the Treetown Project in Freetown
 ← Tree planters at the Treetown Project

‘C40 is not only a platform for mayors to talk about something very big, but also something very practical. How can I learn from your city how to address floods in my city? To electrify my fleet of buses? To introduce green building standards? And how can I get all that implemented? Mayors learn from one another about successful solutions and avoid mistakes other cities have made in the past. C40 brings mayors together in a place where they can collectively raise their voices.’

HONGPENG LEI
 CHIEF OF MITIGATION BRANCH, CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION, UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE C40 BOARD

Michael Duff / AP - C40

Action

C40 shows the path forward for global climate action

‘The fight to tackle climate change will be won or lost in cities.’

Mayor Ken Livingstone’s words launched C40 twenty years ago. Do they still hold true in 2025? Yes...and no.

‘Yes’ – more than ever. Today, C40 cities stand front and centre in the battle to build a more sustainable and inclusive world for every worker and family in every country around the world.

C40 cities, led by inspirational mayors, have implemented more than 1,200 high-impact climate actions over the past two decades, delivering health benefits combined with social and economic justice to more than 920 million people. Most C40 cities have reduced emissions faster than the national governments of the countries in which they are located. The power and efficacy of city-based climate action is clear.

But also ‘no’. As Mayor Eric Garcetti said at the C40 Summit in 2019, when it comes to climate action, ‘No one is doing more than cities, but no one is doing enough.’ Today, as resurgent anti-climate movements, fuelled by disinformation, grow in strength and scale, the latter half of that statement sadly still holds true. No one is doing enough.

C40 – a shared force

For 20 years, C40 cities have shown a just and fair transition to a low carbon world is possible when cities collaborate, mayors learn from one another, and feel free to take the best ideas and apply them in their cities. At the heart of C40’s model has been the responsibility and support of leadership – the ability to facilitate bold action by those prepared to take on new ideas, ideas that at first might be controversial but, once proven, become mainstream.



Carlos Felipe Pardo

↑ The Barrios Vitales pilot project in Bogotá, Colombia, prioritises people over cars by redesigning streets for walkers and cyclists

As Mayor Aki-Sawyer OBE says: ‘We are at a crossroads: the true test of success will be the ground-level actions communities take to avert climate breakdown and address the deep injustices associated with climate change. This is the clarion call for real action and I am inspired by the leadership shown by C40’s member cities. Just take a look at the 97 City Snapshots included in this book. This is a collection of effective actions, practical solutions, and all critical to building a more resilient, equitable, healthier, and safer planet. So many actions in this list are replicable in thousands of communities around the globe. It gives me hope. The “doers” of C40 are leading the way, showing others that it is truly possible to do enough.’

The influential voice of cities

Today, C40’s influence on international climate action is significant. The voice of C40 cities was introduced to the international stage in Copenhagen in 2009. Cities are now a recognised partner in global climate action, with the UN Secretary-General appearing at C40 events, mayors being welcomed into the heart of COP events starting in 2021, and the creation of CHAMP – the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships.

We’ve seen both the influence and the success of this model in the spread of electric buses, low-carbon building codes, clean air zones, green shipping corridors and much more. Often, when a small group of C40 mayors collaborate on and implement a new and politically challenging idea, that initiative is soon adapted and introduced in cities around the world. This approach to multilateralism is one that other sectors and orders of government could, and should, emulate.

C40’s climate planning model, Deadline 2020, for example, has been used now by nearly every municipality in Denmark, as part of DK2020, thanks to the support of C40’s funder, Realdania. More than 1,000 cities adopted the same standards as part of Cities Race to Zero at COP 26, so that municipalities of all sizes are now delivering climate action aligned with the need to stabilise temperature rise below 1.5°C.

All orders of government – working together through CHAMP

Launched at COP28, CHAMP is a commitment made by national governments to work with their subnational governments – states, provinces, regions, towns, and, of course, cities – when developing and implementing climate strategies. CHAMP was founded on the idea that ambitious and effective actions of those subnational governments can support and drive national and international climate action. It recognises that to ensure effective climate action by nations, cities, towns and others must be included as partners. CHAMP creates a global platform for international climate action inclusive of all governmental actors: national and subnational. And it suggests a path forward for the world, in a moment where the international consensus on the urgency to act is fraying.

C40's strength – a collaborative model, not requiring unanimity; a push to action, not just negotiation; and the empowerment of leadership creating a race to the top – can be the basis of the next evolution of international climate action.

Founded on a unique model of collaborative multilateralism, C40 works to ensure those with real ambition can come together to advocate for, create and implement leading ideas. At this critical moment, C40 cities can be a catalyst for climate action at all levels. The principles that have been at the heart of C40 for 20 years – collaboration, influence, catalyst, courage, determination, mobilisation, visionary, and resilience – can be the basis of an international climate movement beyond cities. Willing national governments, states, provinces, regions, businesses, academic and medical institutions, religious organisations, labour unions, financial institutions, and civil society all have a part to play in taking the action needed to prevent climate breakdown. All could benefit from collaborative multilateralism. It is certainly time.

The time is right for a Global Mutirão

The Brazilian Presidency of COP30 has embraced 'mutirão' as the symbol of 2025's conference. A word rooted in the Tupi-Guarani language, mutirão means 'collective effort towards a single goal.' More than just a call to cut emissions or meet targets, the Global Mutirão represents a worldwide mobilisation in which nations, regions, cities and communities work together to protect what matters most: people

C40 cities' collective climate leadership:

- After the Paris Agreement, C40 mayors were the first movers on creating 1.5°C-aligned climate action plans.
- C40's Accelerators establish sector-based 'North Star' targets, helping focus cities, businesses, and investors around common goals.
- C40 mayors set the agenda for what a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic could look like in cities around the globe.
- C40 cities propelled the e-bus market in Latin America through the Zero Emission Bus Rapid-deployment Accelerator (ZEBRA), which also brings city governments, businesses and investors together.
- C40 is a major player in the creation of the CHAMP initiative which is poised to become a crucial part of delivering the Paris Agreement going forward.

and the planet. C40 cities strongly agree. C40 cities have engaged in their own mutirão since the inception of the network, building on the idea of 'Bring one idea, leave with ten.' Now, the goal is for the broadest community possible to commit publicly to a Global Mutirão of bold climate action aligned with science next year – and every year. C40's history shows how this can happen.

