



CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM

Mexico City's
2014-2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mexico City's Climate Action Program (PACCM, in Spanish) for 2014-2020 is a planning tool that integrates, coordinates and promotes actions to reduce the environmental, social and economic risks posed by climate change while simultaneously promoting the welfare of the city's population through strategies contained in the Local Climate Action Strategy (ELAC, in Spanish).

Anthropogenic climate change is undoubtedly one of the greatest and most urgent challenges facing humanity. Cities are a major part of the problem because they consume a large portion – 60 to 80% – of the energy produced globally, and are responsible for a similar percentage of the world's CO2 emissions. In Mexico City's (Federal District - DF, in Spanish), 31 million tons of CO2 equivalent (CO2e) were emitted in 2012. 80% of these emissions correspond to the consumption of energy in the form of fossil fuels and electricity; the transport sector remains the main source of the city's emissions.

Climate change also poses threats to both a city's infrastructure and the quality of life of its citizens, and the DF is no exception. For example, heavy precipitation associated with climate change presents a high level of risk to the capital's most vulnerable population – those living in poverty. Therefore, there is an urgent need to implement adaptation strategies or take preventive actions.

While urban centers are part of the problem, they are also an important part of the solution – local authorities have strong capabilities to combat climate change. In this regard, Mexico City leads the way nationally. Under Mexico City's Green Plan, the DF was the first entity in the country to develop and implement a Local Plan on Climate Change. During the implementation of the first PACCM for the 2008-2012 period, 6 million tons of CO2e were mitigated, which represents a decrease of 4.5% over the baseline scenario. Another important achievement was to make climate change a priority in DF agencies that had previously not considered it one.

The 2014-2020 PACCM seeks to strengthen the Federal District Government (GDF) climate policy and build on the achievements of the previous program. The criteria that govern the PACCM are: build consensus among GDF agencies; strive for social equity and gender equality; improve the quality of life of citizens in the framework of sustainable development; communicate between federal and local public programs; include society and decision makers; and maintain flexibility in order to adapt the proposed actions to new technological changes (Figure 1).

The 2014-2020 PACCM was extended by two years past the current Mayor's tenure (2012-2018) in order to allow the next administration to assess the current program and design a new one.

Figure 1. Guiding Principles of the 2014-2020 PACCM



Source: Mario Molina Center, 2013

The primary objective of PACCM is to improve quality of life and sustainable development with low carbon intensity in Mexico City. The program also seeks to:

- Reduce emissions of greenhouse compounds (GHGs and black carbon);
- Reduce conditions that leave citizens vulnerable to climate change while increasing their adaptation capacities;
- Ensure the citizenry is informed and educated about climate change;
- Increase social competitiveness of Mexico City;
- Induce governability and governance in the implementation process; and
- Foster a co-responsible government-society relationship to achieve a low-carbon economy and establish risk prevention strategies.

The implementation of PACCM is expected to achieve the direct mitigation of approximately 8 million tons of CO2e up to 2020. It is also important to mention that there is potential for additional indirect mitigation of nearly 2 million tons of CO2e, bringing the total mitigation potential to about 10 million tons of CO2e by 2020. This would represent a decrease of almost 30% of emissions relative to the baseline.

In terms of adaptation, the PACCM aims to increase the city's resiliency as well as the population's adaptation capacities, particularly for the 5.6 million people most vulnerable to extreme weather events, such as flooding.

To achieve these goals, the PACCM includes specific actions for each of the strategic priorities that make up the Climate Action Local Strategy shown in Figure 2. These priorities seek to maximize synergies between adaptation and mitigation, in order to increase the cost-effectiveness of implemented actions to make them more attractive to potential funding bodies and other decision-making entities.

