

Buenos Aires • Leveraging environmental and climate data to promote soft mobility

Within the framework of its "Open Government and Climate Change" policy, the <u>BA Climate Action</u> platform, which was selected to be a part of the UCLG Local4Action Hub, allows the collection and visualization of climate data, as well as of the efforts of the municipal government, non-state actors and citizens to reduce the city's emissions. The platform provides open data on Buenos Aires' goals and initiatives, and seeks to merge open government tools with climate action to promote accountability, collaboration, and transparency regarding the municipal policies. Specifically in the area of urban mobility, the platform <u>gathers data</u> on public transport services, public bicycles, bicycle lanes, vehicle flows and, the existing automotive fleet, in order to inform and guide action.

An open platform resulting from co-creation

In 2017, Buenos Aires became one of the first 25 cities in the world to make a commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Through the BA Climate Action platform, co-created with more than 600 citizens, experts and representatives from the civil society, the municipality draws on the collective action of citizens, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to find impactful and effective solutions.

As part of its open government agenda, Buenos Aires has opened up and graphically designed more than <u>30 datasets</u> that can be downloaded and reused. BA Climate Action gives access to the city's emission reduction goals and information on clean energy generation, existing infrastructures to promote sustainable mobility and comprehensive waste management. In addition, it displays interactive graphics on <u>greenhouse gas inventories</u>, the evolution of temperature and precipitation, and air quality.

The platform also contains the latest news on the city's leading climate initiatives, as well as proposals for the different city stakeholders to contribute themselves to climate action. Any actor can download the data and adapt it to the characteristics of their project or administration to build their own climate change site.

Sparking changes in urban mobility

As part of its action on sustainable mobility, the city has identified <u>four</u> axes of action: prioritising public transport, promoting healthy mobility, improving traffic regulation and road safety, and the development of intelligent mobility.

Under public transport, the city buses and metros are under the local government, which created the Metrobus Network, with eight corridors of exclusive bus lanes, which has <u>reduced</u> travel time by 40% and fuel use by 20%. The municipality also developed '<u>transfer stations</u>' to facilitate multimodal transport for over 1.6 million users.

As part of 'healthy' mobility, the city promoted bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. The city bikeshare system <u>recorded</u> 600,000 users and more than 3,500,000 trips in 2019, which was furthered expanded during the pandemic. Currently, <u>287 km</u> of bike lanes exist in the city. The city also created five blocks of <u>pedestrian-centred areas</u>, with wider sidewalks, larger green spaces, and restrictions on vehicular traffic; and <u>20 transitory</u> <u>pedestrian areas</u> that are operational on weekends and holidays.

Tying together the various initiatives and facilities available to the citizens is the data from the BA Climate Platform, which also serves towards the city's objective of intelligent mobility, where trips can be better planned and predictable, and thus more efficient. The municipal authorities worked with applications like Waze, Moovit, Google, Ualabee and developed the <u>Unified Transportation API</u>, allowing for real time traffic and mobility information across the various modes of transportation.

A replicable model for city networks

As this initiative is part of UCLG's Local4Action HUB, it is intended to amplify the platform and its local impact at a global level, through city networks. Furthermore, the co-creation process of the site has been thoroughly documented so that it can be replicated by other local governments, and thus contribute to more spaces for collaboration, collective intelligence and action in the fight against climate change.