Polls consistently demonstrate that the vast majority of people around the world understand basic climate science. They know climate breakdown is real. They see the floods, extreme heat and fires, water shortages and rising sea levels in their communities. They know these changes are caused by the burning of fossil fuels. But they also worry that action is not happening at the pace and scale required, that their neighbours might not be as supportive, and that the well-funded efforts of climate change deniers are winning the day. 'The next step is clear,' said Mayor Sadiq Khan. 'We need to take C40's proven model of collaboration to others – to business, trade unions, youth, state and regional governments and to



↑ C40 mayors hand over Urban 20 communiqué to President Lula of Brazil and President Boric of Chile

nations. We need bold leaders willing to take bold action to learn from the best ideas in order to fight climate change and rapidly duplicate those ideas across the world.' People want hope. They need hope. The kind of leadership demonstrated by C40 and its mayors over the past two decades proves that the politics of fear and division can be defeated with unity and practical solutions – real action that delivers the best kind of hope.

Now we must ask ourselves – can we build a global coalition based on the principles that C40 has exemplified for the past two decades? Can that coalition deliver the climate action needed year-on-year to help us avoid the worst of climate breakdown?

We believe such an alliance for action can deliver. C40 cities have shown what's possible. Let's go!

'We continue learning from one another, spreading proven solutions from one place to the next and to the next. That kind of bottom-up progress takes on an even greater importance in countries with national governments that are dragging their feet on climate action.'

MIKE BLOOMBERG, 2019

City Snapshots

Africa

Abidjan	Casablanca	Ekurhuleni	Nairobi
Accra	Dakar	Freetown	Tshwane
Addis Ababa	Dar es Salaam	Johannesburg	
Cape Town	Durban	Lagos	



Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire

Has boosted its climate resilience - thanks to the PARU project financed by the World Bank and the Ivorian Government - by establishing a flood warning system and 15 municipal safeguard plans, strengthening the regulatory framework, and training students and local stakeholders.



Accra
Ghana

Has increased the area of waste collection coverage from 75-87%, improved recycling rates from 5%-18% and more than doubled the volume of daily waste collection, saving US\$460,000 annually. The city has partnered with informal waste workers to recognise their essential role, build capacity and improve working conditions.



Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Is implementing a large-scale project to improve low carbon mobility and urban connectivity, including 50km of bicycle lanes and Menged Le Sew - 'the streets for the people' - which closes streets to cars to open up 120km of space for pedestrians and cyclists on Sundays and public holidays.



Cape Town
South Africa

Runs a programme to promote the uptake of rooftop solar and small wind turbines in the commercial and residential sectors, allowing consumers to sell excess energy back to the grid. Since 2022, 1,800 small-scale power sellers have joined and earned R55 million US\$3million.



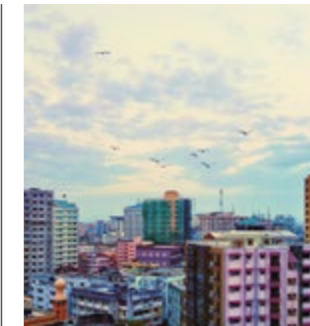
Casablanca
Morocco

Casablanca is cutting emissions and boosting climate resilience with initiatives including expanding sustainable transport with new tram lines and efficient buses, restoring public spaces through revegetation and land rehabilitation, and reusing wastewater to sustain urban green areas. Public campaigns are also raising awareness about preserving natural resources.



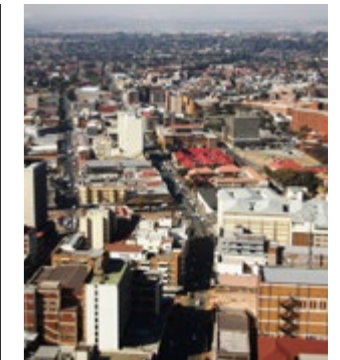
Dakar
Senegal

Dakar is working on a project with C40 Cities Finance Facility to improve energy efficiency and implement renewable energy solutions in 23 building complexes, as well as install a battery energy storage system in one of the complexes. The initiative will reduce the city's energy bill and greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality across the region.



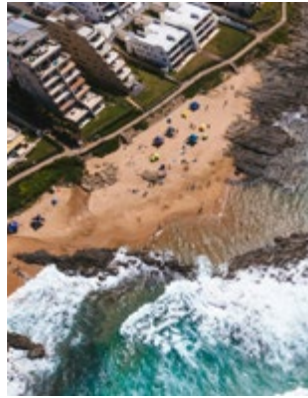
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Has installed 14 low-cost air quality sensors throughout the city, strategically placing them at educational institutions to monitor air quality in environments frequented by children. Other sensors are in areas with high levels of vehicular traffic and industrial activities to assess pollution levels in these high-risk zones.



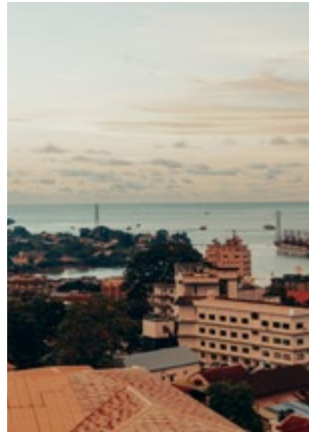
Ekurhuleni
South Africa

Ekurhuleni conducted a comprehensive heat mapping exercise which provided critical insights into how heat stress disproportionately affects communities, particularly in densely populated and historically underserved areas. This inspired action across the region, with the city shaping Gauteng's first Heat Action Plan by contributing data, experience, and community engagement strategies.



eThekweni (Durban)
South Africa

Is reducing methane emissions with improved landfill management, using nature-based solutions by planting 723,000 trees at the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site to decrease runoff and leachate. The landfill gas is extracted and used for flaring. The site is expected to reduce nearly 10 million tonnes of CO₂e over its lifetime.



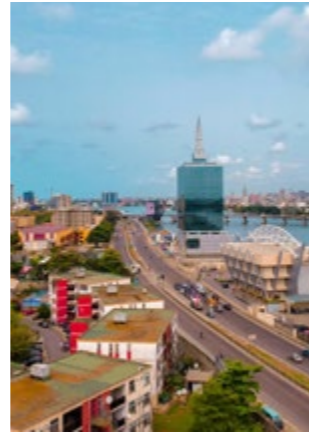
Freetown
Sierra Leone

Has planted over 1.2 million trees across the city to tackle mudslides resulting from deforestation, cool the city and create good jobs. The city ensured an 80% survival rate for the trees by working with the private sector to co-design an innovative tracking app that allows growers to re-visit each seedling to water, maintain, and document its growth.



