

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

São Paulo, Brazil

São Paulo leading local action on climate protection in Brazil

STORY IN SHORT: São Paulo is a leading Brazilian metropolis in the fight against climate change. Since 2003, the city has been implementing mitigation measures such as producing a GHG Inventory and developing specific legislation to implement effective actions to reduce the harmful effects of global warming. In June 2009, São Paulo adopted the Municipal Act which is the first comprehensive climate change legislation approved in Brazil. This pioneering legislation deals with the integration of policies in transport, energy, construction and waste management and aims at creating binding mechanisms to contribute to international climate efforts.

São Paulo's Municipal Act on Climate Change

Since June 2009 climate change policies have been a part of the legal system in São Paulo. The text unanimously approved by the City Council is the first of its kind in Brazil. The law establishes a target of 30% reduction in emissions for the next four years, as well as a progressive reduction on the use of fossil fuels within the municipal administration transportation vehicles. The aim is to have the entire bus fleet running on renewable fuel by 2018. It may seem an ambitious target but the city has already reduced its emissions by 20% since 2005 when its main landfills started generating biogas, reducing a considerable amount of methane emissions.

Sustainable Building

Many of São Paulo's inner-city buildings are old and underused. There is a need to rehabilitate this area by constructing energy efficient social housing and creating green spaces. The city has passed legislation which requires all new construction projects to respect energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and material quality. Additionally, buildings using renewable energy will have their costs reduced.



São Paulo City and Park - Wanderley Celestino
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São Paulo's main challenge: public transport for 11 million inhabitants

As a developing city of 11 million inhabitants and an extended metropolitan area with a total population of around 20 million, São Paulo has major environmental challenges in a variety of areas. Since 78% of São Paulo's emissions originate from transportation, mobility is among the main priorities. Even though the public transportation system has improved dramatically in recent years, growing from 47% to 55,3% of all motorized trips between 2002 and 2007, individual transportation is still the preferred choice for a considerable number of people.

In order to achieve São Paulo's emissions reduction goals, the municipality has partnered with the State of São Paulo to implement the largest investment program on public transportation ever done in the city. The program will invest R\$ 30 billion (US\$ 17 billion) in subway expansion, requalification and expansion of bus rapid transits, electrical buses and bicycle lanes. Other initiatives include the installation of bicycle parking places at metro stations and bus terminals, and the implementation of a public shared-bicycle scheme near metro stations. New bike lanes are also being constructed in the city streets. On Sundays, a lane exclusively for bikes on major avenues allows people to connect between parks without having to worry about traffic. The initiatives aim at encouraging residents to use public transport or bicycles and also work as a major publicity campaign to create a culture of respect for cyclists among drivers.



Landfill – SVMA

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Waste Management

São Paulo leads South America in the generation of biogas at its landfills. In addition, the city takes measures to reduce the amount of waste generated. Currently selective waste collection is being extended to more residential and commercial areas across the city. Moreover, the number of recycling collection centers will be tripled, from 32 to 96.

CDM for local benefits: Landfill gas to energy – the first project in Brazil

The Bandeirantes Landfill in Sao Paulo is the first one in Brazil in which a “Gas to Energy” project was realised. Since 2004, landfill gas is collected to produce biogas that is then used to produce electricity. GHG emissions have since been reduced, and environmental, social, health and economic benefits secured for the local population. As a recognised CDM project, the city gains income which is now invested in measures to improve the community surrounding the landfill and in financing recycling and waste management awareness projects, among others.

“Our city is today recognized as the first metropolis that controlled greenhouse gas emissions from its landfills” states Mayor Gilberto Kassab. More information see ICLEI case study # 97, July 2009.

Involvement in international climate initiatives

São Paulo has established a Local Committee on Climate Change and Eco-Economics. The objective of this cross-departmental Committee is the implementation of unified mitigation policies for the entire city administration. To achieve this difficult task, the committee exchanges best practices in this field with local authorities from around the world. The City of São Paulo also acts as a model for local governments in the international climate negotiations by providing expertise, experience and staff capacity in various fields. It is also an active participant in both ICLEI’s Cities Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign and the C-40 group of cities committed to tackling climate change.



São Paulo is the world's 3rd largest metropolitan area and the richest city in Brazil

City profile & contacts

São Paulo is the largest city in the southern hemisphere with a population of 11 million inhabitants. The city is an international metropolis and Latin America's most important financial centre. São Paulo's GDP has grown consistently in the last years, accounting for 15% of Brazil's GDP. The city's size and economic importance make it an essential place to implement measures to tackle climate change. It is an example to other cities, showing how local policies can reduce the emission of harmful gases.

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