

Nonthaburi in 2030 A Preliminary Community Vision For 1.5 Degree Lifestyles

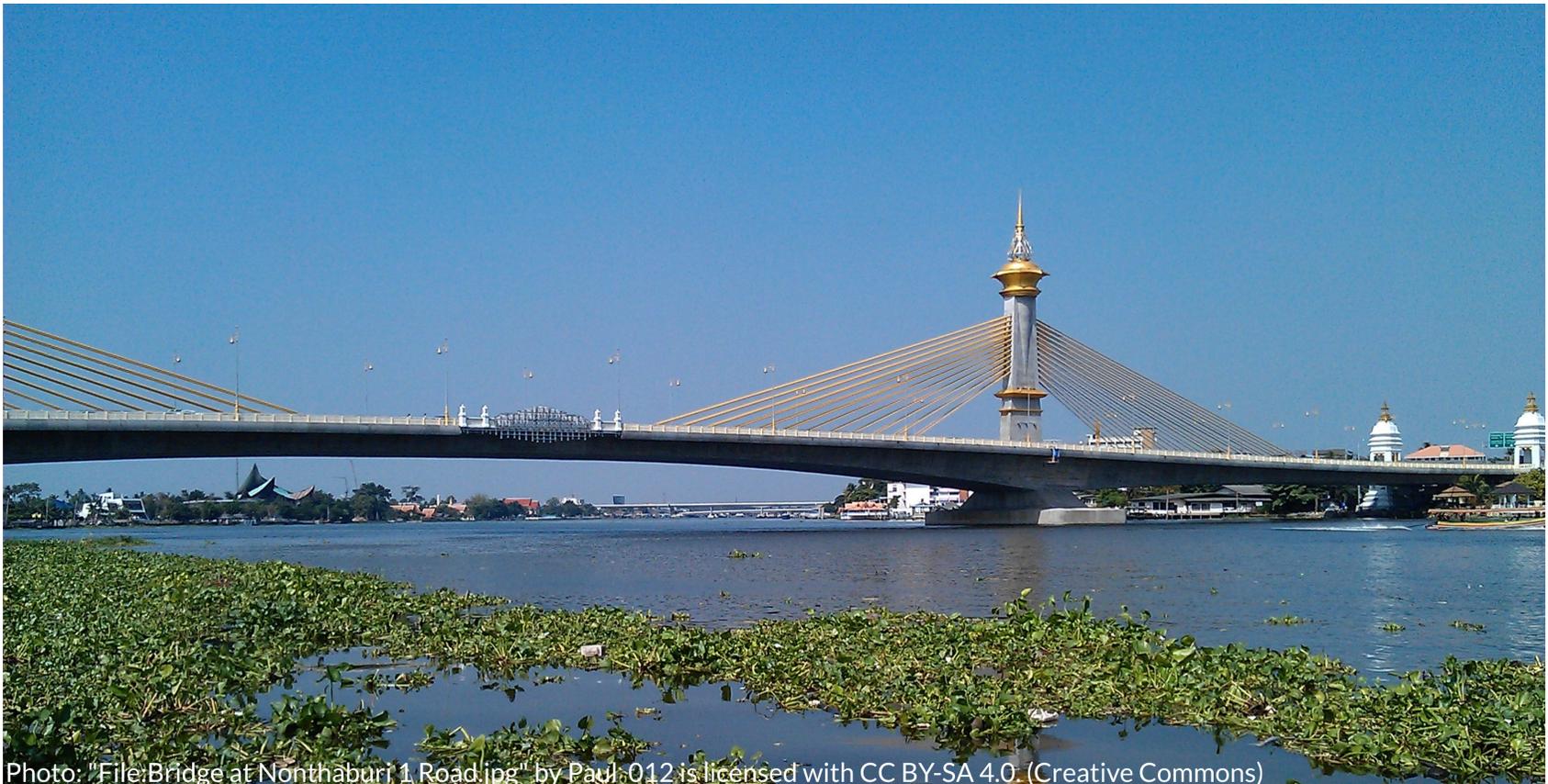


Photo: "File:Bridge at Nonthaburi 1 Road.jpg" by Paul_012 is licensed with CC BY-SA 4.0. (Creative Commons)

Implementation at the local level in Thailand as part of the global response to Climate Change. The challenge cannot be more clear. Limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires transformative systemic change. The social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development must be integrated into addressing current barriers. This change requires the upscaling and acceleration of the implementation of far-reaching, multilevel and cross-sectoral climate mitigation. We need action at all levels. Community engagement is seen as key in lowering local households' overall Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and making low-carbon lifestyles part of our vision for the future.

The project "Implementation of the Analysis of Low-carbon Lifestyle Options and Participatory Household Research in Thailand for the Envisioning Future Low-carbon Lifestyles", is part of Thailand's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction approach with the goal of becoming a low-carbon society under the UNFCCC framework. This ambitious goal requires enhanced institutional capabilities, increasing internal capacity and incorporation of local knowledge.

Integrating the country's top-down low-carbon strategy with the local community's bottom-up interaction with current sustainable knowledge and practices helps to make sustainable development more accessible by limiting a maximum carbon emission of 2.5 tCO₂eq/person/year by 2030. Our project, known as – Local Living Labs and Foresight Low-carbon Society – emphasizes working with local communities in the Nonthaburi Municipality.

