Climate policy governance and integration

Since 1994, the municipality of Cali has an Environmental Management System: a founding text framing all of the city’s environmental policies. The Administrative Department of Environmental Management (DAGMA), an entity that depends on the municipality, is in charge of developing and applying the environmental laws and plans throughout the 22 municipalities of Cali. At regional level, the Regional Autonomous Society of the Cauca Valley (CVC), launched in 1954, and dependent on the Colombian government but autonomous in its management, is in charge of managing all natural resources.

In 2015, the DAGMA, the CVC and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), defined a Municipal Strategy for Low Carbon Development, including the 73 grouped actions in 5 Sectoral Action Plans (PAS), which must be implemented between 2020 and 2040. Within each PAS, a weighed evaluation of the different measures was carried out in order to prioritise their enforcement. The plan does not define an emission reduction target.

Climate policy tracking

For the first time, in 2015, Cali, with the Regional Autonomous Society of the Cauca Valley and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), defined a Municipal Strategy for Low Carbon Development, including the 73 grouped actions in 5 Sectoral Action Plans (PAS), which must be implemented between 2020 and 2040. Within each PAS, a weighed evaluation of the different measures was carried out in order to prioritise their enforcement. The plan does not define an emission reduction target.

Economy Transition – A local compensation system to accompany businesses

Since 2014, the DAGMA and CVC launched the “Sello Cali Carbono Neutro Organizacional” (SCCO) programme, a voluntary programme for reducing the carbon footprint of businesses and administrations located in Cali. Since 2017, the municipality supported 47 businesses with setting an emission reduction target, and the necessary measures to achieve it (thermic insulation, improvement in their heating system, etc.). Businesses that do not achieve their objectives are encouraged to offset emissions via multiple accredited compensation schemes. The “BanCO2” was established in 2017 by the Regional Society of the Cauca Valley, and is a banking platform that allows companies and individuals to offset their carbon footprint. The money collected is paid monthly to farmers and peasants that work on preserving forests on their land. BanCO2, through its platform, also helps individuals calculate their carbon footprint and make donations for offset measures. At the start of the project, 18 families living in the Dagua River basin, about 50km from Cali, received a piece of these donations to help them to preserve their lands.

Transport – Defining objectives and solutions per travel purpose

In November 2019, the Municipality of Cali published 5 sector-based mobility plans aimed at different travel purposes, for: local officials, students, employees of private companies, medical services and urban logistics. The objectives common to each of the plans are: -5% of public transport use, and lastly the organisation of working sessions with them to shape the sector-based mobility strategies. According to the 2015 household-journey survey, 32.6% of daily commutes were on foot in the city of Cali, 4.5% by bicycle, 30% with private vehicles and 21.4% by public transport.
In parallel, DAGMA, in partnership with the traffic secretariat and METROcali, has been leading a policy to combat polluting vehicles since 2015, and has partially replaced them with 760 vehicles integrating the MIO High-level Bus Service Network.

As part of the Cali’s Low-carbon development Strategy, the Sector-based Action plan (PAS) on transport (2018) provides for the replacement of 30% of the bus fleet by electric buses by 2040. The PAS estimates the CO2 reduced and the cost according to the traffic forecast (100,000 or 200,000 km/yr) and the type of bus (size and fuel - electric or gas) estimated between 10 and 76 MtCO₂/year by 2040. As of August 2019, 26 electric and 21 gas-powered buses were put on the roads. A total of 266 low-emission buses are also expected to be put into service out of the 920 planned to achieve the 30% target.

Buildings – Changing the public lighting system

During the first half of 2018, the Municipality of Cali began changing public lighting in 48 districts of the city. The idea was to move away from a system operating on sodium bulbs, to an LED system. This change, once implemented across the city, should result in energy savings of up to 40% to 50%, representing an annual saving of $20,000 million. The modernisation of public lighting is expected to take 2 years in total, to be completed in 2020, and will require replacing 160,000 lights. In 2018, 26,346 light points were changed. The priority areas for the implementation of the new urban lighting were those where safety for motorists, pedestrians and residents alike, was improved. LED technology was also installed on 909 bus shelters.

ADAPTATION

NO PLAN, BUT REFORESTATION PROGRAMMES

The ecosystem conservation group of the DAGMA launched the Plan Ave Fenix in order to enable reforestation across the hills of Cerro Cristo Rey and Los Cristales. This programme was drafted following bush fires that ravaged over 103 hectares of vegetation in 2018. Between April and May 2019, 3,000 trees were replanted, thanks to the mobilisation of nearly 1,800 volunteers. The Government of la Valle del Cauca also launched a reforestation plan for the region, the Greener hills programme, in collaboration with Cali as the Cerro Cristo Rey and Cerro de la Bandera are concerned. The 12th October 2019, as part of the programme, over 2,000 trees were planted across the three hills.

These reforestation plans are also in line with the Municipal Development Plan 2016-2019, that plans to plant 100,000 trees by the end of December 2019.