

Green politics in Latin American cities : sustainable transport agendas

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Carlos Cadena Gaitán

Propositions

1. The urban population in our world is growing rapidly. With 50% of the world's population already living in cities, these not only generate the majority of global greenhouse gases, but also use over two-thirds of the world's energy (KPMG, 2010). *Chapter 2.*
2. The exponential growth of urban populations, particularly relevant in Latin America, is being accompanied by unprecedented destruction of urban ecosystems and an indiscriminate use of finite natural resources, resulting in manifest environmental catastrophes in urban areas. *Chapter 4.*
3. Transport currently consumes more than half of global liquid fossil fuels; consumes between 20% and 50% of total urban energy consumption; emits nearly a quarter of the world's energy related CO₂; and generates more than 80 per cent of the air pollution in cities in developing countries (UNEP 2011; ITDP & Gehl Architects 2010; Lefèvre 2010). *Chapter 5.*
4. Better metropolitan governance arrangements, such as coordination amongst multi-level public institutions and across neighbouring municipalities, result in higher levels of sustainability in transport, in the Latin American cities studied. *Chapter 6*
5. Political conditions are more crucial than financial conditions in increasing levels of urban transport sustainability, in contemporary Latin American cities. *Chapter 6.*
6. Previously taken decisions, issued in the context of distinct political processes, determine the implementation of key urban transport public policies, which could increase sustainability levels. *Chapter 6.*
7. A Green Transport Index can be optimized and expanded to include many more cities in the region. This tool could be used to perform benchmarking exercises over time, thus impacting public policy processes.
8. Great cities are pestilent to the morals, the health, and the liberties of man – Thomas Jefferson, 1803.
9. Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving – Albert Einstein.