



CANTONAL CLIMATE PLAN 2030

ACTION PLAN 2025–2030
KEY POINTS

Imprint

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monclimat.ge.ch

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Together: taking action to succeed

The **Cantonal Climate Plan (PCC)** sets ambitious targets for **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions reduction and climate change adaptation. While the State of Geneva is allocating significant human and financial resources to drive this ecological transition, government action alone is not enough and achieving our climate goals requires the involvement of all stakeholders.

Across Geneva, many actors are already contributing to this transition: citizens, businesses, associations, local authorities, unions, and the international community are all playing their part. The long-term success and sustainability of this transition depend on maintaining and expanding this collective effort.

To strengthen and broaden this mobilization, the PCC includes actions focused on communication, awareness-raising, and behavioural change. Recognizing that the climate crisis must be widely understood, the government is also introducing support measures to ensure the transition is accessible and inclusive for all.

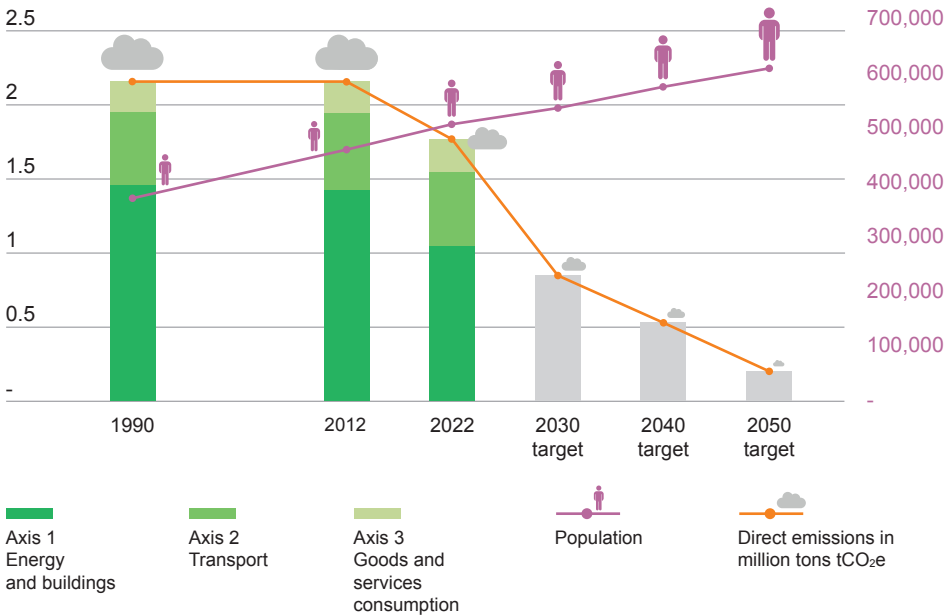
Finally, because climate change disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable, and because the collective transition process can only succeed if it is based on solidarity and equity, the PCC includes specific protective measures for these populations.

On the path to carbon neutrality!

For about fifteen years, the State of Geneva has pursued an ambitious strategy to cut GHG emissions on its territory. A key milestone was the declaration of a climate emergency in December 2019, followed by the adoption of the **Cantonal Climate Plan (PCC 2030)** in April 2021.¹

Thanks to the collective mobilization, these efforts are now yielding tangible results. Over the past twenty years, direct GHG emissions (i.e., emissions generated within our territory) have decreased by approximately 18%.

Evolution of direct GHG emissions and 2050 targets
(in million tons of CO₂ equivalent)²



¹ <https://www.ge.ch/document/strategie-climatique-2030>

² There are several greenhouse gases (GHGs), including carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄). To account for and compare GHG emission volumes, it is standard practice to measure all relevant gases using a single unit of measurement: carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

This reduction is particularly encouraging as it was achieved despite a 35% population increase since 1990, and the pace of reduction has accelerated significantly in recent years.

However, current efforts remain insufficient to meet our national and international commitments. The State of Geneva has committed to reducing direct emissions by 60% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) – effectively requiring us to halve our current emissions within just a few years.

