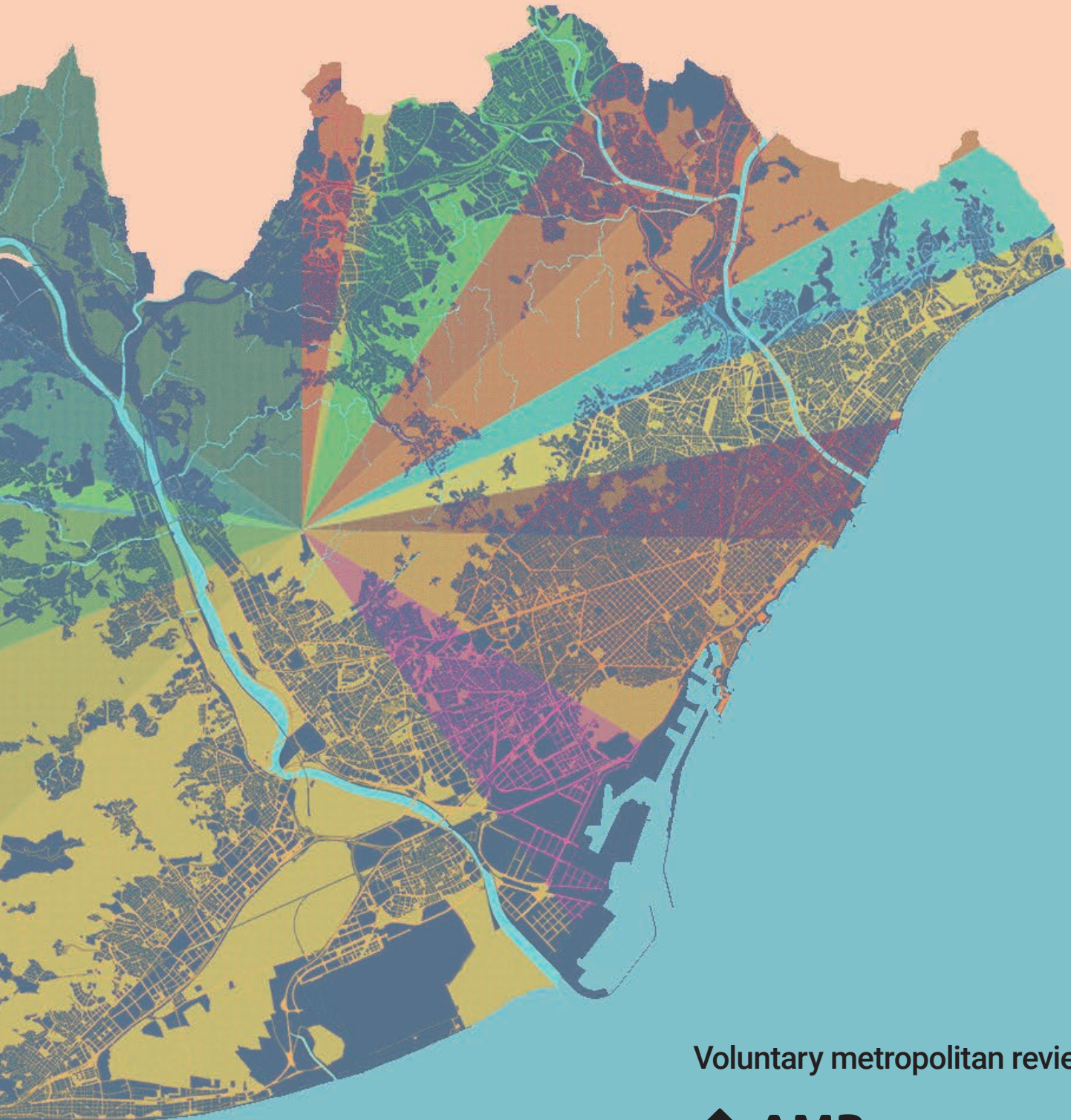




Barcelona Metropolitan Area in action

Horizon 2030: towards a sustainable metropolis



Voluntary metropolitan review



Content

Barcelona Metropolitana Area



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Printed in Barcelona in June de 2025

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Introduction

Metropolitan areas, characterised by their complexity and diversity, have become epicentres of economic, social and environmental development. In this context, voluntary metropolitan reporting has become a fundamental tool for applying the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) locally and monitoring their development. These reviews allow metropolises not only to assess their progress towards meeting the global targets, but also to adapt and contextualise the SDGs to their specific realities and to foster more efficient and sustainable governance.

The motivation for presenting this review arises from the opportunity to share all the actions that the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) has in place to achieve a more sustainable metropolitan territory, while highlighting the effort made to follow the 2030 Agenda, both internationally and locally, such as the Spanish Urban Agenda and the Agenda of Towns and Cities Catalonia 2050. This last agenda is aimed at achieving territorial balance, social equity, economic prosperity and the promotion of two pillars of transformation: the digital transition and the green transition.

By actions we mean all those that respond to a metropolitan logic and that are the responsibility of the AMB, such as plans, strategies, studies, programmes or key policies that have a significant impact on achieving the SDGs, such as the Metropolitan Action Plan (PAM) 2024-2027, the document that will lead the actions of the metropolitan government through lines and objectives aimed at socio-economic balance; the Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM) and the AMB Urban Agenda. These plans establish the regulatory framework and guidelines for metropolitan urban planning in 2050, with the aim of enhancing the natural values of the metropolitan territory, improving our cities and promoting active and sustainable mobility. Both plans have promoted the participation of the different stakeholders in the territory, including citizens.

This review also includes other plans and strategies aimed at a more sustainable management of urban mobility, waste, the water cycle, energy or construction processes, as well as policies that address other metropolitan challenges such as access to affordable housing or the digitisation of services for citizens.

Political commitment

I am pleased to present the results of the first voluntary metropolitan review *The Metropolitan Area of Barcelona in action. Horizon 2030: Towards a sustainable metropolis*, which reflects the AMB's efforts to accelerate the application of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level and to meet the milestones of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Metropolises and cities are key to the implementation of the SDGs and, since 2015, we have been actively localising the 2030 Agenda and bringing the SDGs closer to citizens. The present document is particularly relevant as it incorporates the metropolitan vision and dimension in achieving these Goals. At the same time, it is an instrument for learning, capacity building and strengthening the international commitment of metropolises to achieving the SDGs through sustainable urban development.

The UN General Assembly has reviewed the progress made in achieving the SDGs and calls for concentrated efforts to accelerate the energy and digital transition; improve employment, social protection and food systems; mitigate climate change, and preserve biodiversity. With these renewed objectives, adapting to the 2030 Agenda requires putting in place a localisation process to connect the local level with global decision-making and management and planning in relation to the SDGs.

More than half of the SDGs include targets with urban components, and metropolitan areas play an important role in this localisation process. All the key sectors identified, as well as the SDGs that span territorial dimensions (often going beyond local administrative boundaries), find fertile ground for progress at the metropolitan scale. Localisation at the metropolitan scale is therefore a great opportunity both to channel the fulfilment of the SDGs and to consolidate and make visible the benefits of metropolitan governance.

In this sense, one of the main instruments that metropolises have to assess and accelerate sustainable development are the voluntary metropolitan reviews, a key

tool for metropolitan management to give visibility to, understand and assess our impact on the achievement of the SDGs and measure the state of progress towards the 2030 Agenda so as to consolidate metropolitan governance and generate nationally and internationally comparable data.

These efforts are included and integrated in the Metropolitan Action Plan (PAM) 2024-2027, which guides the action of the metropolitan government for the current term and includes the lines and objectives of a strategic nature and the actions that will be implemented and executed during this term. The PAM seeks alignment with the United Nations SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, and has been drawn up on the basis of the Government Agreement established between the different political forces that make up the metropolitan government (PSC-CP, Junts per Catalunya, En Comú Podem Confluència and ERC-AM). It includes contributions from members of an institutional committee of mayors from different territorial spheres and the different political parties represented in the AMB. It has also benefited from the contributions of other parties represented in the Metropolitan Council. In addition, an open participation process was conducted with the citizens of the metropolitan area along with a consultation process with the main bodies operating in the metropolitan area.

The general aim of the metropolitan government for this term is to use the AMB's powers and resources to tackle areas that improve the quality of life and well-being of the metropolitan population and reduce existing inequalities. All government programmes and actions will also focus on solving the challenges posed by the area's ecological and digital transition. In particular, we will have to be ready to use the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence. We also reiterate our commitment to the United Nations' SDGs and the 2030 Agenda to ensure development that is inclusive, socially fairer, environmentally sustainable and which drives cultural and technological innovation. The right to the city means, more than ever, the right to the metropolis.

Work plan

This voluntary review has been prepared by the AMB Area for International Relations and Digital Metropolis, with Barcelona Regional as a collaborating entity in the drafting of the review.

The international action of the AMB offers new opportunities for improvement, innovation and knowledge to the different technical services, local councils, other institutional actors and the economic and social agents of the metropolitan territory. It also projects the AMB internationally as a leading institution in metropolitan governance and in the provision of quality services to citizens.

Barcelona Regional is a publicly owned urban development agency, with thirty years of experience, created to provide technical support to the different metropolitan territory management agents, such as Barcelona City Council and the AMB.

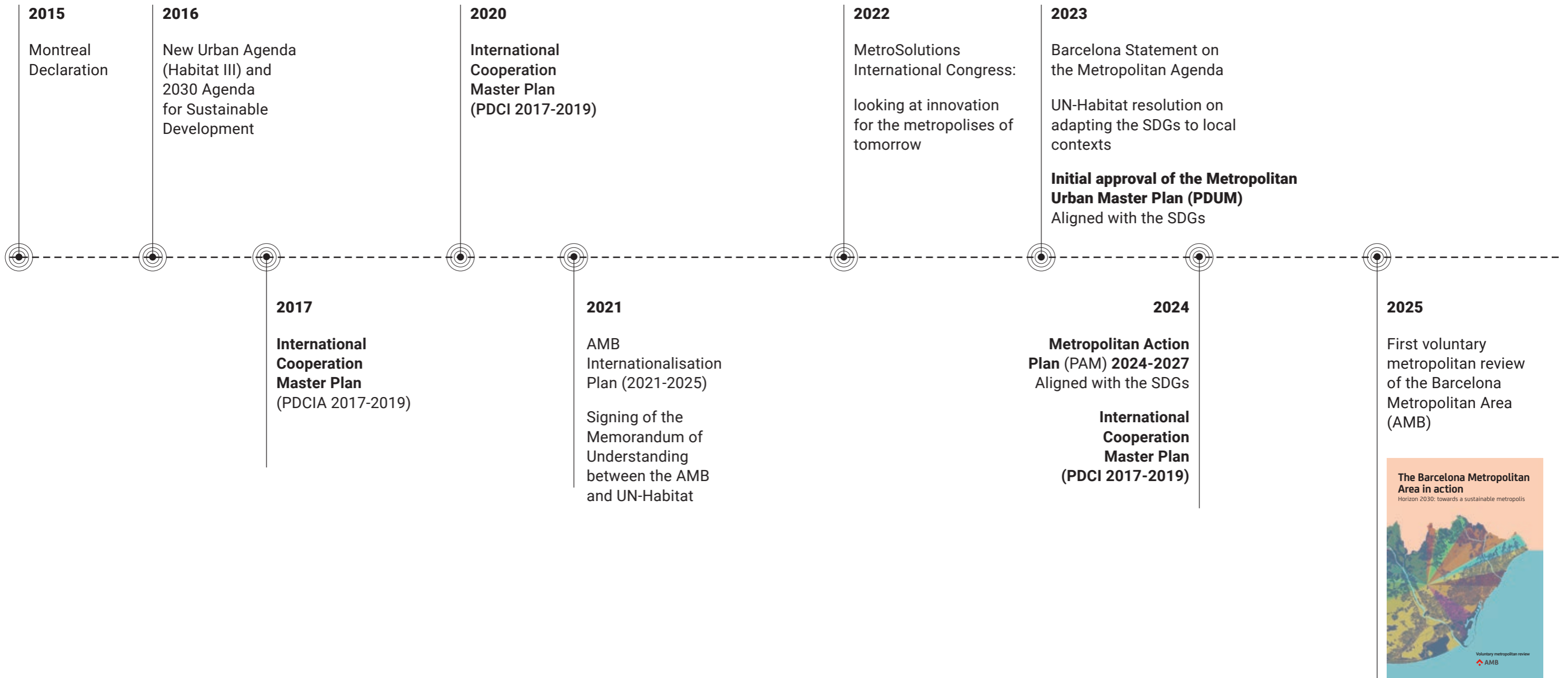
The data used to generate the review were mainly taken from the AMB portal, studies carried out by the Metròpoli Institute, the Barcelona Metropolitan Housing Observatory (O-HB), the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat) and Barcelona Regional.

The willingness of the AMB to join the international effort to achieve more sustainable metropolitan realities began in 2015 with the Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas, which identifies the main challenges and transformations needed to develop more inclusive and solidarity-based metropolises, and has continued up to the drafting of the first AMB voluntary metropolitan review.

The following table is a compilation of key milestones, such as international commitments and local actions with a large-scale impact like the PAM or PDUM (in the final approval phase), which trace the steps of the Barcelona metropolis towards the achievement of the SDGs and, more specifically, Goal 11, "sustainable cities and communities", in which metropolitan areas have an essential role due to their capacity for leadership in implementing sustainable solutions.



Jordi Castellana i Gamisans
Vice-president for International Relations
and Digital Metropolis
Barcelona Metropolitan Area

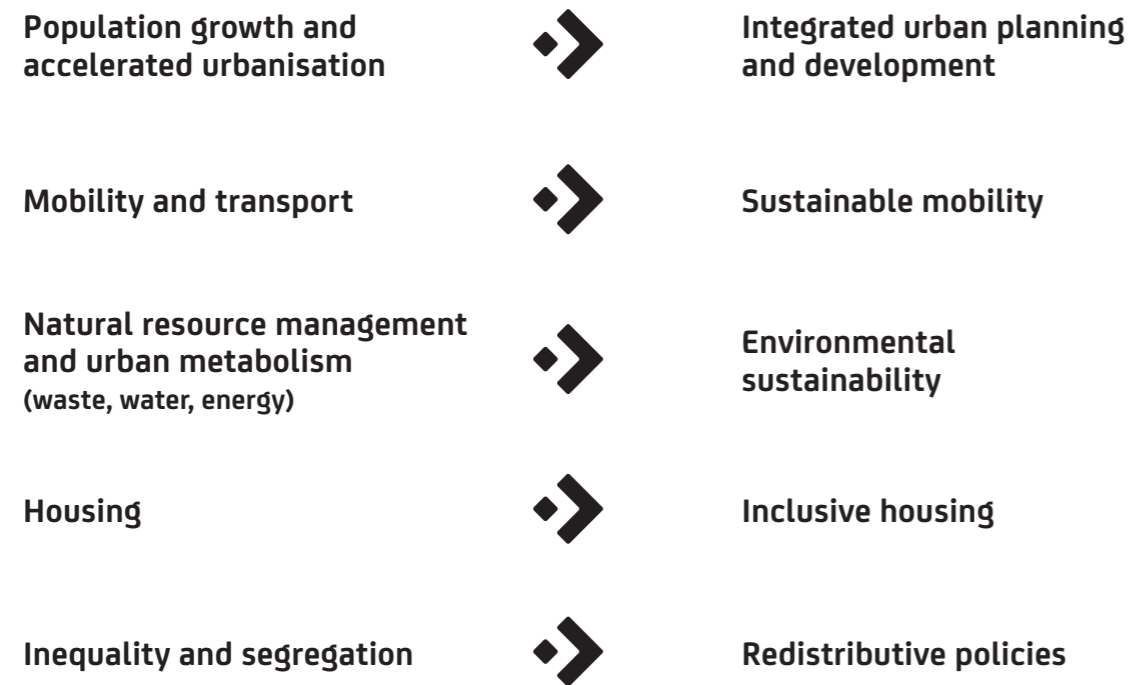


The AMB

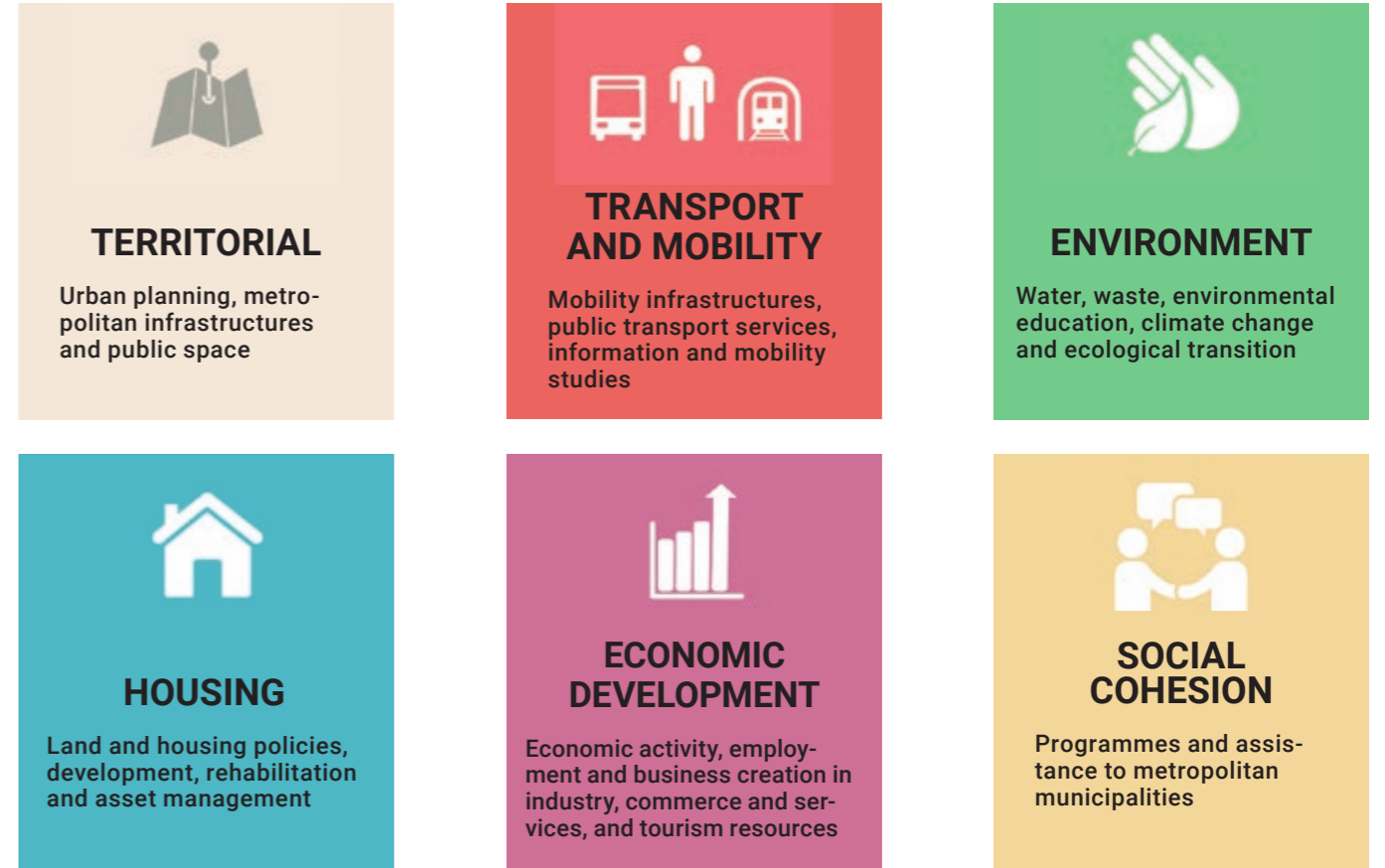
Since 2010, the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) has been the government agency in charge of managing the metropolitan area of Barcelona. However, it has its origins in other previous management figures, set up in 1987.

