



Practical Peer - to - Peer Knowledge Exchange

GHG Emissions Offsetting

10:00-11:00 CEST and 16:30-17:30 CEST
(same session)

Bard Rama, Senior Expert, Sustainable Energy Systems,
ICLEI European Secretariat



Funded by the
European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the EU research & innovation framework programme – Horizon Europe. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

In support of:



Connected with:

NET ZERO CITIES

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Introduction to the UTM**
- **Snapshot from the Implementation guide on the Carbon offsetting**
- **Case studies**
 - ❖ **City of Turku**
 - ❖ **City of Bogota**
 - ❖ **City of Melbourne**
- **Facilitated discussion**
- **Next steps and conclusion**

This session is being recorded. The recording and presentation will be shared in the UTMC platform.



Setting the scene



Miriam Badino

Coordinator Mission Innovation

- Urban Transitions Mission

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy





URBAN TRANSITIONS

MISSION

We **mobilise decision makers** across all levels of government to accelerate **holistic urban transitions** and prioritise net-zero pathways enabled by clean energy and **systemic innovation**.

We **empower cities** to adopt innovative solutions and help reach tipping points in the cost and scale of those solutions for urban transitions and **broker solutions**, approaches, and knowledge for net-zero transitions at each stage of a city climate action journey.



We work with **97 ambitious cities** worldwide. By 2030, these pathways will be validated by an additional **150 cities**.
JOIN OUR CITY COHORT!



**MISSION
INNOVATION**

Catalysing clean energy solutions for all.

www.urbantransitionsmission.org

URBAN TRANSITIONS MISSION: FIRST YEAR PROGRESS

In 2023, the Urban Transitions Mission laid the foundations of cities' climate journey to holistic and people-centred net-zero pathways, mobilizing cross-sector partnerships to prioritize solutions enabled by clean energy and systemic innovation.



25+ pilot actions triggered

UTM's ambitious approach is driven by needs and solutions, addressing the challenges via three interconnected action pillars:

- 4** Innovative, net-zero urban transition
- 4** Capacity building and funding for the net-zero urban transition
- 4** City Research & Innovation (R&I) challenges for global net-zero transition

with a potential reduction of **21.635.160** by 2025 **tCO2e**



Equivalent to **+3M roundtrips flights from Miami (US) to Newcastle (AUS)**

New Partnerships: GLOBAL INNOVATION ALLIANCE

- 5** PRIVATE SECTOR
- 5** FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- 3** SUPPORT GROUP PARTNERS
- 3** ACADEMIA & RESEARCH

Online platform: URBAN TRANSITIONS MISSION CENTRE

- +15** TRAININGS: Cooling, digitalization, urban energy systems, sustainable lighting, data & transport, energy exchanges
- +100** KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES: Covering good practices, experiences, insights reports to respond to UTM Cities needs and vision
- 7** SESSIONS: Capacity building workshops, Peer-to-peer exchanges events

- 10 SHARED PRIORITIES**
- Innovative Governance
 - Economy & Financing
 - Health & Well-being
 - Urban Planning & Design
 - Sustainable Resource Management
 - City-scale Data
 - Systems Approach
 - Sustainable Infrastructure
 - Resilience & Adaptive Capacity
 - Digitalization



URBAN TRANSITIONS MISSION CENTRE (UTMC)

Goal

The Urban Transitions Mission Centre (funded under Horizon Europe) is a global community platform supporting the URBAN TRANSITIONS MISSION through

- promoting urban sustainability
- providing good practice cases and a platform for cities and stakeholders to engage
- hosting a moderated learning community
- creating synergies with European and international networks and initiatives





UTMC in practice

- UTMC Online platform – shaped around the UTM framework, providing access to a repository, as well as interactive space for UTM Cities to engage in different thematic clusters – with other cities, and with the overall UTM community
- 60 case studies covering good practices, experiences, insights to respond to UTM Cities needs and vision
- Database of financing opportunities and how to access them – Funding&Finance Helpdesk
- 4 Regional events to provide capacity building, and additional opportunities to connect and exchange in different Regions
- **Peer-to-peer exchanges events** (ca. 2/year) online
- Capacity building webinars (3/year) on UTM Cities priority challenges + access to finance



URBAN TRANSITIONS MISSION CENTRE (UTMC)

The **Platform** shall become a global community forum for knowledge exchange and cooperation on climate-neutral urban transitions

<https://www.utmc.app/>

MI CENTRE

Document
Join, Boost, Sustain Declaration - Living-in.EU

Living-in.EU is the European movement which sustains the European way of digital transformation across Europe. In times when cities and communities ...

