PRESS RELEASE

Chinese Cities Commit to Delivering their Share of the Paris Agreement

Cities agree to develop Climate Action Plans that rapidly cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions to deliver on the objectives of the Paris Agreement

Action to rapidly cut emissions from the building sector will be key

Beijing, China (2 April 2019) — Nanjing, Chengdu, and Qingdao today publicly confirmed their commitment to deliver on their share of the Paris Agreement. They become the first Chinese cities to join a coalition of over 70 C40 cities from across the globe committed to the bold climate action needed to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This announcement was made at the C40 China Regional Forum, where representatives from C40 Chinese member cities and the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MoHURD), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened to show their commitment to action on climate change. The C40 Member cities in China are, Beijing, Chengdu, Dalian, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Nanjing, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuhan, and Zhenjiang.

The Forum also saw the launch of the C40 Climate Action Planning China Programme to support the ambitions of C40 Chinese member cities. This Programme will build capacity in Chinese cities to develop integrated and inclusive climate action plans that address the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and deliver wider social, environmental and economic benefits. The technical assistance programme was kicked off with a Climate Action Planning Regional Academy for C40 Chinese cities to share a common framework and best practices for climate action planning. C40’s Climate Action Planning China Programme is made possible through the generous support of the UK and Danish Governments.

Qingbao Niu, Deputy Mayor of Chengdu:
“Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing mankind and cities will play an important role in tackling it. Cities and citizens around the world are under threat of climate change. We have to take actions now and we need a good plan for good actions. The City of Chengdu has always attached great importance to climate change. By joining the C40 Climate Action Planning China Programme we will continue to focus on green and low-carbon development”
C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group applauded this leadership from Chinese cities:

**Raymond Johansen, Governing Mayor of Oslo:**
“Oslo was proud to be one of the first cities in the world with a climate action plan delivering the ambition of the Paris Agreement, and we congratulate Chinese cities on this step. I invite Chinese officials to visit Oslo for further co-operation as they develop their plan.”

**Mark Watts, C40 Cities, Executive Director, said:**
“Chinese cities are showing the world that modern urban planning means climate action planning. China already leads the way on solar energy generation and electric public transport deployment, and I’m confident this will continue in new areas like ultra-efficient buildings. Actions like these bring citizens cleaner air, new economic opportunities and a safer future.”

Energy consumed by buildings account for 25% of China’s national GHG emissions and as such this topic area formed a central discussion point for leaders at the Forum. With C40 supporting four Chinese cities on policies to decarbonise their building sector through the C40 China Buildings Programme, the importance of city action on construction was highlighted. Already 63% of China’s building stock lies in cities, and this is predicted to reach 80% by 2050, whilst between 2001 and 2016 the equivalent of 53 times New York’s floor space was built as processes of rapid urbanisation continue to add 2 billion square metres of floor space annually.

**Yu Binyang, Director General, The Center of Science and Technology of Industrialization Development (CSTID), MoHURD, said:**
“Buildings are an important sector in dealing with climate change. Chinese cities are actively responding to climate change by accelerating the green development of urban construction, the high-quality development of green buildings, as well as the transformation and upgrading of construction industries. Specific actions and practices for climate change are constantly being explored through urban planning, architectural practice, and industrial techniques. In these respects, Chinese cities are able to collaborate with C40 international cities through the "China Building Programme", learn from each other, share experiences, and jointly shoulder the historical responsibility of coping with climate change”
Notes:

About C40 Cities:
C40 Cities connects 94 of the world’s greatest cities to take bold climate action, leading the way towards a healthier and more sustainable future. Representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe. The current chair of C40 is Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40’s work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit our website, or follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

About the C40 Cities Climate Action Planning China Programme:
China has the world’s largest population and 19 of the world’s largest 100 cities. It now has more than 100 cities of over 1 million residents, a number that is likely to double in the next decade, and many of them are coastal cities exposed to rising sea levels. Along with the extraordinary economic boom and urbanisation, Chinese cities are facing challenges such as climate change, air pollution and resource scarcity. The Chinese government attaches great importance to addressing climate change and promoting green and low-carbon development. Climate policies and actions in Chinese cities will have a significant impact on the global climate for decades to come.

C40 is collaborating with 13 Chinese cities through the C40 Climate Action Planning China Programme, building capacity to prepare and implement evidence-based, long-term climate action plans. This means taking transformational actions to tackle climate change by reducing emissions from buildings, transportation, energy production and waste management while strengthening the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change through adaptation.

To learn more, visit C40’s Climate Action Planning Programme Resource Centre.
**About the C40 Cities China Buildings Programme:**

China continues to build an average of two billion square meters of new buildings every year, driven by population growth, urbanisation, and unprecedented economic development. As such, the building sector already accounts for approximately 20% of China’s total primary energy consumption and 25% of GHG emissions. In the next 20 years, Chinese cities are expected to add a further 280 million citizens, as China becomes 70% urbanised.

The C40 Cities China Buildings Programme was launched in 2018 to support C40 Chinese cities in reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings by developing innovative policies to rapidly reduce emissions from existing buildings, ensure new buildings reach ultra-low energy consumption levels, and promote the use of buildings as a source of low carbon energy.

The Programme aims at promoting the policy formulation and technology development in building energy efficiency, sharing advanced experiences and cases with international counterparts, as well as exploring cooperation in urban green development, net-zero energy building and clean heating.