

Cape Town in 2030 A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles



Photo: Finding Dan | Dan Grinwis

There is a global sense of urgency for individuals to adopt carbon friendly resource consumption patterns and activities. The City of Cape Town produces 10.3 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per person, annually. Therefore, it is imperative to re-evaluate the lifestyle options that our citizens are aspiring towards and raise awareness on how these can contribute to high carbon emission levels and climate change. ICLEI Africa has partnered in the 1.5 Degree Lifestyles project, led by IGES, to explore impactful lifestyle changes that can reduce the amount of carbon produced, aiming for a reduction to 2.5 tons per person by 2030, and to 0.7 tons by 2050. It is only by reducing global emissions to these levels, that the world stop temperature increases at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

To achieve a vision of an environmentally and people friendly city, Capetonians need to make the effort to take on personal lifestyle changes, simultaneously with the government supporting low-emission infrastructures such as: recycling, public transport, and sustainable energy options. To support individual efforts, we need to have

systems in place that ease the transition to less carbon-intensive, 1.5 degree lifestyle options.

The City of Cape Town is still grappling with social and spatial equality challenges which means citizens are emitting carbon dioxide at different levels. This project is also about the future lifestyles that we are aiming for. At its core, this project hopes that as we improve access to resources and improve quality of life, we do so in carbon neutral ways. Our vision for Cape Town in the year 2030 is still in the works, but several carbon-related themes are being repeated by project participants:

- An interconnected city where citizens can live, work and play within a 15-minute radius.
- Incorporating the natural environment into the built form with greenery and permaculture.
- Sustainably sourced and affordable food options.
- Adequate recycling systems and patterns.
- The adoption of sustainable technology solutions.
- Investment in locally sourced products.

Cape Town in 2030 (Part II) A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles



Photo: FitNish Media

There are many lifestyle options that are carbon neutral. Through a collective effort from high-consuming citizens, we could reduce Cape Town's average carbon impact significantly (to about 5.5 tons per year.) Should systems also change to complement this, we could reach the 2.5 ton/person goal by 2030. Through our project, some of your fellow Capetonians have committed to:

- Reducing food waste
- Cooking more meals at home
- Kitchen composting
- Consuming less sugar
- Reducing geyser temperatures
- Adopting a vegan lifestyle
- Working from home
- Reducing international flights
- Turning off lights and appliances when not in use
- Reducing meat consumption

What is your vision for the future? How could Cape Town become more sustainable? Would you consider trying some of these options? Check out the other options that fellow members of your community have identified and share your ideas for creating a 1.5 Degree Lifestyle in Cape Town!