Leadership Awareness Raising +1

Youtube video
Zhytomyr Municipal Energy Plan

The City has successfully implemented a sustainable local energy policy interdisciplinary management system, after developing and approving a number ...

Renewable energy

Article
Visual Toolbox for System Innovation

A comprehensive resource book for practitioners to map, analyse and facilitate systemic change. Includes many canvases and practical tools. The tools ...

Community engagement Governance +0

Case study
Tokorozawa Energy & Business Strategy: Establishing Tokorozawa Future Electric Power

A successful public-private partnership to reduce the city's external energy dependency and accelerate climate neutrality

Infrastructure Public-private collaboration +1

MI CENTRE

Cartagena (Colombia)

Casablanca (Morocco)

Chefchaouen (Morocco)

Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

What can
cities benefit
from Carbon
Offsetting?

Mentimeter exercise



Or use this code:

3603 3315



What Carbon
Offsetting
means to
you?

Mentimeter exercise



Or use this code:

3603 3315



Practical Implementation Guide

Carbon Offsetting

Alina Mures, Junior Expert,
Sustainable Energy Systems,
ICLEI European Secretariat

Main topics of the Implementation Guide

How Carbon Offsetting supports achieving Climate Neutrality and why should a city be interested

- General Guiding Principles
- Role of Compliance and Voluntary Markets, Non-Market approaches (NMAs), and Carbon Credits

Examples of Carbon Offsetting in cities

- Offsetting pathways and best practices from cities
- Types of offsets

How to develop an Emissions Offset Strategy for your City

- City Action Strategy for Offsetting

Conclusion and Recommendations

GHG Emissions Offsetting

“The reduction, avoidance or removal of a unit of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by one entity, purchased by another entity to counterbalance a unit of GHG emissions by that other entity”.

(Sixth Assessment Report, IPCC)

Offsetting as “climate action that enables individuals and organisations to compensate for the emissions they cannot avoid, by supporting worthy projects that reduce emissions somewhere else.”

(UNFCCC)

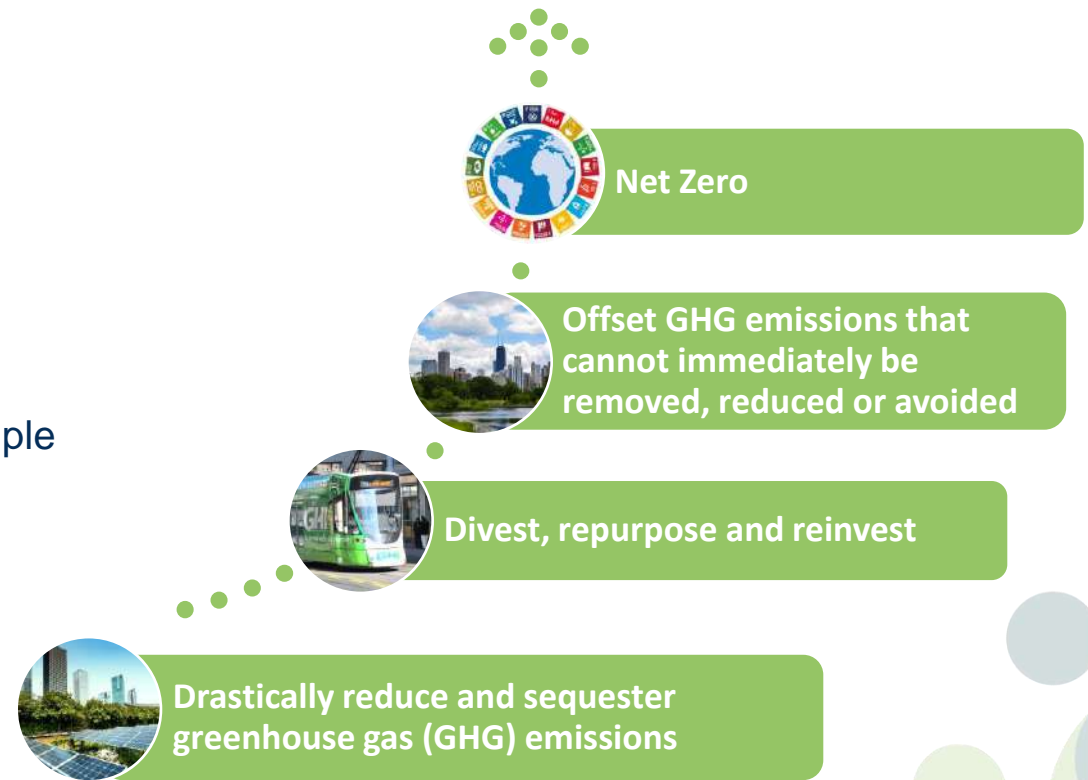
The content of this presentation reflects only the author’s view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