Johannesburg
South Africa

Has adopted a Green Buildings Policy requiring all new buildings to be low-carbon or net-zero carbon by 2030. The city is partnering with Copenhagen to advance implementation through improved energy management in buildings.



Lagos
Nigeria

Has installed solar panels on schools and health centres, improving pupils' abilities to learn, and allowing clinics to stay open longer and to safely refrigerate vaccines and medication. The project has electrified 175 schools and 11 clinics, delivering electricity to 920,000 people.



Nairobi
Kenya

Nairobi has a food system strategy that builds resilience by improving water supply and reducing food loss. The city also provides subsidised school meals to students, supplying 300,000 school children with daily nutritious meals aligned with the Planetary Health Diet.



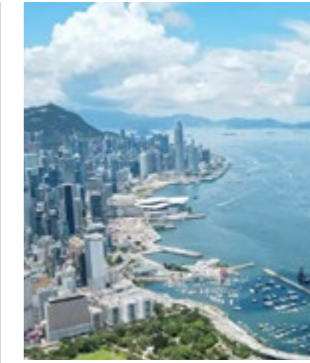
Tshwane
South Africa

Has partnered with Danish experts from the city of Aarhus to reduce non-revenue water through pressure management, advanced leak detection, artisan training, and reduction of illegal connections, achieving a 2% decrease in water loss in one quarter in 2024.



Central East Asia

Beijing	Guangzhou	Shanghai	Zhenjiang
Chengdu	Hangzhou	Shenzhen	
Dalian	Hong Kong	Qingdao	
Fuzhou	Nanjing	Wuhan	



Beijing China

Slashed PM2.5 air pollution by 65.9% between 2013 and 2024, and reduced the proportion of coal in the energy mix from 23% to below 1%. In large part this was achieved by transitioning 8,300 coal-fired units and 1.3 million rural households to clean energy, marking a major environmental milestone.

Chengdu China

Pioneered the 'Park City' initiative with a 187.15 km² ring-shaped ecological zone that reduces summer temperatures by 1–2.5°C. Under C40's Green and Thriving Neighbourhood Programme, one of the city's pilot areas, Bailuwan, is developing neighbourhood gardens and rooftop parks to create 47.71m² green space per capita.

Dalian China

Raised the share of renewable energy in installed power generation capacity from 52%–61% (2020–2023) by leveraging wind resources and promoting sustainable and reliable electricity systems integrating generation, grid, load and storage. By 2030, the installed capacity of energy storage is expected to exceed 1.5 million kilowatts.

Fuzhou China

Is improving water security for residents by reducing per capita water consumption by 20% and increasing water supply capacity by 15% by 2030. The city has also reduced leakage from 24.34% in 2017 to 5.9% in 2024 with smart leakage control.

Guangzhou China

A megacity of over 18 million residents, Guangzhou implements cooling measures at three levels to protect residents from extreme heat. Under the city plan, six ventilation corridors along rivers and greenways channel airflow, while district and block level development regulations integrate international experiences and traditional local knowledge.

Hangzhou China

Launched its 'Near-Zero Emission Action Plan for Construction Sites' to advance green construction management. Combining air pollution control, carbon reduction, and noise mitigation, the city – supported by C40 – is piloting the use of zero-emission non-road machinery. The city incentivises new-energy construction trucks through subsidies and operational rewards, aiming to cut 150 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.

Hong Kong China

Has installed about 1,300 food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) across more than 210 public rental housing estates and 120 private residential premises. The city aims to extend the coverage of FWSRBs in the domestic sector to 1,600 by the end of 2025 to encourage public participation in food waste recycling.

Nanjing China

Is promoting renewable energy by providing free solar equipment, installations and subsidies to vulnerable groups. This initiative is estimated to reduce carbon emissions in the city by about 102,600 tonnes annually, and has been selected as a national pilot for rooftop solar development.



Shanghai
China

Launched the world's first trans-Pacific green shipping corridor, partnering with Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports via C40. To further forge a green and intelligent future shipping center, Shanghai's container berths have achieved 100% electrification and became China's first port to achieve simultaneous 'ship-to-ship' bunkering service for green methanol.



Shenzhen
China

Shenzhen is pioneering a 'super-charging city,' installing a total of 1,055 supercharging stations where vehicles can charge for five minutes for more than 400 km of range. The charging stations now outnumber gas stations. The city also has fully electrified bus and taxi fleets, and 1.33 million EVs, with market penetration at 75.5%.



Qingdao
China

A leader in green urban development. Since 2020, 100% of newly constructed civil buildings have been resource-efficient buildings. The city has also promoted 1.2 million m² ultra-low energy consumption buildings, upgraded 53.6 million m² of residential buildings for energy saving, and improved energy efficiency for 15.64 million m² of public buildings.



