



1. SUMMARY

The Sixth Report on Local Policies to fight Climate Change follows on from the work that has been carried out since 2007 when the first report of this kind was published.

This report aims to identify the actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation implemented by the members of Spanish Network of Cities for Climate (in Spanish RECC, Red Española de Ciudades por el Clima) and to analyse their evolution compared to previous reports. In turn, it aims to create a useful instrument for consultation and assistance to local governments on different issues within their competence, so they can keep promoting the development of effective policies against climate change.

In order to elaborate the report, it was possible to count on the collaboration of 45 Municipalities and 3 Provincial Councils, representing 15.19% of RECC's members. Participants provided valuable information by answering to questionnaires combining closed and open-ended questions on climate change mitigation and adaptation plans implemented at the municipal level, as well as actions developed in sectors of municipal competence that are crosswise related to emissions reduction and adaptation.

Additionally, strategies and commitments related to climate change at international, European, national and local levels have been summarised, different successful practical experiences have been compiled, and possible lines of financing for municipalities have been identified.

THE NETWORK IN FIGURES

As of 31st December 2019, the RECC consists of 316 local entities, including 303 Municipalities, 9 Provincial Councils, 2 Island Councils (Balearic Islands), 1 Cabildo (Island council in the Canary Islands), 1 Association of Municipalities, and 2 observers. In total, this represents 62.4% of the Spanish population.



62.4 % of the Spanish population (29,371,315 inhabitants) live in a municipality committed to the goal of guaranteeing citizens' life quality through the application of policies that are environmentally friendly and committed to fighting climate change.

OVERALL SITUATION OF LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

According to United Nations data, cities cover only 3% of the Earth's surface worldwide but are accountable for 60 to 80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions. For this reason, the development of initiatives to reduce emissions at the municipal level play a key role in fighting climate change. On the other hand, the development of adaptation strategies at the local or regional level is essential, since impacts and vulnerability are specific to each region. Vulnerability to climate change depends on the physical, biological, ecological, economic, social and cultural characteristics of each territory.

Adaptation has been particularly relevant since the Paris agreement (2015) so that although municipalities are gradually incorporating adaptation plans, in general terms their level of development is considerably lower compared to municipal mitigation or emissions reduction plans. Only 28.9% of the entities surveyed have adaptation plans, while 71.1% have already developed emission reduction plans. In both cases, these figures mark an increase compared to the data reflected in the 2016 Report. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning that most of the specific plans on climate change have been developed through the Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP), and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), by the entities which signed up to the Covenant of Mayors.