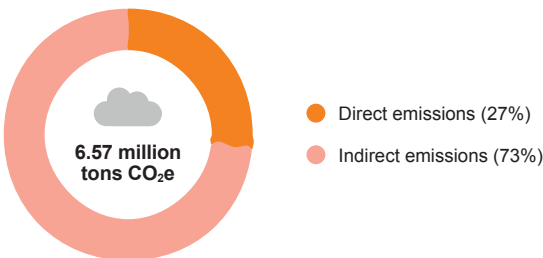
By 2050, we must achieve carbon neutrality. To do so, all our GHG emissions must be close to zero, including indirect emissions (those generated outside of our territory during the production of imported goods and services). Any remaining residual emissions will need to be absorbed by carbon sinks³.

While Geneva’s 2030 targets focus on direct emissions, we cannot overlook our indirect impact. Switzerland is one of the world’s largest importers of embedded emissions, with indirect emissions accounting for about three-quarters of Geneva’s total carbon footprint.

Reducing this footprint is essential to prevent shifting the environmental burden of our lifestyle onto the rest of the world.

Currently, the **carbon footprint** (encompassing both direct and indirect emissions) stands at 12.7 tons of CO₂e per person per year in Geneva. By 2050, this must be reduced to approximately one ton per person per year.

Share of direct and indirect emissions in Geneva’s total carbon footprint



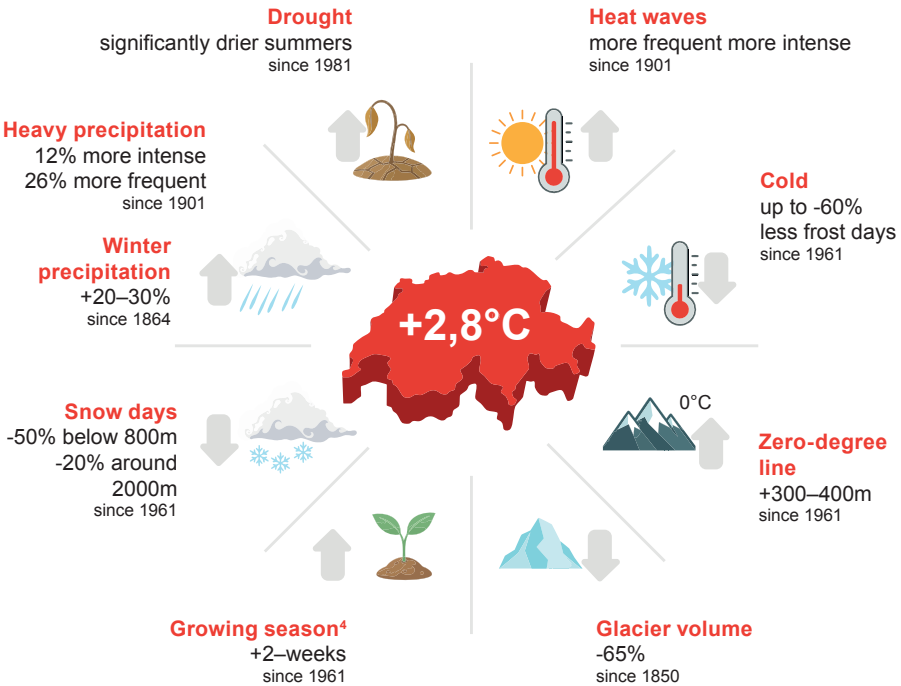
³ Carbon sinks are natural or artificial reservoirs that absorb and store CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Adapting to a new climate

Reducing our emissions is essential but it is no longer enough. Climate change is already underway, and we must adapt to this new reality.

Since the industrial era, the global average temperature has risen by nearly 1.5°C. In Switzerland, this increase is close to 3°C – double the global average.

Major changes in the Swiss climate, based on observational data (OFEV-MétéoSuisse 2025)



⁴ The period during which plants actively grow and develop. This period is determined by local weather conditions, particularly temperature and precipitation. It extends from germination to plant maturity.

In the coming decades, temperatures could rise by a further 4 to 5°C in Switzerland. While the effects of climate change are already being felt in Geneva, they will soon become more frequent, intense, and severe. Adaptation is essential to mitigate risks to society and nature.