The AMB's mission is to provide metropolitan solutions to achieve a balanced and cohesive territory. Its competences cover aspects of the metropolitan urban metabolism such as land management, mobility and transport, the water cycle, the environment and waste, housing and social cohesion. For 2025, the AMB has a budget of 1.406 billion euros, of which 35% is allocated to mobility, transport and sustainability, 17% to waste management, another 17% to management actions and investments in the territory and 12% to the water cycle, mainly.

Territorial management challenges and metropolitan solutions



AMB competences



Areas of the AMB aimed at solving metropolitan challenges

- General Services and Territory
- Area for Water Cycle and Analysis of Metropolitan Policies
- Mobility, Transport and Sustainability
- Social and Economic Development
- Urban Planning Policies and Natural Areas
- Climate Action and Metropolitan Strategic Agenda
- International and Digital Metropolis



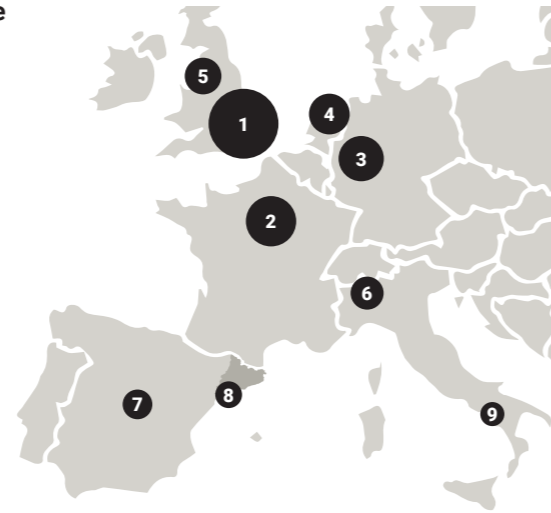
The metropolis of Barcelona

The metropolitan area of Barcelona is the largest urban conurbation in the western Mediterranean and one of the most dynamic regions in southern Europe. In 2023, it generated 51% of Catalonia's GDP with around 148.891 billion euros. The port of Barcelona is home to 23% of all maritime trade in Spain.

The Barcelona metropolis is home to 3,347,881 people (2023), making it the eighth most populated metropolitan area in Europe, behind the metropolises of Milan and Madrid. With a surface area of 636 km², the metropolitan area represents 2% of the total surface area of Catalonia and contains 43% of the population, which is why it is a dense territory (5,264 inhabitants/km²), with very diverse socio-economic characteristics and contrasts. About one fifth of the population is foreign-born, and the difference between the lowest and the highest per capita household income can be as much as ten times higher.

Currently, urban development occupies about half of the metropolitan territory, destined for residential uses (20%), industrial uses (7%), infrastructure and services (6%), facilities (6%), areas with signs of urbanisation (4%), parks (3%), the third sector (1%) and other uses (1%). The other half of the territory (52%) is made up of forests, beaches, agricultural land, brushland, scrubland and rivers, many of which have significant ecological value, such as the Collserola mountain range, the Garraf massif and the Llobregat delta.

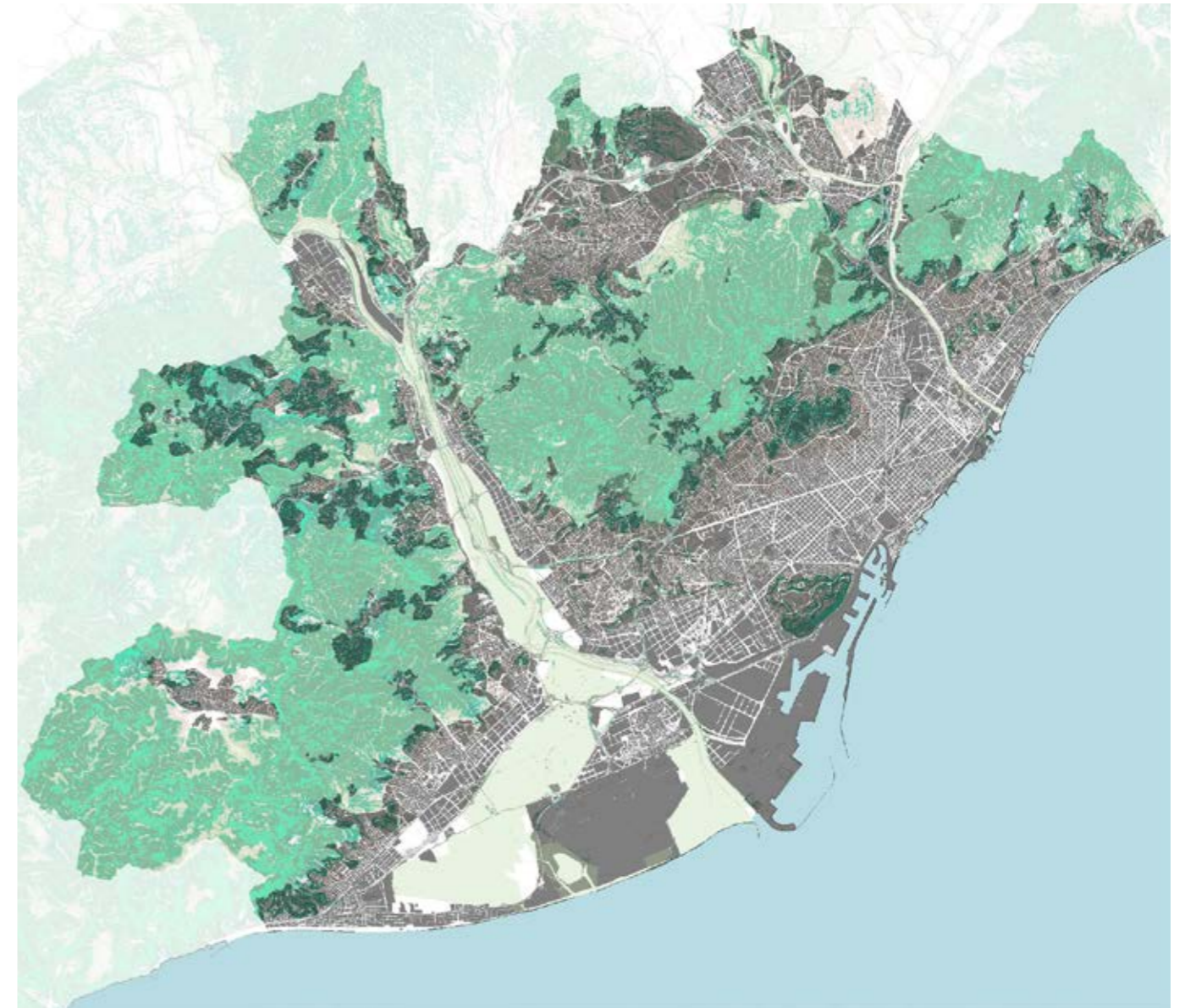
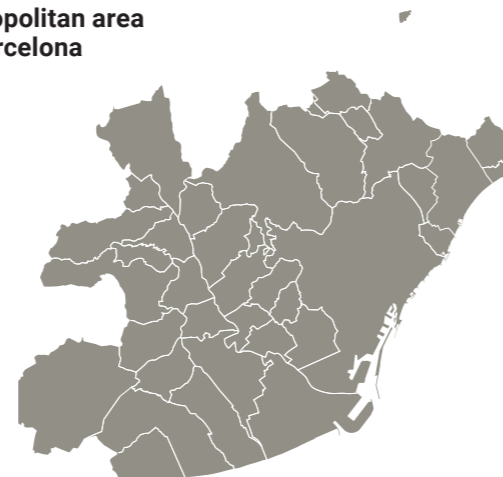
Europe



Catalonia



Metropolitan area of Barcelona



52% forests, grasslands, agricultural land, brushland, scrubland, and beaches

20% housing

7% facilities

6% infrastructure and services

6% industria

3% parks

6% other



Metropolitan municipalities

Administratively, the AMB is made up of 36 municipalities, 24 of which are cities with between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants; Barcelona is the city with almost half of the metropolitan population (1,655,956 inhabitants in 2023). As in other metropolitan cities, the city of Barcelona has a central role that leaves it significantly out of balance with respect to the rest of the municipalities.

The 36 municipalities of the AMB

- Badalona
- Badia de Vallès
- Barberà del Vallès
- Barcelona
- Begues
- Castellbisbal
- Castelldefels
- Cerdanyola del Vallès
- Cervelló
- Corbera de Llobregat
- Cornellà de Llobregat
- El Papiol
- El Prat de Llobregat
- Esplugues de Llobregat
- Gavà
- L'Hospitalet de Llobregat
- La Palma de Cervelló
- Molins de Rei
- Montcada i Reixac
- Montgat
- Pallejà
- Ripollet
- Sant Adrià de Besòs
- Sant Andreu de la Barca
- Sant Boi de Llobregat
- Sant Climent de Llobregat
- Sant Cugat del Vallès
- Sant Feliu de Llobregat
- Sant Joan Despí
- Sant Just Desvern
- Sant Vicenç dels Horts
- Santa Coloma de Cervelló
- Santa Coloma de Gramenet
- Tiana
- Torrelles de Llobregat
- Viladecans

Range of population by municipality



Cities with under 10,000 inhabitants



Cities with between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants



Cities with between 100,000 and 1 million inhabitants



City with more than 1 million inhabitants

Current challenges

Metropolitan areas are often socially and economically unbalanced territories, where the realities between municipalities are diverse and even contrasting. These differences not only respond to their own geopolitical dynamics, but also to urgencies emanating from suprametropolitan systemic crises, in which administrative bodies must work to provide responses that mitigate their local impact.

Below, we describe six crises that many Western societies suffer from and that are present in the metropolitan territory: ageing population, affordable housing, socio-economic and gender inequality, climate emergency, biodiversity loss and holistic health.

Ageing population

The demographic ageing process that has been taking place in Western societies for decades is now becoming one of the main challenges facing the urban world. Cities must be able to adapt to the needs of all their inhabitants, and older people are becoming one of the most relevant segments of the urban population.

The demographic structure of the metropolitan area of Barcelona is increasingly ageing, with an increase in the relative weight of the middle-aged and elderly population, with residents aged 50 and over rising from 36.7% of the total in 2013 to 40% in 2023, while the weight of the population under 15 has decreased from 14.4% to 13.2%.

Ten years ago, the groups with the largest populations were between 30 and 44 years of age, mainly as a result of the waves of immigration in the first decade of this century, whereas today these cohorts have shifted to the 40-54 age group, which is the largest group. In 2023, the population aged 75 and over accounted for 1 in 10 residents of the metropolitan area.

The population data projections based on an average scenario show an increase in the elderly population of around 231,000 people in the metropolitan area of Barcelona as a whole, rising to 874,400 people, which would represent a 36% increase in this population in 2038. This would lead to a widening of the cusp from the age of 55 onwards.

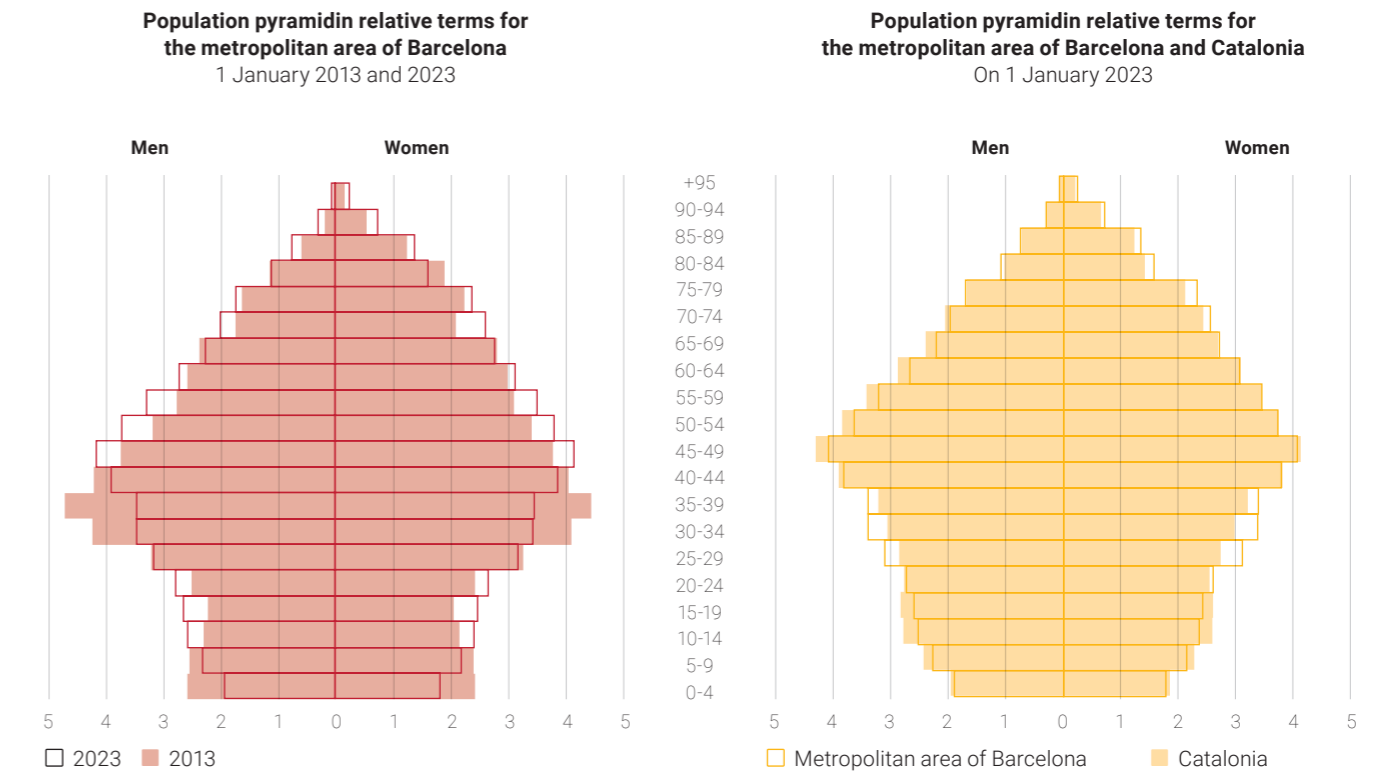
	AMB	Catalonia
2005	123.5	109.4
2006	123.9	108.3
2007	123.3	106.5
2008	121.4	103.9
2009	120.6	102.6
2010	120.0	102.1
2011	120.7	102.5
2012	121.1	102.9
2013	122.4	104.2
2014	124.6	106.7
2015	126.1	108.6
2016	127.0	110.0
2017	127.6	111.6
2018	128.9	113.4
2019	130.2	115.2
2020	132.1	117.6
2021	135.5	120.9
2022	138.9	124.6

Ageing index in the metropolitan area of Barcelona and Catalonia (2005-2022)

Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute

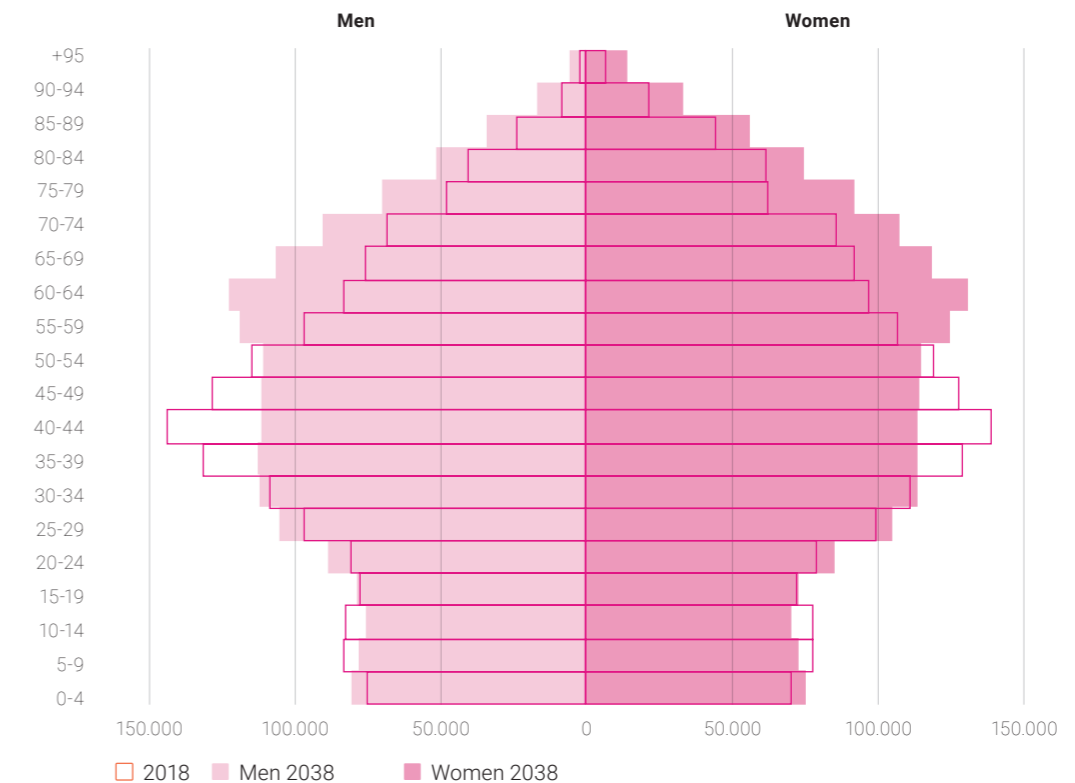
Population structure

2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute



Population of the metropolitan area of Barcelona in 2018 and 2038

Demographic change, ageing and the metropolis. IERMB, AMB. Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute.



Affordable housing

The right to housing in Catalonia is recognised as a fundamental right in the Spanish Constitution and the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia. Law 18/2007, of 28 December, on the right to housing, establishes the legal framework to guarantee this right, with the aim of facilitating access to decent and adequate housing for everyone.

However, the right to housing faces challenges such as rising rental prices, difficulties in accessing property ownership and increasing demand for affordable housing, among other factors. This housing crisis is reflected in the different local areas of Catalonia, and the Barcelona metropolis is no exception.

Over the last ten years, the cost of renting or buying a home has been on an upward trend, most significantly

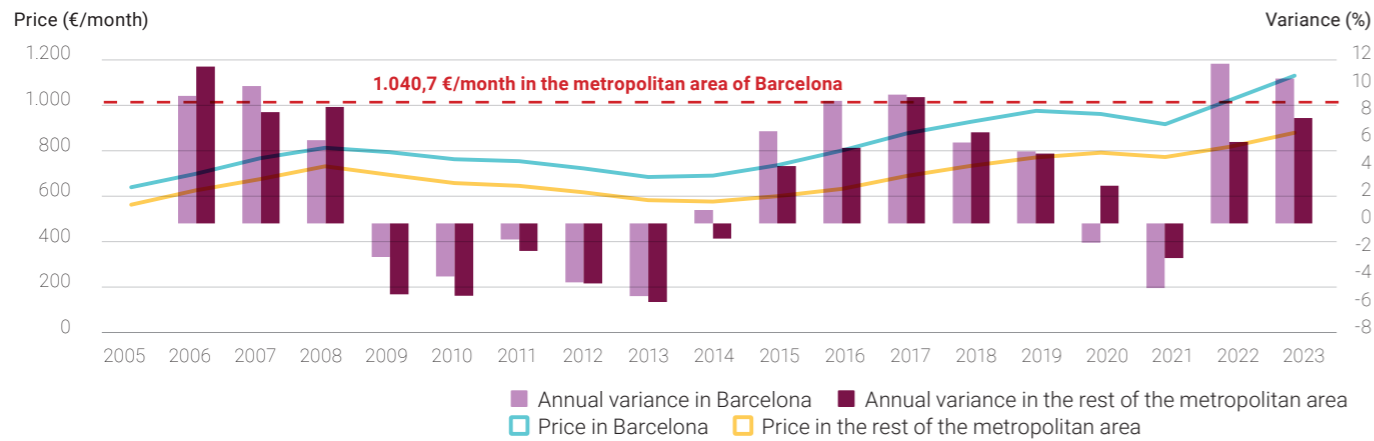
for renting, which in 2023 registered an average price increase of 11% (€1,136.4/month) in Barcelona and 8% (€884.1/month) for new builds in the metropolitan area as a whole. However, the number of new build housing units has significantly decreased (28% less) compared to the previous year throughout the metropolitan area.