Why Emissions Offsetting in Cities

Offsetting plays a meaningful role in accelerating and achieving carbon neutrality in cities by

- Addressing Unavoidable and Hard-to-Abate Emissions
- Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Energy
- Supporting Sustainable Development
- Raising Awareness, Funding and Setting a Positive Example



Guiding Principles

Prioritise
emissions
reduction

Limit the use of
offsetting

Use only high-
quality offsets

Ensure
transparency
and
accountability





Case studies



Funded by
the European Union



City of Turku and route to the carbon neutrality

- Misa Tuomala, Project Specialist, Green Transition, City of Turku
- Miika Meretoja, Specialist, Green Transition, City of Turku

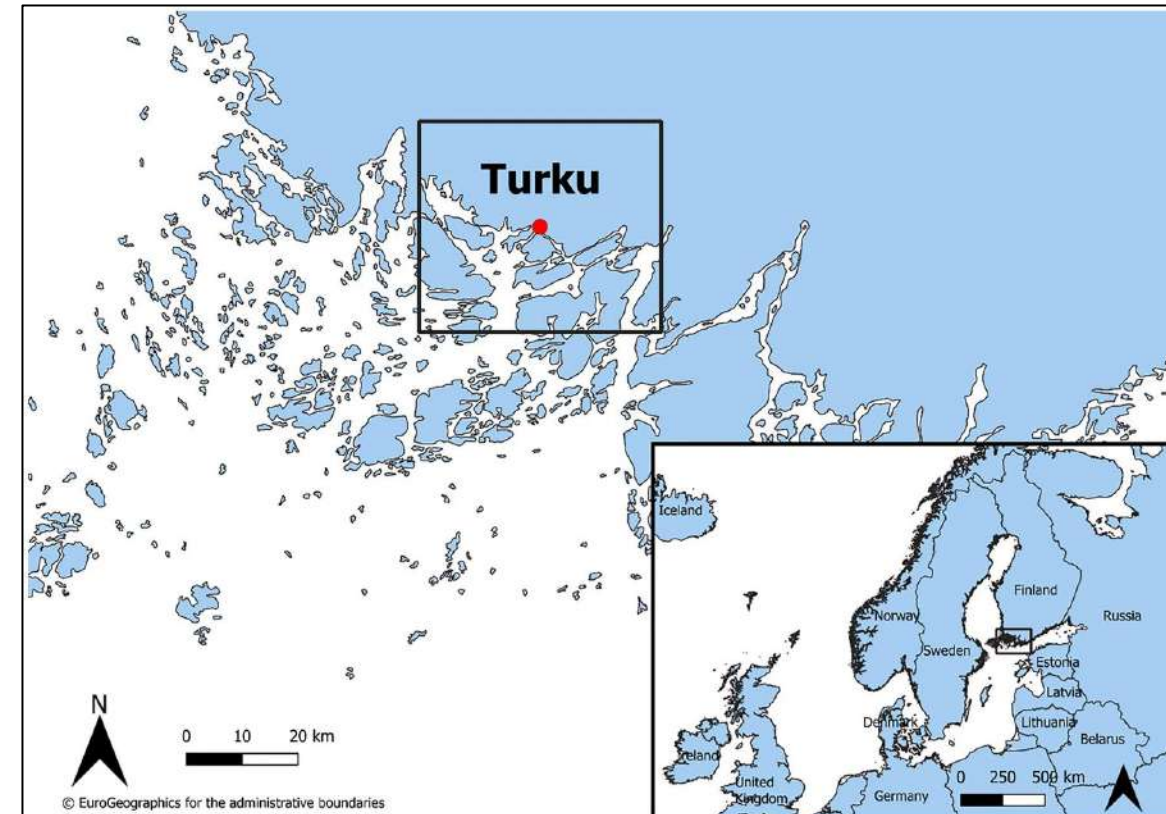
30.4.2024

City of Turku and climate targets



- Turku is the oldest city in Finland, founded in 1229
- The sixth largest city in Finland with 200 000 residents, and the third largest urban region with 350 000 inhabitants
- “In 2029 at the latest, carbon neutrality will be achieved, whereby the sum of emissions, carbon sinks, and any potential compensations in the Turku region will be no more than zero.” (Turku Climate Plan 2029). That year Turku will celebrate its 800th anniversary
- Turku will reduce at least 90% of emissions and compensate for the rest by increasing carbon sinks

<https://www.turku.fi/en/carbon-neutral-turku/our-climate-target>



Towards the carbon neutrality