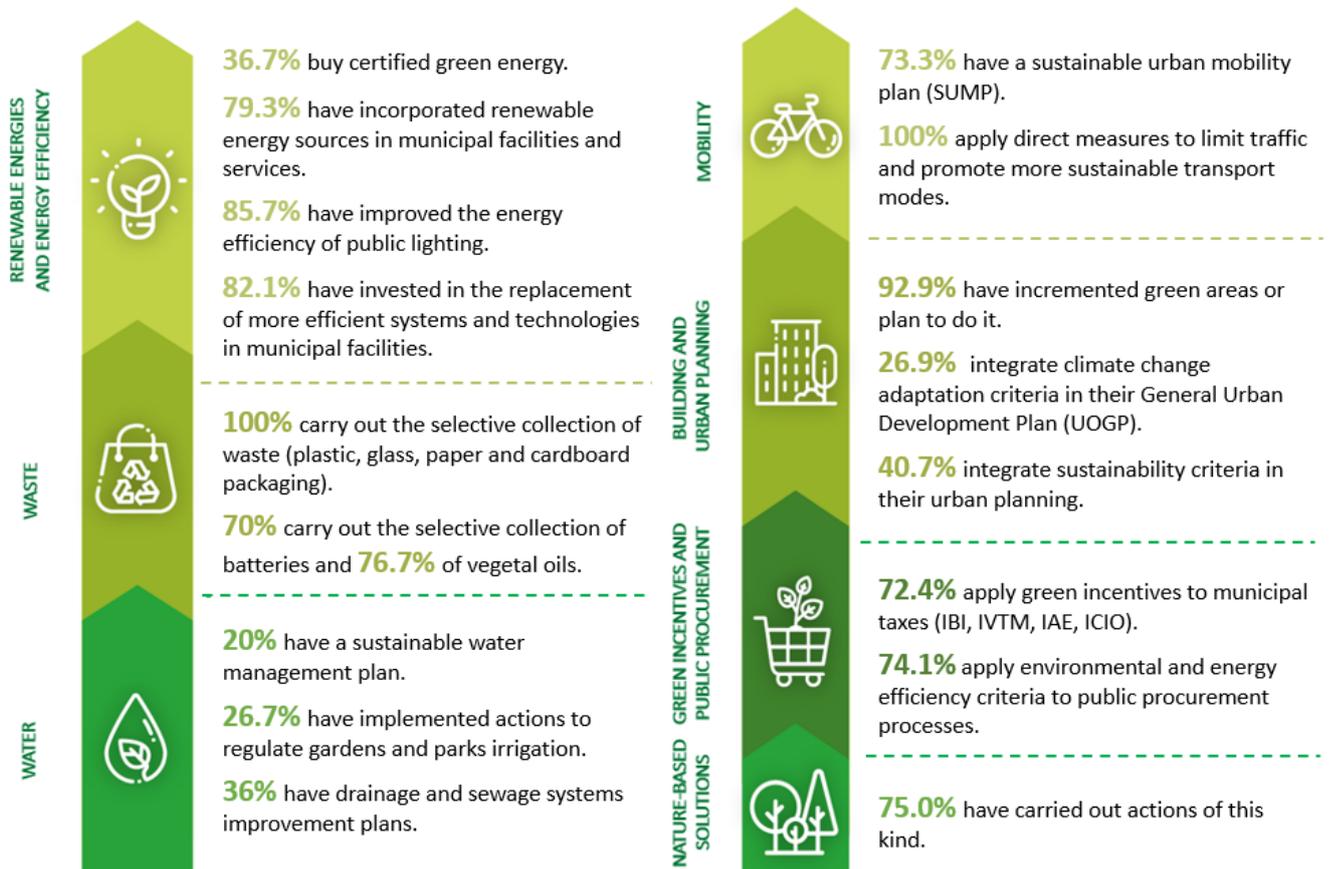


Out of the municipalities participating in the study, 87.2% have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors, committing themselves to reduce their emissions by 20% by 2020. Besides, 71.4% have set a 40% reduction target for 2030, and 68.9% of the municipalities have committed to establishing climate change adaptation plans and strategies.

Between 2017 and 2019, 35.6% of the municipalities calculated the municipal carbon footprint, whether or not they recorded it in the *MITERD's Register of Carbon Footprint, Compensation and Carbon Dioxide Absorption Projects (RD 163/2014)*, and 48% have launched reforestation projects and initiatives, although most of them have not been registered in the Register mentioned above.

SECTOR-BASED DIAGNOSTICS

Overall, there is an increase in the number of actions carried out by municipalities at the sector level, compared to data recorded in the previous report, which shows the growing involvement of local authorities in the fight against climate change.