The Climate Plan prepares the territory and its population for these changes. Its goal is to strengthen the resilience of both our communities and the natural ecosystems we depend on. This means planning infrastructure and support measures to reduce our vulnerability to extreme events such as heatwaves, droughts, and floods.

The Climate Plan also establishes guidelines to protect and restore biodiversity, as well as natural and agricultural environments. These environments are essential: they regulate water and nutrient cycles, produce food and raw materials, and store carbon.

In this sense, biodiversity is a critical safeguard for the population against climate change, making its preservation a central pillar of Geneva's climate policy.

Adapting to climate change, preserving biodiversity, and reducing GHG emissions must go hand in hand.

A key principle of the Climate Plan is to avoid “maladaptive” solutions, such as artificial air conditioning, which emits GHGs and further warms the atmosphere.

Instead, the Climate Plan prioritizes adaptation solutions with co-benefits for biodiversity, the climate, and public health, such as increasing soil permeability or restoring degraded areas.

Energy and buildings

Renovating buildings and decarbonizing energy sources

Heat production and electricity consumption account for nearly a quarter of Geneva’s total carbon footprint. While significant progress has been made, efforts must be maintained to fully decarbonize this sector.

Axis 1 share of total GHG emissions

22%
of the carbon footprint

60%
of direct emissions

Insulate and renovate

Reducing our energy consumption requires improving the energy performance of all buildings. The Climate Plan prioritizes accelerating the renovation of existing buildings while raising regulatory standards for new constructions.