- Regarding the offsetting and the carbon sinks, the main emphasis is on local measures, for example, afforestation. Turku seeks also new ways for compensation
- Turku applies Continuous cover forestry in city-owned forests. The carbon net sink of those forests was 9,7 kt CO₂-eq in the year 2023. The net sink is assessed annually.
- A developing operational environment is a challenge: there are no clear guidelines for municipal-level compensation in Finland
- KUNTANIELU ("Municipal sink") project aims to tackle this challenge: The main objective of the project is to allow municipalities to increase the net carbon sink of the land use sector and to lay the foundation for the rules of the municipal-level offsetting that enables municipalities striving towards carbon neutrality.
<https://www.turku.fi/en/kuntanielu>
- Turku is developing a model of engaging the Turku group and other companies in carbon sink and biodiversity actions. It is also essential that private landowners participate as their forests are carbon sources at this point





Thank you!

miika.meretoja@turku.fi

misa.tuomala@turku.fi



Q&A



Funded by
the European Union



Climate Action and GHG Emissions Offsetting in Bogotá

Ricardo Delgado, Climate Change Expert
Secretariat of Environment





In 2018 **Colombia** emitted (net)
279.2 Mton **CO₂eq.**

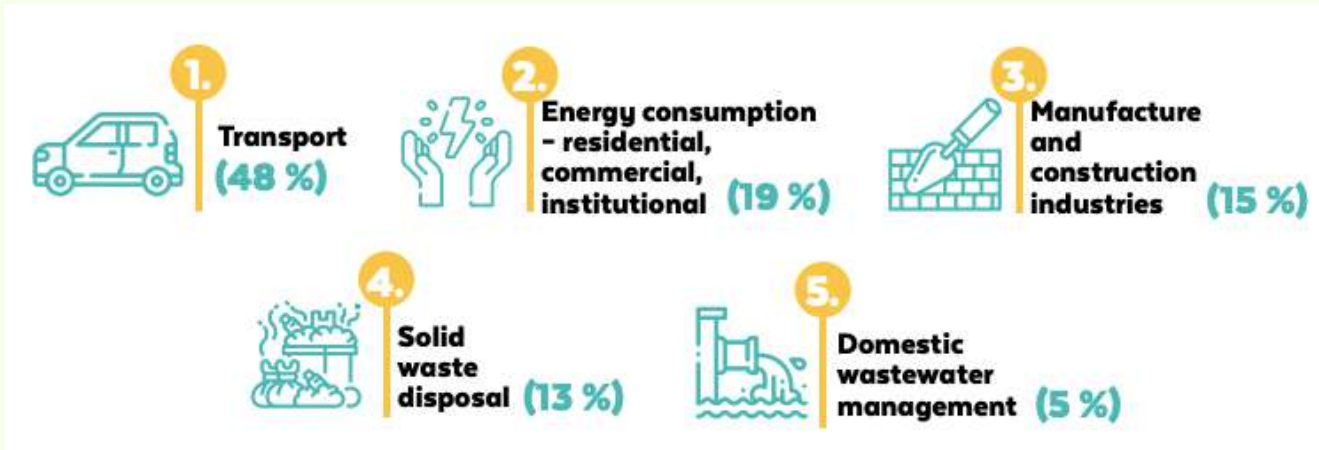
In 2018 Bogotá emitted (net) **11.5**
Mton **CO₂eq** (4.1% of national
emissions)



