



***“Roles of multi-stakeholders towards subnational decarbonization”***

*Side Event on Decarbonized City at the Japan Pavilion  
at COP26*

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# A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE

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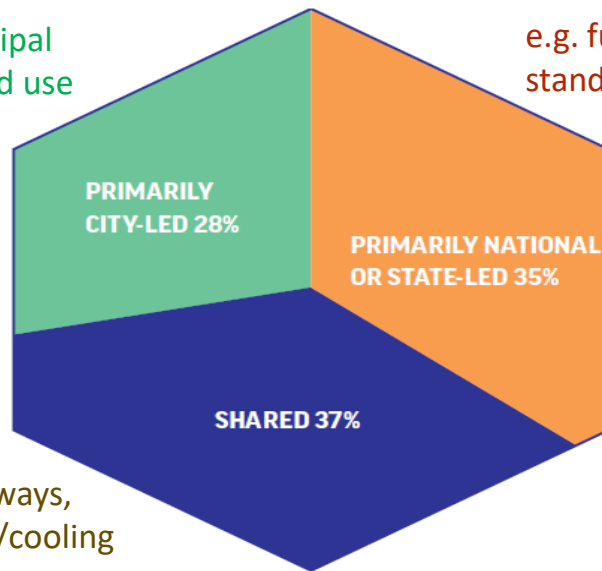
# Climate action: a shared responsibility across levels of government

- OECD regions and cities
  - 60% total public investment
  - 55% & 64% climate-related spending & investment, respectively
- 90% urban emissions can be cut by 2050 (+ 87 million jobs in 2030 and 45 million jobs in 2050) but coordination needed
- Key rural areas: energy, land-use & natural resources, ecosystem services

Proportion of urban mitigation potential over which different levels of government have main authority

e.g. municipal  
waste, land use

e.g. fuel  
standards



e.g. railways,  
heating/cooling  
appliances

**EXCLUDING DECARBONISATION  
OF ELECTRICITY (7.7 GtCO<sub>2</sub>-e)**

1 While COVID-19 had **asymmetrical impacts** across territories, policy responses and **recovery strategies** were often place-blind

2 The health crisis & turned into an unprecedented economic & social shock, with **varying capacities** to rebound from cities

3 While most of the world was in lockdown, we rediscovered the need to shift from **mobility** to **accessibility**

4 COVID-19 was an eye opener to all forms of **inequality** across people and places, especially in large cities

5 **Density** is not the problem – the urban *premium* will likely not turn into an urban *penalty*

6 **Digitalisation** triggers a new relationship to productivity, democracy, mobility and social interactions in cities

7 The “Zoom effect” and the “Greta effect” have accelerated citizens’ **environmental awarenesss**

8 COVID-19 holds implications for governance & citizens’ **trust** in their governments

9 While COVID-19 is new, **resilience** is not a new concept at all

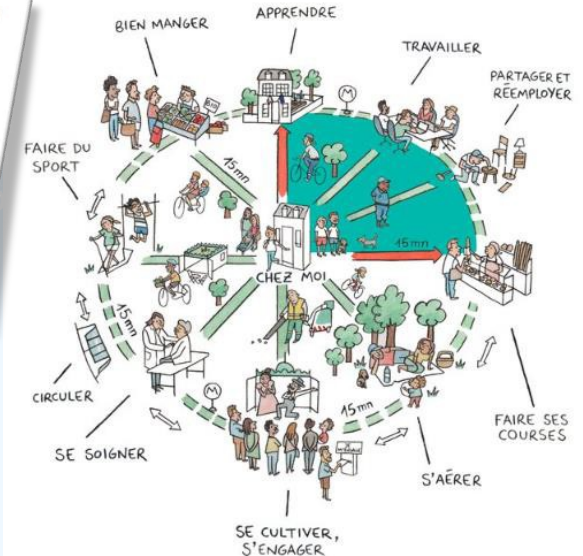
10 Never have **global agendas** been so timely and relevant for cities to fit for the future

## While most of the world was in lockdown, we rediscovered the need to shift from *mobility* to *accessibility*

- ✓ Cycling paths
- ✓ Widening of sidewalks
- ✓ Terraces for restaurants
- ✓ Balconies
- ✓ Green spaces
- ✓ Amenities



“15-minute city concept” by C. Moreno  
(applied to Paris)