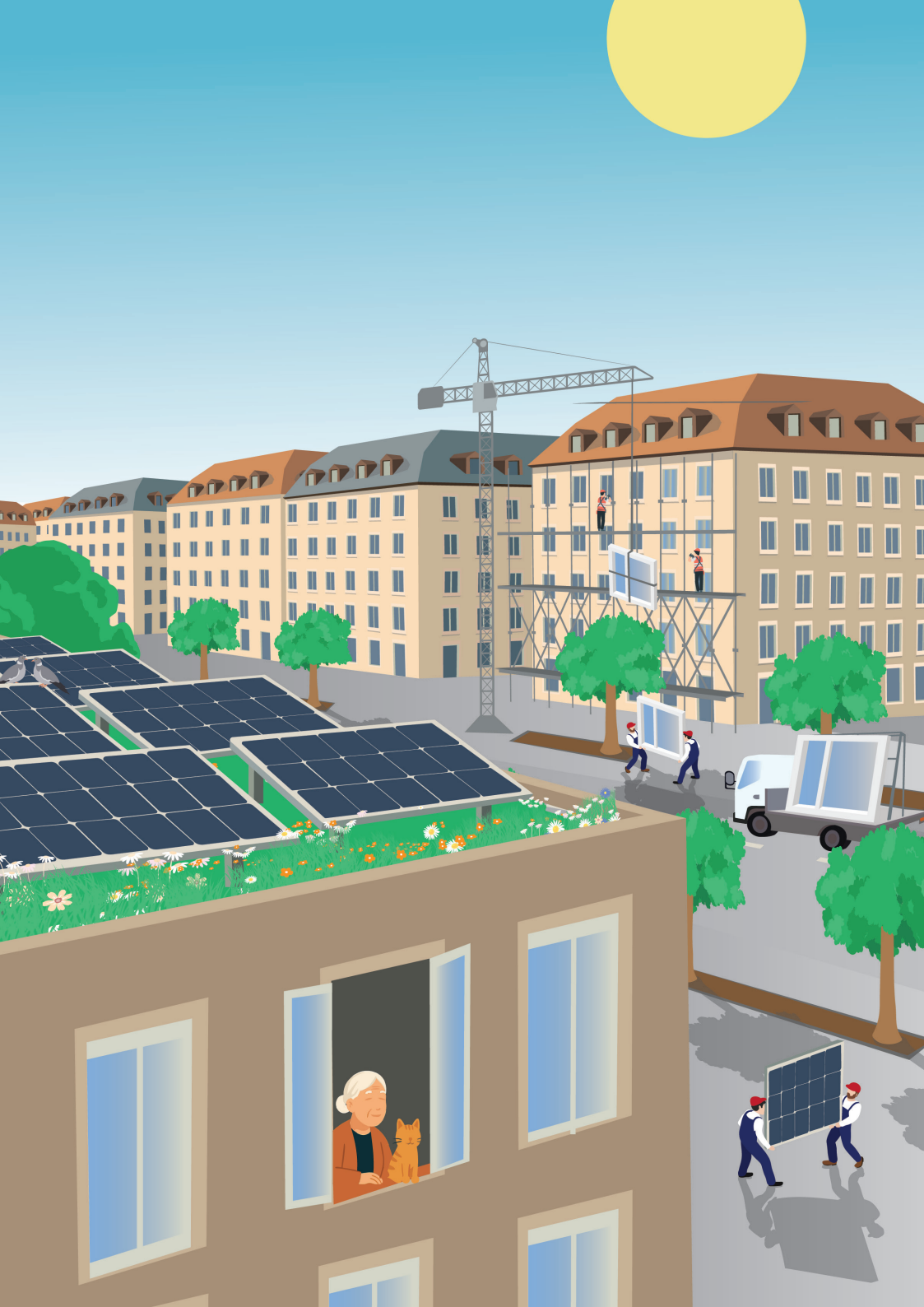
Decarbonize our energy sources

Fossil fuels must be replaced by low-emission renewable energy sources such as solar thermal and photovoltaic systems, geothermal energy, and biomass⁵.

Reducing waste

Finally, the cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy we never consume. We must adopt a culture of sufficiency, for example by lowering heating temperatures in buildings, avoiding heating or lighting unoccupied spaces, or optimizing the use of buildings and equipment (sharing, reversibility, etc.).

⁵ Biomass is a renewable energy source derived from organic materials, such as wood, plant waste, agricultural residues.



Flagship projects

The government commits to...



Renovating state buildings

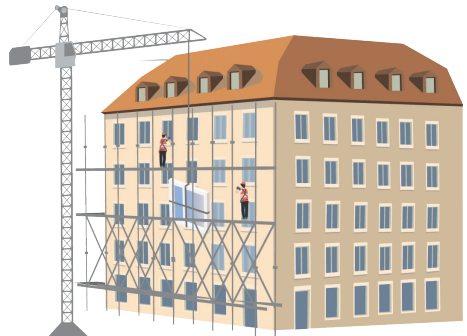
One billion francs will be invested to renovate state-owned buildings by 2036, improving their energy efficiency and incorporating ecological solutions (solar power plants, green roofs, etc.).

Developing district heating networks

By 2050, district heating networks are projected to supply 50% of the canton's total heat consumption (these new networks will replace fossil fuels boilers, which are major sources of GHG emissions).

Supporting the renovation of Geneva's private buildings

The State has allocated 500 million francs to support property owners in improving the energy efficiency of their buildings and accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels.



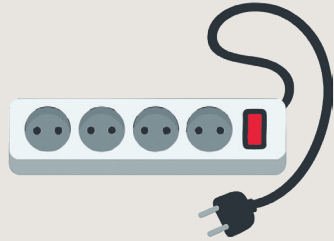
Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...



I keep the temperature in my home at a maximum of 20°C (when possible).

I turn off my electronic devices rather than leaving them on standby, for example by unplugging my power strip.



I prefer to buy class A energy-efficient appliances.



Transportation

Changing our mobility habits

Transportation is an important source of GHG emissions in Geneva. Unfortunately, these emissions are not decreasing fast enough. To succeed in the transition, increasing the fuel-efficiency of our vehicles is not enough, we must fundamentally change how we travel.

Axis 2 share
of total GH
emissions

30%
of the carbon
footprint

28%
of direct
emissions

Promoting active modes of transport

One of the government's priorities is modal shift, moving from cars to other, lower-carbon modes of transportation such as biking and walking. These transport modes also benefit public health and air quality.

Improving public transportation options

For many trips, public transit such as buses, trams, and trains, offers a much cleaner alternative to cars and can often be more efficient and cost-effective.

Using less polluting vehicles

For trips that require a car, it is essential to replace internal combustion engines with less polluting technologies. Accelerating the transition to electric vehicles is critical.