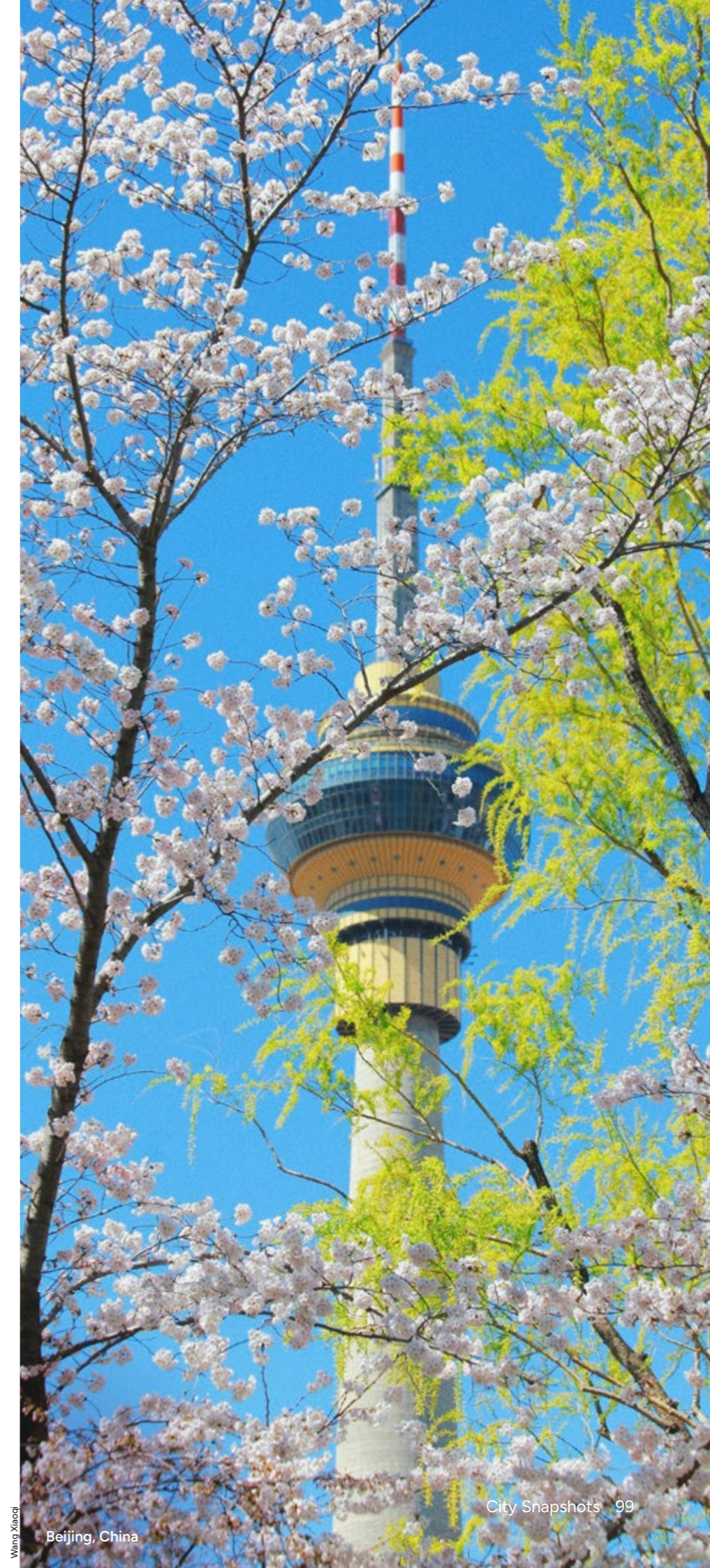
Wuhan
China

Is transforming the Qing Shan Riverside into a 7.5km ecological corridor connecting the Yangtze River and the city. By addressing industrial pollution along the river, the project is creating 700,000 square metres of green space which is expected to sequester 723.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, release 2,400 tonnes of oxygen and enhance flood resilience.



Zhenjiang
China

Has launched two local standards for school and government canteens to reduce food waste, specifying requirements for school catering management and evaluation standards for government canteens. The city promoted compliance through campaigns and pilot programmes, supporting greener and more resource-efficient catering supply chains.



Wang Xiaog

Beijing, China

East, Southeast Asia, and Oceania

Auckland	Jakarta	Seoul	Yokohama
Bangkok	Kuala Lumpur	Singapore	
Hanoi	Melbourne	Sydney	
Ho Chi Minh City	Quezon City	Tokyo	



Auckland New Zealand

Auckland's food scraps service, entering its third year, has diverted over 40,000 tonnes from 480,000 households, removing 26,000 tonnes of emissions. The food scraps generate renewable energy and fertiliser, providing enough gas to supply over 18,000 homes. The liquid fertiliser returns nutrients to the soil and replaces synthetic fertilisers.

Bangkok Thailand

Developed 72 hectares of green space citywide, including water-purifying wetlands, 8,000 trees, and leisure facilities. On weekdays, approximately 3,700 residents are within a 10-minute walk of green space, with numbers doubling on weekends.

Hanoi Vietnam

Hanoi's City Master Plan 2030 keeps the city cool by protecting existing tree-lined streets, river banks and lakes, and establishes that the density of green trees and water surfaces in the downtown centre is to be expanded from 1-2 square metres per person to 7-15 square metres per person by 2030.

Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

Has been enhancing mangrove forest cover in Can Gio district since 2016, planting 330 hectares and promoting natural regeneration on 257 hectares. These efforts strengthen the district's role as a carbon sink, with mangroves storing three to five times more carbon than inland forests

Jakarta Indonesia

Mass public transport network covers 87.97% of the city, providing access within 500 metres for most residents. Ridership has steadily increased, with Transjakarta reaching 372.72 million passengers in 2024. Intermodal integration of services, fares, and infrastructure have played a key role in promoting public transport use.

Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

GoKL electric buses provide eco-friendly, affordable transit on 15 routes. Serving over 7 million passengers with 86 buses in 2024, the initiative is highly effective. By switching from diesel to electric, each bus cuts carbon emissions by 59%, demonstrating a significant environmental benefit for the city.

Melbourne Australia

Has facilitated two group renewable power purchase agreements with large energy users across the city, driving renewables investment and supporting the construction of a large-scale wind farm. Combined, the projects have reduced the equivalent of 5% of the city's community-wide emissions.

Quezon City Philippines

Launched *Ako na ang Mauuna*, a C40-supported climate storybook with features for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The book, about a boy who inspires climate action, has reached nearly 3,000 children since November 2024 through synchronized readings and activities, making climate education more inclusive and accessible.



Seoul
South Korea

Cut building emissions, which accounted for 68% of its total, by improving the energy efficiency of 1.12 million building units by 2024, exceeding its 2026 target. Free upgrades were provided to 160,000 vulnerable households, achieving both emissions reduction and stronger climate resilience.



Singapore

Tripled its solar capacity between 2020 and 2024 by setting ambitious national targets, maximising rooftop and urban solar installations, deploying large-scale floating solar farms and fostering public-private sector collaboration. These measures enabled a rapid scale-up of solar adoption despite land constraints.



Sydney
Australia

Sydney is removing fossil gas from its operations, targeting complete elimination by 2030. Over AU\$20m has been allocated to electrify the energy supply of pools and buildings, install electric vehicle chargers and improve energy efficiency. This builds on the 76% operational emissions reduction already achieved.



Tokyo
Japan

Launched a 'cap and trade' program in 2010 which now covers around 1,200 buildings and industrial facilities. These facilities have reduced emissions through various emissions-saving measures by a total of 57 million t-CO₂ over 14 years, with FY2023 emissions 31% lower than the base-year emissions level.



Yokohama
Japan

Is decarbonising Minato Mirai, a business district with 140,000 workers, by partnering with the private sector on initiatives such as net-zero district heating, rooftop solar, off-site renewable energy, and PET bottle recycling. Regarding CO₂ emissions from electricity, it targets net-zero by 2030, with 37% progress made so far.