The economic effort that a metropolitan household with an annual income of €25,000 (2023) to rent an average-priced dwelling would amount to 50% of their income, well above the desired maximum of 30%.

In this crisis situation, the socio-economic inequality of the territory makes access to decent housing even more difficult to achieve for people at risk of poverty, in which the elderly, children and women are more representative.

Average price of rental housing. Metropolitan area of Barcelona, 2005-2023

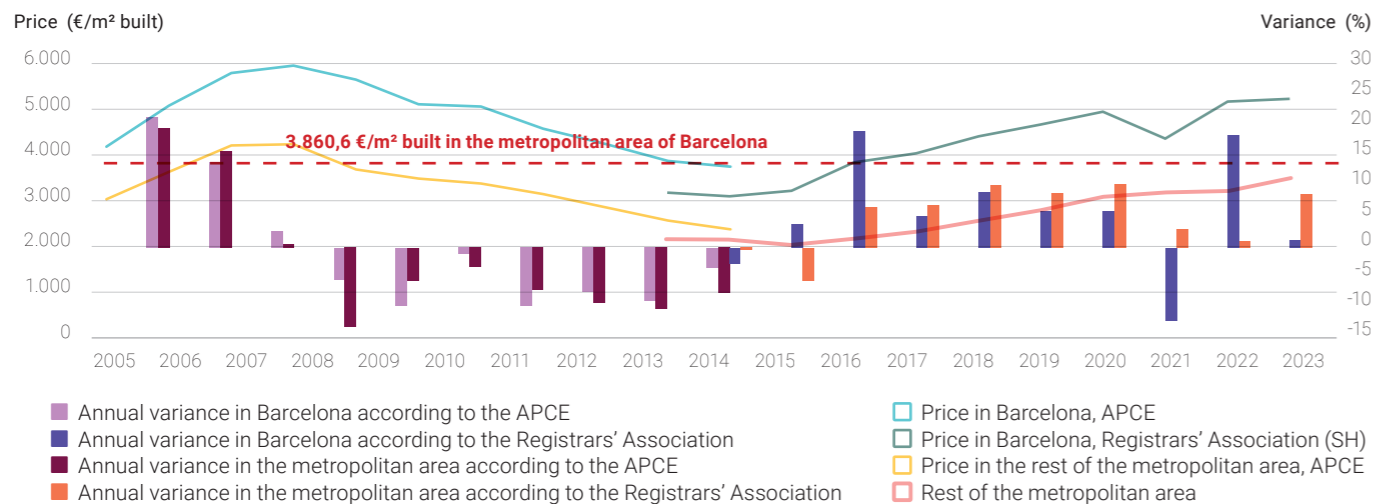
Secretariat for Housing, on the basis of the bonds deposited with INCASÒL. Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute.



Average price of new housing.

APCE and Registrars' Association. Barcelona and the rest of the metropolitan area, 2004-2023

Building Developers' Association of Catalonia (APCE) and Secretariat for Housing (SH), based on data from the Association of Property, Mercantile and Movable Property Registrars of Spain. Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute.



Socio-economic and gender inequality

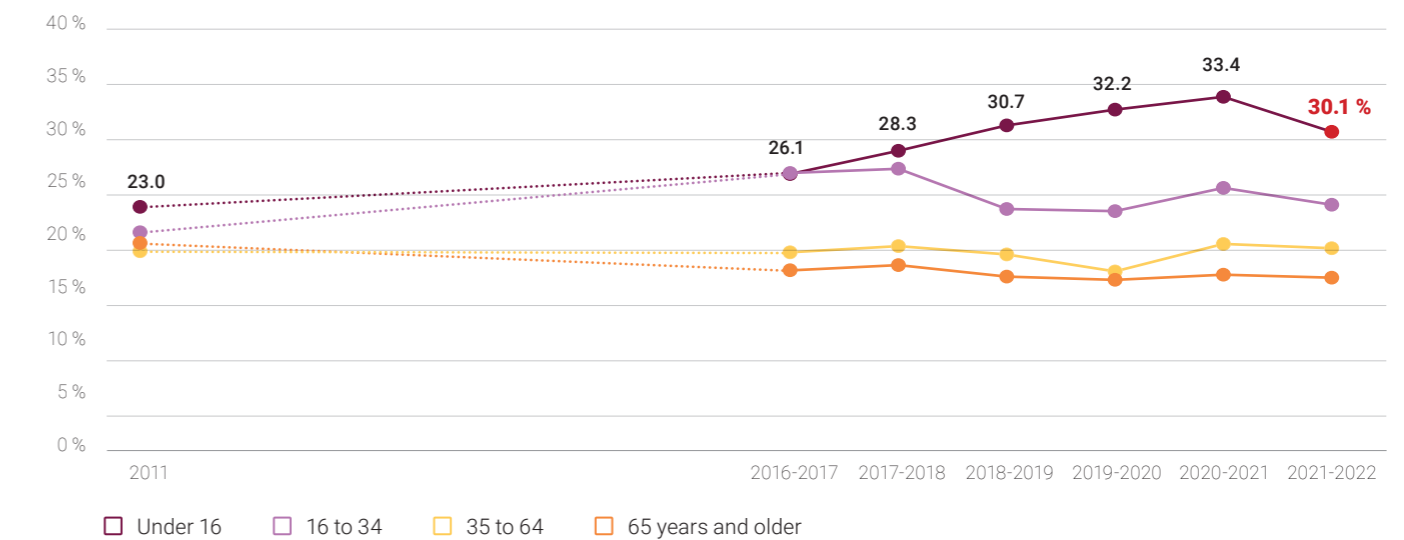
Socio-economic inequality is one of the deepest and most persistent structural problems in contemporary society. At the global level, it manifests itself through large imbalances in the distribution of wealth, in access to education and health, as well as in employment opportunities. In the European and Spanish context, Catalonia represents a paradoxical reality. On the one hand, it is one of the most developed regions in southern Europe, with a diversified economy and a relatively robust social welfare system. On the other hand, profound inequalities persist in terms of economics, gender, age, ethnicity, skills, etc., both between urban and rural areas and within metropolitan areas.

The metropolitan area of Barcelona is a paradigmatic example of this socio-economic fracture, in which inequalities are clearly manifested in access to housing, services, infrastructure, job opportunities and education, and favour socio-spatial segregation at two scales, metropolitan and municipal. The difference in average income between the municipalities of the metropolitan area is more than double, while Barcelona is the municipality with the highest level of income inequality among its residents, followed by Sant Just Desvern, Sant Cugat del Vallès and Castelldefels.

The metropolitan population at risk of poverty or social exclusion stands at 21% (2021-2022), of which children and adolescents (under 16) represent the age group most at risk; at the same time, women over the age of 65 remain at higher risk than men in this age group.

Child poverty

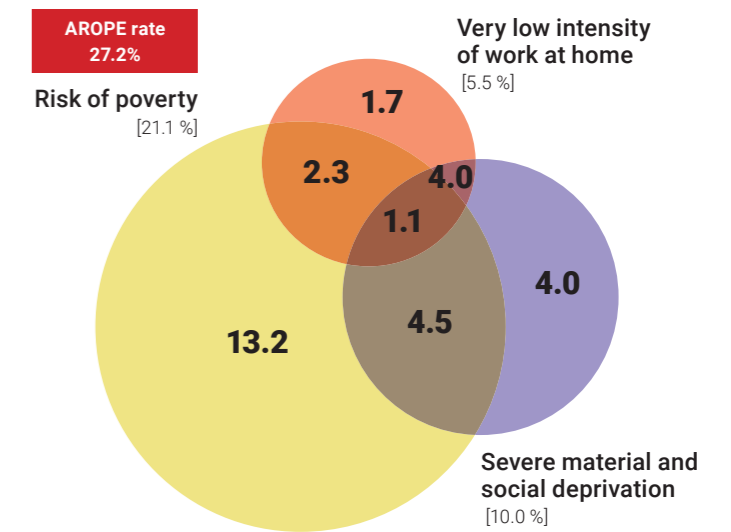
At-risk-of-poverty rate by age group. AMB, 2011 - 2021-2022. Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute.



NB: income estimation methods have varied between 2011 and the 2016-2017 and 2021-2022 series. The information on income refers to the year prior to the year in which the survey was conducted.

Low income population and risk of social exclusion

Intersections between the sub-populations affected by the components of the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE rate - EU 2030 target). AMB, 2021-2022. Source: 2024. The metropolis in 100 indicators. Metròpoli Institute.



Climate emergency

The climate emergency is one of the most important challenges of the 21st century that needs to be addressed, and quickly. According to the United Nations, countries need to aim for an economic, social and environmental recovery that includes energy decarbonisation. With the Paris Agreements (2015), governments set out a series of measures to keep global warming below 2°C (limiting the increase to less than 1.5°C). More specifically, European countries want to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55% by 2030 and to be climate neutral by 2050.

On 23 March 2021, the Metropolitan Council approved the Barcelona Metropolitan Area Climate Emergency Declaration, which defines key actions to achieve five challenges:

- Energy transition
- Efficient use and management of water resources
- Sustainable mobility
- Planning city and surroundings, considering the already built city, the diversity of spaces and the environmental and social requirements
- Circular economy and resources

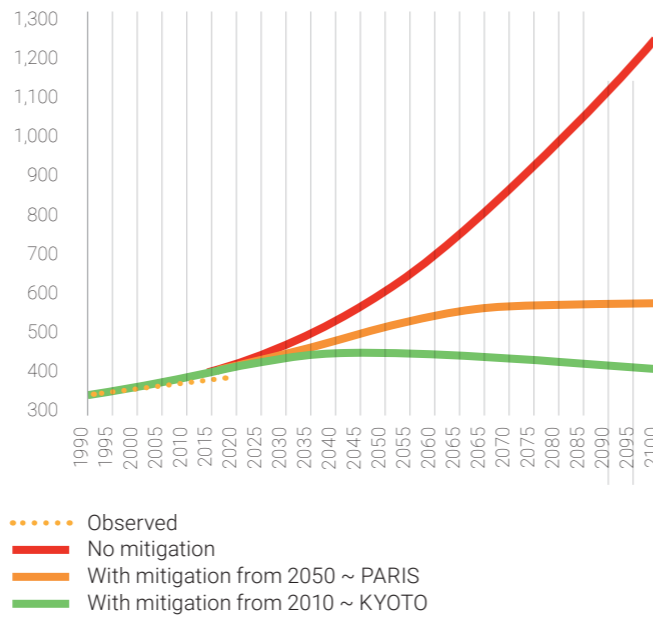
Numerous countries, regions and cities around the world have declared a climate emergency (the European Union, Sydney, the United Kingdom, Canada and Catalonia, among others). Twenty-six municipalities in the metropolitan area, including Barcelona, have also committed to act by drafting and signing a climate emergency declaration.

The climate in the metropolitan area of Barcelona is changing and will continue to do so throughout the 21st century. The most prominent climate hazards in this area are temperature increase, reduction in mean annual precipitation, increase in extreme weather events, sea level rise and increased impacts due to heat island effects and heat waves. Another very relevant impact will be the scarcity of water resources that is expected throughout the metropolitan territory, as a result of the decrease in water resources at the headwaters of the Ter-Llobregat system (due to a reduction in average annual rainfall, less snowfall and an increase in evapotranspiration).

Concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere under the Representative Carbon Pattern (RCP) scenarios (1990-2100)

Climate and Energy Plan 2030, AMB

Generation of regionalised future climate scenarios at very high resolution (1 km) for the metropolitan area of Barcelona (ESAMB Project).



Loss of biodiversity

We are living in a global context of environmental and climate crisis of major proportions, with very important effects on biodiversity, on the functions of the ecosystems it supports and, in turn, on the services they provide directly or indirectly to society.

In Catalonia, over the last twenty years, autochthonous vertebrates and invertebrate species for which data are available have lost an average of 25% of their populations. This loss of population is more than 50% among species living in rivers, lakes and marshes, 30% in agricultural and grassland environments and 10% in forests and scrublands. At sea, the available data indicate a similarly unfavourable situation.

Changes in land use are the main direct cause of biodiversity loss, although climate change and the arrival of invasive alien species are having an increasing impact. The root cause of this loss of biodiversity is a socio-economic model that intensifies resource extraction in certain areas and abandons others that have been used more sustainably.

Conservation measures have been essential to curb the negative status of some species, habitats and sites, but have not been able to halt this global decline.

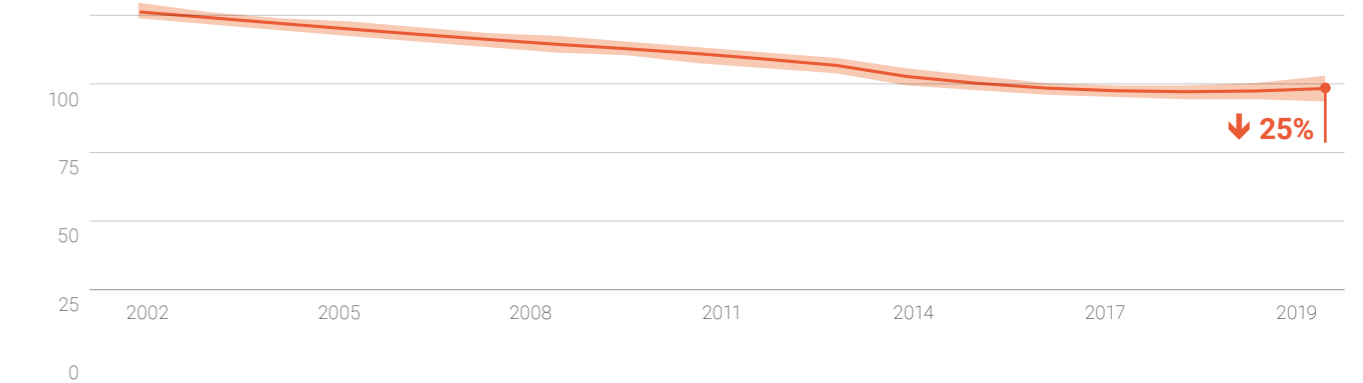
In general, the problems of biodiversity conservation in Catalonia are similar to those in Europe as a whole.

Living Planet Index indicator

State of Nature Catalonia 2020 (ESNATURE). Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Observatory.

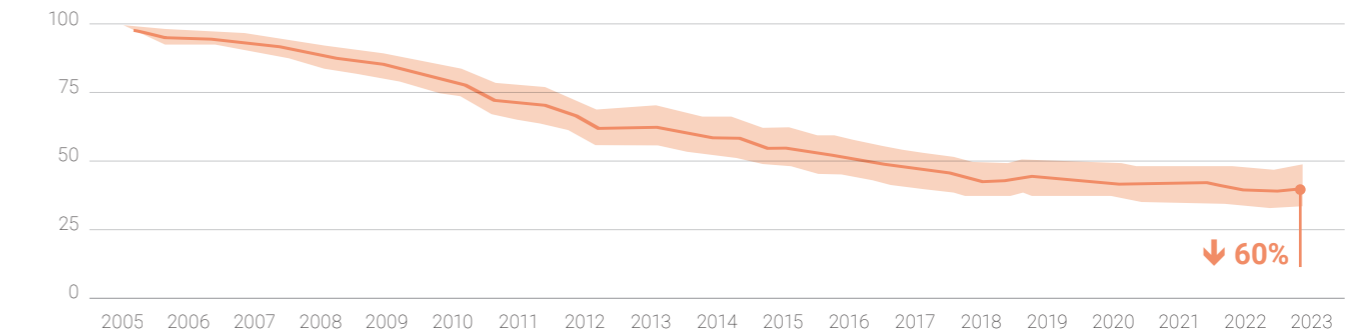
Living Planet Index indicator for Catalonia (LPI-Cat)

Population index (LPI-Cat)



Living Planet Index global indicator (GPI)

Population index (LPI)



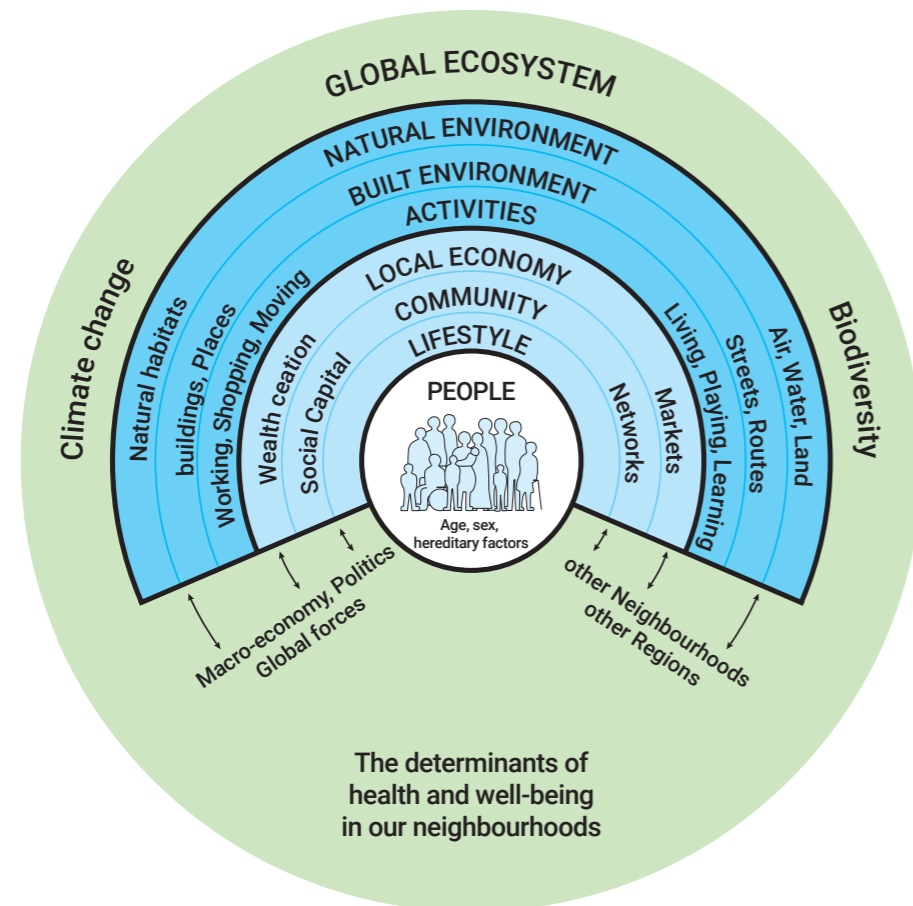
Holistic health

In recent decades, important approaches or initiatives have emerged that focus on planetary challenges affecting the health and well-being of communities, with a broadened view that also includes those external systems capable of sustaining or endangering human health (e.g. ecology, weather, water resources or urban planning). Apart from the seventeen SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, 2015 also saw the publication of the report of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health, which indicated that humanity could only develop successfully throughout the 21st century if unacceptable inequalities in health and wealth were addressed within the Earth's environmental limits. For while human health has progressed, the depletion of our natural systems threatens our ability to sustain these improvements over time.

Indeed, the environment in which we live is an important social determinant, estimated to account for about 20% of global mortality (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016). Between 4 and 9 million people die each year worldwide due to high levels of air pollution (Cohen et al., 2017; Burnett et al., 2018); 2.3 million due to lack of physical activity, and 1.2 million due to traffic accidents. Each year in Europe, exposure to excessive noise causes a loss of more than 1.8 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2011), and heat can cause around 0.4% of premature mortality each year globally (Gasparrini, Guo & Hashizume, 2015). Much of this health burden falls on cities, because cities are where most people live and where the highest levels of exposure occur (Nieuwenhuijsen, 2020). Moreover, the ageing population and the climate crisis place an additional burden on cities in many aspects, including health (Nieuwenhuijsen, 2016).