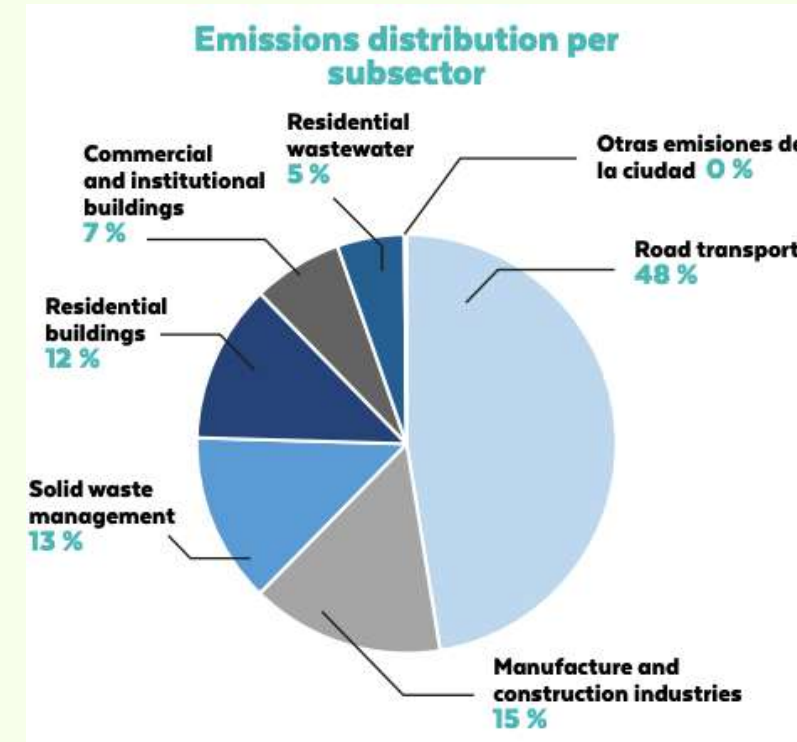
SECRETARÍA DE
AMBIENTE



5 subsectors generate **95%** of greenhouse gas emissions



Transport and energy consumption in buildings and industry are the sectors that **emit** the most.



2

To tackle **climate change**,
Bogotá has:

Agreement 790 of 2020 declares the
Climate Emergency as a public
management priority that **requires**
urgent action.

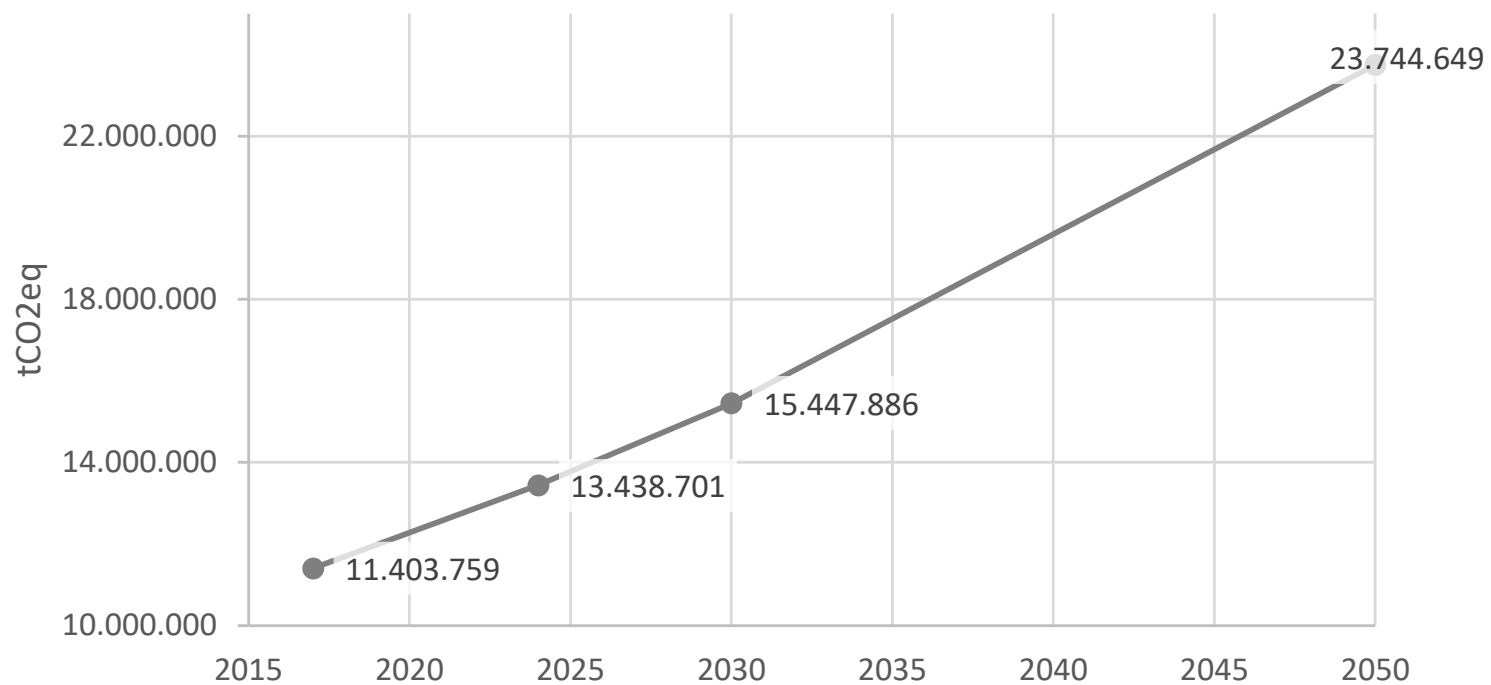
A **Climate Action Public Policy** that defines
the roadmap for the city to be **carbon-neutral**
by 2050 and positively adapt to the impacts of
climate change.