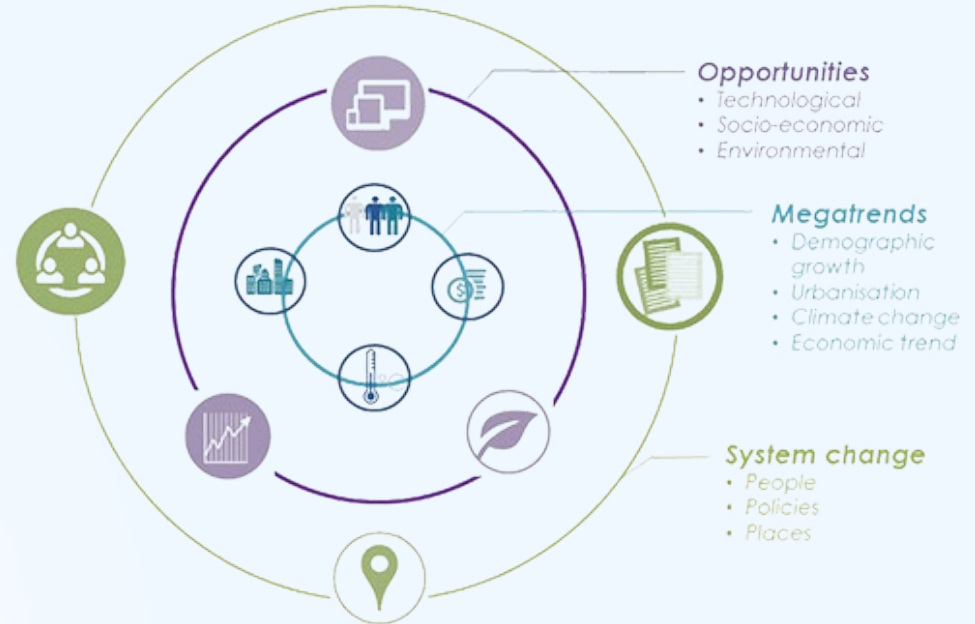


**Tactical urbanism allowed for great flexibility, which now needs to turn into lasting, long-term solutions. Caution with elitism and inequality!**

## The “Zoom effect” and the “Greta effect” environmental awareness

The transition from a “linear” to a “circular” economy may now be politically & socially more acceptable

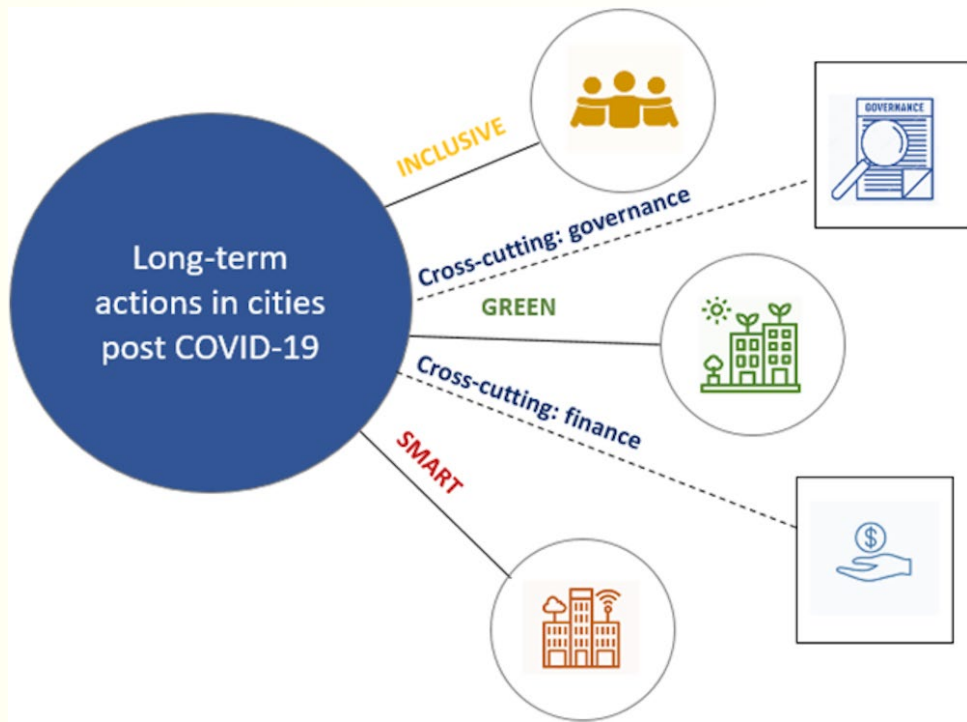
## The concept of Circular Economy



**There should be NO return to normal in terms of how we move, produce, consume and interact in cities**



# Cities strategies for long-term recovery and resilience offers a unique opportunity



Still green recovery measures are a relatively small component of overall stimulus packages

- Only **17% of total COVID-19 recovery spending** is related to environmentally positive recovery measures.