The determinants of health and well-being in our cities

Source: The health map: Barton and Grant 2006 developed from a concept by Dahlgren and Whitehead 1991



International commitment: SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the set of seventeen goals adopted by all UN member countries in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda aims to comprehensively address the most pressing global problems, seeking to improve people's lives and protect the planet, leaving no one behind. The SDGs are a call to action to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and ensure prosperity for all people.

The 2030 Agenda is the framework guiding global efforts towards meeting the Goals, with the objective of achieving them by 2030. To this end, each country must adopt national policies and make investments that contribute to sustainable development, always with an inclusive approach that respects human rights.

The Spanish territory has the Spanish Urban Agenda as a strategic framework that guides sustainable urban development in Spain, which is aligned with the global commitments established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs. This agenda focuses on improving people's quality of life, fostering social inclusion, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable economic growth. It is specifically linked to SDGs 1, 7, 11, 13 and 16, and defines ten lines of action: territory, landscape and biodiversity; the city model; climate change; sustainable resource management and circular economy; mobility and transport; social cohesion and equal opportunities; urban economy; housing; the digital era, and instruments.

With regard to the Catalan territory, the Agenda of Towns and Cities Catalonia 2050 is a strategic document that proposes a global and long-term vision for the development of Catalonia's territories. Its main objective is to promote sustainable social, economic and environmental transformation in order to adapt towns and cities to the challenges of the future.

This agenda is based on the creation of inclusive policies, with special attention to the needs of rural areas, the revitalisation of urban centres and the improvement of the quality of life of the entire population.

Furthermore, the agenda is committed to an ecological transition that combines economic growth with environmental protection and with the objectives of reducing territorial inequalities and guaranteeing equity between the different areas of Catalonia. It is deployed in three areas: territorial balance, social equity, and economic prosperity; with two pillars for transformation: the digital transition and the green transition.






Objectives of the Spanish Urban Agenda

- | | |
|--|--|
|  <p>1 Territory, landscape and biodiversity
Land management and rational land use, conservation and protection</p> |  <p>6 Social cohesion and equal opportunities
Promoting social cohesion and seeking equity</p> |
|  <p>2 The city model
Avoiding urban sprawl and revitalising the existing city</p> |  <p>7 Urban economy
Promoting and fostering the urban economy</p> |
|  <p>3 Climate change
Preventing and reducing climate change impacts and improving resilience</p> |  <p>8 Housing
Ensuring access to housing</p> |
|  <p>4 Sustainable resource management and circular economy
Sustainable management of resources and promotion of the circular economy</p> |  <p>9 The digital era
Leading and promoting digital innovation</p> |
|  <p>5 Mobility and transport
Promoting proximity and sustainable mobility</p> |  <p>10 Instruments
Improving intervention instruments and governance</p> |

Objectives of the Agenda of Towns and Cities Catalonia 2050

Objectives

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>Territorial balance
Promote territorial balance, generating competitive advantages for living and working in the territory and enjoying fully, to its farthest corners.</p> |  <p>Social equity
Moving towards a more equitable society and a new social contract that guarantees fundamental rights and leaves no one behind.</p> |  <p>Economic prosperity
Generating economic dynamism and prosperity linked to the reinforcement of traditional sectors, new production models and new opportunities in the digital and green economy.</p> |
|---|--|---|

Pillars for transformation

- | | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Digital transition</p> |  <p>Green transition</p> |
|--|--|

The metropolitan area of Barcelona in sustainability indicators

Monitoring the SDGs through indicators is crucial to know the progress and targets achieved, identify gaps and areas for improvement, and adjust policies and strategies to implement efficient metropolitan solutions. The following table compiles 28 indicators that describe the current situation of the metropolitan area in terms of sustainability.

SDG	Indicator	Value	Unit	Target	Source
1	At-risk-of-poverty rate	19.8	%	↓	Metròpoli Institute
2	Surface area dedicated to agricultural production	5,940	ha	↑	Barcelona Regional
	Food deprivation prevalence rate	5.9	%	2.5	Metròpoli Institute
3	Population exposed to high air quality levels	98.9	%	100	Barcelona Regional
	Accessibility to a metropolitan park within 15 minutes walking distance	68	%	↑	Metropolitan Gender Observatory
4	Population aged 25 to 64 without post-compulsory secondary education	22.8	%	↓	Metròpoli Institute
5	Reports from women who have suffered a situation of gender-based violence	10,185	women	↓	Metropolitan Gender Observatory
	Gender pay gap	17.6	%	↓	Metropolitan Gender Observatory
6	Household water consumption	102.6	l/inhab/day	100	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
	Supply network performance	84.7	%	↑	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
7	Share of electricity consumed that is of renewable origin	1.22	%	↑	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
	Barcelona Energia users	13,095	number	↑	Barcelona Energia
8	Unemployed persons	9	%	↓	Metròpoli Institute
	GDP growth rate per capita	48,685	€	↑	Metròpoli Institute

On the following page there is a more extensive explanation of those indicators in which the AMB has competencies as a managing entity and, therefore, a more direct impact on the territory. These indicators respond to SDG 3, “good health and well-being”, SDG 6, “clean water and sanitation”, SDG 11, “sustainable cities and communities”, SDG 12, “responsible consumption and production”, and SDG 13, “climate action”.

SDG	Indicator	Value	Unit	Target	Source
9	Percentage of industry in GVA	10.2	%	12	Metròpoli Institute
	Percentage of workers engaged in highly skilled activities	49.5	%	↑	Metròpoli Institute
10	Distance between the 20% of the population with the highest income and the 20% with the lowest income	5.2	%	5	Metròpoli Institute
11	Municipalities with an urban agenda	20	municipalities	↑	Barcelona Regional
	Percentage of social rental housing	3	%	15	Metropolitan Gender Observatory
	Journeys made in sustainable modes of transport	76.8	%	↑	Metròpoli Institute
12	Municipal solid waste generation	1.15	kg/inhab./day	↓	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
	Percentage of municipal solid waste recycled	40	%	55	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
13	Reduction of GHG emissions compared to 2005	-33.5%	%	-40%	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
	Vulnerable population with a climate shelter space less than 10 minutes away	84	%	↑	Barcelona Regional
14	Sand quality	96	%	100	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
15	Number of species observed in metropolitan parks and beaches	338	number	↑	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
16	Satisfaction with public services	*	value	↑	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
17	Percentage of own resources devoted to international cooperation and global citizenship education	0.7	%	↑	Barcelona Metropolitan Area

* Data in the process of being updated, pending incorporation.

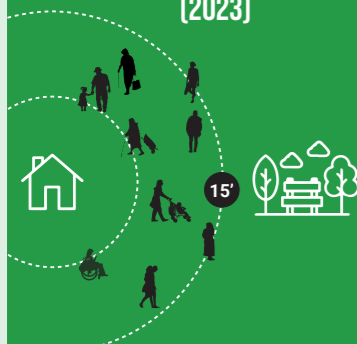
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



68 %

OF THE POPULATION HAS ACCESS TO A METROPOLITAN PARK WITHIN 15 MINUTES FROM HOME OR LESS

(2023)



Metropolitan parks network

Metropolitan parks, halfway between small urban gardens and large natural sites, are public spaces for leisure and contact with nature, essential for the overall health of people and the social cohesion of the territory, whether for their environmental, landscape or heritage values.

The metropolitan parks network currently comprises 52 parks, spread over 34 municipalities, with a surface area of some 323 ha, with 68% of the population within a 15-minute walk, completing the green belt of the large urban areas.

Many of these parks contain forests of very different size, structure, composition and origin since a large part of the parks present in the metropolitan area of Barcelona come from different types of abandoned agro-ecosystems, such as pastures and rainfed woody crops. They also contain structural elements related to their original use, including crops (such as carob or olive trees) or biological heritage elements (such as terraced land). Apart from their origin, these forests areas located in areas with a high level of human activity and varying degrees of human intervention, which also determines, to a large extent, their current structure, characteristics and biodiversity.

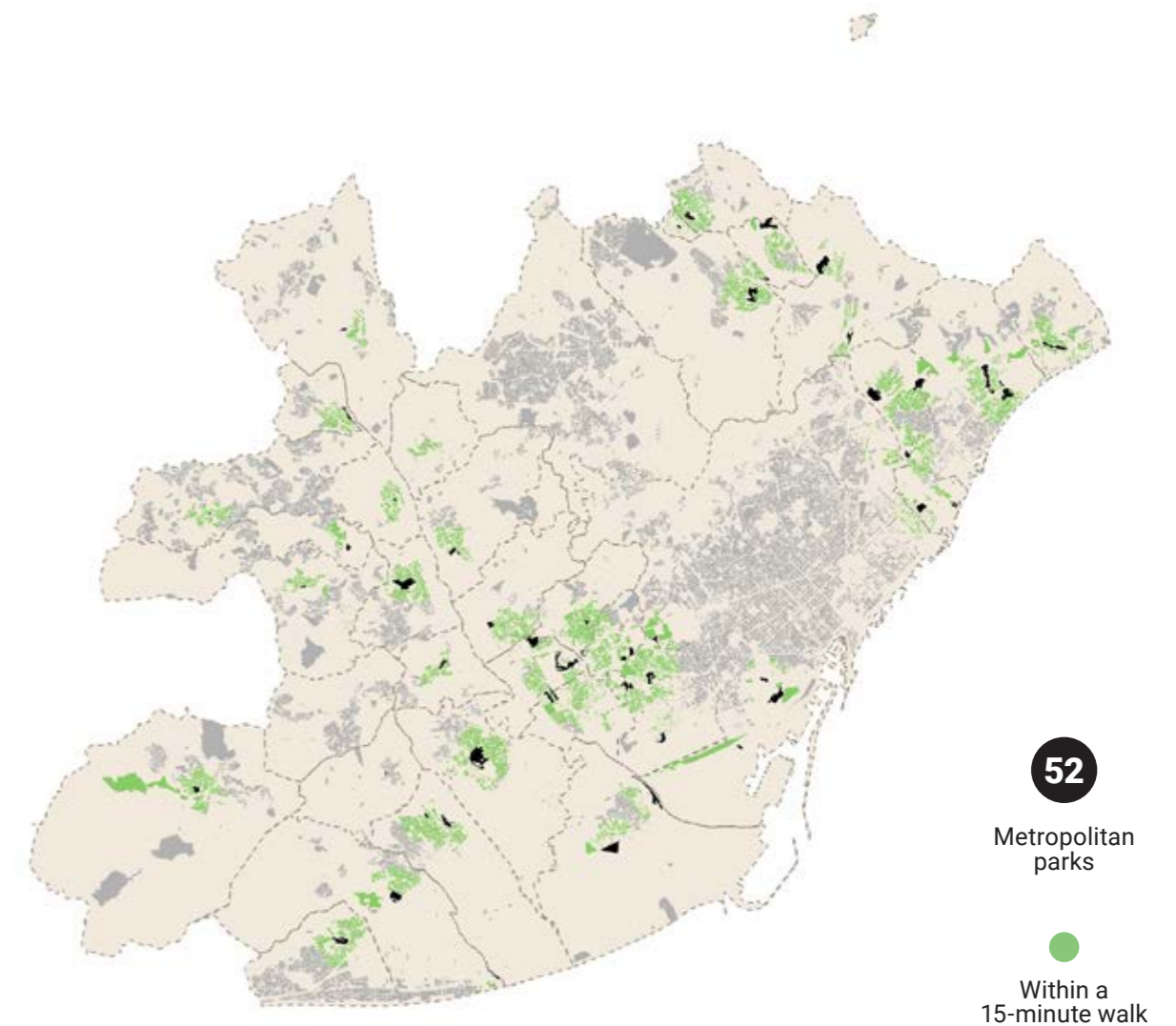
The AMB, in agreement with the metropolitan councils, carries out the integrated management of these spaces, such as the maintenance of the vegetation, furniture, installations, paving and built elements, and also promotes the parks through educational and environmental activities and proposals, workshops, guided tours, nature routes and family games, among others.

The AMB is committed to management based on the conservation and promotion of the biodiversity of the metropolitan parks and beaches. It is currently carrying out 16 biodiversity projects, botanical itineraries, a plants and flowers catalogue and an online metropolitan biodiversity fauna viewer, in which citizens can actively participate.



Can Zam Park, Santa Coloma de Gramenet.
Source: AMB

Metropolitan parks network



52

Metropolitan parks



Within a 15-minute walk



568

TREE SPECIES



198

BIRD SPECIES



1,410

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES (2023)



39,000

PARTICIPANTS (2023)

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



100.7 l

OF HOUSEHOLD WATER CONSUMPTION PER INHABITANT PER DAY (2023)

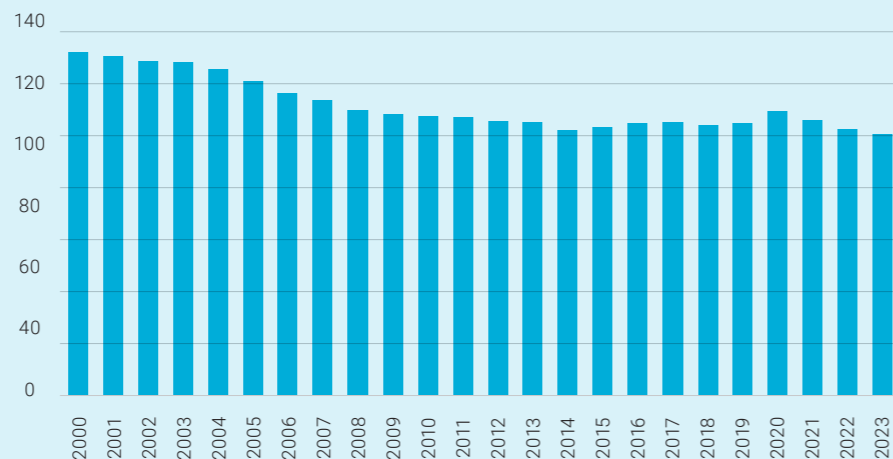
Water cycle

Urban water treatment is essential to ensure public health, environmental sustainability and people's quality of life. Safe drinking water is essential for daily activities such as hydration, cleaning and other household needs. The water cycle comprises the activities of water catchment and treatment, distribution and consumption, and the treatment of wastewater to return it to the natural environment without harming it or to reclaim and reuse it for non-drinking water uses.

The AMB is responsible for most of these activities and this favours an integrated management of drinking water supply and sanitation in the metropolitan area. One of the three largest drinking water treatment plants (DWTP) supplying the metropolis is located within the metropolitan area, that of Sant Joan Despí, which also treats water from the aquifer of the lower valley of the Llobregat River. Other smaller drinking water treatment plants, which treat groundwater, are located in Castellbisbal, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Molins de Rei, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, El Prat de Llobregat, Montcada i Reixac, Barcelona (Besòs) and Barberà del Vallès.

Sanitation includes the entire process of transporting and treating wastewater at wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The AMB manages this process from the connection points with the municipal sewage networks to discharge into the environment or the reuse of treated wastewater. The AMB facilities treated more than 305 million cubic metres of wastewater in 2023. Wastewater that, once treated, has received additional, more demanding treatment so that it can be reused, i.e. reclaimed water, is obtained mainly from the metropolitan water reclamation plants (WRP) located in Gavà-Viladecans, Sant Feliu de Llobregat and El Prat de Llobregat.

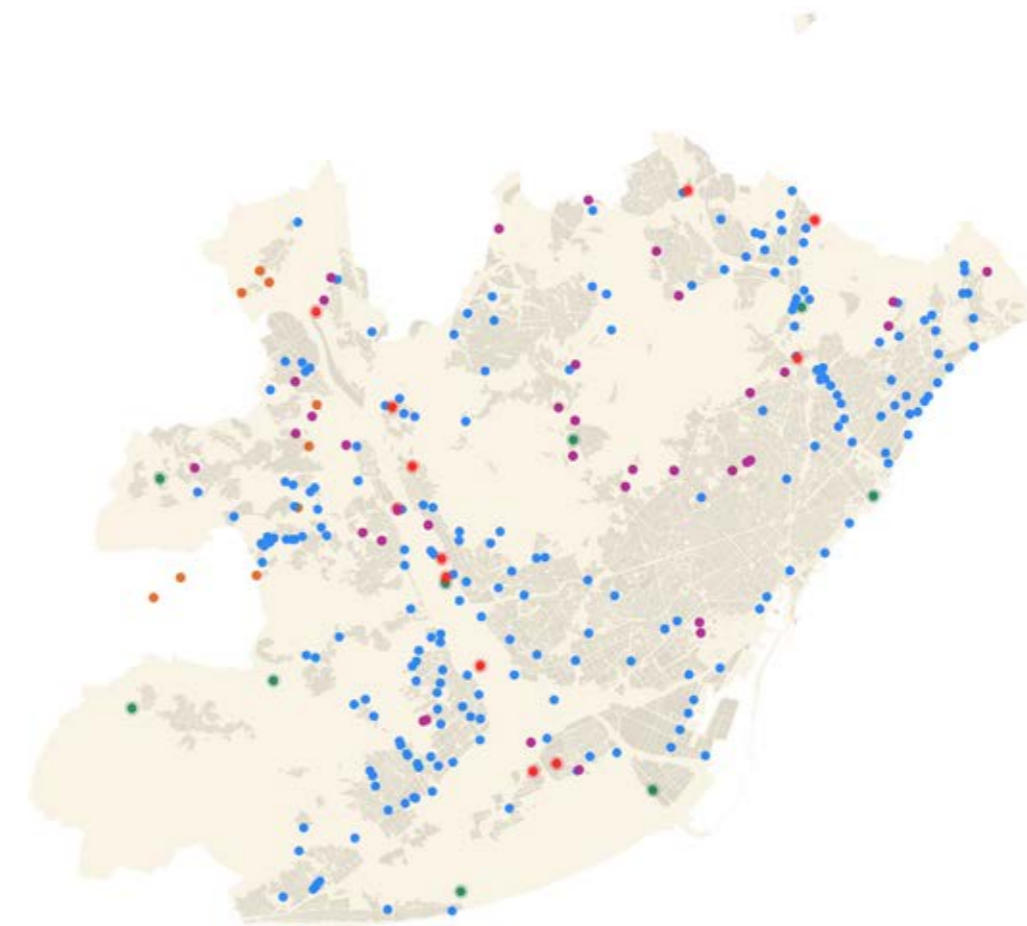
The AMB is pursuing the objective of reducing water consumption in order to preserve this limited and scarce natural resource, due to increasingly frequent periods of drought. In 2023, household water consumption in the metropolitan area was recorded at 100.7 litres per inhabitant per day, following the trend of reduced consumption in recent years.



Household water consumption (l/inhab./day), 2000-2023

Source: Barcelona Regional

Water cycle facilities



- 200** Anti-CSO and abatement tanks, and retention ponds
- 36** Supply tanks
- 52** New WWTPs
- 25** WWTP (improvement or expansion)
- 24** DWTPs



El Prat de Llobregat WWTP.

Source: AMB

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



92 %

OF THE POPULATION IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA HAS A MUNICIPAL URBAN AGENDA ALIGNED WITH THE SDGS

Urban agendas for sustainable development

Municipal 2030 urban agendas are key instruments for sustainable development and improving the quality of life in cities and towns. These documents aim to adapt urban policies to the Goals set by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, with a global vision, but implementing them at the local level.