SECRETARÍA DE
AMBIENTE



Trayectoria de emisiones de GEI 2017 - 2050



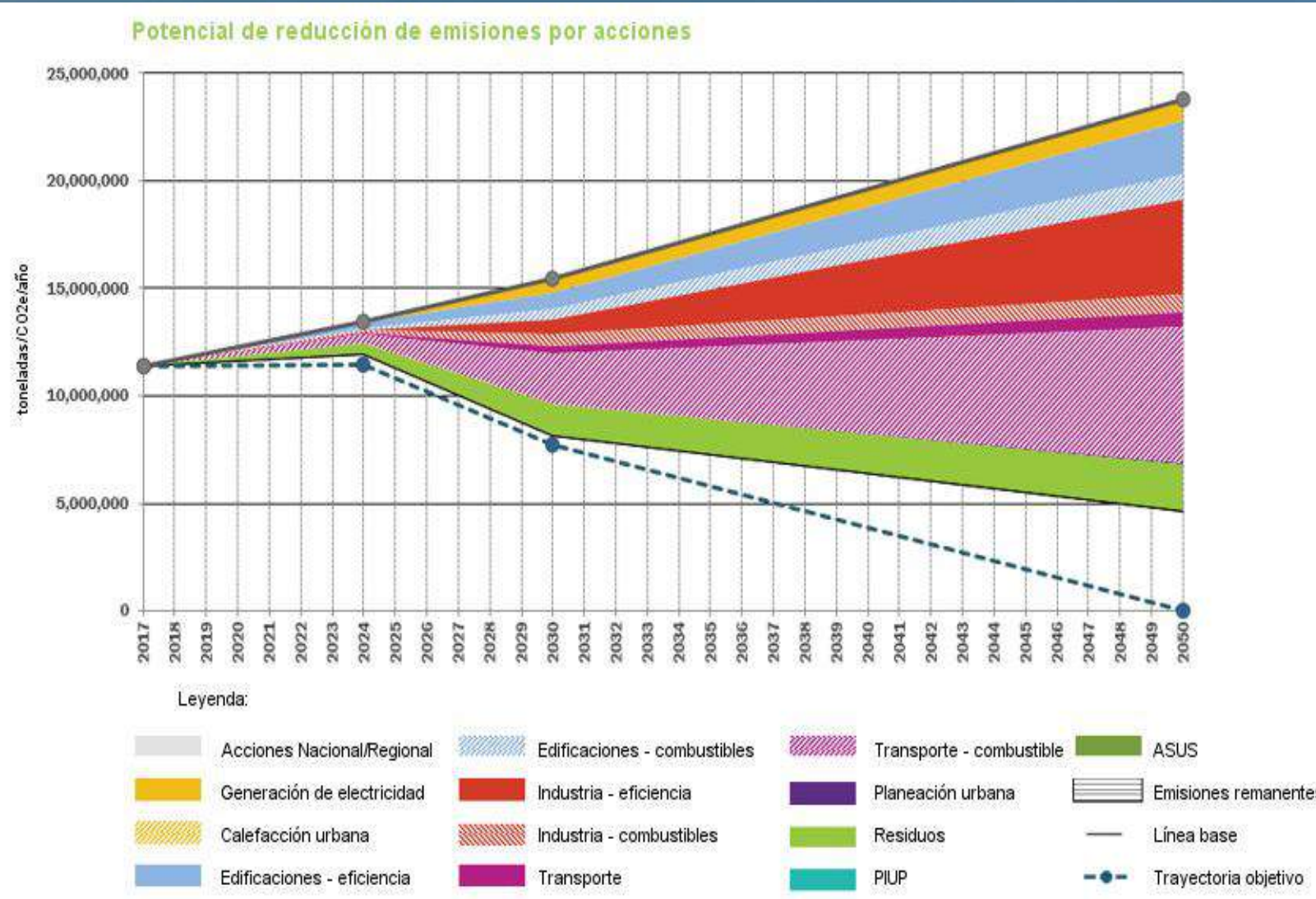
If we do nothing, in 30 years **Bogotá** would **double** its **GHG emissions**.



