

Foreword



Buildings shape the iconic skylines of our global megacities. For many of these cities, buildings also hold the key to tackling climate change. Building energy use is one of the leading sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in cities – almost half of the emissions from member cities of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) come from energy consumed in buildings¹.

The importance of building energy efficiency is indisputable. It cuts emissions, it cuts energy bills, and it can bring a whole host of additional benefits: healthier workplaces, new jobs and greater energy security, to name but a few. However, although the benefits of efficient buildings are obvious, time and resources are often in short supply in city administrations, and city officials need to know quickly what has worked in other cities, and how exactly it was achieved. And, if they run up against barriers, they need allies.

Tokyo co-leads a network of cities committed not only to tackling energy efficiency in their own buildings, but also to collaborating with others so they can take faster action, and have more impact. The Private Building Efficiency Network is one of 15 networks run by C40, a group of the world's megacities taking action on climate change together. Each network links officials working on a different aspect of climate change, such as waste or transport. Cities in the Private Building Efficiency Network are already pioneering new policies for their buildings, often moving faster than nations or regions. Despite this, there is an evidence gap on what is happening at the city level. It was through discussions with fellow members of the Network that Tokyo saw the need to capture best practice from cities around the world, and share it.

The resulting report, *Urban Efficiency: A Global Survey of Building Energy Efficiency Policies in Cities*, is a compelling example of C40 cities collaborating, freely sharing their information for the collective good. It was made possible by the foresight and generosity of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and C40 is privileged to be a partner.

For a city just starting out in energy efficiency, this report offers a menu of possibilities. For a city in the midst of implementation, it's a guide to finding solutions to common challenges. For a city that has just completed a programme, it's an inspiration of where to go next.

For the rest of the world, it's concrete proof of how C40 cities are leading the way on climate change solutions.

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¹ C40 Climate Leadership Group and Arup (2011) *Climate Action in Megacities 1.0*.