Reducing emissions from the aviation sector

Emissions from air travel must also be reduced, for example by supporting the expansion of rail service from Geneva to other European cities.

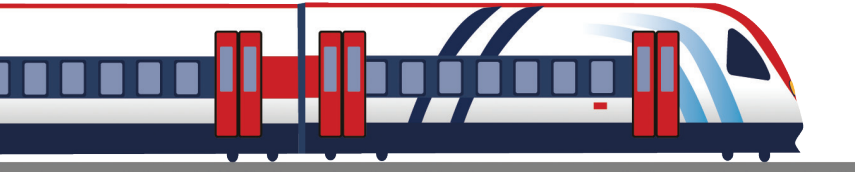


Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Electrifying 100% of TPG vehicles

The State is investing 350 million francs to fully electrify the Geneva public transport fleet.



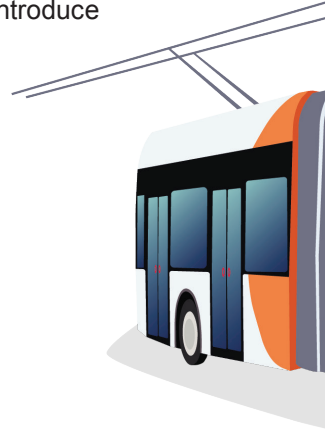
Expanding the Léman Express service

In the coming years, the State of Geneva plans to create a new Léman Express route between Annemasse and Vernier, and introduce additional longer, double-decker trains (+50% more seating capacity).

Expanding the cantonal cycling network

The State continues to develop cycling infrastructure and **greenways** to connect the canton's major hubs, ensuring safer and smoother rides.

www.ge.ch/dossier/faire-ensemble-espace-public/projets-voies-vertes/destination-voies-vertes



Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

I choose to walk or bike instead of driving for journeys under 5km and use public transport for longer trips.



If I need to replace my car, I choose the smallest and lightest electric model possible.

When traveling within Europe, I choose the train over the plane.



Consumption of goods and services

Changing our consumption habits

The goods and services we consume are often produced outside our territory. Their production generates GHG emissions which account for one-third of the canton’s total carbon footprint. To address this, the State aims to lead by example in public procurement and waste management, while empowering citizens to transform their daily habits.



Axis 3 share of total GH emissions

35%
of the carbon footprint

12%
of direct emissions

Consuming better

To reduce the carbon footprint of our purchases, we should prioritize goods and services with a low carbon footprint, as well as those that are the most sustainable. Reuse, repair, and recycling help reduce this footprint and minimize waste generation.

Consuming locally

It is often beneficial to prioritize goods and services produced locally and through short supply chains, emphasizing the direct link between production and consumption.

Promoting shared use

Reducing the carbon footprint of our consumption can also involve more flexible usage patterns. Opting to rent, borrow, donate, or buy second-hand items allows us to meet many needs without necessarily resorting to systematic purchasing. This “sharing economy” reduces the total number of items produced.



Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Reducing food waste

The State of Geneva is running an **awareness campaign on food waste**, which has a significant carbon footprint. Tips and “anti-waste” recipes are offered to help citizens reduce food waste and save money!

gaspialimentaire.ge.ch



Supporting waste reduction at the source

“**Emportons malin!**” is an example of a governmental initiative that promotes the use of reusable containers for take-away food

emportonsmalin.ge.ch

Reducing the digital carbon footprint

The State of Geneva has signed the **Sustainable IT Charter** and obtained the Sustainable IT label. In this context, various measures are implemented to limit the environmental impact of digital technology.

www.institutnr.ch.org/la-charte-numerique-responsible/

Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

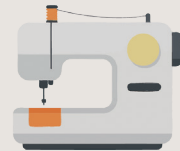
I check the “**Consomm’action**” guide for practical advice and to adopt more responsible purchasing habits in my daily life.

consommaction.ge.ch



For my diet, I gradually increase the share of plant-based and local products.

www.geneveterroir.ch



Seconde Main

When I go shopping, I choose second-hand items. I maintain and repair them to extend their lifespan as much as possible.

