The Mediterranean city of Barcelona in the north-east of Spain is a dense urban area of 5.5 million inhabitants. A strong industrial city since circa 1750, Barcelona is also a renowned historical tourist destination, and today is among the leaders for smart city technological development.

**Activities for climate change mitigation**

Barcelona has a broad set of climate objectives and ongoing projects in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A key strategy is the Barcelona energy and climate change plan 2011-2020, which targets a reduction of 20% in greenhouse gases by 2020. It also goes beyond mitigation, by assessing long-term needs for adaptation and mitigation.

Furthermore, the city has an important long-term ambition to become a post-carbon city: 

**Energy self-sufficiency by 2054**

This strategy covers the needs of all sectors.

**POCACITO process in Barcelona**

A modern, dynamic and clean city that preserves its history and character. 

**Action needs to start NOW.**

Key overarching messages from the workshops:

The POCACITO participation process was built on four workshops in Barcelona:

• Two Visioning workshops for ‘Barcelona 2050’.
• Two Backcasting workshops on the milestones and actions required, and who should carry them out.

The most critical aspects identified:

• Preservation of the city’s historical character
• Improving the mobility of citizens, reducing transport needs
• Eliminating fossil fuel use in transport
• Making all buildings energy efficient
• Generating real emissions reductions, not pushing emissions to areas outside the city to fulfil demand in the city
• More cohesive society, better health, better civic education
• Achieving the 2050 target starts with action NOW!

**Will Barcelona achieve its climate goals?**

Existing and planned measures have been modelled in POCACITO, using business-as-usual (BAU) and post-carbon 2050 scenarios.

**Key results:**

• Under BAU the city falls far short of a post-carbon future. Under the post-carbon scenario it gets much closer but still needs additional cuts, particularly for gas use
• Under a BAU scenario the Barcelona municipality reaches 2.5 tCO2e/capita in 2050, while in the post-carbon scenario it approaches 0.4 tCO2e/capita – close to the post-carbon status
• Increased wealth and demand may generate more emissions outside the city, having an overall negative impact effect

**Next steps for Barcelona!**

• Educating citizens is paramount to changing habits
• Changing how people move in the city is fundamental
• Laws (national & EU) have to be adapted to the needs of cities to help them reach a post-carbon status
• We need to start moving NOW!

**POCACITO – Post-Carbon-Cities of Tomorrow –** is a European research project that studies the decarbonisation of European cities. Key to the project were participative processes in ten case study cities, in which participants developed a common post-carbon vision for their city in 2050.

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