By working with local authorities, the transition to low-carbon lifestyles in Nonthaburi addressed the challenges of climate change through:

- 1) assessment and empirical mapping of current household consumption and behavior in the six domains of: food; housing; mobility; consumer goods; leisure; and services-- with the aim of identifying preferred areas for substantial carbon footprint reduction

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

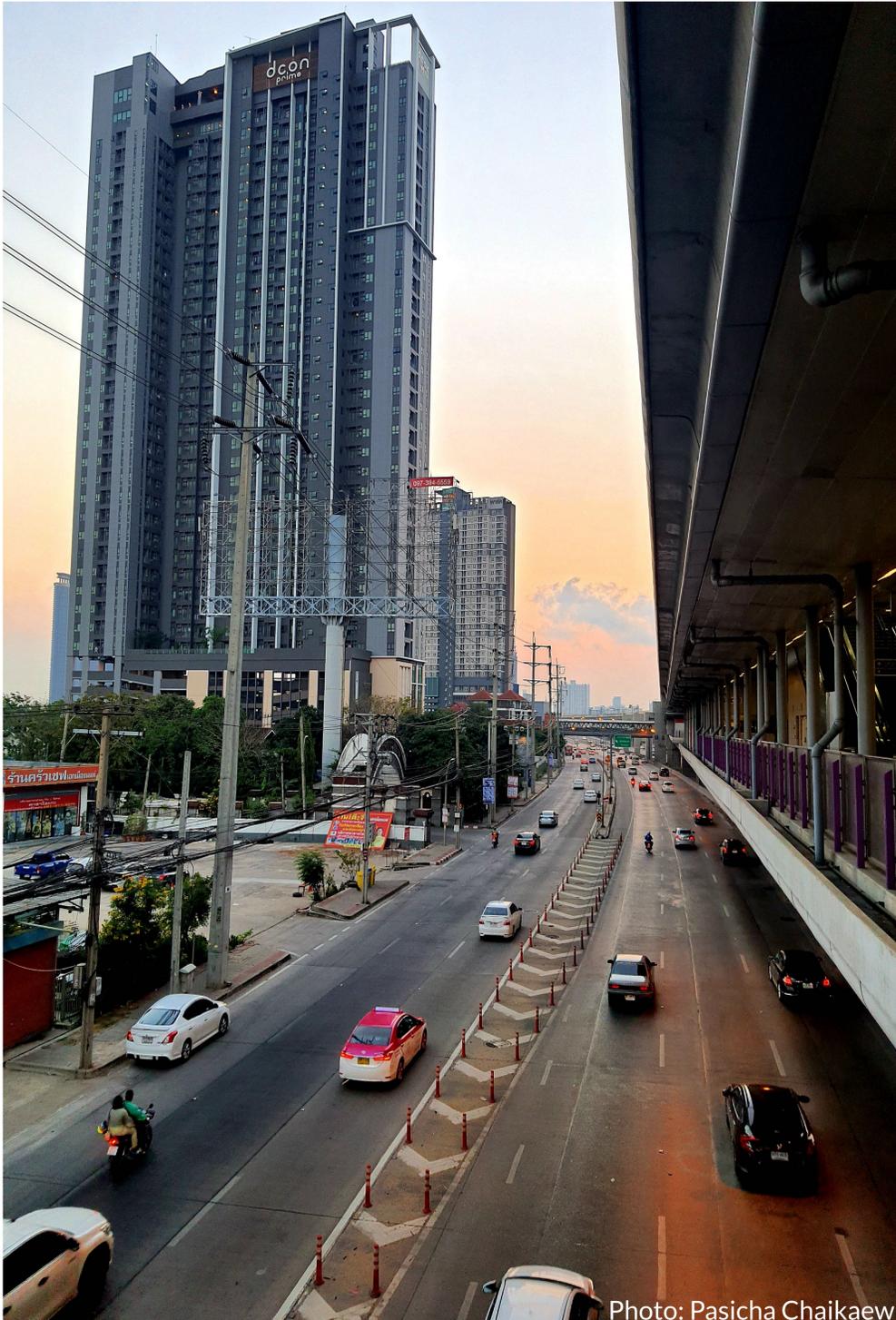


Photo: Pasicha Chaikaew

2) a participatory foresight workshop where community members created visions of the future as we move towards creating a low-carbon society in the next 10 years.

“The Community’s Environmental Values and Practices – Together We Can” aims to inspire Thais as we envision a future that features 1.5 degree lifestyles. Our preliminary findings reveal that the local community in Nonthaburi:

- In practice, the 3 highest carbon reduction options were:
 - 1) Having meals at home instead of going out presents the most potential carbon mitigation (up to 142 kg CO₂eq/capita)
 - 2) If households reduce their food waste to zero, carbon emissions would reduce by 92 kg CO₂eq/capita.
 - 3) Not being a fast fashion consumer and doubling lifespan of each garment can help offset carbon emissions up to 79 kg CO₂eq/capita.
- In more than half of all lifestyles in the project, a combination of mobility and food mitigation options played a major role in carbon emission reduction

- Using electrical vehicles instead of conventional cars that are powered by fossil fuels is one option out of the mobility options that people indicated as a preference to reduce more than 100 kg CO₂eq/capita; however, none of the participants were able to implement this during the 2-week household experiment
- Absolute reduction, efficiency improvement and mode shifting are 3 approaches to lessen carbon intensive consumption: participants largely chose to shift modes

To achieve the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, essential questions were raised by the local community in Nonthaburi:

- How can education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information play a major role in moving the community’s traditional values and practices towards low-carbon, 1.5 degree lifestyles?
- With the aspiration of enabling, encouraging, engaging and exemplifying our society’s transformation to low-carbon, 1.5 degree future, how can local governments and the country’s key agencies collaborate to co-create sustainability knowledge?