

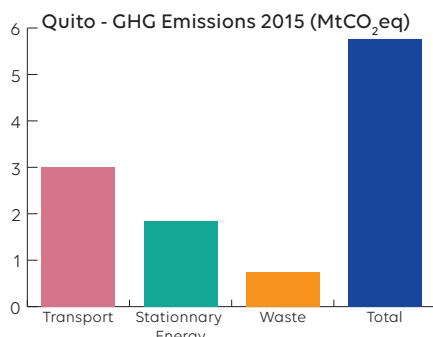


Protection of ecosystems to reduce carbon footprint

In 2015, the emissions of the city of Quito were 5.8 MtCO₂eq distributed as follows: 52% from transport, 35% from buildings and 13% from waste (C40). Quito, one of the capitals that is most engaged in local government networks (C40, ICLEI, 100 cities), is implementing real public investments in this direction. In the last four years, Quito has invested 10% to 12% of its overall annual budget in actions related to the adaptation and reduction of its emissions ([Action Plan 2015](#)).

• ACCELERATED MODERNISATION OF MOBILITY •

Projections made up to 2025 assume an annual growth rate of 1.6% in public transport trips and 2.5% for private transport. This is an opportunity for the city of Quito to think in depth about its mobility strategy. In 2011, 69% of trips were made by bus and 31% by private car or taxi. To improve the fluidity of its system and prevent rising demand, many projects have been launched: **A first 22km metro line is under construction and is scheduled for commissioning in the second half of 2019. The city is also extending its electric trolley and expressways network (BRT) to the north; the network was established in 1995 and today is the most used system with an increase of 4% between 2014 and 2018.** These new stations are connected to the future metro to provide multimodal transport. Finally, Quito is seeking to promote non-motorised modes of transport, [prioritising pedestrians](#), cyclists and public transport users: it has recently pedestrianised 8 streets in its historic centre and 3 others were being pedestrianised in 2018 ([El Comercio](#)). Its action plan estimates the potential reduction of its strategy at 100,000 tonnes (or 0.1 MtCO₂) per year, with numerous benefits for the city's air quality.



• THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS, AN ISSUE FOR THE METROPOLIS OF QUITO •

More than 60% of Quito's high-altitude territory is covered with vegetation and 56% of its natural vegetation is known to be vulnerable to climate change, including changes in temperature and precipitation, as well as increasing pressure from its population ([C40 2017](#)). To respond to these challenges, in 2007 Quito launched a system of territorial management of protected areas, integrated into the national system of protected areas. To achieve its goal of reducing its emissions by 5% per year, the city intends to manage the surrounding ecosystems as an integral component of its planning, including collaborative environmental governance by a range of stakeholders in the city to enable sustainable management of the land in all sectors (farmers, tourism, communities, etc.). **Its Geographic Information System (GIS) enables it to observe deforestation trends and prioritise the most vulnerable ecosystems to ensure continuity of ecosystem services and natural resilience. Today, this system has led to the establishment of six protected areas, a priority intervention area and an ecological corridor representing a total of nearly 175,000 hectares (SMANP).** In 2017, the city was trying to recover 60,000 hectares of previously degraded land, which could sequester about six million tonnes of CO₂ once restored, thus contributing to its 2025 targets ([C40 2017](#)).

• AN APPLICATION TO RAISE CITIZEN AWARENESS AND PROMOTE CITIZEN INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS •

The Ministry of the Environment of Quito has developed fun and [easily accessible tools](#) that measure its carbon footprint and its equivalent in water consumption, depending on the activity carried out. ([Action Plan 2015](#)).

MAIN SOURCE:
[CITY OF QUITO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2015](#)