I reduce my waste by choosing bulk items, reusable packaging, and returnable containers.

achetezenvrac.ge.ch



Territory and construction

Adapting the region to climate change

The way we plan our land influences our behaviours and our GHG emissions, for example how we move within the territory. Meanwhile, climate change is increasingly impacting our infrastructure and natural environments. Urban planning is therefore a powerful lever to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Axis 4 share
of total GHG
emissions

14%
of the carbon
footprint

Planning for a low-carbon future

Future urban development must incorporate carbon efficiency. This means designing neighbourhoods where services are within walking distance, public transport is the easiest option, and buildings are highly energy efficient.

Adapting the region to heat waves

At the same time, we must enable the region and its population to adapt to climate change, as heatwaves will become more frequent. For example, by giving more space in cities to natural cooling sources such as water, soil, and vegetation.

Developing our capacity to capture and store carbon

Finally, CO₂ sequestration⁶ remains a largely unexplored area. Although this solution will remain marginal compared to reduction efforts, the Climate Plan launches pioneering discussions and experiments to explore its potential in our region.

⁶ Carbon sequestration is a process that aims to capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide to reduce the concentration of this greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.



Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Improving the climate comfort of public spaces

Through the **COOL CITY** initiative, the government is incorporating climate change adaptation solutions by preserving and strengthening urban cooling islands.

www.ge.ch/document/cool-city

Harnessing the carbon sequestration potential of soils

The **Résulterre** project aims at improving the quality of agricultural soils and sequester CO₂ through sustainable practices, to build a more resilient and climate-friendly agriculture.

www.agriculture-durable-geneve.ch/fr/modes-et-techniques-de-production/sequestration-CO2

Optimizing the urban water cycle

The government is promoting an integrated “Water-Soil-Trees” approach, a sustainable **urban water** management initiative aimed at optimizing water infiltration, circulation, and absorption by vegetation.

www.ge.ch/eau-ville-changement-pratiques-applications



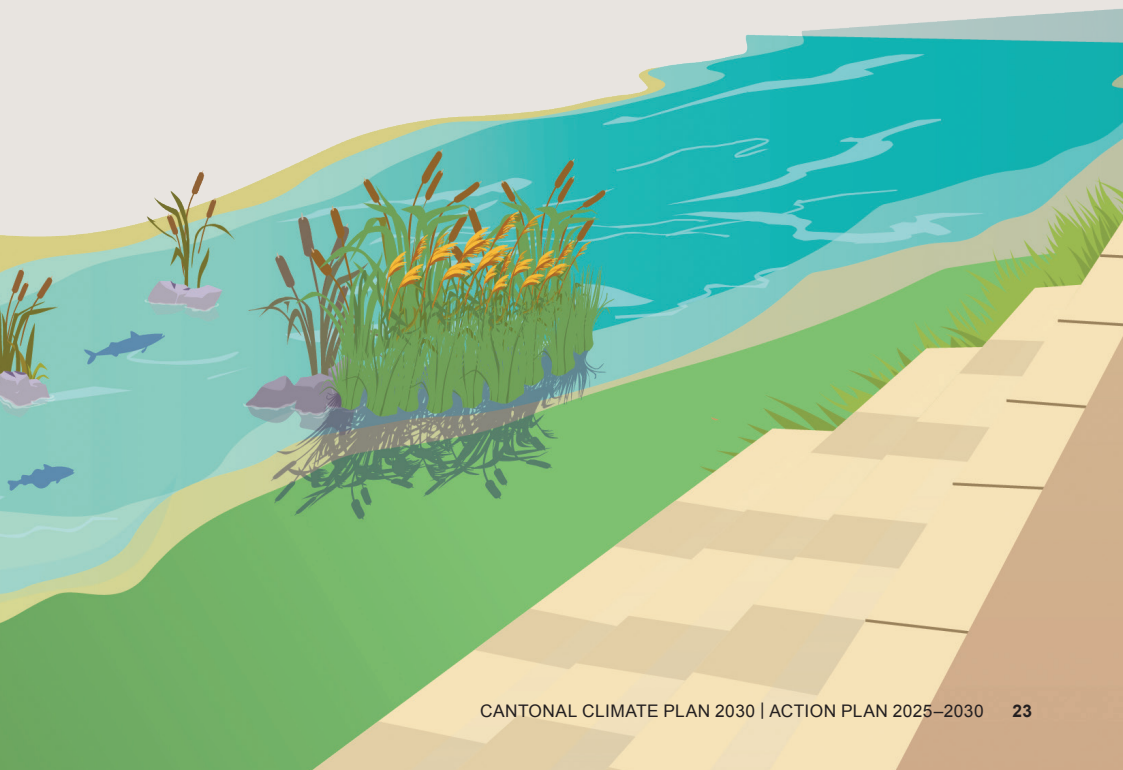
Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

