

Climate Emergency and Cities: An urban-led mobilisation?

The Climate Decade's priorities for urban climate action, policy and research

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Their activism has resonated around the world: from the School Strikes for Climate initiated by Greta Thunberg in August 2018, to her “how dare you?” speech at the United Nations this September, the non-violent actions of Extinction Rebellion kick-

taxes. These, it is argued, could have been

city network has also endorsed the Fridays for Future initiative.

By far the most important push by the world's most influential cities embracing the climate emergency happened just last week at the 2019 C40 Summit in Copenhagen. C40 cities have recognised the climate emergency as one of the four principles of a Global Green New Deal (Hidalgo and Garcetti 2019) and the network has emphatically added its support for such a global response as advocated for by the UN in September 2019 (UNCTAD 2019). Related statements by C40 Mayors included (C40 2019a):

- "We are entering a make-or-break decade for the preservation of our planet and environmental justice for every community" - Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti
- "Climate emergency is an agenda that must be recognized for all and cities have a great role to play in fighting climate change." - Mayor of São Paulo, Bruno Covas
- "In Milan, the motion for the declaration of climate emergency by the City Council has further enhanced the engagement of citizens, students, schoolchildren, business and the third

4 Urbanising the climate emergency

5.2 Contributing to the Climate Decade

Some of this is already beginning to emerge. Our latest multi-partner report by the Coalition for Urban Transitions, "Climate Emergency. Urban Opportunity", not only recognises the new urgency

Levitz, Eric (2019). Humanity is about to kill 1 million species in a globe-spanning murder-suicide. *New York Magazine*.

McGrath, Matt (2019). Climate Change: 12 years to save the planet? Make that 18 months. *BBC News*. London.

McKibben, Bill (2016). *A World at War: We're under attack from climate change—and our only hope is to mobilize like we did in WWII*. *New Republic*.