



What are cities doing?

Is reducing air pollution a walk in the park, or rather a bike ride? Hangzhou's bike-sharing success is a story to share. Launched in 2008 its purpose was to provide convenient public service however it also resulted in less traffic and air pollution. In 2017 there were more than 882,000 bikes operated with the number of trips estimated in the millions since 2008 (UN Environment, n.d.) This initiative also won an award from Ashden charity.

Delhi and Mexico City¹ are both also trying to cut down on air pollution. Delhi air quality was 'very poor' which could be attributable to farm fires. To combat this, they have installed anti-smog guns at large construction sites and banning diesel generators. The Indian Agricultural research institute has found a way against stubble burning by spraying a solution to decompose the fields instead (Economics times, 2020). Mexico City on the other hand has joined the BreathLife campaign in the inter-American day of air quality. They have also implemented a "no driving day (Hoy No Circula)" alongside energy efficient buildings and solid waste management (CCA Coalition, 2018).

[The 'Climate Mayors' Welcome a Biden White House - Bloomberg](#)

- The Climate Mayors, a network of local leaders committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement, saw its membership blossom from roughly 80 to a current 468 cities after President Donald Trump left the international agreement in 2017.
- During that time, many cities found ways to push forward sustainability and clean energy initiatives, even in the absence of federal assistance. Others, however, have failed to live up to their lofty goals.
- The group released a statement on Friday, on the fifth anniversary of the Paris accord, to signal their expectations of what might be possible with a White House that actively helps local governments and promises to work with them. With new leadership in D.C. taking over during a critical moment, it's "absolutely crucial," says

¹ The Economic Times. 2020. What Delhi Is Doing To Curb Pollution This Year - Worsening Air Quality. [online] Available at: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/what-delhi-is-doing-to-curb-pollution-this-year/worsening-air-quality/slideshow/78856775.cms> . [Accessed 9/12/2020].

Climate & Clean Air Coalition. 2018. Mexico's Mega City Advances The Fight For Cleaner Air. [online] Available at: <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/news/mexicos-mega-city-advances-fight-cleaner-air#:~:text=Specific%20actions%20included%20the%20removal,petroleum%20gas%20for%20cooking%20and> . [Accessed 9/12/2020].



Climate Mayors director James Ritchotte, that the cities that have stepped up on their own during the Trump years finally have a constructive federal partner rather than an open antagonist.

[Climate Mayors](#)

- Climate Mayors, founded in 2014, is a bipartisan, peer-to-peer network of U.S. mayors working together to demonstrate leadership on climate change through meaningful actions in their communities, and to express and build political will for effective federal and global policy action. The Climate Mayors coalition has emerged as a key voice and demonstration of the ongoing commitment of U.S. cities to accelerate climate progress.

[Singapore Climate Change: Reducing Heat Takes Trees and Technology - Bloomberg](#)

- Building design and technology are becoming increasingly important in the city's fight to bring temperatures down.
- For decades, foliage has been a key tool in the city's fight to keep temperatures down. But increasingly, building design and smart technology are central to the strategy: from petal-shaped, ventilating rooftops and cooling, underground water pipes to data modelling designed to help predict how future urban planning decisions will affect heat levels.
- Part of the city's battle is to reduce the temperatures experienced by its 5.7 million residents without drastically increasing its carbon footprint. Even as it strives to halve emissions by 2050, Singapore has more air-conditioning units per capita than anywhere else in Southeast Asia.
- Singapore's climate-change problems are compounded by the Urban Heat Island effect. Thanks to hard, heat-absorbing surfaces, the temperature of a built-up urban area can be several degrees higher than the land around it. That variance has grown to 7 degrees Celsius from 4.5 degrees Celsius in 2004, according to research by Wong's team and the Cooling Singapore project at the Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), a research partnership between the city-state and Switzerland.
- Singapore — also known as the Garden City — has long recognized the benefits of greenery. Vegetation can reduce air temperature by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius as well as providing shade, Richards said. Back in 1967, founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew ordered that the island's streets and roads be lined with shady Angsana and rain trees. And earlier this year, the government announced that it's planting one million trees over the next decade, double the current pace. Coverage now stands about 56%, Wong said.



- One key area for cities around the world is how urban areas can be better designed to provide natural cooling. In Singapore, varying building heights has been found to improve wind flow. Reflective surfaces on pavements and facades can reduce heat absorption, a tactic New York's CoolRoofs program employs. Water features such as ponds and fountains can reduce peak ambient temperatures by several degrees, as Sydney-based researchers have pointed out.
- Design features at the building level can help. CapitaGreen, a 40-storey office building constructed by Singapore's biggest developer CapitaLand Ltd., has a petal-like structure at the crown of the building that draws in cool air at a height of 242 meters (794 feet). At Woodlands Health Campus Hospital, which is expected to open in 2023, buildings are orientated in a north-south direction to minimize trapped warmth and campus roads are built underground to mitigate heat retention by the asphalt surfaces.



[Paris Plans 'Urban Forests' at Famous Landmarks - Bloomberg](#)

- The city plans to fill some small but treasured sites with trees—a climate strategy that may also change the way Paris frames its architectural heritage.



- Some of Paris's most treasured landmarks are set to host the city's new "urban forests."
- Under a plan announced last week by Mayor Anne Hidalgo, thickets of trees will soon appear in what today are pockets of concrete next to landmark locations, including the Hôtel de Ville, Paris's city hall; the Opera Garnier, Paris's main opera house; the Gare de Lyon; and along the Seine quayside
- The new plantings are part of a plan to create "islands of freshness"—green spaces that moderate the city's heat island effect. It also falls into an overall drive to convert Paris's surface "from mineral to vegetal," introducing soil into architectural set-piece locations that have been kept bare historically. As a result, the plan will not just increase greenery, but may also provoke some modest rethinking of the way Paris frames its architectural heritage.



- By 2030, city hall wants to have 50 percent of the city covered by fully porous, planted areas, a category that can include anything from new parkland to green roofs. This means that, when it comes to planting, pretty much any urban space needs to be up for grabs.

[To Cut Waste, Berlin Opens Its Own Secondhand Shop - Bloomberg](#) NOT POLLUTION BUT A CUTE IDEA

- In a bid to dramatically reduce waste, the Berlin government launched a facility in September that could be the first of its kind: a state-run department store that both sells items that might otherwise get thrown away and acts as an education center encouraging repair and reuse.
- They have these run by councils in Istanbul too.