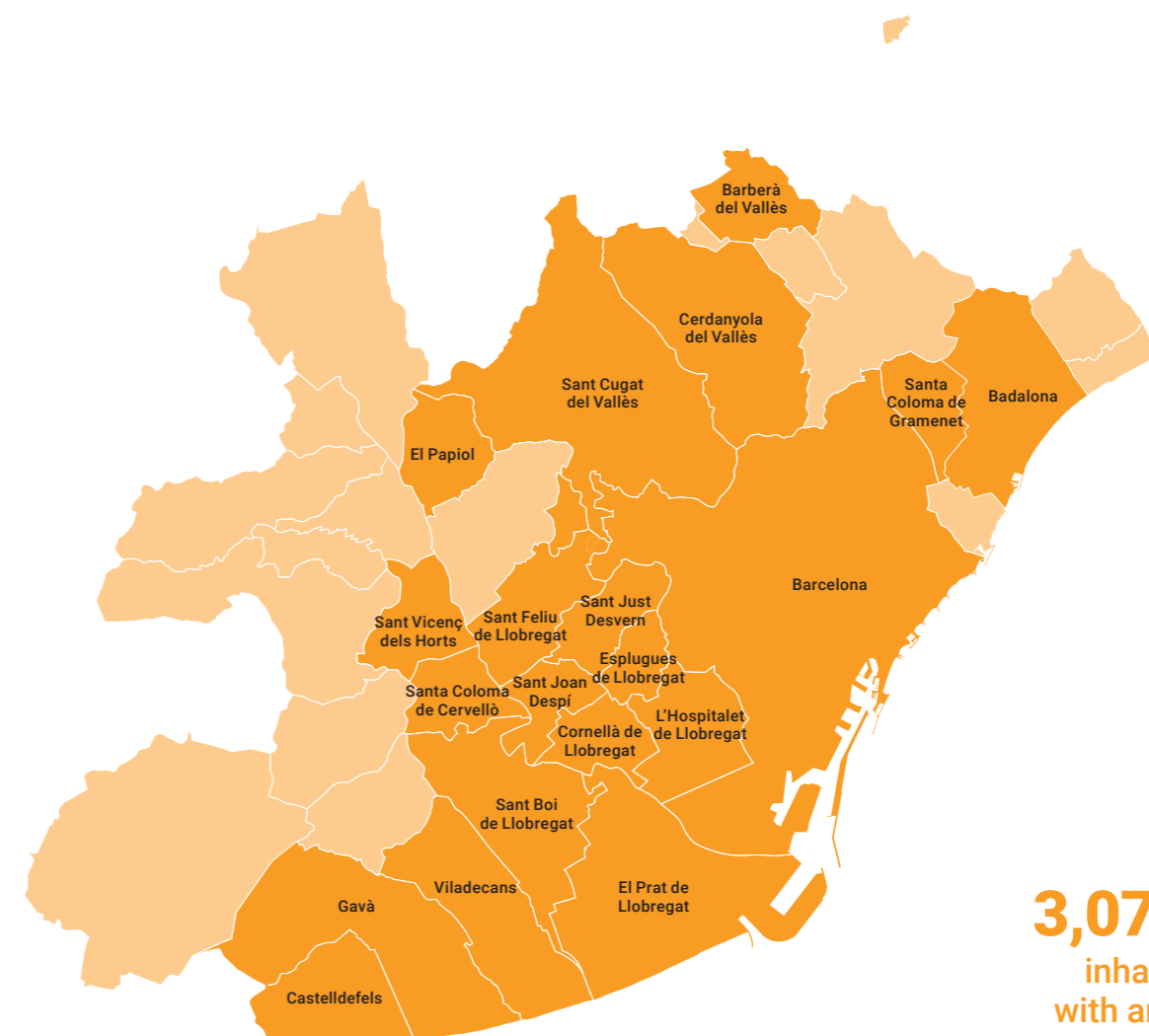
Several aspects make these agendas important:

- Sustainability and development: they allow municipalities to plan their growth in a sustainable way, integrating environmental, social and economic aspects, with the aim of minimising environmental impacts and promoting a greener and more climate-resilient city.
- Social inclusion: municipal agendas promote social inclusion by reducing inequalities, improving access to basic services such as education, health and housing, and ensuring that vulnerable groups have equal opportunities to develop as individuals.
- Efficient resource management: they encourage the optimisation of the use of municipal resources, including water, energy and public space management, and ensure a more efficient city with lower public expenditure in the long term.
- Citizen engagement: urban agendas promote active public engagement in the decision-making process, which increases shared responsibility and community ownership of local objectives.
- Adaptation to the SDGs: municipal urban agendas are a key tool in achieving the SDGs, because they adapt them to the needs and specificities of each municipality and set concrete targets for local development.
- Innovation and economic growth: they promote innovation in cities through the use of new technologies and by creating new economic models based on sustainability, digitalisation and green industries.

Of the 36 municipalities that make up the metropolitan area of Barcelona, 20 have an urban agenda aligned with the SDGs or are in the process of doing so. This means that 92% of the population in this area have actions and measures in place that involve moving towards urban environments that are not only more sustainable and inclusive, but also more resilient and prepared for the challenges of the future.

Although there are still municipalities that have yet to define their urban agenda, all of them have carried out actions that promote the SDGs, whether through plans, projects, strategies or management or dissemination tools.

Municipalities with an agenda



3,075,412 inhabitants with an agenda

20 municipalities with an agenda

- [Badalona](#)
- [Barberà del Vallès](#)
- [Barcelona](#)
- [Castelldefels](#)
- [Cerdanyola del Vallès](#)
- [Cornellà de Llobregat](#)
- [El Papiol](#)
- [El Prat de Llobregat](#)
- [Esplugues de Llobregat](#)
- [Gavà](#)
- [L'Hospitalet de Llobregat](#)
- [Sant Boi de Llobregat](#)
- [Sant Cugat del Vallès](#)
- [Sant Feliu de Llobregat](#)
- [Sant Joan Despí](#)
- [Sant Just Desvern](#)
- [Sant Vicenç dels Horts](#)
- [Santa Coloma de Cervelló](#)
- [Santa Coloma de Gramenet](#)
- [Viladecans](#)



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



3%

OF THE METROPOLITAN HOUSING STOCK IS SOCIAL HOUSING

Affordable housing

Half of the metropolitan population that is old enough to leave the parental home cannot afford to pay for housing, and estimates suggest that only 3% of the existing stock can be considered social housing. Every increasing difficulties in gaining access to housing or not losing housing hold us back from achieving of the objective of urban solidarity, while maintaining a home improves people's quality of life. The housing stock therefore needs to be refurbished to increase its energy efficiency, accessibility and comfort.

The AMB defines land and housing policies, within the framework of the Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM), with the aim of guaranteeing the inter-municipal solidarity of these actions and making the constitutional right to housing effective. It also holds the competences in land and housing established by urban planning legislation, by delegation of the metropolitan municipalities.

Similarly, the AMB carries out land-use planning tasks for the allocation of land for industrial and tertiary uses, promotes affordable housing developments and is responsible for the construction of public facilities commissioned by the metropolitan municipalities. The AMB's housing policy is deployed through three instruments: the Metropolitan Institute of Land Development and Property Management (IMPSOL), the Metropolitan Housing Consortium (CMH) and Habitatge Metròpolis Barcelona (HMB).

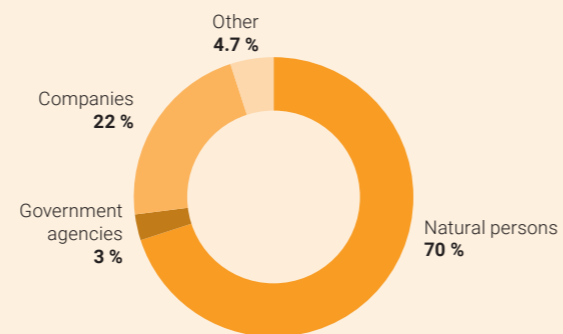
IMPSOL is a local public business entity dependent on the AMB. It promotes affordable social housing for sale that meets high standards of quality, design, environmental sustainability and gender requirements.

The CMH is a public body set up by the Government of Catalonia and the AMB whose general objective is to coordinate and promote housing policies. The CMH promotes both local housing offices (OLH) and citizen help and information offices (OAC) and supports them to ensure that all housing policies, activities and services reach all citizens. It also promotes the rehabilitation of housing in order to achieve a more sustainable and environmentally friendly housing stock.

The HMB is a mixed (public-private) company created to build 4,500 affordable rental housing units in the metropolitan area of Barcelona.



Home ownership
Metropolitan Housing Observatory



Housing situation in the metropolitan area

Number of dwellings

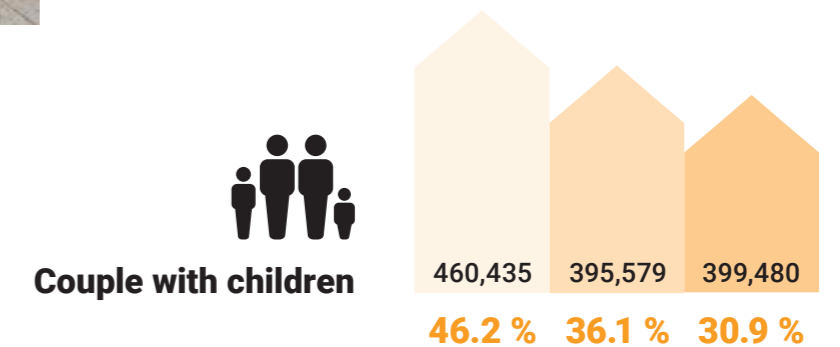
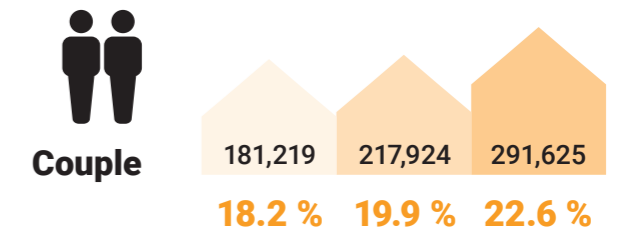
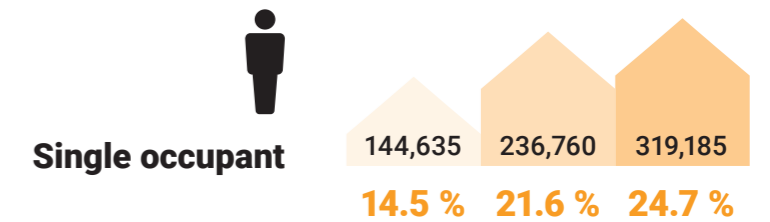
995,670
1991

1,095,667
2001

1,291,620
2011



PISA social housing development, Cornellà de Llobregat.
Source: AMB



Dimension of households

People per dwelling

3.57

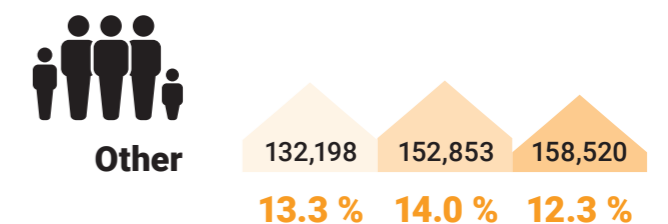
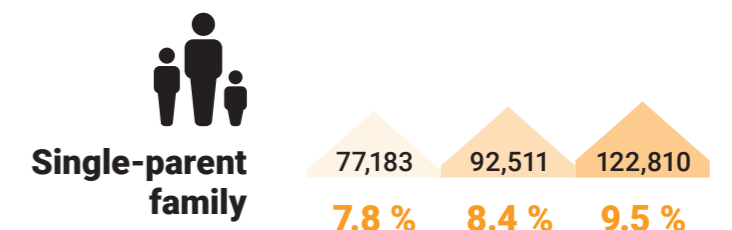
1975

2.45

2011

2.30

Future projection for 2042



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



76.8 %

OF JOURNEYS (AVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF BARCELONA AND THE REST OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA) ARE MADE ON FOOT, BY BICYCLE OR WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Sustainable urban mobility

The urban structure of the metropolitan area of Barcelona facilitates active mobility: it is compact, relatively flat for the most part and with attainable distances, and is dominated by mixed fabrics that mix residential use with local commerce, basic facilities and services. However, this mobility is not the same throughout the metropolitan area. The physical characteristics of the land and the settlement pattern have given rise to a heterogeneous territory in which imbalances can be detected in terms of the distribution of population and jobs, which are reflected in mobility flows strongly marked by these territorial components.

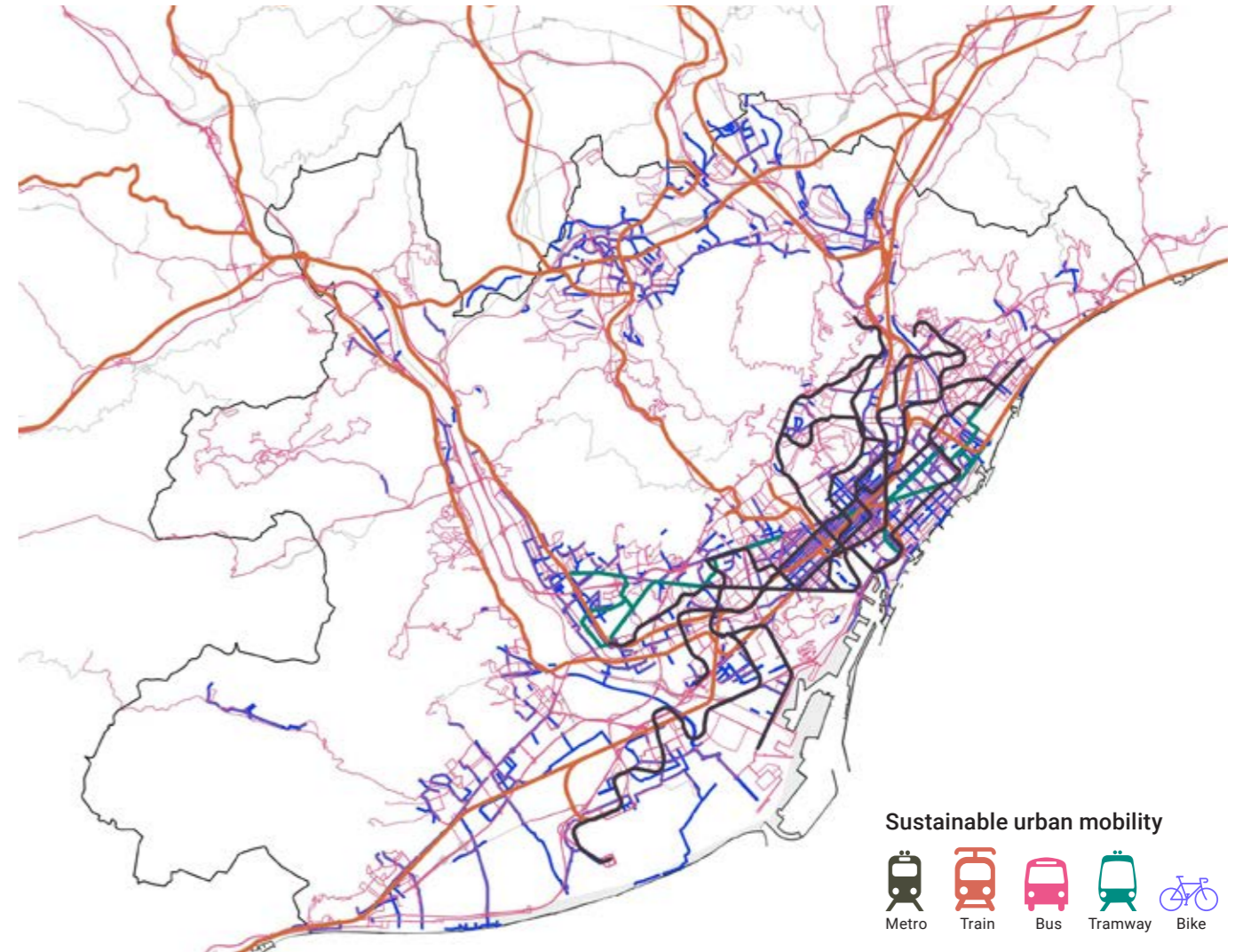
Therefore, the modal share differs significantly depending on in which metropolitan ring the place of residence is located. The majority of the population in the metropolitan area of Barcelona lives in the central part (within the ring roads), where conditions are favourable for the population to carry out daily activities nearby and the demand for mobility, especially by private vehicle, is reduced and walking and cycling are encouraged.

In summary, people living in Barcelona and the surrounding area make relatively more use of public transport (25.8%) and active mobility modes (58.1%) and less use of private vehicles (16.1%). On the other hand, for people living in the second metropolitan ring, daily trips by private vehicle equal trips made via active mobility (44.4% in both cases) and are much higher than trips made using public transport (11.2%).

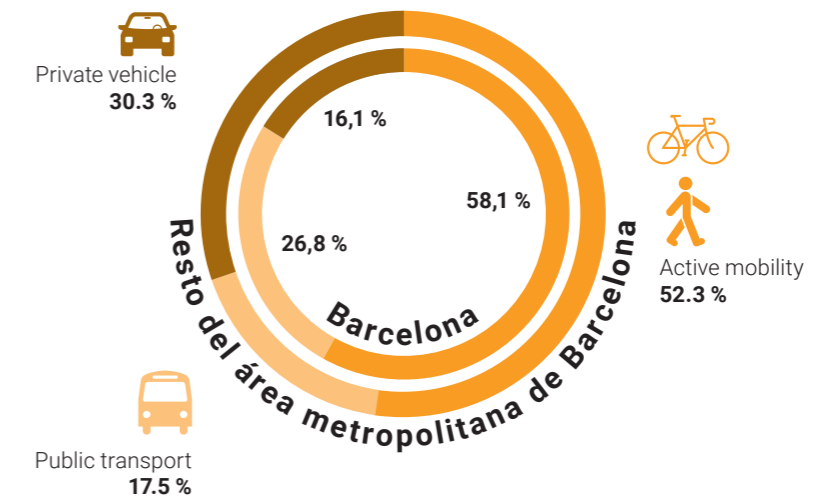
The AMB has a fundamental role in the planning and management of public transport networks. Its competences include the management of street-level urban public passenger transport, as well as the provision of metro and other underground transport services. In addition, the AMB regulates and organises the taxi service in the metropolitan region to ensure an efficient and coordinated service. It is also responsible for approving and implementing the Metropolitan Urban Mobility Plan (PMMU), which is the planning instrument that aims to promote the necessary changes in urban mobility with sustainability criteria to improve the quality of life of the metropolis's citizens.

The AMB also defines the basic metropolitan road network, manages Barcelona's ring roads and collaborates with the Government of Catalonia in traffic management. In addition, it organises and manages passenger transport for cultural and tourist purposes, delegated by local councils, and promotes the use of sustainable means of transport to reduce environmental impact. These competences enable the AMB to ensure efficient and sustainable mobility for residents of and visitors to the metropolitan area.

Public transport networks



Mobility Split by Modes of Transport, 2023



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



1.15 kg

OF WASTE GENERATED PER INHABITANT PER DAY

40 %

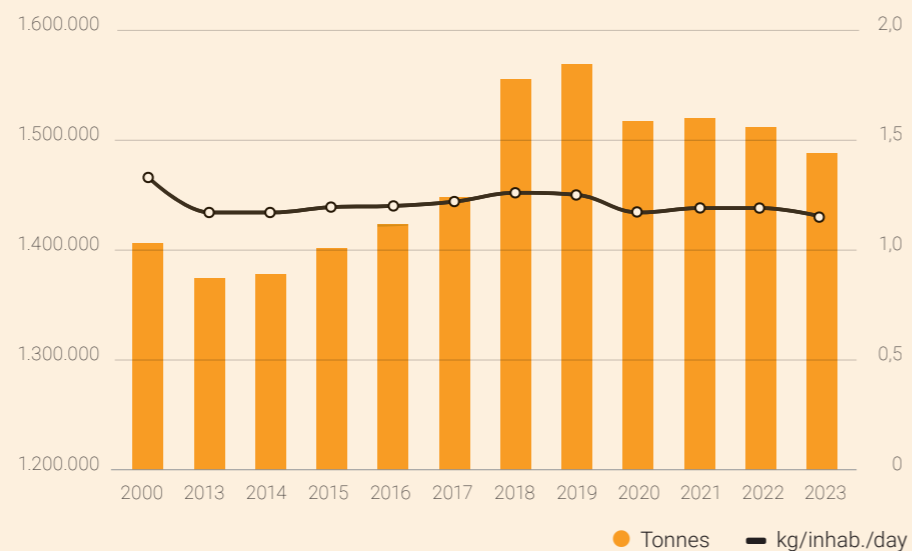
OF WASTE RECOVERED THROUGH SELECTIVE COLLECTION

Waste

The metropolitan area of Barcelona produces around 1.5 million tonnes of waste, almost half a tonne per inhabitant per year. This amount has been increasing since 2013, when, due to the economic recession, it reached the lowest since the end of the 20th century. From the point of view of resource efficiency, waste prevention is the best strategy, as opposed to recycling, as it preserves natural resources and avoids the impacts associated with extraction and production.