Tokyo, Japan



Europe

Amsterdam	Copenhagen	London	Paris	Tel Aviv
Athens	Heidelberg	Madrid	Rome	Warsaw
Barcelona	Istanbul	Milan	Rotterdam	
Berlin	Lisbon	Oslo	Stockholm	



Amsterdam
Netherlands

Has implemented a strategy to combat energy poverty since 2022. Since then, the 'energy saving service' has supported 50,000 households, leading to an estimated decrease of up to 12 kilotons of CO₂ emissions and €300 to €600 in savings per household per year.

Athens
Greece

Has introduced zero municipal taxes for energy-poor households and established an Energy Poverty Alleviation Office. In the program's first months, over 150 households were certified for tax exemption, 500+ applications reviewed, and eligible residents received free energy audits and Energy Performance Certificates to lower energy costs and improve efficiency.

Barcelona
Spain

Has promoted the uptake of solar power across the city with measures such as tax incentives, finance and support for communities. As a result, the installed photovoltaic power capacity has tripled since 2021, currently generating enough electricity to power 35,400 households.

Berlin
Germany

Has excluded fossil fuels from its pension fund portfolio since 2017 and screens investments for companies with the best sustainability performance. Compared to investments in companies included in the 'Solactive Euro 50 Index,' investments included in Berlin's stock portfolio have reduced responsible CO₂ emissions every year, in 2024 by 17.1%.

Copenhagen
Denmark

Copenhagen's 'Cloudburst Management Plan' uses green and grey infrastructure to manage water and prevent flooding. It replaces concrete and asphalt with 'spongier' surfaces and expands tunnels to store water safely before it moves into the harbour. To date, Copenhagen has constructed 20 larger spongy surfaces and two large tunnels.

Heidelberg
Germany

Has established the passive-house district 'Bahnstadt,' which is one of the largest in the world and is near zero carbon in its operation. Buildings are highly insulated and heated with a district heating system, which will be based on 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Istanbul
Turkey

Is rapidly expanding its metro and rail network. In 2024 alone, a 32.12 km extension of 3 lines was put into service which has served 55.5 million people to date and resulted in approximately 40,000 tons of CO₂e emission reductions.

Lisbon
Portugal

Is investing in a 52 km long reclaimed water distribution network with its visionary Water Reuse Plan. The implementation of this plan will enable the Municipality to save up to 70% of drinking water consumption in non-potable uses, namely irrigation of urban parks, and foster a water resilient future.



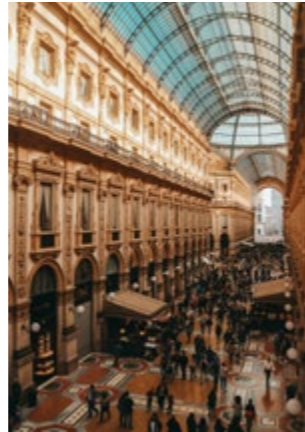
London
United Kingdom

London has implemented the world's largest clean air zone, benefiting over 9 million residents. Under Mayor Khan's leadership, the capital's air pollution levels have fallen within legal limits for the first time in history. In 2019, experts from King's College London projected it would take 193 years to achieve this milestone without further action yet Sadiq delivered it in just nine years, 184 years ahead.



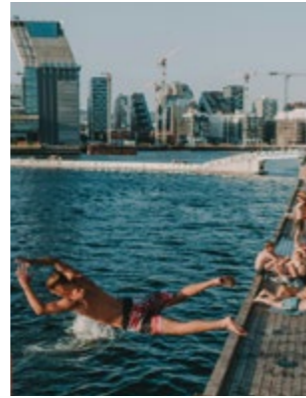
Madrid
Spain

Madrid has a strategy to decarbonize its transport fleet. Its operator, EMT Madrid, operates 451 electric buses and calculates its scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Madrid also has a low-emission zone covering the entire municipal area to reduce air pollution and implements freight-decarbonization measures, such as a logistics microhub.



Milan
Italy

Has reduced emissions from school meals procurement by 36% over the past ten years (2015-2024) by increasing plant-based options. In 2024, the city also recovered over 795 tonnes of surplus food monthly via their food hubs, which is equivalent to 1,590,000 meals per year.



Oslo
Norway

Pioneered climate budgeting, integrating its climate measures into its regular financial budget. In 2024, the city included consumption-based emissions and energy and, in 2025, the city expanded the climate budget to include adaptation and natural sequestration. With this the climate budget now includes all of Oslo's five adopted climate targets.



Paris
France

Paris is transforming itself into a city where everyone can meet their daily needs within a short distance from their homes. The city is pedestrianising streets near schools and has removed 50,000 parking places across the city. Over the past 20 years, levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution have reduced by 50% and fine particulate matter pollution by 55%.



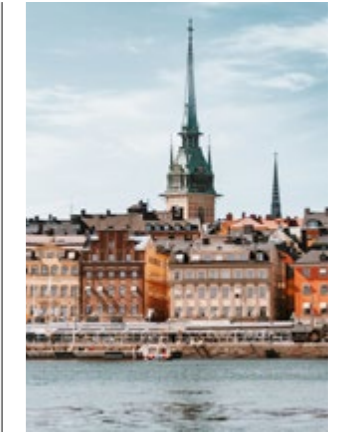
Rome
Italy

Is taking significant steps to become a greener, more livable, and resilient city. A comprehensive regeneration project is planned across all 15 municipalities, aiming to create over 100 new green areas, plant one million trees by 2030, and restore the Tiber River as a valuable public space.



Rotterdam
Netherlands

Is building a climate-proof city, having already delivered 2.4km² of green and water-storing blue roofs, solar roofs, parks and water squares that double as a children's playground or skatepark, providing opportunities for leisure as well as carbon mitigation. It has built 12 water squares and is experimenting with tidal parks and even floating parks.

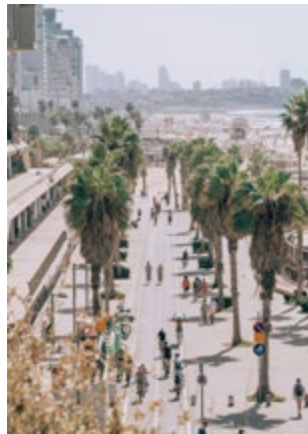


Stockholm
Sweden

Is collaborating with businesses to become fossil-free by 2040. As part of the C40 City-Business Climate Alliance programme, the city aligns with 30+ cities to engage and cooperate with businesses. For Stockholm, an important forum is the Electrification Pact in which 100 organizations join forces to speed up the electrification of the transport sector.

