



Reduced carbon emissions buenos aires

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Developing world cities may have a unique opportunity to address climate change. They have the option of choosing growth trajectories that will help them meet both developmental and sustainability goals. Many global cities with mature and developed economies might not have the same choice, forcing them to restructure and rebuild their highly carbon-dependent economies to achieve their climate goals. Cities have stepped up to this challenge by voluntarily declaring commitments to reduce carbon emissions alongside the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) of their national governments. The mobility sector, which contributes to about a quarter of global CO2 emissions, has been a key focus in these commitments.

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with the Department of Transportation and Public Works of the City of Buenos Aires, which is one of the cities pioneering bold climate action in the Global South. Through its latest Climate Action Plan, Buenos Aires aims to achieve a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050--a goal more ambitious than what was outlined in its previous action plans. Mobility is a key focus in the plan, with 6 of 19 actions directly targeted toward reducing transportation-based emissions. These actions are focused on both reducing automobile trips and transitioning to cleaner fuels. Here are the city's key priorities.

Another key priority for Buenos Aires has been urban logistics. E-commerce has seen an exponential rise during the pandemic. Even as the permanent impact of this shift is yet to be seen, the city is preparing to optimize its urban logistics sector through better regulation and organization of its pick-up and drop-off zones. It is also actively supporting the private sector to shift to sustainable modes such as e-cargo bikes.

In addition, Buenos Aires is actively working toward changing the transportation culture and expectations of its residents through public events and campaigns. For example, in September 2021, the city held a mega fair to celebrate Sustainable Mobility Week, which featured walking, biking, public transport, and electric vehicles as better alternatives to cars. The fact that sustainable mobility features among the top priorities of political leaders is also a clear indicator of the city's commitment.

Secondly, a modal shift to bicycles and walking will require infrastructural changes and pricing mechanisms which discourage car usage. Both of these rely on reallocating priorities and introducing additional costs to car users. This requires a cultural shift on a fundamental level and communication strategies that can facilitate change at the scale imagined by the plans.

Decarbonizing the mobility sector will be an important avenue for cities to achieve their lofty climate action goals. Buenos Aires is on the cusp of reengineering how people travel--by shifting more people to sidewalks, bikes, and buses--and can serve as a model for other cities with similar ambitions.

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worked with a global non-profit organization to devise and implement sustainable transport solutions in Indian cities.

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