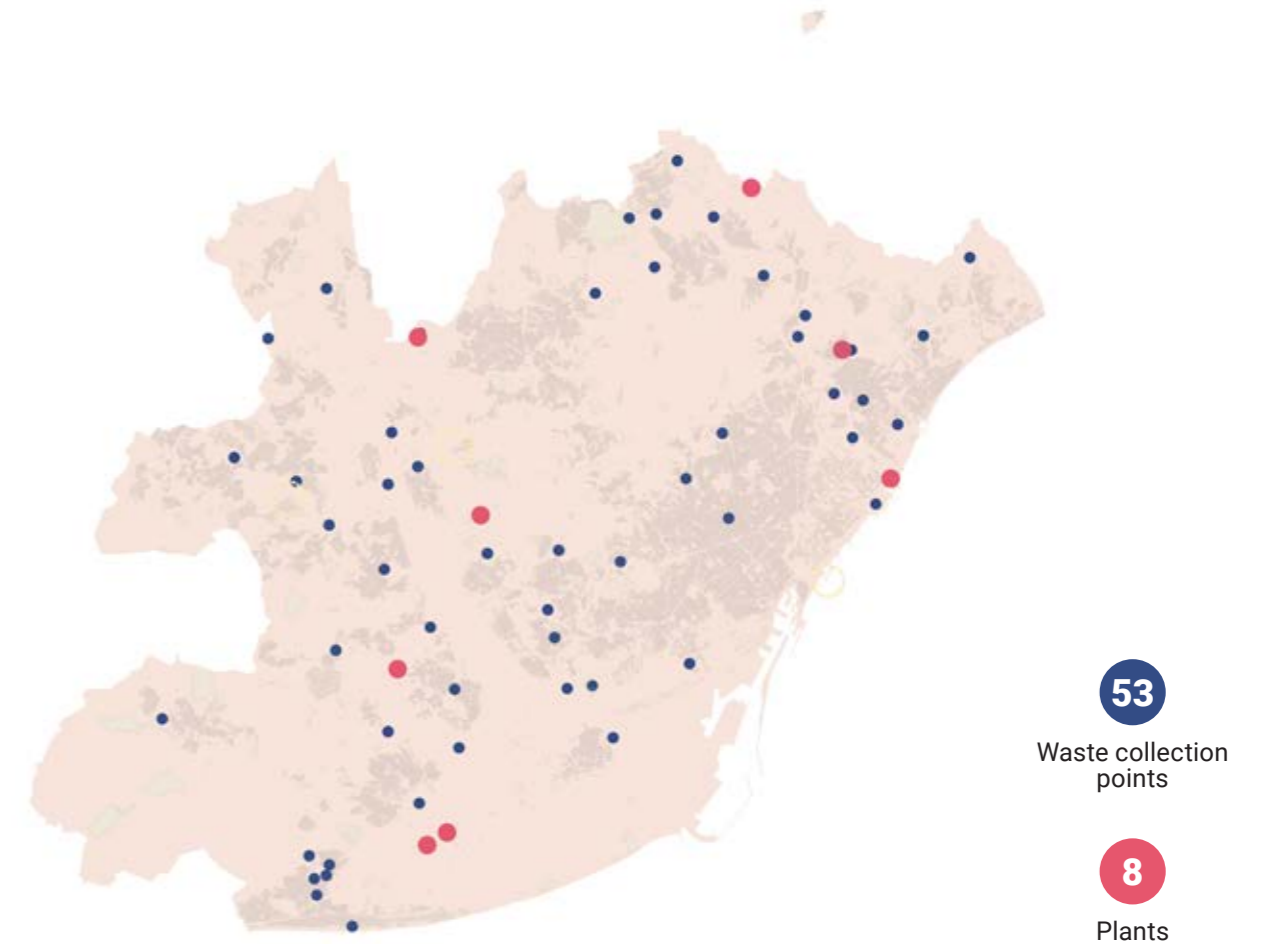
As for selective collection, it had reached 40% in 2023, but the current levels of selective collection do not meet the targets set by the European Union of 55% by 2025. Over the last twenty years, two different models of selective collection systems have been consolidated in the metropolitan area. The most commonly used is the kerbside or roadside container system for all five fractions. The other is door-to-door collection, which is carried out in the municipalities of Tiana, Torrelles de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Cervelló and some neighbourhoods in Barcelona. It is one of the collection systems with the best selective collection percentages and the one with the lowest value for unsuitable waste mixed in with the organic.

The AMB is responsible for treating municipal waste, while promoting its reduction, selective collection and possible use. The treatment of the glass and paper and cardboard fractions goes directly to a manager, while the fraction of light, metallic and plastic packaging is treated in one of the two metropolitan facilities on the Llobregat or Besòs side. Organic fraction is treated by an aerobic process to make a fertiliser for agricultural application in the two composting plants or in Ecoparc 4, or by an anaerobic process that produces energy from the combustion of biogas and which also generates a agricultural fertiliser in Ecoparcs 2 and 3. The bulky waste fraction that comes from municipal collection outside containers or waste collection points is treated in a metropolitan infrastructure to recover any recoverable metal and plastic materials, and wood is shredded to make new furniture.



Waste generation 2000-2023

Treatment plants and waste collection points



53

Waste collection points

8

Plants



Gavà-Viladecans sorting plant.
Source: AMB

13 CLIMATE ACTION



83 %

OF THE VULNERABLE POPULATION HAS A CLIMATE SHELTER WITHIN 15 MINUTES

186

CLIMATE SHELTERS, OF WHICH 71 ARE INDOOR AND 115 OUTDOOR

Metropolitan Climate Shelter Network

As a supra-municipal local authority, the AMB's capacity for action is significant and it has an essential role to play in leading and helping to build a supra-local response to climate change that integrates the entire metropolitan area. Local councils also play a key role in local climate action and are undoubtedly the driving force in getting supra-municipal institutions to take the right local approach to climate emergency response.

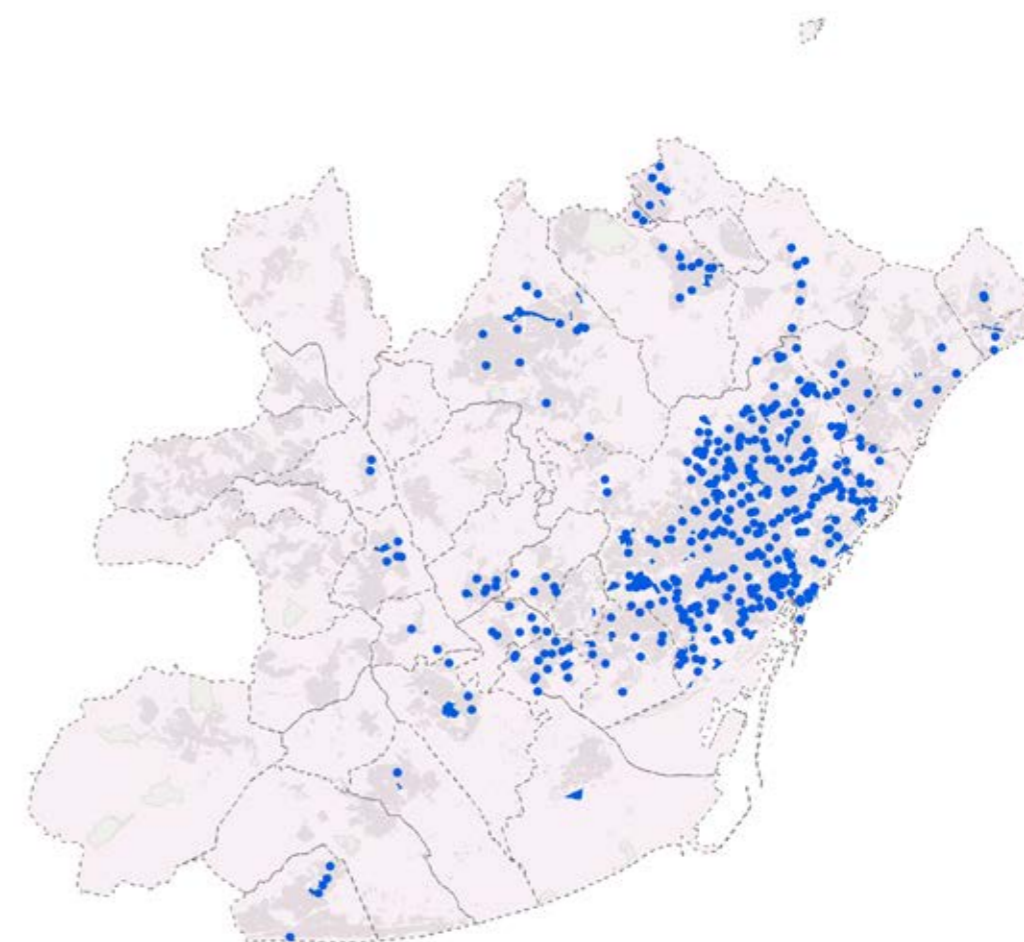
The metropolitan area of Barcelona is a territory clearly affected by the increase in temperature, the reduction in rainfall and the increase in periods of drought, flooding and extreme temperatures, which will worsen in the coming years. Excessive and sustained heat will have direct effects on people's health, as it will lead to increased mortality and morbidity in the population, in particular for the most vulnerable groups such as the elderly, infants, people with chronic pathologies or those living in the most unfavourable social conditions. This increase in heat will also have an impact on the quality of public space in urban environments and its use, as well as an increase in the demand for cooling systems in dwellings to achieve adequate living conditions.

A climate shelter is an accessible indoor or outdoor space that during extreme weather events provides comfortable temperatures, rest and security to the population. They are not facilities intended solely for this purpose, as they combine their usual uses and functions with service as a climate shelter during extreme temperature episodes. Climate shelters do not necessarily have to be air-conditioned, but they should ensure a comfortable temperature. In outdoor spaces, this temperature can be achieved by natural methods, such as water features or a high presence of vegetation, which helps to regulate the temperature and provides a cooler and more comforting environment.

The Metropolitan Climate Shelter Network groups together municipal facilities, such as libraries, civic centres and schools, and public spaces, such as large parks, which can provide respite from the heat during the summer period and in episodes of extreme temperatures. It serves to provide the public, and especially the population most vulnerable to extreme heat, with adequate spaces to recover from the heat stress caused by high temperatures on the human body.

In 2024 there were 186 shelters in 24 municipalities: 33 municipally managed parks, 20 parks in the metropolitan parks network, 115 public facilities and 18 swimming pools. Thus, up to 84% of the vulnerable population has a shelter in the Metropolitan Climate Shelter Network within 10 minutes of home. Climate shelters are therefore one of the strategies available in the metropolis of Barcelona to try to alleviate the negative effects that heat waves have on people.

Metropolitan Climate Shelter Network



186

Climate shelters



Climate shelter. Can Vidalet Park. Esplugues de Llobregat. Source: AMB

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



0.7%

OF OWN RESOURCES IS DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

56%

for international cooperation

44%

destined to global citizenship education

International action

The Internationalisation Plan (2020-2025) and the International Cooperation Master Plan (2024-2027) are the AMB's main strategic planning tools for international action and focus on guaranteeing the fulfilment of people's rights beyond the metropolitan area and on positioning the AMB internationally. The International Cooperation Master Plan (2024-2027) is the AMB's main strategic planning tool in this field. It falls within the framework of the PAM and gives continuity to the work the PAM carries out to address urban complexity and strengthen links between different territories around the world. Cooperation is carried out along four lines:

Direct cooperation with territorial actors

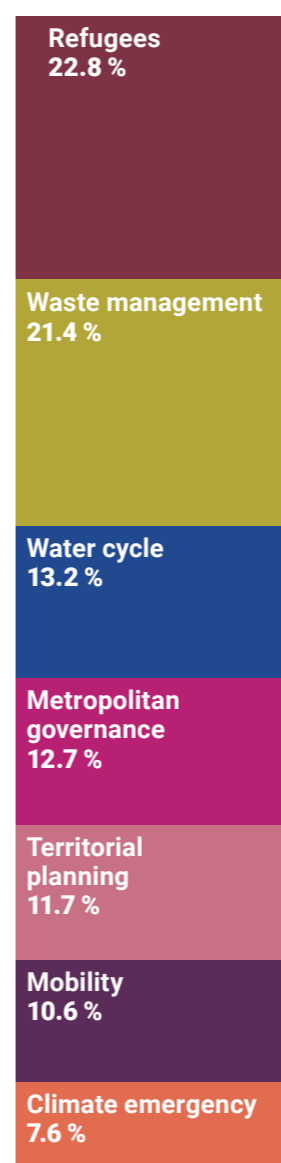
Mediterranean

In 2015, the AMB made a commitment to refugees in the Mediterranean, which resulted in the implementation of a specific cooperation strategy. One example is the support given to the countries on the banks of the eastern Mediterranean that take people in. In Lesbos, work has been carried out on recycling waste generated as a result of refugee situations and reception in the territory has been strengthened. In the north of Lebanon, a country that has taken in more than 1.2 million people, work has focused on solid waste management, one of the great challenges facing municipalities due to the large increase in population, and in Jordan work has been carried out on an ad hoc basis. Another example is the work implemented and consolidated in Syria, the main focus of forced displacement due to the armed conflict that began in 2011. Particularly noteworthy are the actions implemented in the north-east of the country, linked to health care waste management, where a system has been implemented serving more than 40 hospitals and health centres in the region. Three infrastructures for the safe management of health care waste have been put in place with incinerators, shredders for sharps waste and waste pits. A total of 54.4% of direct cooperation resources have been earmarked for the Mediterranean, 71.15% of which have been directed towards guaranteeing people's rights and environmental sustainability in Syria. In these territories, work has focused on waste management in particular, but also on water management, public lighting, solar energy and humanitarian emergencies.

Africa

Technical cooperation in matters of governance, public transport, the public space, mobility and gender has been paramount in this territory. Lines of work have been developed and strengthened in two preferential territories: the metropolitan area of Maputo (Mozambique) and Banjul (Gambia), and one-off actions related to waste management have been carried out in Kampala (Uganda) and Rufisque (Senegal). In the Maputo metropolitan area, the mobility and public space strategy has been consolidated. In the Banjul metropolitan area, market work has been consolidated and a model has been defined that includes waste and water management, the use of solar energy and participatory management in these infrastructures.

17 funded projects, distributed across seven themes



13 metropolitan areas with ongoing cooperation actions

Mesoamérica

In the metropolitan area of San Salvador (COAMSS-OPAMSS), the public space rehabilitation model has been consolidated to achieve safe, equitable, inclusive and sustainable spaces, giving continuity to exchanges linked to public policies and metropolitan governance.

Cooperation with local councils

Work is being carried out along three lines: a) coordinated cooperation, which enriches and strengthens municipal cooperation, enhances complementarity and achieves more impact, such as in San Salvador and the Gambia; b) municipal technical cooperation, linked to metropolitan cooperation, and c) a programme for global citizenship education, which has given continuity to the programme "We have rights, let's weave freedoms" on human rights from the local world, this year dedicated to environmental rights, the climate emergency, the culture of peace and armed conflict.

Cooperation in coordination with other institutions

Coordination has been maintained with public institutions such as the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (in the AMB is a member of the Local Authorities Coordinating Committee), Barcelona Provincial Council and Barcelona City Council. Likewise, work has continued with the Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation (the AMB is a member of the Board of Directors), and specific actions have been developed, such as the Cities Defending Human Rights programme, the promotion of the Climate Action Committee and a pilot project in Comayagua (Honduras).

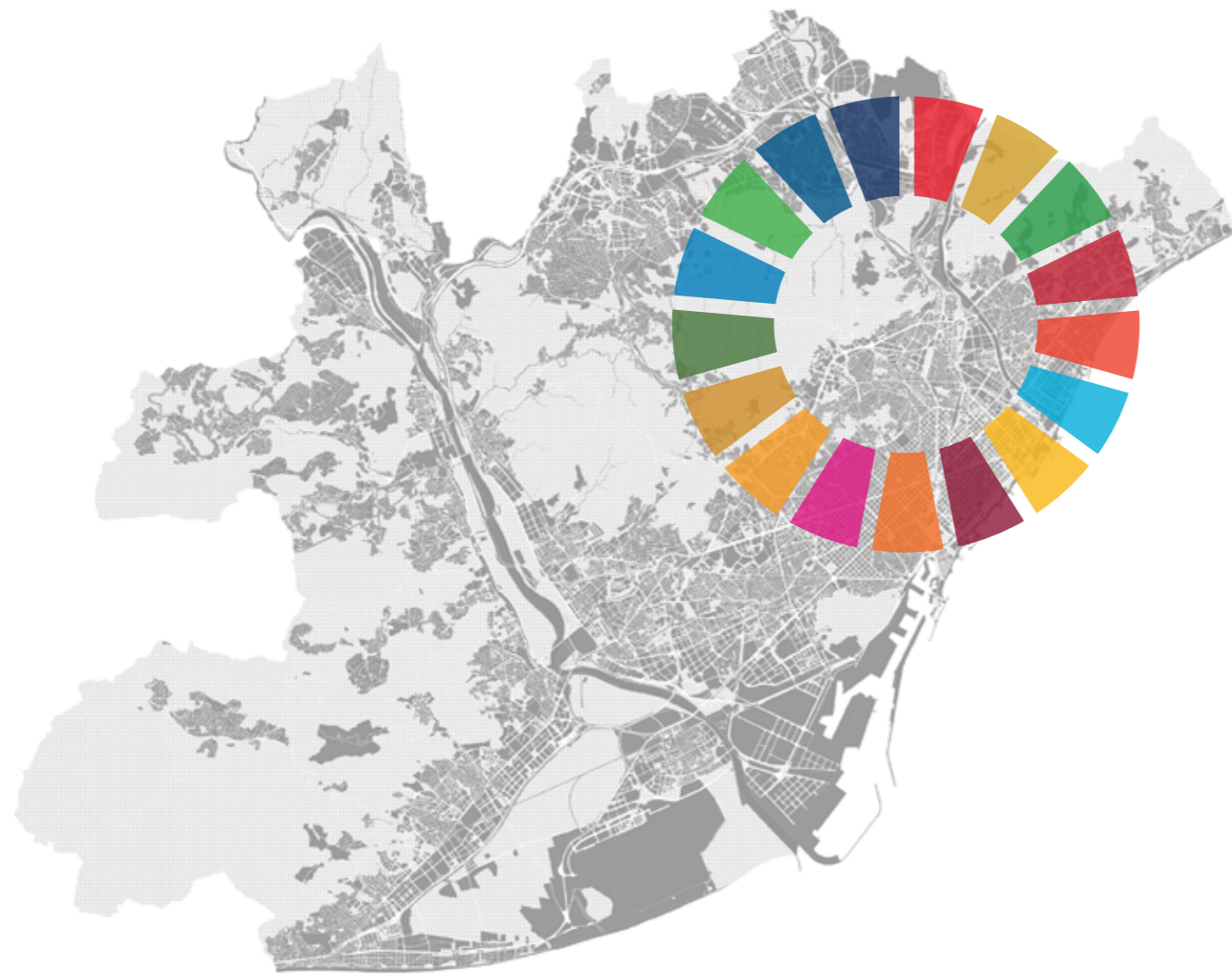
Cooperation actions with MedCities have been defined and implemented in the metropolitan area of Tunis (metropolitan strategy and waste management) and in Gabès (water management). Two projects are also being developed with partners in the Metropolis network: one dedicated to climate emergency and water management, in Bogotá and Mexico, and a second one aimed at reflecting on and exchanging and systematising experiences and challenges on mobility in Africa (AfricaMobility). It is worth highlighting the networking with French local councils and metropolises and the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation (Jasmins programme) to strengthen links and actions with institutions in north-eastern Syria.