Latin America

Bogotá	Lima	Salvador
Buenos Aires	Medellín	São Paulo
Curitiba	Mexico City	Santiago
Fortaleza	Quito	
Guadalajara	Rio De Janeiro	



Tel Aviv-Yafo
Israel

Has formed a groundbreaking climate leadership group with 13 global technology companies including Google, Meta, Microsoft, Salesforce, Wix, and Monday.com to drive urban climate innovation. This public-private partnership focuses on building decarbonisation and peer learning, reinforcing the city's commitment to advancing climate action and net zero.



Warsaw
Poland

Is improving air quality and addressing energy poverty by implementing regulations to ban 'non-class' coal and wood boilers and subsidising residents - including the most vulnerable - to purchase heat pumps and solar panels. As a result, the number of non-class boilers has fallen by 90%, leading to a 40% improvement in PM2.5 air pollution.



Bogotá
Colombia

Has 1,486 electric buses in circulation, 195 of which are part of La Rolita, the city's first electric bus service. With 50% women employees, it directly contributes to a green and just transition, fostering an inclusive and healthy work environment through a focus on staff well-being.



Buenos Aires
Argentina

Has 69 Cooling Shelters in high-traffic areas and zones most in need of intervention. Many of these centres offer water, air conditioning, and amenities during heatwaves. Their locations can be found on maps through web applications.



Curitiba
Brazil

Is linking its land-use and transport planning to create a more compact and livable city. By increasing density around transit hubs, it aims to boost the share of public and active transport trips from 47% to 85%. This strategy is part of the city's commitment to phase out fossil fuels and move towards a carbon-free future.



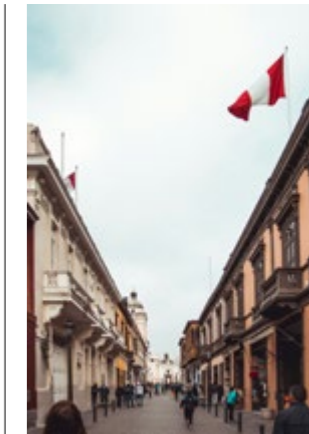
Fortaleza
Brazil

Pioneering recycling initiative promotes the productive inclusion of waste pickers by using electric tricycles for door-to-door selective collection. Operating in 40 neighborhoods, it has collected over a thousand tonnes of recyclables, increasing waste pickers' income fivefold. The initiative promotes inclusion, efficiency, and environmental responsibility in waste management.



Guadalajara
Mexico

Has reduced over five years the area affected by heat islands by 1% through a comprehensive urban tree management plan, strategic planting of native species, and the consolidation of 70 green corridors. This effort mitigates the effect of urban warming and demonstrates that local climate action can transform territories.



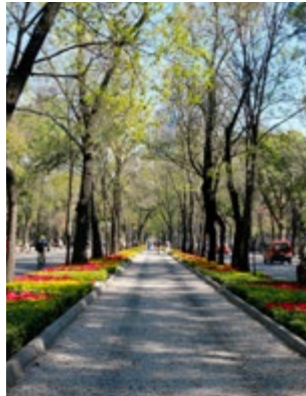
Lima
Peru

Has implemented a child-sensitive climate action plan. This educational tool positions the city as a leader in climate governance with an intergenerational approach.



Medellín
Colombia

Has been consolidating an ecological connectivity network. The 30 green corridors that are part of this network provide the city with ecosystem services such as carbon and pollutant (PM2.5) capture, biodiversity conservation, and a reduction in the thermal sensation in their areas of influence by up to 2°C.



Mexico City
Mexico

Mexico City's Escuelas de Captación Pluvial ('Rainwater Harvesting Schools') programme has installed over 2,300 systems in 1,800 schools, benefitting 1.3 million people. The initiative improves water access, educates through playful activities, and promotes a culture of sustainability. By transforming water management, it creates a lasting social impact on new generations.



Quito
Ecuador

Quito's metro has been positioned as a leader in urban sustainability in just its first year and a half of operation. The system has avoided over 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ while promoting clean, safe, and inclusive mobility: 55% of its users are women, and 9 out of 10 report feeling safe while using the service.



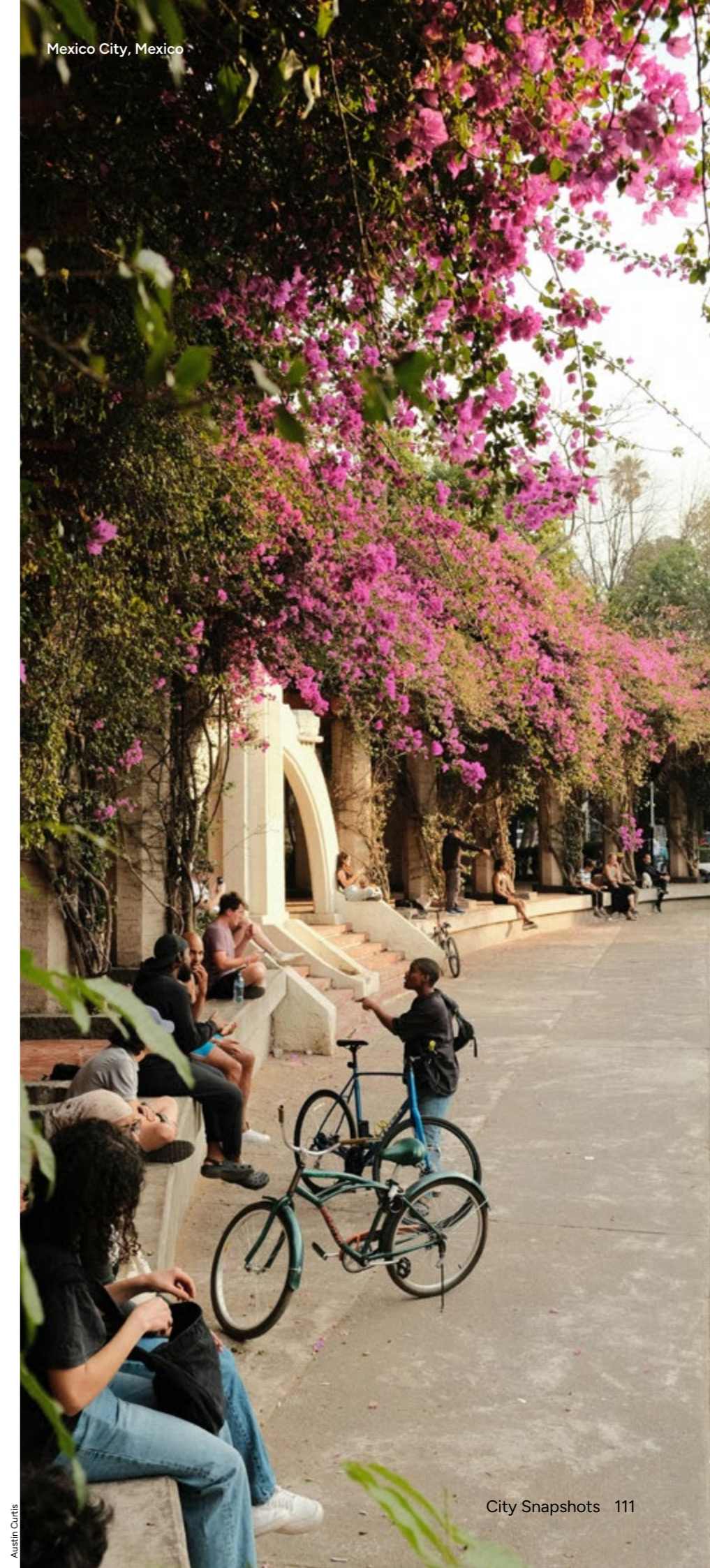
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Is promoting the transition of its public buildings to renewable energy by installing photovoltaic solar plants on public land that is otherwise difficult to use, such as decommissioned landfills and flood-prone areas. The first phase of the programme, with a 5MWp plant, is expected to generate annual savings of R\$5 million and prevent the emission of approximately 5,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.



