



ACCESS

Achieving Circularity in Cities through
Environmental Sustainability of Sports

PORTO CLIMATE PACT

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cause with others around you



Porto has been developing a strong environmental commitment. At the same time, the city was selected to be part of the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030. The Municipality of Porto believes that a shared common vision and goal for decarbonization can help all stakeholders to move in the same direction to fulfil this common purpose. In this regard, Porto Climate Pact was created to gather citizens and engage public and private organizations for action and create a large community of learning, sharing and mutual support.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE

Since 2008, Porto, through the Porto Energy Agency, has tracked Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and aims to reduce them by 2030. By cutting emissions and sequestering the residual carbon, the city strives for carbon neutrality.

The Municipality of Porto has consistently worked towards decarbonizing the city, though its direct influence is limited since municipal assets account for just 6% of total GHG emissions. This underscores the importance of involving all stakeholders in this shared objective. Most of the city's GHG emissions stem from buildings, residential and service sectors (around 50%), and transportation (about 40%). Significant changes in these areas can only be achieved through the collective efforts that the Porto Climate Pact aims to accelerate.

By signing this Pact, the signatory commits to use all its means to:

- Set and communicate clear targets and strategies, both existing and forthcoming, to reduce GHG emissions and progress towards carbon neutrality;
- Engage the extensive stakeholder network in Porto's GHG reduction efforts;
- Cooperate with local and national government to create an enabling environment for decarbonization;
- Work in partnership with the European network seeking to achieve similar goals;
- Monitor and report on the progress and impact of implemented actions in reducing GHG emissions;
- Disseminate the progress achieved in meeting the targets and actions taken, contributing to greater public awareness.

To guarantee the realization of the city's set objectives, the Municipality established a local transition team. This team that includes several organizations acts as a bridge, fostering interactions among a diverse range of stakeholders, including public and private companies from various sectors, academic institutions, NGOs, and entities from the realms of sports, culture, and education.

One of the goals currently in progress is the clear formulation of a roadmap for carbon neutrality by 2030, also known as the Climate City Contract. This roadmap aims to engage all partners and pinpoint governmental, public, and private funding sources to address challenges and implement tangible measures.

Despite this, progress is already being made. In Porto, there is a strong commitment to leading by example, with assertive and consistent actions in decarbonization efforts. The enhancement of green spaces, the promotion of energy sharing, the advancement of sustainable mobility, the improvement of building efficiency, the emphasis on energy conservation, the investment in smart LED lighting, and the focus on a more circular approach stand out as key strategic initiatives.

CHALLENGE

The stability of the global climate system is at risk due to the high concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the global atmosphere. Mitigating these emissions is urgent and necessary to avoid unpredictable consequences on natural, economic, and social systems. The European Union has led the way: European Member States must set a reduction target of 55% by 2030 and neutrality by 2050, aiming to be the first carbon-neutral continent.

The Municipality of Porto raises the bar by assuming a more ambitious goal that seeks environmental, economic, and social sustainability through carbon neutrality by 2030.

The Porto Climate Pact was established to consolidate the endeavours of every stakeholder in the city. This includes both entities with robust environmental measures and those just beginning their journey towards sustainability. The Pact fosters collaboration among the Municipality, various organizations, and citizens, ensuring a unified commitment to a shared goal.

Porto's journey towards carbon neutrality demands collective action from organizations and citizens alike, and this Pact serves as a catalyst, facilitating, supporting, and encouraging behavioural change.

RESULTS

Several interesting and innovative measures can be highlighted: 100% of the energy consumed by the Municipality of Porto comes from renewable sources; public transportation is free for children and youths up to 18 years old; the shift to LED public lighting is advancing at a steady pace, and an initiative to expand organic waste collection in the homes of Porto residents is gaining traction, underscoring its importance.

Porto aims to be recognized as a producer of clean, solar-based energy. The Porto Energy Hub is in operation, providing guidance and assisting both citizens and businesses in energy efficiency and production endeavours. An incentive plan has been introduced, valued at approximately 8 million euros, to promote the installation of photovoltaic panels on private properties. There's also an investment in energy production for social housing, a 6-million-euro project that aims to decrease energy costs and address energy poverty for an estimated 30.000 residents.

The Porto Climate Pact is actively fostering a culture of collaboration and sharing among its citizens. This community was developed inviting various organizations and engaging with residents at numerous events. As a result, the Pact has already gathered the commitment of over 200 entities and hundreds of individuals.





LESSONS LEARNT

Moving forward with this project has been extremely rewarding due to its positive and important impact at a time in which the climate crisis continues to intensify. Throughout, there's been evident political dedication and active participation and involvement from all entities. Our efforts are anchored in robust local political support further supported by the high patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic.

Despite increasing public concern, there's a noticeable resistance among citizens to change their daily behaviours and perspectives. This highlights the crucial need to elevate public awareness and strongly promote and incentivize behavioural change.

As this is a recent initiative (less than 2 year old), there is still space for improvement and to explore new projects and challenges. Nonetheless, the outcomes achieved to date are quite promising.

REPLICABILITY POTENTIAL

The creation of a Pact like the one established in Porto will be advantageous in most cases where cities wish to make this demanding transition. This dynamic allows the creation of synergies between the various stakeholders of the city and the increase of their level of awareness and commitment.

In Porto, political dedication and determination played a crucial role. The lack of this support and willingness can be a constraint in other places/cities/regions.

Another benefit realized in Porto was the establishment of a dedicated local transition team, named the "carbon neutrality team". Comprising three full-time members focused on the city's climate objectives, this team also collaborates with members from various partner entities.

Thus, the measure implemented in Porto is deemed replicable in other Portuguese or international cities. However, its success is closely tied to the commitment level of the respective city.



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This factsheet is a part of a larger collection of good practices available on the project's website

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The **ACCESS project** is one of the latest European projects which explores and challenges environmental sustainability and environmental management in sports. Co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, ACCESS is looking at narrowing the gaps between the current environmental performances of sport organisations, their strategies, and practices on one side and strategies and targets of their respective cities or regions with the overall objective – making these sport organisations a reference point for sustainability in sports in their countries and turning them into replicators of solutions for achieving it.



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