



Cities leading the way to 1.5°C

C40's contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue

March 2018

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where are we?

Cities are already experiencing the physical, socio-economic and health impacts of climate change. As major contributors to global GHG emissions, cities need to take strong action to reduce their emissions and increase their adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change. Already, 32 C40 cities have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050 and it is our goal that by the end of 2020, every C40 member city will have a climate action plan in place to deliver low-carbon climate-resilient development consistent with the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement.

Where do we want to go?

We want to ensure a climate-safe future for all and urge the global community to pursue the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement: keeping global atmospheric temperatures from rising above 1.5°C and increasing our adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change. Achieving these goals means that the cities of the future will be compact, connected, low-carbon and climate-resilient, offering healthy, prosperous, safe, and equitable communities for their residents.

How do we get there?

Global GHG emissions must peak in 2020 and then decrease, reaching carbon neutrality in 2050. Urban climate action must target sectors with the biggest emission reduction opportunities (energy, buildings, transport and waste). National governments should support this action through direct interventions and enabling measures. Where we want to go is within our reach. We just have to go.