Cities and Green Growth

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The logic of city-scale action

- Economic role of cities (urbanisation and income)
- Negative externalities (congestion, pollution, sprawl)
- Contribution to climate change
- Vulnerability to climate change impacts

Opportunities for synergies and complementarities (attractiveness)

Correlation between per capita CO2 emissions in transport and density in predominantly urban areas

Change in attractiveness and pollution emissions across OECD metro-regions (2001-2030)
However, the trend has been towards sprawl

- Land consumption has increased more rapidly than the population growth in most OECD countries.

- There are cases of urban population growth that outpaces land consumption.

Changes in built-up area (1950-2010)

Population and built-up area growth rate in selected European regions (2000-06)
This is a particular challenge for developing countries.

81% of the growth of energy use will come from developing countries. The form they give to their cities now is crucial for determining the energy use.
Green Cities’ Case-Studies:

• Paris, France
• Chicago, USA
• Stockholm, Sweden
• Kitakyushu, Japan
Reducing Urban Sprawl - International best practices

• Preferential property tax rate for multiple dwellings (Copenhagen; Sweden)

• Two-rate property tax system (Sydney, Hong Kong, Pittsburg, Denmark, Finland)

• Special Area Tax

• Development fees

Ending the incentives to urban sprawl. Property taxes and fees related to urban development can be reformed to incentivise compact development. But the rate structure must truly differentiate between desirable (compact, transit-oriented development) and undesirable (single-family auto-dependent sprawl) outcomes to be effective.
Promoting public transportation and green mobility
International best practices

• **Bus Rapid Transit BRP** (Curitiba, Bogotá Transmilenio, Mexico City Metro Bus)

• **Public Bicicle Services** (Paris, Lyon, Barcelona, Mexico City)

**Cultural Change**
Marked better quality services and time savings gradually promote a cultural change in favour of public transportation and cleaner mobility. Linkages to other modal transportation are an important feature.
Financing public transit
International best practices

- **Value capture tax** (Hong Kong, Miami, Milan, Bogota)
- **Congestion charges** (Singapore, London, Stockholm, Milan)
- **High-occupancy toll lanes**
- **Parking charges and fees**

Transportation-related fees and taxes can also be used to fund public transit and create disincentives for auto use.
Facilitating the development of green tech clusters

International best practices

• Paris Enterprise Region (France)

• Lahti Cleantech Cluster (Finland)

• i6 Green Challenge Programme (US)

Tax incentives and funding for green tech industrial zones and incubators drive entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialisation
Increasing demand for green tech firms’ products

International best practices

• Helsinki public procurement centre (Finland)

• Hamburg hydrogen fuel buses (Germany, Spain, UK)

• Calgary’s renewable energy purchasing (Canada)

• Public-private-partnerships

City governments can green regional growth by the purchase of or the investment in construction, transportation, ICT, renewable energy, etc.