

CNT's leadership in climate change is rooted in our track record of urban sustainability innovation. Urban areas, with their compact form, mass transit and communications networks, hold the greatest opportunity to solve the climate crisis by expanding and enhancing their existing carbon efficiencies.

Climate Projects at CNT

For almost three decades, CNT has been researching, inventing and testing urban strategies that use resources more efficiently and more equitably. These same urban sustainability strategies are essential tools for halting global warming. CNT research has shown that cities can be the most efficient places to live, with their lower per capita GHG emissions due to efficient land use and transportation alternatives. And cities have the potential to become much more efficient.

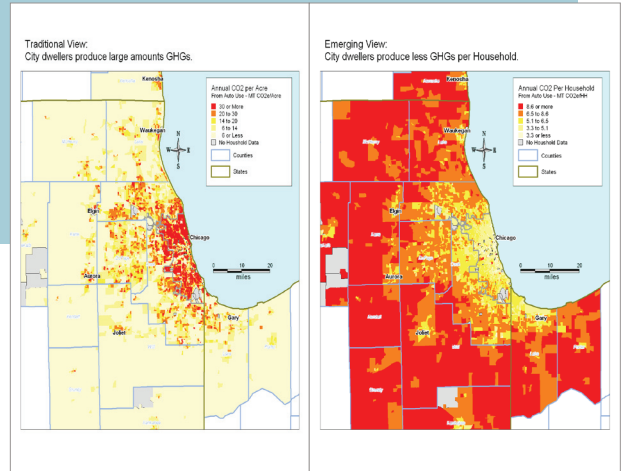
Current climate projects include:

Clinton Foundation Partnership: As a result of CNT's prior experience developing online climate calculators, the William J. Clinton Foundation in 2006 invited CNT to help design an online tool for measuring greenhouse gas emissions in the world's 40 largest cities. This partnership gives CNT the opportunity to apply its experience in urban sustainability and climate change worldwide.

Chicago Climate Action Plan: CNT is the lead researcher for the climate change mitigation elements of Chicago's Climate Action Plan to reduce dramatically the city's contribution to Global Warming. We have advised the city by developing an emissions inventory and forecast for Chicago and the metro region, as well as researching, modeling and evaluating 33 different mitigation strategies. The Plan will be released this fall.

Presidential Climate Action Project: CNT is part of a leadership group that is defining the job description of the next administration on climate change. CNT has authored a research paper on climate that is the basis of a chapter on Transportation and Climate in a book to be published within the next six months.

High Speed Rail as a Climate Strategy: CNT, with the Center for Clean Air Policy, has documented the potential of high speed rail networks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as an alternative to short-haul airplane trips.



Two Views of Cities and CO₂

The two maps above present very different stories that challenge common views of where most greenhouse gas emissions are produced. The map on the right shows that on a per capita basis, people that live in denser, urban environments produce less CO₂ emissions from vehicle travel than people that live in surrounding areas.

Did You Know?

- U.S. public transit riders save over 7 million tons of CO₂ each year.
- Households near transit own roughly one car fewer than average.

(Source: *Travelmatters.org*)

Resources

Airhead.cnt.org

Learn how much air pollution you create, and see how you compare to other people.

Travelmatters.org

Learn more about how travel habits and transportation choices affect global climate change, with interactive emissions calculators, on-line emissions maps, and a wealth of educational content.