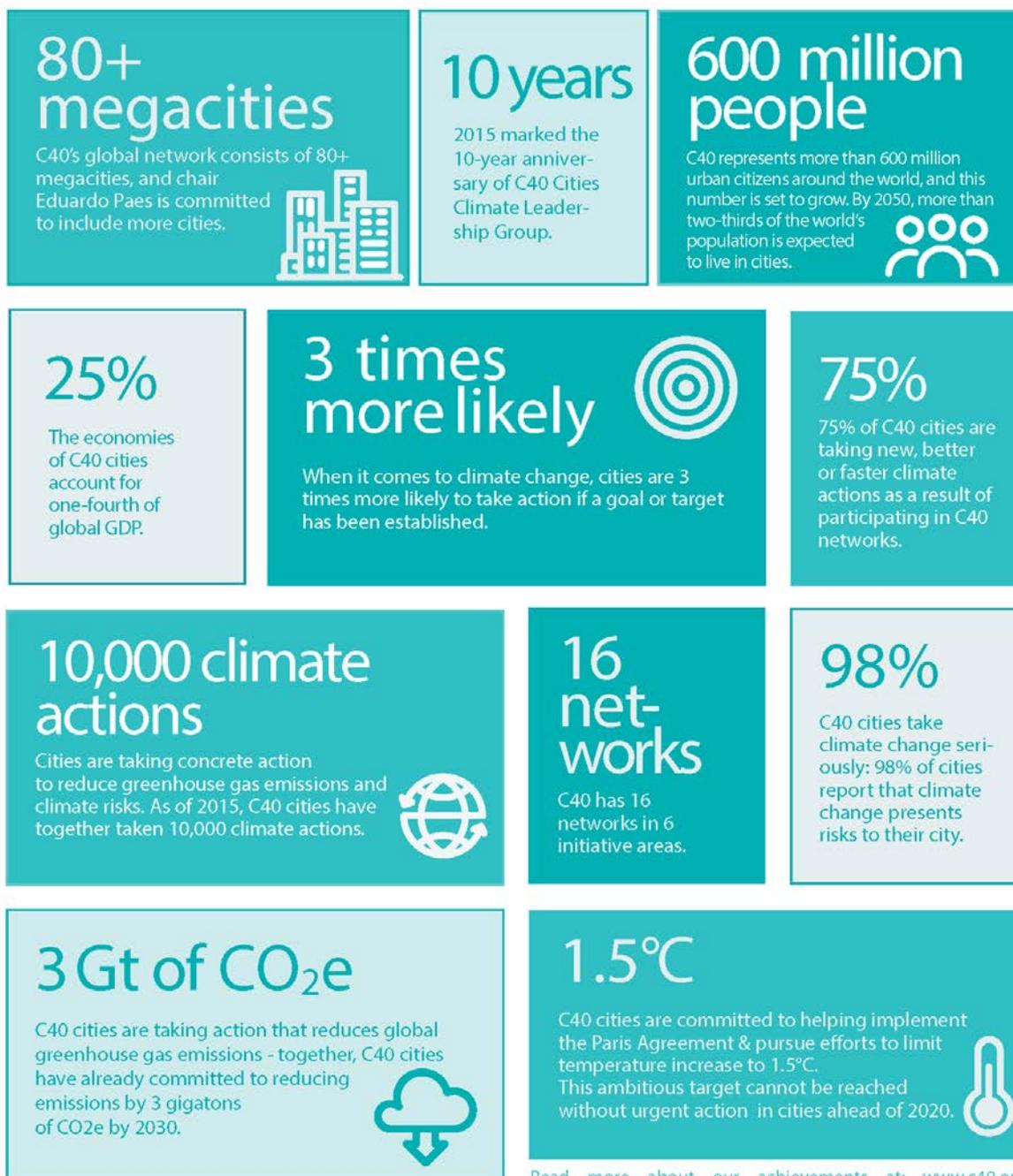




2016-IP39: Will Cities Lead the Way on GHG reduction?

C40¹ is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. The graphic below nicely summaries the C40 activity.



Read more about our achievements at: www.c40.org

¹ <http://www.c40.org/about>



Oslo, which joined the C40 in 2012, has recently announced a raft of measures that aim to halve the city's carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2020, and to become completely carbon neutral by 2030².

The new plan includes measures for cutting emissions from transportation that include: higher tolls for cars entering the city, the building of more bicycle lanes, cutting 1,300 parking spaces, and shifting the city bus fleet over to renewable energy. It also contains plans to phase out fossil fuel-powered heating in homes and offices by 2020. Uniquely, it also includes a package on CCS, which involves capturing CO₂ from Oslo's main waste incineration plant, Klemestrud. The Norwegian Government recently announced funding to support a FEED study on CCS application at the Klemestrud waste to energy plant as part of a package of measures on industrial CCS in Norway³.

Oslo's action forms part of broader goal by Norway to be climate neutral as a country by 2030⁴. Also in that region, Copenhagen is aiming to get to zero net emissions by 2025 and Stockholm is planning to reach the same goal by 2040.

Outside of the Baltic region, New York City in the USA has also recently set out a plan to quicken its pace of decarbonisation in order to meet its emissions reduction target⁵. The city has already lowered its emissions by 14 percent and is set to almost treble this reduction by 2030. The new proposals include plans to: expand renewable energy generation, improve the energy efficiency of buildings, transition to electric vehicles, policies to encourage walking and cycling and improve waste management in order to meet its Climate Plan target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, based on 2005 levels⁶. The inherent concern in New York is sea level rise brought on by climate change which could impact New York severely.

As a backdrop, New York State is closing down its nuclear capacity, which provides a third of New York City's power, requiring a sharp uptake in renewables. Last year the state generated 242 MW of solar electric capacity but that will need to hit 1,000 MW by 2030.

John Gale

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² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-climatechange-oslo-idUSKCN11Y1RK>

³ <http://bellona.org/news/climate-change/2016-09-norway-breaks-vicious-cycle-of-inaction-on-ccs-deployment-with-concrete-plans-for-industry>

⁴ <https://www.thelocal.no/20160607/norway-wants-to-be-climate-neutral-by-2030>

⁵ <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/sustainability/codes/80x50.page>

⁶ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/80930.html>