Cooperation with NGOs and training institutions

Also noteworthy is the creation and implementation of mobility actions in the metropolitan area of San Salvador (with the participation of the Engineers' Association of Catalonia and Promoció del Transport Públic (PTP)), the organisation of the international round table at the "El transport públic és cosa de dones?" (Public transport is a women's issue?) conference (promoted by the PTP) and the setting up of agreements with research institutions (UB and UPC). The Transforma programme has been promoted, aimed at design and engineering schools and training centres, which are invited to contribute ideas and designs to projects in Lesbos and the Gambia linked to waste management and the circular and solidarity economy. Synergies have also been created with NGOs, both through the call for grants for cooperation and projects for global citizenship education (17 subsidised organisations) and through specific coordination actions such as the Office of the Historian of Havana, the Mediterranean Network of Women Urban Planners or actions linked to the management of green spaces.

The metropolis in action

The AMB has implemented plans, programmes and strategies that mark the lines of transformation in the area towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible metropolis, a territory of which we are a part and on which we depend. In this document we highlight those whose impact is key on the path towards this transformation, some of which are also innovative in their approach, process or roll-out of actions.



1
PAM 2024-2027
Metropolitan Action Plan



6
Climate and
Energy Plan 2030



2
PDUM
Metropolitan Urban
Master Plan



7
PMMU 2025-2030
Metropolitan Urban
Mobility Plan



3
Social housing



8
PREMET25
Metropolitan Programme
for the Prevention and
Management of Municipal
Resources and Waste
2019-2025



4
Sustainability
Protocol



9
Digital Metropolis



5
PECIA
Strategic Plan for the
Complete Water Cycle
in the metropolitan
area of Barcelona



10
Citizen engagement
and transparency



1 PAM 2024-2027 Metropolitan Action Plan 2024-2027

The Metropolitan Action Plan (PAM) 2024-2027 is the document that guides the metropolitan government's action. It includes the strategic lines and objectives and the actions for their implementation and execution.

The PAM has been drawn up on the basis of the Government Agreement established between the different political forces that make up the metropolitan government and incorporates the contributions of the members of an institutional commission made up of mayors from different areas and political forces represented in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. It also received contributions from other parties represented in the Metropolitan Council and is aligned with the SDGs and the Urban Agenda.

In addition, an open participation process was conducted with the citizens of the metropolitan area along with a consultation process with the main bodies operating in the metropolitan area.

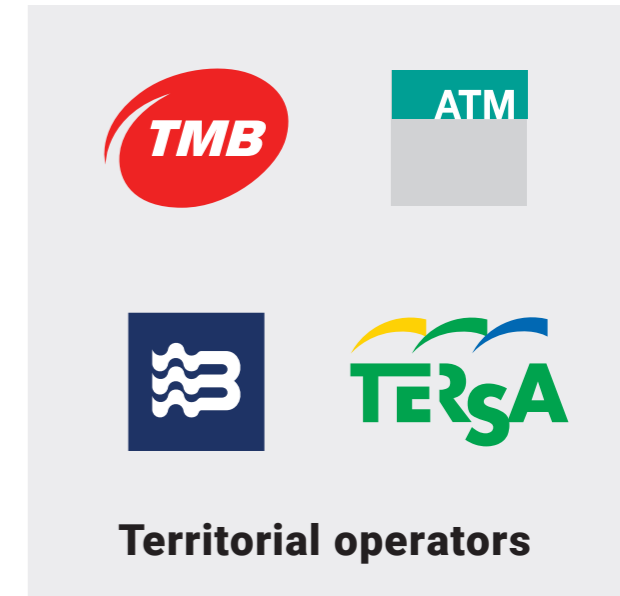
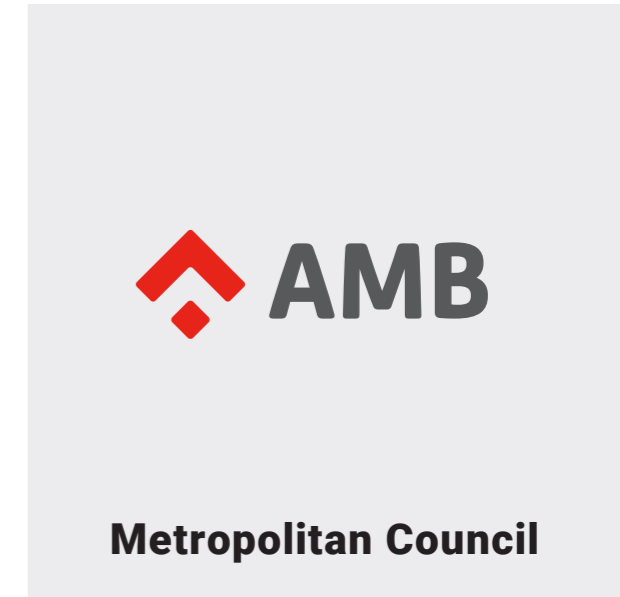
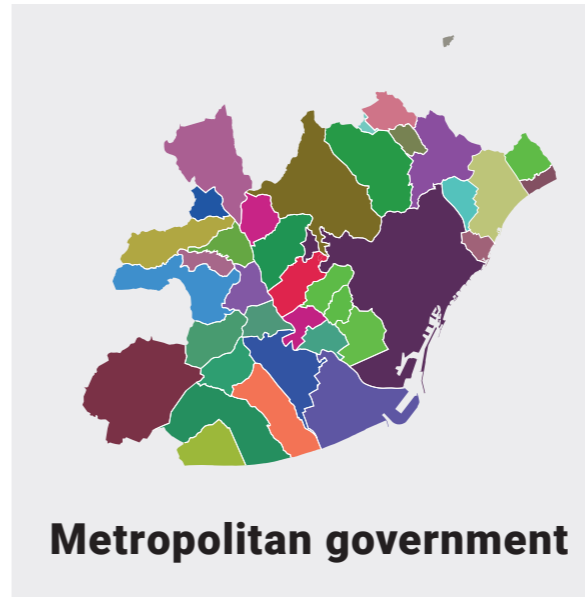
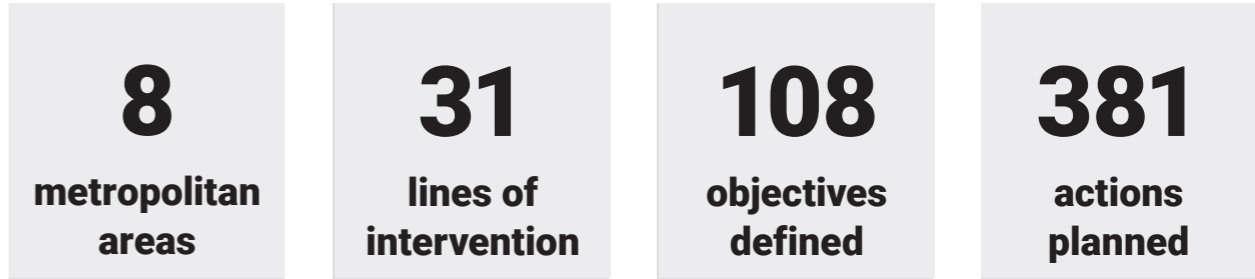
On the basis of the AMB's competences and means, this document seeks to move in a threefold direction: optimise service provision to improve the quality of life of the metropolitan population, complete implementation of the exceptional investment actions and plans put in place to overcome recent crises, especially Covid-19, and, finally, meet future challenges, such as territorial imbalance, social inequalities, creating economic activity and jobs, providing quality and affordable housing and the climate emergency, with all its consequences and implications. Particular concerns in the latter area are the water crisis and other environmental risks already facing the metropolitan area.

The PAM is moving towards solving the challenges posed by the area's ecological and digital transition and, in particular, the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence.

We also reiterate the AMB's commitment to the United Nations' SDGs and the 2030 Agenda to ensure development that is inclusive, socially fairer, environmentally sustainable and which drives cultural and technological innovation. The right to the city means, more than ever, the right to the metropolis.

The PAM has a direct impact on metropolitan citizens. For this reason, in addition to incorporating proposals from the different management areas into which the AMB is organised, it also carried out a telematic participatory process through the AMB's metropolitan participation platform.

In order to extend the PAM to the entire metropolitan territory, the general public, the most relevant metropolitan organisations and the 36 local councils that form part of the metropolitan area were given the opportunity to make proposals. This makes the PAM 2024-2027 a living document, which can be modified during its implementation to incorporate new decisions taken by the metropolitan government, such as investment plans, programmes and projects, among others.



Metropolitan areas

General Services and Territory	Water Cycle and Analysis of Metropolitan Policies	Mobility, Transport and Sustainability	Urban Planning Policies and Natural Areas	Climate Action and Metropolitan Strategic Agenda	Social and Economic Development	Area for International Relations and Digital Metropolis	Cross-cutting: different areas
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Number of intervention lines

6 2 3 3 7 5 3 2

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Promote policies and actions in the field of infrastructures, public space and green infrastructure that touch on a broad range of areas: metropolitan parks, river areas, beaches, agricultural parks and protected natural areas such as Collserola, among others.

Promote services and projects for a more equitable, sustainable, socially just and quality metropolitan area through investments; the maintenance of infrastructures, municipal facilities and green areas, and the environmental and landscape improvement of open spaces.

Strengthen the AMB tax-raising system while maintaining dialogue with the Spanish Government and the Government of Catalonia to obtain better funding, especially in the area of public transport



Achieve the maximum level of quality and excellence in the basic service offered by the metropolitan water cycle, in order to reduce the consumption of this precious resource.

Find new alternative supply sources.

Ensure the highest quality of effluents and wastewater treatment and reclamation.

Generate knowledge about the territory and metropolitan dynamics for the design and evaluation of metropolitan public policies.

Promote the consolidation of metropolitan food policies.



Maintain sustainable means of transport (walking, cycling and public transport) and shared and intermodal mobility solutions, responding to this metropolitan mobility model, both for people and goods.

Urgently address the objectives and targets set by the European Union and at an international scale on decarbonisation, climate change and public health (Vision Zero to end traffic-related fatalities).

Improve people's well-being and inclusion, and the quality of life in cities, where mobility plays a key role.



Finalise and deploy the Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM).

Continue the cooperation and technical and legal assistance tasks in the metropolitan municipalities in the field of urban planning and management with the aim of tackling different metropolitan challenges and problems.

Ensure the coherence of public policies for the protection of natural areas and guarantee maximum efficiency of the human and economic resources available for the attainment of spatial planning skills.

Improve mapping update processes with field review through a mobile mapping system, include new mapping and incorporating artificial intelligence as a support tool and 3D map production.



Address the climate emergency, in accordance with the objectives set out in the Climate and Energy Plan 2030 and the Metropolitan Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Comply with and develop the Catalan and Spanish laws on climate change, the Law on waste and new regulations to reduce pollution, and implement decarbonisation systems.

Anticipate and adapt to the impacts of global change, as well as establish assessment and monitoring mechanisms.

Spread the culture of sustainability.

Meet PREMET25 targets for waste management.

Establish new agreements, implement digitalisation and develop the Metropolitan Strategic Plan.



Give a social, community and progressive perspective to the new Metropolitan Municipal Social Policy Support Plan 2024-2027.

Implement metropolitan policies to address the challenges of urban life from the perspective of social and community cohesion.

Persevere in empowering people through training and projects.

Address the risk of social, economic and digital exclusion among citizens in metropolitan municipalities.

Take on the transformations of a new socially committed economic model as a business paradigm of "inclusive capitalism", of which the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time is an example.

Promote metropolitan policies to address disruptive technologies so that no one is left behind.

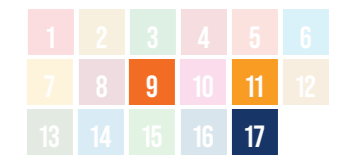


Position the AMB internationally and promote a digital and smart metropolis strategy.

Advocate and have institutional presence in international bodies and agencies; become involved and participate in networks of cities and metropolitan areas; share knowledge from exchanges and experiences with international partners, and participate in and lead projects on issues within the AMB's competence, with European or international funding.

Engage in international cooperation and programmes for global citizenship education in collaboration with metropolitan councils.

Commit to becoming a digital metropolis that is an international benchmark and that adapts this digital transition to present and future needs and challenges.

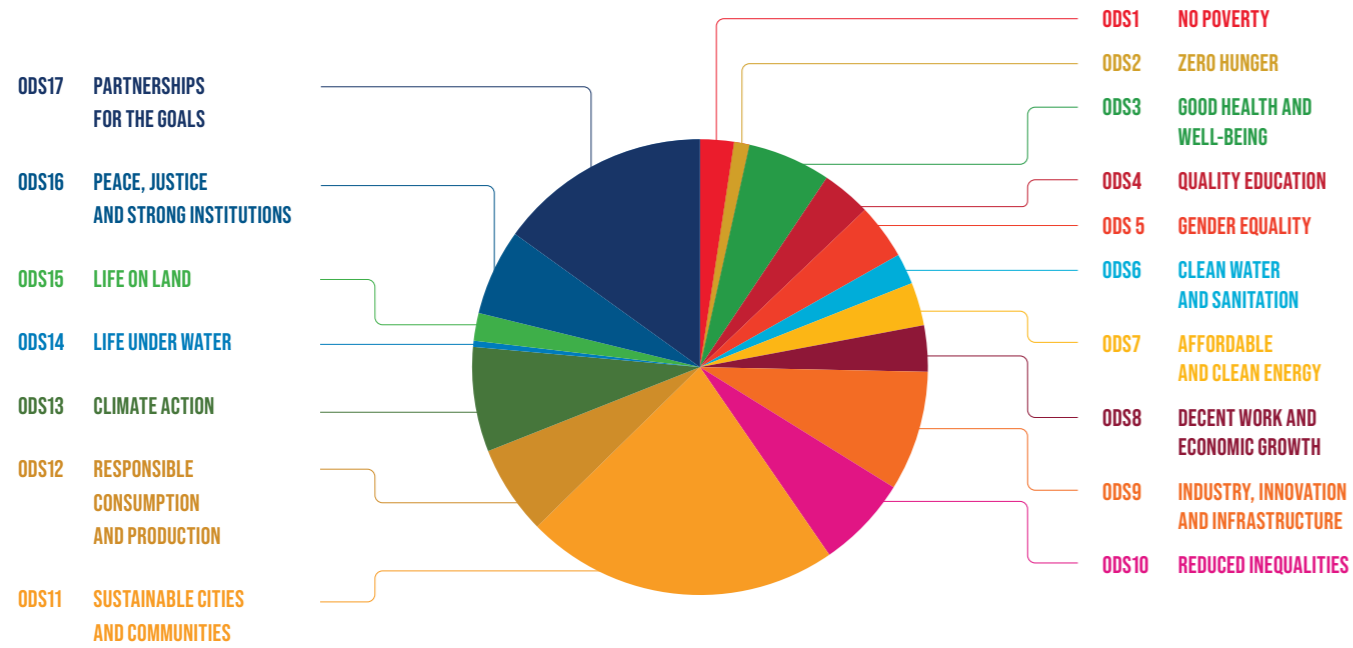


Position the AMB as a benchmark in the use of BIM methodology.

Communicate the AMB's government action.

108 objectives aligned with the SDGs

This graph represents the number of targets defined in the PAM that respond to the SDGs. Many are focused on the achievement of two goals, SDG 11, "sustainable cities and communities", and SDG 17, "partnerships for the goals", both of which are fundamental to the sustainable development of metropolitan urban contexts in order to achieve the international commitments made within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.



381 actions foreseen in the metropolitan area



2 PDUM

Metropolitan Urban Master Plan

The Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM) is, together with the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan (POUMet), the planning instrument for the comprehensive urban development of the metropolitan area.

As such, by means of urban planning regulations and development plans, the PDUM establishes: the classification of undeveloped, developable and urban land; the categorisation of zones and systems on undeveloped land; the reserve or delineation of structuring urban systems of metropolitan interest; urban transformation actions of metropolitan interest, urban strategies, functions and uses of land; environmental guidelines and landscape recommendations, common building standards and generic and specific instruments for the development of the plan.

Thus, the PDUM aspires to spatially shape a model of metropolitan urban development that has as its starting premise to respond to the needs of the metropolitan population based on the capacities of the territory, following the Sustainable Development Goals established by the 2030 Agenda.

This model is specified in 10 objectives that guide the regulatory determinations of the PDUM:

1. Reinforce metropolitan solidarity.
2. Enhance the metropolitan capital status.
3. Naturalise the territory by fostering the values of the biophysical matrix.
4. Improve the efficiency of the urban metabolism and minimise environmental impacts.
5. Organise the metropolitan area based on a polycentric structure.
6. Promote active and sustainable mobility by rethinking metropolitan infrastructures.
7. Strengthen social cohesion through housing, the public space, facilities and public transport.
8. Restore and recycle urban fabrics.
9. Increase urban complexity and habitability.
10. Promote the competitiveness and sustainability of the metropolitan economy.