Figure 2. Strategic Priorities of the ELAC and PACCM
2014-2020

Climate Action Strategic Priorities		Strategy 6	Strategy 7
Strategy 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban and Rural Energy Transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development
Strategy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containment of Urban Sprawl 		
Strategy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Improvement 		
Strategy 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Improvement of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Preservation 		
Strategy 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Resilience 		

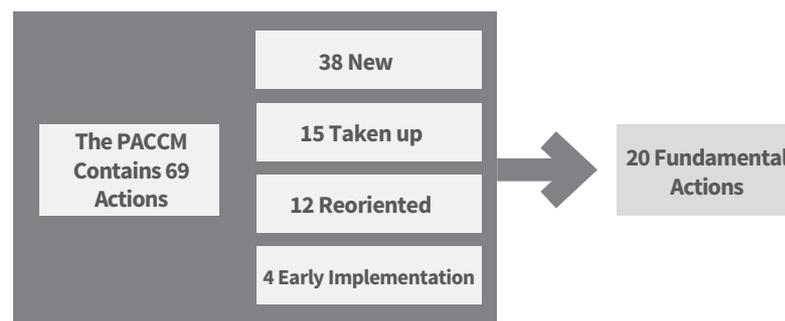
SOURCE: MARIO MOLINA CENTER, 2013

Of the 69 actions proposed, 15 are taken from the previous PACCM, 12 are from the previous program but have been reoriented to maximize their impact, four are early actions (or, initiated during the design phase of this program), and 38 are new actions adjusted to the needs of the DF (Figure 3).

All actions of the PACCM have been assigned a scope, objective, an implementation strategy, and follow-up and impact indicators. They were prepared by taking into account the proposals and opinions of experts in the subject matter, officials and the general public.

Also, all actions are related explicitly and directly with climate diagnostics and backed by specialized studies.

Figure 3. Origin and Number of Shares of PACCM



SOURCE: MARIO MOLINA CENTER, 2013

Prioritization of the proposed actions took place to identify 20 actions that are considered fundamental to the achievement of the plan's goals, taking into account that the availability of resources is a limiting factor for the implementation of the PACCM.

In the case of actions aimed at emissions mitigation, three criteria were selected to establish the actions' order of priority:

- 1) Whether an action triggers or powers other actions of the PACCM
- 2) An action's mitigation potential
- 3) A cost-effectiveness analysis conducted for each of the actions by strategic priority

Actions aimed at adaptation were prioritized through a qualitative multi-criteria analysis. This analysis took into account mainly actions preventing risk, actions reducing risk or avoiding risk at the same time, or actions dependent on others, among other important criteria.

In the case of actions aimed at emissions mitigation, three criteria were selected to establish the actions' order of priority:

Table 1. Key Actions for 2014-2020 PACCM

[The position of the actions in the table does not reflect their relative importance. All actions listed are considered essential.]

Strategy	Action
1. Urban and Rural Energy Transition	Modernization actions and energy efficiency in the Public Transport System
	Electric power savings program in the operation of wells and pumping plants
2. Containment of Urban Sprawl	Creating a territorial planning program for Mexico City that integrates environmental and urban policies
	Program for the identification of underutilized premises or buildings and definition of the strategies for increased use and rehabilitation
	Increased green rehabilitation of intra-urban area
3. Environmental Improvement	Scrapping of minibuses and creation of corridors concession
	Implementation of new Metrobus corridors
	Implementation of schemes for intermodal mobility in strategic areas of the city
	Use of technologies to take advantage of the city's solid waste output
	Program of suppression of leakage and rehabilitation of pipes
4. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Preservation	Creation of the Law for the Protection, Preservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Federal District
	Works for the conservation of soil and water in Preservation Areas
5. Building the City's Resilience	Update the Atlas of dangers and risks of the DF
	Hydro-meteorological risks prevention program
	Design of a climate change environmental fund for Mexico City

6. Education and Communication	Homologate climate change concepts for dissemination in information centers at museums
	Develop an environmental education catalog
7. Research and Development	Regulate freight transport (main source of black carbon)
	Improvement of adaptation indicators
	Creation of mitigation indicators

If necessary, the PACCM actions can be redefined if, for example, new priorities arise in case of some catastrophe, or if any scientific discovery makes current actions obsolete. In this sense, the PACCM assessments that are planned during the implementation period will determine the effectiveness of the program and, if necessary, determine when changes need to be made.

In order to conduct a follow-up to the PACCM, a computer tool has been designed that will closely follow the global compliance of the PACCM and each of its actions. For its part, Mexico City's Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Sustainable Development Law states that the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Program must be under measurable, reportable, and verifiable parameters as designed.

In conclusion, it can be said that the 2014-2020 PACCM aims to strengthen the climate policy of Mexico City and is expected to greatly contribute to steering the City toward low-carbon and truly sustainable development.



Monumento a la Revolución
Autor: Carlos Adampol Galindo