Transportation and industry are the sectors that have the greatest potential for **reducing GHG emissions in the city.**

City's emission scenarios consider a 20% residual emissions (compared with BAU) by 2050.

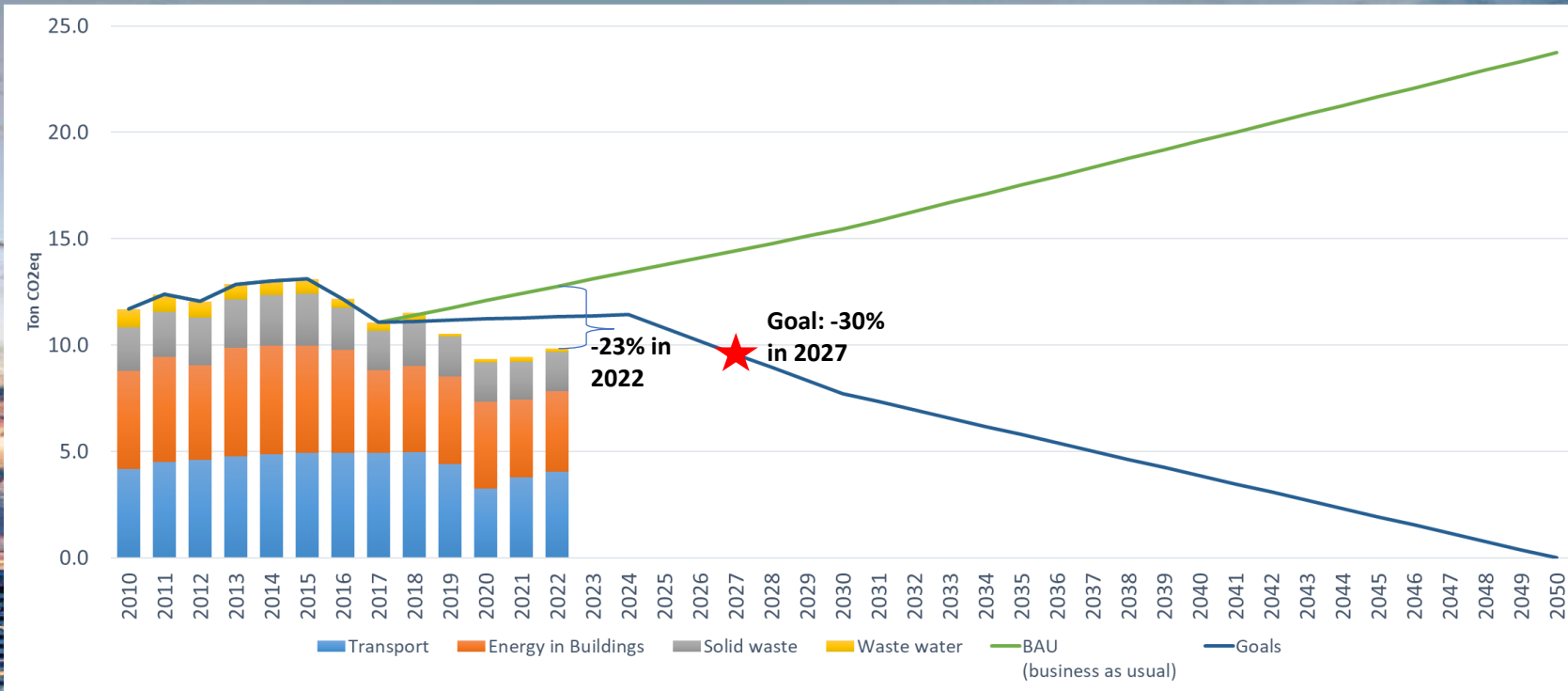
- (Mostly in waste and buildings)



