

New Delhi in 2030 A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles



Photo: Danish Prakash

Delhi has been the focus of the socio-economic and political activities in India. The National Capital Region of Delhi (NCR) is the 6th largest urban area in the world with a population of about 16.5 million people. Cities with such populations of over 10 million have been classified as 'Mega Cities'. With this rapid expansion in population and demography of the city, comes the issue of effective management of resources to ensure better quality of life for its citizens and residents. Large amounts of the total population of the city reside in smaller, more cramped localities within the city. Housing, waste management, slums, and transportation; have been highlighted as some of the most pressing problems in urban areas along with the overall issue of effective land utilization. There is therefore a need to divide the city into various administrative zones based on the land usage, and formulate separate plans for each of these respective zones.

Delhi also has a population percentage of 27 % within the age group of 0-14 years. The second and third highest ranked population percentage falls under the age classification of 30-39 years and 40-49 years respectively.

Further analysis of census 2011, provides clear indication that Delhi has a high percentage of youth population with over 57 percent of the total population classified under the age group of 0-30 years.

This draft **future city vision** has been designed, to address several challenges that our city faces today, as well as to ensure integration of **environmental justice, sustainability & resilience within our current social, economic and political framework**, to build a more **sustainable future city vision**. We believe a critical reform is necessary in the existing policies, and this can be achieved through facilitating public participation. Some of the major challenges that our city faces today, that need to be highlighted and addressed include:

1. Current inefficiency of the public transport system
2. Rising issue of air pollution in Delhi
3. Management & Segregation of Waste (Delhi's waste crisis and rising landfills)
4. Inefficient Management of Delhi's Green spaces and forest cover
5. Water Pollution – A dying river, and encroached floodplains

This document aims at drafting a series of countermeasures that can be implemented; in order to address some of these highlighted pressing issues and challenges that the city currently faces. It also aims at highlighting some potential low carbon lifestyles options that **YOU** could adopt and integrate within your daily life. Through this draft, our aim is to get a better understanding of how you would envision the future of your city, keeping sustainability and resilience at its core.

New Delhi in 2030 (Part II) A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles



Photo: Atul Pandey

There persists a growing need for more affordable, efficient and sustainable public transport systems (for eg. roll out of more public busses, metro coaches, cycle friendly roads, electric bikes, cycle stands etc.) in order to decrease the dependency on private vehicles and thus reducing overall vehicular pollution. At present it has been estimated that around 20-25 % of Delhi's air pollution is contributed by vehicular pollution. **(How would you welcome such changes? Would you be keen to adopt public transport as a mobility option on a more regular basis?)**

Strict policy measures need to also be put in place by the state and central govt. in order to ensure that issue of air pollution in the city is effectively dealt with. **(for example, regular inspection and regulation of highly polluting industries, check on construction activities, with complete blanket ban during extreme pollution peak winter months)**

Delhi is home to over 22 landfills, 4 of which have been overflowing for the last decade. There is also constant burning on these sites, resulting in extremely hazardous environments particularly in near by neighbourhoods. There is, therefore, an urgent need to promote effective policies with regards to **training on waste management and disposal at a municipal level**. Over 50% of Delhi's waste that ends up in landfills, can be composted or recycled. At the same time, it is also important to promote composting practices and **basic segregation of dry waste and wet waste at source level** (home and communities.) **(Do you already practice composting and basic segregation at source? Would you be interested in learning more about such initiatives and how to implement them at home?)**

Despite being one of the most polluted cities in the world, ironically Delhi has over 18,000 public parks and green spaces. Each of these parks, if well maintained, can serve as 'green lungs' and community friendly spaces for their surrounding neighborhoods. Here is where we believe that a partnership between local resident welfare associations and the state government and local NGO's working on environment issues, can lead to extremely desirable outcomes. The majority of these spaces require daily monitoring and management, as well as upkeep that can be achieved through participation from all stakeholders. Each of these spaces has the potential of not only cleaning up Delhi's

New Delhi in 2030 (Part III) A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles



Photo: Ravi Sharma

'Air Mess', but also offering a space for community gatherings, public events, and recreational activities for citizens. **Have you previously engaged with the public sector in addressing this? How often do you utilize public green spaces? Would you agree that this is an essential factor in shaping a future vision for our city?)**

This links us to our next point i Community participation in public policy making. This is an extremely essential aspect in terms of the future city vision, and given the rising youth population in Delhi, it is absolutely essential to particularly involve youth from schools, and colleges and other institutions, in policy shaping, thus highlighting their voices in the future city vision. This will also further help in building a sense of belonging and sense of ownership among youth of today, towards their city. **(Do you belong to the youth population? Would you agree that their voices need to be highlighted and addressed in terms of public policy shaping?)**

Additional points to highlight include the need to promote sustainable food choices and agricultural practices in communities. Examples of which could include urban gardening practices/terrace gardening/rooftop farming etc., sharing of home grown produce, building community sponsored and community developed educational kitchen gardens, sharing of resources and best practices related to sustainability and resilience among communities. **(Are you implementing any such practices at home already? Would you be interested in supporting such community practices?)**

As part of our workshop, we have also shared a catalogue of option cards with regards to low carbon lifestyle options in the domains of **mobility, housing/energy, food, consumer goods and leisure**. We would be very interested in understanding which of these options would you feel comfortable with easily adopting, and which ones would be more difficult to integrate into your daily lives. Each of these options are related to various lifestyle options, some of which include - **frequent usage of public transport, moving closer to work/teleworking, using energy efficient resources, solar powered infrastructures, reducing food waste, switching to an organic/vegan/vegetarian diet etc.**