



# ONE PLANET CITY CHALLENGE

Cities are the front line of tackling climate change. Currently, they account for approximately 70% of global carbon emissions, a major contributor to climate change.

In addition, a majority of the world's population reside in cities. According to the UN's 2018 World Urbanisation Prospects, 55% of the world's population live in urban areas today and this is likely to rise to 68% by 2050. Cities, therefore, play a vital role in sustainable development by implementing policies and actions which promote climate-friendly energy use, infrastructure and transportation.

In 2011, WWF launched the One Planet City Challenge initiative which invites cities to publicly report on their contributions to global climate targets. <sup>13</sup> Over 400 cities across five continents have submitted data on their commitments, actions and emissions plans in a global reporting platform, the carbon7® Climate Registry.

The initiative has increased the amount of quality data available on cities' contribution to national and global action on climate change. <sup>17</sup> In addition, the reported actions from cities show the clear linkages between taking environmental action and the positive impacts on the social and economic wellbeing of citizens. <sup>11</sup>

For example, Cape Town, the 2014 global winner of the One Planet City Challenge, has implemented a number of actions to help poor communities meet their energy needs. These include fitting solar water heaters in 2,300 households <sup>7</sup> and installing ceilings in homes that were built without ceilings, in order to improve air quality and reduce energy costs for households. <sup>9</sup>



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