



Progress rewarded at regional level

A member of the Covenant of Mayors since 2015, the Izmir City Council has committed to reducing its emissions by 20% by 2020 from a 2014 baseline. An ambitious challenge for the third largest city in Turkey, which is growing in population and has a high rate of urbanisation. Achieving this objective involves modernising the city's public transport services and increasing the share of renewable energies in its energy mix. The [2014-2023 regional plan](#) drawn up by the Izmir Development Agency (IZKA) brings together these requirements. Izmir has been awarded the "Istanbul Prize for Environmentally Friendly Cities", recognising the commitment of Mediterranean coastal cities to quality of life and sustainable development. This prize falls under the "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025" (MSSD) which seeks to harmonise municipal environmental policies at the regional level.

• MODAL SHIFT AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT THE HEART OF THE MOBILITY POLICY •

Transportation accounted for 54% of total GHG emissions in 2014. Since 2015, the city council has been implementing an ambitious plan to modernise its public transport network, aiming to compete with car travel and decongest peripheral roads. A new fast line (Izban) was added in 2010 to the metro network, connecting the airport to the city centre in less than 30 minutes. As part of its "Green Cities" programme, in 2018 the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development granted a loan of EUR 80 million for the construction of a new 7.2km metro line at a total estimated cost of EUR 250 million, which follows the financing of 85 metro trains in 2014 (EUR 23 million) and three new ferries in 2013 (EUR 33 million).

Izmir's "Green City Action Plan" is therefore seeking a 15% reduction in public transport-related GHG emissions (BERD 2018). Additionally, ESHOT, the public operator of the city's bus network, has put 20 electric buses into operation, with a target of 400 vehicles by 2020. Finally, the city has implemented an active policy in favour of soft mobility thanks to initiatives such as the creation in 2014 of a BISIM bicycle sharing system with 31 stations along the bay, or the extension in 2017 of its network of cycle paths from 39 km to 90 km. Izmir participated in "European Cycling Challenge 2016" and has plans to join the EUROVELO European cycling network.

• A REBALANCING OF THE ENERGY MIX IN FAVOUR OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES •

The city of Izmir, like the

rest of Turkey, is highly dependent on fossil fuels, which represent 76% of its energy consumption.

However, the Izmir City Council has been working since the 1990s to become an innovation centre for renewable energies in Turkey, thanks to a policy of attraction towards industries in these sectors (Ormat, Enercon, TPI) and towards the concentration of research establishments. A reform of the legislation governing [electricity market regulation](#) in Turkey in 2016, aimed at promoting clean energy at the national level, enabled the city of Izmir to implement several initiatives for the development of geothermal and wind power, with targets of 175,000 MW and 2,540 MW of capacity respectively in 2023. In 2017, it was the leading wind energy producing region with installed capacity of 1,333 MW out of the 6,500 MW produced in at the national level (Izmir 2017).

The construction of a new waste treatment and recovery plant began in January 2018 in the north of the city. It has a capacity of 2100 tonnes/ day and was established as part of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) supported by the Union for the Mediterranean.

