

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Buenos Aires, Argentina

City government encouraging energy conservation

STORY IN SHORT: In November 2009, the city of Buenos Aires passed an energy efficiency law that is a significant first step in the city's fight against climate change. It commits the local government to adopt energy conservation and efficiency practices in public buildings, streets, parks, urban plans and public purchases. The local government's aim is to be proactive when faced with climate change and motivate neighboring cities and local businesses to adopt similar practices.

Planning and energy efficient action

The city of Buenos Aires has decided to develop a comprehensive strategy to adapt to climate change and reduce the city's contribution to global warming. City decision-makers are aware that local stakeholders need to cooperate in order to meet emission reduction goals. Buenos Aires has chosen to teach by example, initially implementing measures within the public sector and then disseminating this knowledge to local businesses and the public.

In order to do this, the city has developed the Climate Change Action Plan, setting the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions to 45% below 2008 levels by 2030. In a densely populated city like Buenos Aires, buildings represent one of the largest sources of emissions, which is why energy conservation and sustainable construction of buildings is one of the top priorities.

Energy conservation in public buildings

The city government has begun by studying and analyzing some of the city's public buildings and systematizing improvement opportunities in order to enable similar buildings to follow these best practices.

Energy audits in several types of public buildings including schools, hospitals, offices, public services and cultural centres are currently being conducted. Initial results have shown energy saving opportunities of over 25%. Some energy saving techniques are already being adopted and replicated. The goal is to multiply these best practices in all 1500 buildings being used by the city government.

Buenos Aires also seeks to alter local consumption patterns and help citizens become more aware of the environmental problems at hand. The city incorporates energy efficiency criteria in the public purchase of computers, monitors, notebooks and printers, while the Mayor has signed a decree requiring the local government to buy only the most energy efficient devices. This will stimulate the market and provide incentives for both businesses and consumers to buy energy-efficient products.



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Sidewalk with solar panels in Buenos Aires



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„Solar flower“ in Buenos Aires

Using technology to reduce energy consumption

In a city with between 2 and 3 million daily commuters, transportation represents a large proportion of the total energy consumption in the city. A number of strategies to improve city traffic have been implemented in order to reduce traffic. These strategies include exclusive bus lanes and the development of a hybrid bus that utilizes local technology.

In addition, a series of alternate actions that will reduce the city's energy demand independently of whether people change their consumption habits or not, are being promoted. The installation of green roofs in schools, hospitals and private buildings has begun. There are hopes that this will mitigate the heat island effect, reduce summer temperatures, and lower the demand for air conditioning in homes, offices and businesses.

Improving energy efficiency

Lighting consumes more than 40% of electricity, computing 18% and air conditioning 15%. Improvements in energy efficiency through decreased energy consumption range from 27% in lighting to 52% in computing. Some simple actions taken to address this include changes in practices, while some require investments in technology.

Involvement in international climate initiatives

Buenos Aires City is an active member of C40, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Currently, Buenos Aires is performing an emissions inventory with the Clinton Foundation and ICLEI.



Buenos Aires is located on the southeastern coast of the South American continent.

City profile & contacts

Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, is with 3 million inhabitants and some 2-3 million commuters each day the second-largest metropolitan area in South America. It is located on the eastern shore of the Río de la Plata, on the southeastern coast of the South American continent. The city of Buenos Aires is an autonomous federal district of 203 sqkm. It has been distinguished as the Tango capital.

Name: Dr. Adriana Freysselinard
Department: Planning General Director;
 Environmental Protection Agency
Email: afreysselinard@buenosaires.gov.ar
Website: www.buenosaires.gov.ar



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap
 E-mail: climate-roadmap@iclei.org

The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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