Salvador
Brazil

Salvador's Solar Programme offers up to a 10% tax discount for 240 households using solar energy and provides training for photovoltaic system installers, with over 250 professionals already trained. This initiative has helped the city increase its installed solar energy capacity sevenfold in just four years.



North America

Austin	Miami	Phoenix	Vancouver
Boston	Montréal	Portland	Washington DC
Chicago	New Orleans	San Francisco	
Houston	New York	Seattle	
Los Angeles	Philadelphia	Toronto	



Santiago
Chile

Santiago's Climate Action Plan is driving two key programs: 'Pocket Forests,' which will reforest 33 degraded areas with 100,000 plant species, and 'Community Against Fire,' which protects 13 sanctuaries. Both initiatives strengthen climate resilience and mitigate risks such as wildfires, extreme heat, pollution, and environmental degradation.



São Paulo
Brazil

Took an important step by starting to acquire about 11% of private green areas for the creation of parks, equivalent to the size of the city of Paris, preserving native forests, watersheds, and their biodiversity. As a result, the city will have around 26% of protected public green space.



Austin
USA

Austin Energy, the city-owned utility, generates approximately 70% of its energy carbon-free and facilitates customer solar energy sales back to the grid, making solar energy more accessible and financially viable for residents.



Boston
USA

Has banned the use of fossil fuels in new construction and major renovations in municipal buildings. It is the first city in the US to introduce net-zero carbon zoning, a groundbreaking policy that will require most large buildings in the city to achieve net-zero carbon emissions standards from opening.



Chicago
USA

Has a contract to source all municipal buildings and streetlights with renewable energy from an Illinois solar farm. The contract is the largest municipal deal bringing new renewable energy onto the grid and includes a focus on bringing tangible benefits to local communities, such as job opportunities and training.



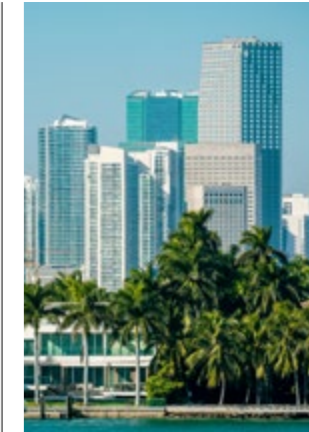
Houston
USA

Houston has established the Sunnyside Solar Farm, which has transformed a former landfill site into a 70 MW solar project that generates enough electricity to power 12,000 homes. The site has also generated 300 jobs in the area and offsets over 54,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year.



Los Angeles
USA

Is phasing out oil and gas drilling and extraction within city boundaries and has partnered with LA County to set up a Just Transition Taskforce, bringing together workers, unions, and other civil society stakeholders. The taskforce assesses the current workforce and is developing a pathway for green jobs by identifying employment opportunities for workers.



Miami
USA

Launched a US\$400 million bond to tackle critical challenges in climate adaptation, affordable housing, transportation, and public safety. It has already funded new green infrastructure and living seawalls to address sea level rise, a pump station to tackle flooding, and home retrofits with impact windows and doors, hurricane shutters, and new roofs.



Montréal
Canada

Has revised its governance rules to consider the impact of climate change on all investment and budget decisions. It is assigning a minimum of 10-15% of its 10-year capital budget to climate adaptation and is also applying a climate test to all projects over CA\$50 million. As a result, the city has decided to ensure its building stock is carbon neutral.



New Orleans
USA

Supported the launch of the Community Lighthouse Project by Together New Orleans, which created a network of solar- and battery-powered resilience hubs at churches and community centres across South Louisiana. These safe, familiar spaces provide charging, cooling, food, lighting, and critical information to support residents during climate emergencies.



New York City
USA

Introduced Local Law 97, requiring large buildings to meet increasingly strict greenhouse gas emissions limits. By 2030, it's projected to cut 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (the same as removing 1 million cars from the road) and create tens of thousands of well-paid green jobs.



Philadelphia
USA

Energy Poverty Alleviation Strategy prioritises the city's most energy-burdened communities to benefit from the city's clean energy transition. The strategy includes scaling up efforts to weatherise and electrify homes, increase adoption of solar power, support energy retrofits in rental housing and build capacity of Philadelphia's energy workforce.



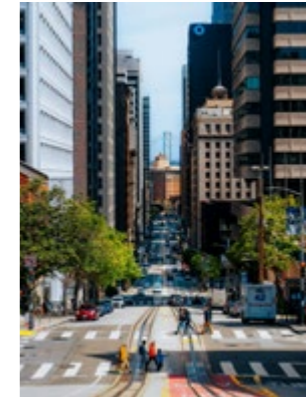
Phoenix
USA

Is taking a comprehensive approach to increase neighbourhood shade, using trees, constructed shade, and public art. The Shade Phoenix plan represents an investment of more than US\$60 million over five years resulting in 27,000 new trees and 550 new shade structures in pedestrian pathways, transit corridors, and schoolyards.



Portland
USA

Has a Residential Infill Project to increase the availability of affordable housing, promote efficient land-use, and create walkable, sustainable neighbourhoods. It also helps to preserve green space outside the city.