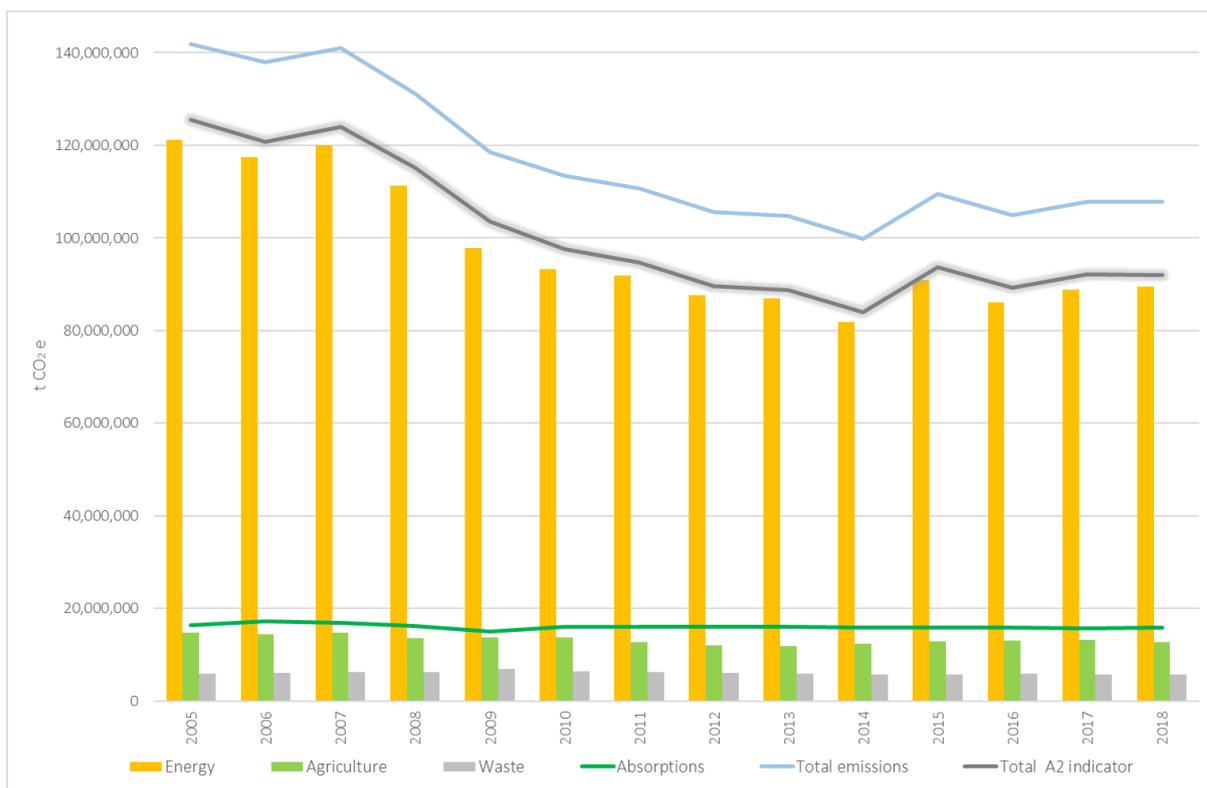
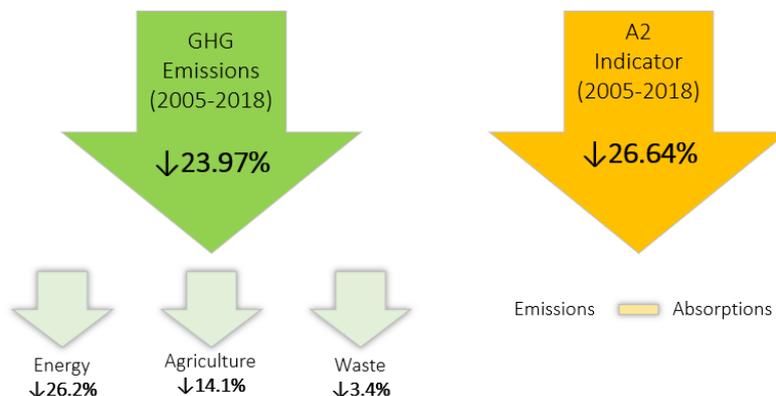
COMMON EUROPEAN INDICATOR (A2)

The use of indicators for the evaluation of climate change policies and programs at the municipal level helps to determine which factors affect the good development of these measures the most, identifying their critical points and consequently being able to establish appropriate action strategies. By calculating the **Common European Indicator (A2)** related to the local contribution to climate change, diffuse sectors in energy, waste and agriculture areas, as well as the absorptions through carbon sinks, have been analysed for the members of the RECC.

The data obtained show a reduction of 26.64% for the period 2005-2018, which is considered successful progress. Emissions, excluding absorptions, have fallen by 23.97% since 2005, which highlights the effectiveness of emissions reduction plans and strategies implementation at the municipal level.

The average amount of emissions analysed is allocated as follows: 83.3% in the energy sector, representing the most critical area to implement specific reduction strategies and plans, 11.4% in agriculture and 5.2% in the waste sector.

If the evolution of each sector is analysed separately for the same period, it comes to show that energy sector has reduced its emissions the most (-26.2% decrease), followed by agriculture (-14.1%) and waste (-3.4%). With regard to the estimated absorptions, a rather stable trend is shown with slight variations, mainly due to forest fires and changes in crops.



INTEGRATED EVALUATION

With regards to local policies, in order to evaluate the progress made in fighting climate change, the degree of compliance with the requirements for joining the Spanish Network of Cities for Climate was used as an indicator. An evaluation of both the degree of compliance with formal requirements and an assessment by sector in the areas of building and urban planning, mobility

and energy has also been carried out. Besides the evaluation of these requirements, an additional comparison on the evolution of carbon sinks is also provided.

During these years, the increase in action plans against climate change is especially noteworthy, with a 63.6% increase between 2007 (1st Report) and 2019 (6th Report). However, in most cases, plans are focused on reducing emissions, without including adaptation or including it only in very general terms. In this last report, the establishment of discussion forums for citizens and specific technical committees involved in the development of policies to prevent and reduce pollution and GHG emissions has decreased compared to the results showed in previous reports. Of the municipalities surveyed in 2019, 34.1% have carried out the annual evaluation report, and only 25% have implemented a system of monitoring indicators.