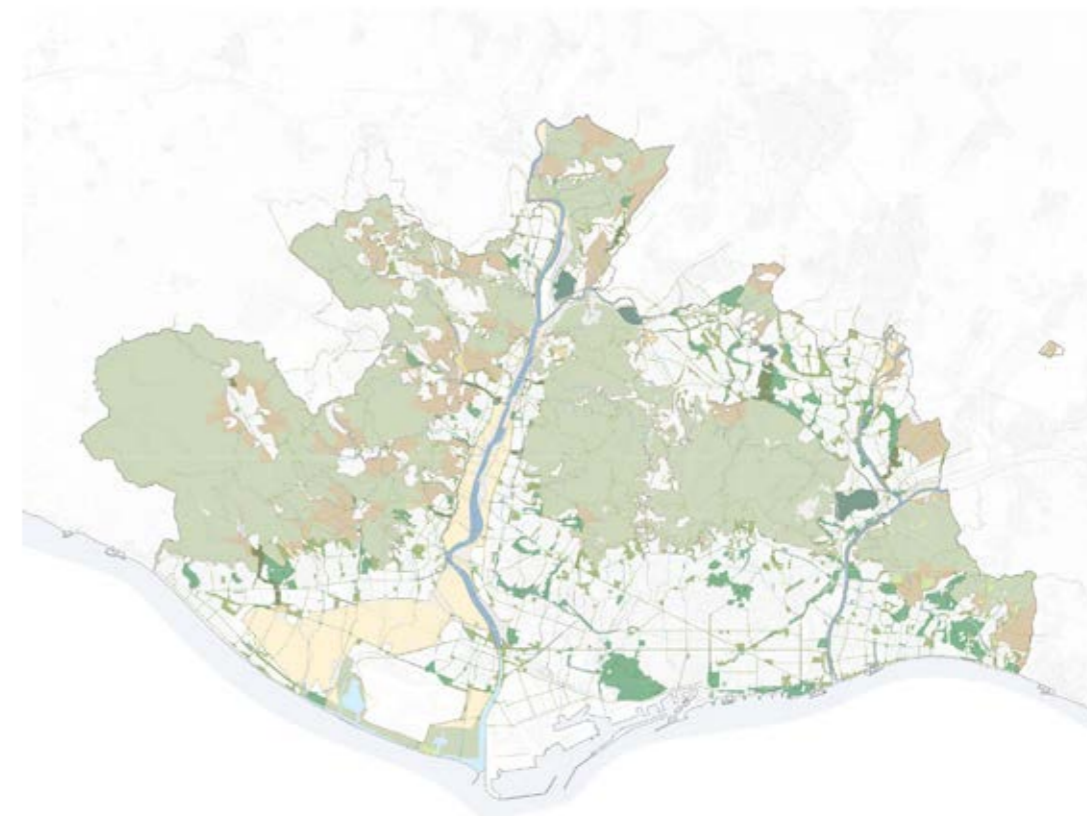
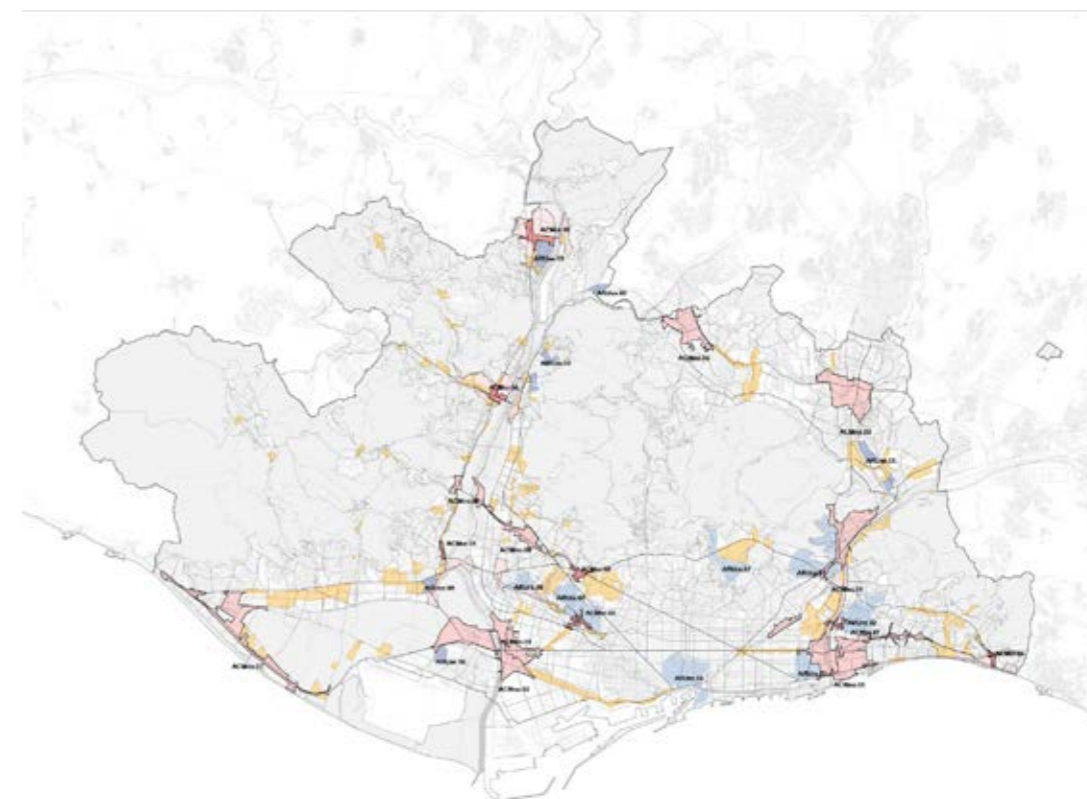
+27%
increase in public space

-50%
reduction in private vehicles

13
urban renewal areas

15
new areas of centrality

+1,970
extra hectares for the water system



Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact





3 Social housing

The PDUM aims to facilitate the right of the population to housing and the city. To that end, it must ensure that citizens have access to housing and can remain in it, by providing affordable housing for the most disadvantaged. However, a concentration of social housing developments should be avoided, as this could lead to processes of housing segregation.

The AMB currently has 13 affordable housing developments in the area and plans to build 4,500 new affordable housing units through the public-private company Habitatge Metròpolis Barcelona. For its part, the Metropolitan Housing Consortium (CMH) has approved the rehabilitation of eight housing areas.

In addition to housing, planning also needs to pay particular attention to the features of the public spaces to ensure their quality, and to enhance their role of exchange and coexistence, which fosters social integration. The removal of physical and psychological barriers, the consolidation of social spaces that foster civic cooperation, the recovery of parks on the boundary between the city and the natural environment in the outermost suburbs, and inclusive urban planning with a gender perspective must be the guiding principles for actions in the public space.



13 affordable housing development
8 approved rehabilitation areas
4.500 new affordable housing units

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact



4 Sustainability Protocol

Reduction of carbon emissions and energy consumption in construction

Carbon emissions

-40 % in new housing units

-53 % in renovated housing units

-25 % in the public space

Energy consumption

-40 % in buildings for tertiary use

-65 % in residential buildings



The AMB, out of professional and institutional responsibility in the face of the climate crisis, approved the Sustainability Protocol for AMB and IMPSOL projects and works in 2024. The aim is to promote sustainable public procurement practices in the design of buildings and public spaces by defining environmental criteria that go beyond the current regulations that projects must comply with. This holistic and cross-cutting tool establishes final objectives and specific values to be achieved, as far as possible, through programme and design optimisation strategies and by minimising the need to incorporate additional elements or technologies.

The Sustainability Protocol is a cross-cutting tool with a comprehensive vision designed to assess the environmental impact of decisions throughout the design and execution of architectural or engineering actions. It is a guide that, based on specific values, helps us make improvements in resource management, progress in reducing water and energy demands, limit the embedded carbon footprint and promote biodiversity, sustainable mobility, renewable energies and urban renaturalisation, all with the aim of mitigating and adapting to climate change within the specific reality of our environment.

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact





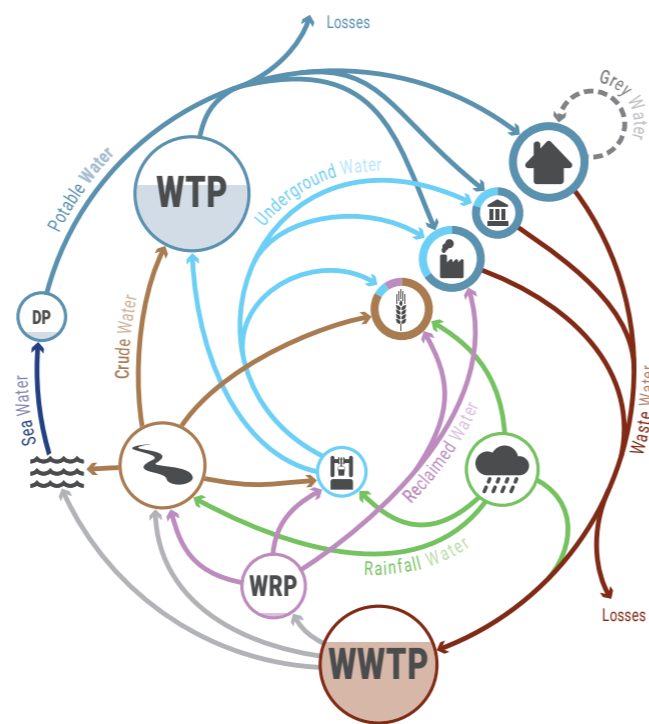
5 PECIA

Strategic Plan for the Complete Water Cycle in the metropolitan area of Barcelona

In a context of drought and climate change, the management of natural resources, such as water, becomes a priority to ensure short- and long-term sustainability. The adoption of circular economy practices maximises the use of resources and materials, promoting their reuse and reducing waste in all areas.

The AMB is responsible for the management of the water cycle: distribution and retail consumption, wastewater treatment and reclamation for reuse as non-drinking water. In 2023, and due to the new period of drought, the AMB drew up and approved a new Strategic Plan for the Complete Water Cycle (PECIA) to guarantee the supply for 30 years throughout the metropolitan area. The implementation of the PECIA means that, for the first time, a local administration is planning to act comprehensively on the entire water cycle.

The main objective of the PECIA is to put forward measures and proposals to reduce demand and increase resources from alternative sources, such as, for example, water reuse through the use of water reclamation plants (WRP). These measures would make it possible to diversify sources of supply by tapping into a resource that is currently scarcely used, thus securing supply.

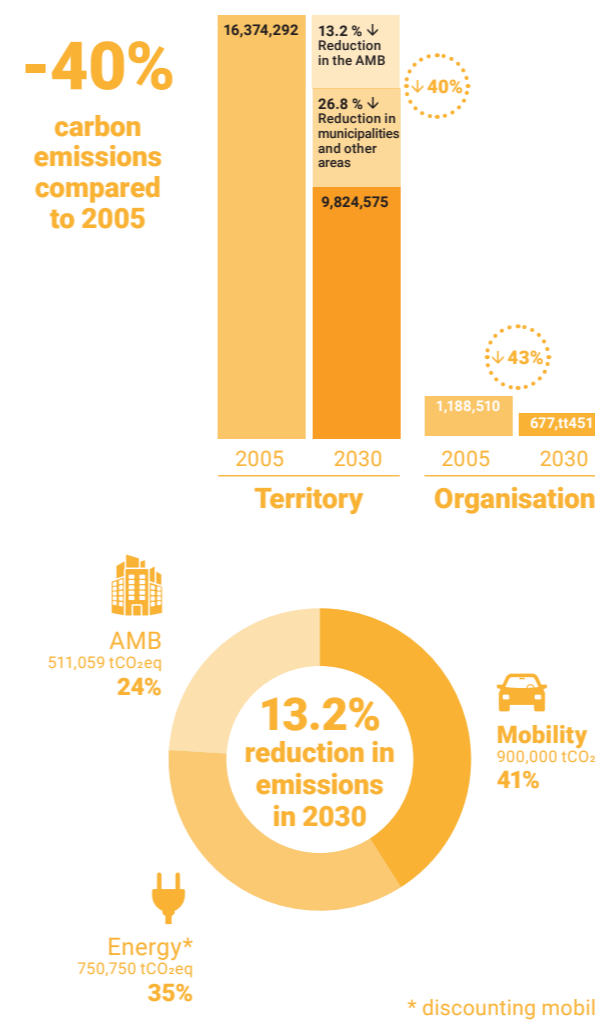


Reduction of the future estimated water deficit
44 hm³ → 25-30 hm³

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact



6 Climate and Energy Plan 2030



Faced with the challenge of combating climate change and becoming more resilient, and of changing the energy model away from fossil fuels and towards savings and efficiency, the AMB has approved the Climate and Energy Plan 2030, the main metropolitan strategy for combating climate change and carrying out the energy transition.

This is one way in which the metropolitan government is consolidating the commitment to reach the European targets of reducing CO₂ emissions by 40% in 2030, of reaching 30% use of renewable energies and of improving energy efficiency by 30%. The main investments, which are already under way, consist of implementing renewable energies in the area's facilities by means of photovoltaic panels, while favouring the metropolis's adaptation to the impacts that are already being experienced, such as the rise in temperatures.

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact





7 PMMU 2025-2030 Metropolitan Urban Mobility Plan

Today, competitiveness in the globalised environment of large metropolises relies, in part, on the availability of a transport system that can effectively and as efficiently as possible provide for the mobility of people. That is to say, with the minimum energy and environmental expenditure and, at the same time, guaranteeing accessibility for the whole population, whether or not they have access to a private vehicle.

The Metropolitan Urban Mobility Plan (PMMU) is a planning instrument that aims to promote the necessary changes in urban mobility with sustainability criteria, improving the quality of life of citizens. It also sets criteria and guidelines for the development of the Urban Mobility Plans (PMUs) of the 36 metropolitan municipalities, so that local strategies are compatible with a metropolitan-wide strategy.

Furthermore, in accordance with the cross-cutting nature of mobility, the PMMU includes proposals that affect other government agencies and, therefore, it is configured as a multi-level plan. In other words, meeting the challenges of metropolitan mobility requires the contribution of the agents and of all levels of government with the corresponding competences.



Health
Minimise the negative effects of mobility on the health of the population



Sustainability
Reduce environmental impacts and mobility's contribution to climate change



Efficiency
Improve the efficiency of the transport system to further economic and social process



Equity
Promote a fair metropolitan mobility system that guarantees access to public transport and fosters social cohesion

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact



8 PREMET25 Metropolitan Programme for the Prevention and Management of Municipal Resources and Waste 2019-2025

The Metropolitan Programme for the Prevention and Management of Municipal Resources and Waste 2019-2025 (PREMET) proposes a change in the metropolitan waste collection and treatment system, not only to meet European targets, but also to incorporate a new logic in the way natural resources are used and waste is managed.

PREMET is a strategy for action based on a new governance that is committed to reducing municipal waste, achieving a 55% recycling rate by 2025 and making the metropolitan waste treatment system carbon neutral.

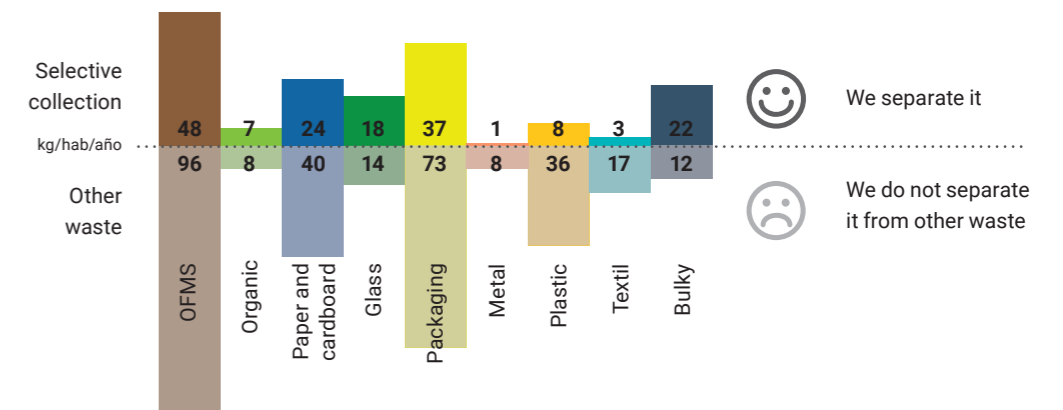
In this sense, both the SDGs and waste prevention are present in PREMETS strategy from the ground up.

To achieve this, PREMETS is divided into five strategic axes, which incorporate (1) the life cycle of waste from prevention (2) to collection and (3) subsequent treatment, as well as some core and transversal elements that make it possible for this cycle to work, which are (4) environmental education and (5) a new governance.

15 %
reduction in waste generation compared to 2010

150 kg
reduction of the waste generated per capita

60 %
of waste subject to selective collection



16 % of the content is not organic!



11 % of the content is not recyclable!



6 % of the content is not glass!



8 % of the content is not paper and cardboard!

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact





9 Digital Metropolis

Metropolitan areas around the world are creating innovation ecosystems, empowering citizens and contributing to a more prosperous, sustainable and digital future that prioritises social inclusion for all. In this context, the AMB has promoted a new process of generalised, cross-cutting and equitable digitalisation for the entire metropolitan area.

Through this process, the AMB will ensure the social and economic development of the entire metropolis, taking into account the particularities and singularities of each municipality and its citizens. Digitalisation is an essential element for this development and the AMB will ensure that the whole territory and the population progress under the same conditions.

Beyond digitalising the territory and training people, in the field of e-government (GovTech), for year the AMB has been implementing technological solutions to improve the its efficiency and bring it closer to citizens.

The AMB's digital transformation revolves around different metropolitan digital solutions, which bring together more than a hundred products. The aim of this technological ecosystem is to streamline processes, increase the efficiency of metropolitan public services and improve the quality of service to citizens.



Infrastructure

Develop the infrastructure necessary for digitalisation to avoid uneven implementation between municipalities.

Connectivity

Ensure infrastructure connectivity and data flow in order to increase the potential of these technologies and maximise their functionalities.

People

Involve citizens in the digitalisation process, an essential step to ensuring inclusion and maximising the benefits of technological advances.

Sustainable Development Goals with the greatest impact



10 Citizen engagement and transparency



PAM

Metropolitan Action Plan

PDUM

Metropolitan Urban Master Plan

PMMU

Metropolitan Urban Mobility Plan

PMES

Metropolitan Education for Sustainability Programme 2030

Citizen engagement is key to achieving inclusion and equity in metropolitan development, which is why the AMB has the digital platform Participa AMB, through which participatory processes regarding metropolitan actions of interest are carried out. The PAM 2024-2027, the PDUM and the PMMU 2025-2030 are notable examples, due to their impact on the territory and people.

In these three participatory processes, in addition to the digital channel for the open participation of all citizens, workshops, work sessions and other participation spaces were organised in order to take into account the voice of citizens, organisations, social agents and other bodies and to gather their proposals and reflections.

In terms of transparency, the AMB has a Transparency Agency, made up of a permanent team of management, technical and administrative staff.

This work team coordinates the deployment of obligations in the terms of transparency, good governance and public integrity established by legislation, through collaboration with the different areas of government of the AMB, services, related organisation and service providers.

To facilitate this mission, all units of the metropolitan government and public sector organisations have designated a figure, called a transparency liaison, to be the vehicle for the implementation of open government policies in their respective areas. This network of collaborators is made up of some 30 people who receive specialised training and act as a permanent channel for responding to Transparency Agency requirements that affect their respective areas of competence and for promoting compliance with the regulations on transparency, access to public information and good governance.

Next steps

The AMB's has made a firm and conscious commitment to the 2030 Agenda since 2016. The competences of the metropolitan government, related to basic urban services such as mobility and public transport, the management of the complete water cycle and waste treatment, make it a key institution for achieving the SDGs in the Barcelona metropolis. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the AMB has been attending international UN-Habitat forums and has participated in international city networks to raise awareness and promote this commitment to the SDGs at a local level and from a metropolitan perspective. But it has also promoted and encouraged

the SDGs in the various international meetings and gatherings it has hosted. This voluntary metropolitan review is evidence of this fact.

But it would be inconsistent with the work done so far if this review did not go beyond its own production. It would remain a half-finished job if it were not used as an essential tool for the future of the public policies for which the AMB as owner is responsible. For this reason, it is necessary to work on a set of lines and actions in relation to the review that the AMB will implement from now on with the aim of giving continuity to the work carried out so far:

1. Dissemination and communication both internally, within the AMB, so that the organisation's services are aware of it and take ownership of it, and externally, in all forums and networks of cities where any of the aspects or policies related to the localisation of the SDGs are debated.
2. Inclusion of the voluntary metropolitan review in the public policies designed by the AMB, as has already been done with the two previous metropolitan action plans (PAM 2019-2023 and 2023-2027), so that they are aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.
3. Monitoring of the objectives and indicators of the voluntary metropolitan review to enable traceability of the commitments and targets set out herein.
4. Strengthening of partnerships with international organisations, such as those already in place since 2018 with UN-Habitat, and maintaining the AMB's participation in international city networks as a strategic element in positioning metropolitan governance.
5. The search for necessary sources of funding to promote innovative projects linked to the SDGs that will make it possible to go further in the efficiency and effectiveness of metropolitan policies.
6. Training and education of AMB staff, under the criteria of the voluntary metropolitan review, to ensure an adequate transfer of knowledge in international exchanges and missions under the approach of the 2030 Agenda.

The world is changing fast and, by 2030, cities around the world will see the effects and impacts of a technological revolution that will change the way cities and metropolises have been built. And, in the face of this, a major challenge arises: moving from doing digital, adopting digital tools to optimise processes, to being digital, which involves harnessing access to vast amounts of information for decision-making, working to embrace the profound cultural and technological transformation that permeates all spheres of the city.

This is the will of the AMB and, above all, a sign of the commitment to think about the Agenda post-2030 and to prepare ourselves. The Summit of the Future convened by the United Nations in September 2024 challenges us in a future that is already very near, and the metropolitan areas and cities of the world must be prepared for this great challenge. It is a challenge that entails renewing the global commitment to a shared, equitable, more socially just and economically sustainable development agenda.



Horizon 2030 working in digital

Doing digital

- Converting physical information into digital format
- Integrating digital technologies into public administration processes (services and policies)
- Modernising work systems and ways of organising governments
- Automating manual processes and moving systems to the online environment



Being digital

- Using real-time data to make faster and more efficient decisions
- Delegating decision-making to strategic and operational teams
- Developing more iterative and rapid ways of responding to citizens' demands
- Rethinking the experience of citizens and making them co-participants and co-creators of public policies

Barcelona Metropolitan Area in action

Horizon 2030: towards a sustainable metropolis

Voluntary metropolitan review