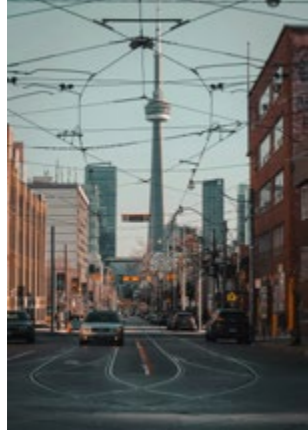
San Francisco
USA

Diverts 80% of its waste from landfills through reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. The city launched the nation's first and largest urban food scraps composting program, collecting approximately two million tonnes of material and converting it into compost used by local orchards, vineyards, and farms.



Seattle
USA

Seattle's landmark Green New Deal is lifting up community-based solutions and creating opportunities for communities of colour and those hit first and worst by the climate crisis. Seattle has invested more than US\$3 million to create pathways to high-paying green jobs that support the city's clean energy transition.



Toronto
Canada

Toronto's climate strategies have driven greenhouse gas emissions down 30% over 1990 levels. The TransformTO Net Zero Strategy aims to achieve net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, focusing on decarbonising buildings, improving public transport infrastructure and services, as well as building resiliency to increasing climate impacts.



Vancouver
Canada

Instituted an Empty Homes Tax to help return under-utilised properties to the market as long-term rental homes for people who live and work in Vancouver. The tax has reduced vacant properties in the city by 58% since 2017 and has generated CA\$169.8 million in revenue to support affordable housing initiatives.



Washington DC
USA

The city's Solar for All programme brings solar energy benefits to low-moderate income families. Launched in 2016, Solar For All has helped over 9,500 households by installing 43 MW of solar capacity, saving each, on average, over US\$500 annually off their electric bills.

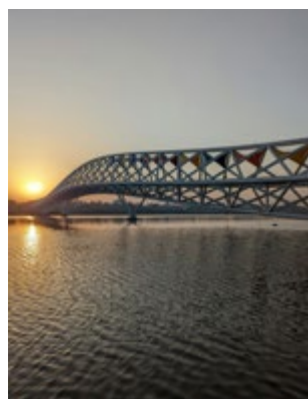


Arun Kuchibhotla

New Orleans, USA

South and West Asia

Ahmedabad	Delhi	Karachi
Amman	Dhaka North	Mumbai
Bengaluru	Dhaka South	
Chennai	Dubai	



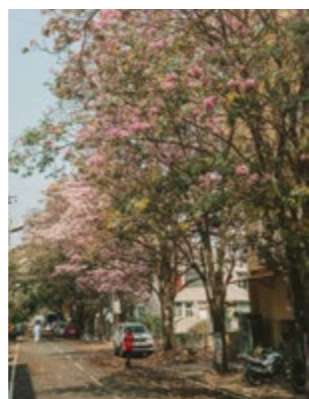
Ahmedabad India

Worked with public health and policy experts to develop a heat action plan that identified vulnerable populations and developed strategies and co-ordinated responses, including initiating an early warning system and inter-agency co-ordination, as well as reducing heat exposure with measures such as cool roofs.



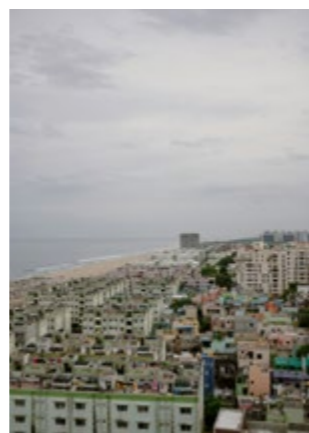
Amman Jordan

Is expanding its waste treatment facility to process 239 tonnes of waste daily in the Greater Amman Municipality. Residential and commercial waste is sorted and recycled, reducing emissions and generating organic fertiliser. A landfill gas capture plant aims to offset 40-45% of the municipality's electricity costs through biogas capture and power generation.



Bengaluru India

Has institutionalised the implementation of its climate action plan through the creation of the Climate Action Cell, which fosters partnerships between government, civil society, academia, and technical experts to accelerate cross-sectoral climate action implementation.



Chennai India

Chennai is increasing green cover and tackling urban heat by restoring 31 parks and 245 water bodies, developing vertical gardens, and creating 87 sponge parks to mitigate flooding and improve groundwater recharge. It is also developing a Climate Park to showcase nature-based solutions for climate adaptation.



Dhaka North Bangladesh

City Corporation will plant 100,000 trees along the banks of 33 canals and lakes. The city has engaged 300 volunteers to support the initiative, and one gardener has been appointed for every kilometre of canal to maintain the plants and trees.



Dhaka South Bangladesh

City Corporation is revitalising parks in densely populated areas. In Lalbagh, an abandoned plot became a children's park with a football pitch, walkways, and rainwater drainage, serving over 10,000 people. Similar projects in Rosulbagh and Dhupkhola improve drainage, reduce heat stress, and enhance air quality across the city.





Dubai
United Arab Emirates

Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is a flagship project of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), set to achieve a production capacity of over 5,000 MW by 2030. The park will reduce CO2 by more than 6.5 million tonnes annually.



Karachi
Pakistan

Has transitioned its municipal council building to solar energy, with the switch saving close to 9000-10,000 units of electricity/ month, saving electricity costs as well as carbon emissions. Kidney Hill, the city's first solar park, is generating 100 KW of electricity, which is sold to the grid, generating municipal revenue.



Mumbai
India

Its second climate budget focused on six sectoral action tracks, allocating over 87% of funding to urban flooding and water resource management. The city inaugurated a 3.5-acre urban forest in Marol as part of its green space enhancement efforts, aimed at lowering local temperatures by 3-4°C, promoting biodiversity through native species plantings, and providing an inclusive urban space for children, the elderly, and the wider community.



C40 Funders

We are eternally grateful for the funding we have received over the past 20 years. Below is a list of the generous partners that have funded C40's work at some point during our history.

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Z Zurich Foundation

With thanks to the C40 team



C40 staff at UrbanShift Africa Forum 2025 ↑
C40 staff and Mayor of Montreal in Paris, →
2024, for the "It's in the air" campaign



Sarah Bastin - C40; Juan Pablo Barrientes - C40



↑ C40 staff and the C40 'green carpet' at London's Eurostar terminal, June 2025
↗ C40 staff at the 10 year anniversary event in New York, September 2015



Sound Fusion - C40; Sarah Bastin - C40; Jasper Carlberg

↑ C40 staff at UrbanShift Africa Forum 2025



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