GHG inventories
released with 2 years
gap

Current administration
goal:
To reduce 30% of the
city's emissions
compared with BAU by
the end of the term

No compensations /
credits considered up to
2030





Products to be delivered by the Treasury Secretariat within the PAC:

- 3.3.1. Technical document on the study of climate financing sources for the implementation of the CAP.
- 3.3.2. Diagnostic document for developing a climate budget in Bogotá.
- 3.3.3. Reference framework documents for the issuance of thematic bonds.



Final remarks

1. Need to avoid selling credits for mitigation in city

Common practice before city and country mitigation commitments

2. To use compensations or participating in carbon markets to offset residual emissions

Forests, jungles and watersheds at regional and national level

3. To be prepared to participate in the Colombia (under development) versión of ETS and the carbon budgets (NDC)

To use public Budget to invest in the ETS and to define sectoral (local) carbon budgets

THANK YOU

Ricardo Delgado

Climate Change Expert
Secretariat of Environment
ricardo.delgado.ca@gmail.com



SECRETARÍA DE
AMBIENTE





Q&A



Funded by
the European Union

City of Melbourne

Beatrice Ruggiero
Project Assistant
ICLEI ES



Funded by
the European Union



Photo by Felix Haumann on Pexels

The content of this presentation reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Climate neutrality targets



Information based on the interview held with Nicholas Carrazzo, Energy Innovation and Carbon Accountant, City of Melbourne

At an organisational level:

- Carbon neutral since 2012 (certified by Australian Federal Government);
- Residual emissions in 2022-23: 12000 tonnes of CO₂e deriving from organisational transport, waste disposal, and city's contractor operations (e.g. maintenance of public facilities)

Types of projects: Carbon credits purchased on the voluntary market

- Geographical scope: national (preferably) or international level
- Focus on projects supporting/benefitting local indigenous communities

Selection criteria & Third party verification



- Selection criteria of offset projects:
 - Alignment with Oxford Principles for carbon offset purchasing (additionality, permanence, integrity)
 - Co-benefits aligned with UN SDGs
 - Preference for nature-based projects
 - Preference for local projects
 - Transparency and accuracy of information provided by the broker on the project's effects (due diligence)
- Valid offset certification schemes (dictated by the Australian Federal Government):
 - Verra
 - Gold Standard



Q&A



Funded by
the European Union

Facilitated discussion

Mentimeter exercise



- Why should a city consider carbon offsetting?
- Which are the misconceptions, concerns and limitations of carbon offsetting?
- What types of offsets (nature-based and technological removals) and how would you implement them?

Comparative Methodological Review of Climate Neutrality and Net-zero Transition approaches/pathways



The Comparative Methodological Review of Climate Neutrality and Net-zero Transition Pathways is the analysis of relevant methodologies, pathways or approaches that can support existing action strategies for climate neutrality in cities.

The methodologies selected provide value added to cities, and offer tools, practical guidance.

Each review includes an example box from cities implementing it on the ground.



Practical Peer - to - Peer Knowledge Exchange

Based on the Comparative methodology review we will organise a peer-to-peer exchange to collect feedback form other cities that are interested into it.



Practical Implementation Guide

Based on the Comparative methodological review and feedback collected in the peer-to-peer exchanges we will draft a Practical Implementation Guide for Climate Neutrality and Net-zero Transition

Each methodological review will be shared on the **UTMC platform.**

Expected publication date: **June 2024**



Q&A



Funded by
the European Union



Thank you!



Funded by
the European Union

UTMC Partners



*



* Both ICLEI European Secretariat GmbH (ICLEI EURO) and ICLEI - Local Governments For Sustainability EV (ICLEI WS) are partners of the UTMC project