*I join the “**Explore Demain**” citizen festival on the challenges of our region’s transition toward a sustainable future.*

exploregeneve.ch

I participate in public consultations and give my opinion on urban development projects in my municipality.



Health and public safety

Protecting communities from the impacts of climate change

Climate change poses a threat to our health, our infrastructure, and our economy. Beyond well-known effects such as heat waves and floods, other risks that were previously considered negligible must now also be addressed and anticipated.

35
days
of heatwave⁷
per year
in average
in Geneva
over the past
three years

Preventing the health impacts of climate change

In the health sector, measures are being implemented to anticipate the effects of heat waves, and to limit the risks associated with diseases whose spread could increase, such as those transmitted by the proliferation of the tiger mosquito.

Managing water-related risks

Climate change also disrupts the water cycle: it increases the risk of flooding at certain times of the year, while causing water scarcity at others. These changes require us to adapt our infrastructure and modify our behaviours.

Anticipating other risks and extreme events

As new risks emerge, such as wildfires, landslides, or severe storms, it is important to understand their mechanisms and anticipate their potential impacts on the region.

⁷ Heatwave days are defined as days when the maximum temperature is at least 30°C.



Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Encouraging water conservation

The government continues to implement public awareness campaigns to promote water conservation, addressing both quantity and quality (e.g. micropollutants, pollution, plastics).



Informing vulnerable populations about the right steps to take during heat waves

The canton and municipalities regularly conduct awareness **campaigns on the impacts of heat waves**. They also provide information on the proper steps to take in the event of overheating. These campaigns strengthen the health literacy of vulnerable individuals and their families.

www.ge.ch/recommandations-cas-fortes-chaleurs

Helping organizations prepare for extreme weather events

MeteoAtWork is a mobile app developed by the State of Geneva to help businesses and organizations protect the health of outdoor workers during heat waves.

www.ge.ch/proteger-ses-employes-fortes-chaleurs-du-grand-froid/telecharger-application-meteoatwork

Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

I subscribe to the **alertswiss portal** to stay informed about climate or environmental risks.

www.alert.swiss/en/home.html



I prefer using fans over air conditioning, I close shutters and blinds during the day to naturally cool my home, and open the windows after sunset to let the night breeze flush out the heat.



I take the right actions during heatwaves: I drink water regularly, cool off with a wet cloth, and check in on vulnerable neighbors, friends, and family.



Biodiversity and natural environments

Preserving biodiversity in the context of climate change

Biodiversity and natural environments play a central role in regulating the climate and the water cycle. However, they are also threatened by the consequences of climate change and human activity. It is therefore essential to design climate and biodiversity policies that complement and reinforce each other.

22.4%

of the territory contributes to maintaining and/or strengthening priority ecological infrastructure

Preserving ecological infrastructure and natural environments

Biodiversity criteria are integrated into all GHG reduction actions. Preserving biodiversity is also identified as a key lever for the adaptation of the region to climate change.

Adapting forests and farmlands

Forest management and agriculture must adapt to climate change, for example through adaptive management practices. This includes selecting climate-resilient tree species and adopting soil-conserving agricultural techniques, to safeguard soil and water resources.

Rewilding the city

Finally, it is important to strategically integrate biodiversity into urban planning to make our cities more welcoming for wildlife, enhancing ecosystem services and human well-being within the built environment.

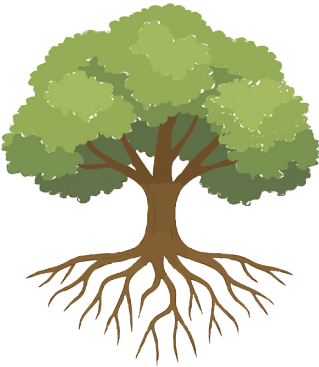


Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Renaturing the Aire and Drize rivers

By restoring these buried rivers to the surface, a vast ecological corridor will be created in the heart of the Praille Acacias Vernets (PAV) district, promoting biodiversity, sustainable mobility, and adaptation to climate change.



Planting 150,000 trees

The **cantonal tree-planting strategy** aims to plant 150,000 new trees over the next 15 years, targeting 30% canopy cover by 2070.

www.ge.ch/document/nature-strategie-arborisation-aire-urbaine-genevoise-feuille-route

“Nature in the City”

Through the “**Nature in the City**” program, nearly 50 hectares of urban areas have already been transformed to be more welcoming for citizens (e.g. urban ponds, flower meadows, nature trails, green roofs).

www.ge.ch/realiser-projet-nature-ville

Investing in resilient agriculture

The State is allocating 40 million francs to fund sustainable agricultural infrastructure. This investment supports the sector’s ecological transition, ensuring local food production is both resilient to climate shocks and respectful of the environment.



Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

I choose natural and eco-friendly products certified by recognized environmental labels.



*I transform my garden or balcony into a sanctuary for nature, following ecological principles such as those outlined in the **Garden Charter**.*

www.ge.ch/entretenir-mon-jardin-mon-balcon/charte-jardins

I reduce my lighting to help reduce light pollution.

www.ge.ch/dossier/reussir-transition-ecologique/elan-generalise/proteger-nuit

I take part in nature outings in my region to discover the local flora and fauna.

dansmanature.ch



Involvement of local stakeholders

Together, we succeed!

The Climate Plan cannot succeed on its own, it needs everyone's involvement. From municipalities and businesses to unions, associations, and every citizen, the transition depends on our collective mobilization. The sense that "everyone is doing their fair share" is, in fact, a key factor in the success of the transition.

90%

of Geneva's population feels concerned about climate change

Leading by example

The government must lead by example. Equipped with an Environmental Management System, the administration has calculated its carbon footprint and is committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

Supporting businesses

The State actively supports Geneva-based companies in transforming their business models and processes toward sustainable and innovative practices.

Involving the population in the transition process with a focus on climate justice

Through targeted information campaigns and support initiatives, the government is raising awareness while ensuring solidarity. The goal is to protect the most vulnerable populations and ensure that every resident can contribute according to their means and capabilities.



Flagship projects

The government commits to...

Mobilizing municipalities

The “**Communes & Climat**” workshops support Geneva’s municipalities in developing and implementing their climate strategies. These sessions foster the exchange of best practices and innovative local initiatives.

www.ge.ch/document/ateliers-communes-climat



Enabling residents to calculate and reduce their carbon footprint

The **Geneva carbon calculator** enables residents to measure the climate impact of their lifestyle and identify concrete solutions to reduce it.

geneve.nosgestesclimat.ch/en

Leading by example: carbon neutrality by 2040

The State is committed to achieving carbon neutrality for all administrative activities by 2040. It is implementing robust measures and thoroughly monitoring their progress.

www.ge.ch/dossier/systeme-management-environnemental-etat-geneve/demarche-sme-ecogestes/demarche-sme



Eco-friendly habits

How I can contribute at my level...

I explore the agirageneve.ch platform to find concrete local actions, connect with like-minded neighbours, and join collective projects in the region.

www.agirageneve.ch



I stay informed and join debates and workshops during the **Democracy Week** to better understand the environmental democratic issues.

www.ge.ch/dossier/semaine-democratie

I submit my project to the “**Concours du Développement Durable**”, which supports and funds projects that drive the ecological transition locally.

www.ge.ch/je-participe-au-concours-du-developpement-durable

I discover and participate in citizen-led initiatives in the Greater Geneva area via transiscope.org, and I add those that are not yet listed.

<https://transiscope.org/>





FURTHER RESOURCES



Full report of the **action plan 2025-2030**
(in french).



Detailed information about the Cantonal Climate
Plan on [ge.ch](https://www.ge.ch) (in french).



Subscribe to our *Sustainability and Climate*
newsletter (in french).