Source: OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Cities Policy Responses (2020); The OECD Green Recovery Database: Examining the environmental implications of COVID-19 recovery policies (2021)

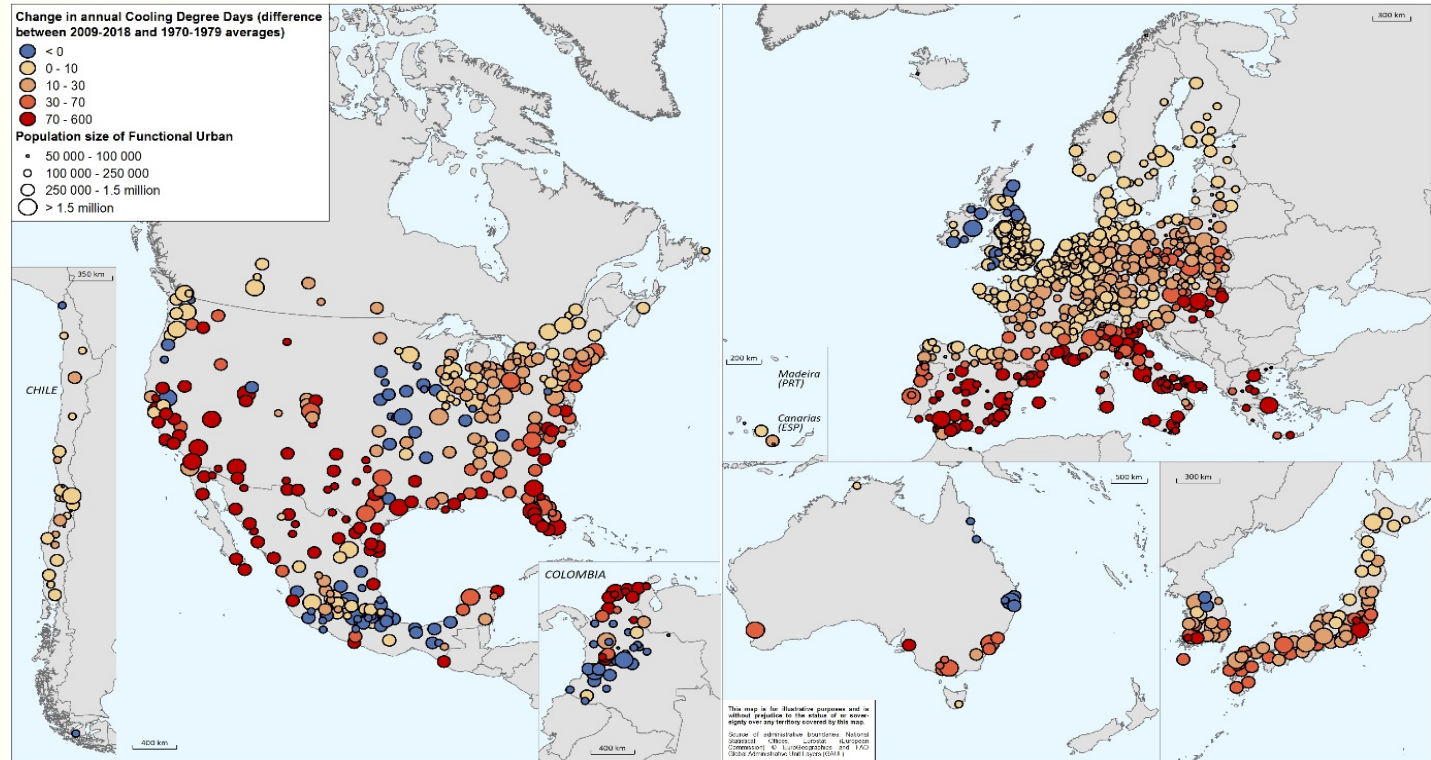




# Metropolitan areas: rising temperatures

## Change in cooling needs in OECD cities and their commuting zones

Since 1970,  
cooling needs  
have **increased**  
by **almost 25%**  
in OECD cities



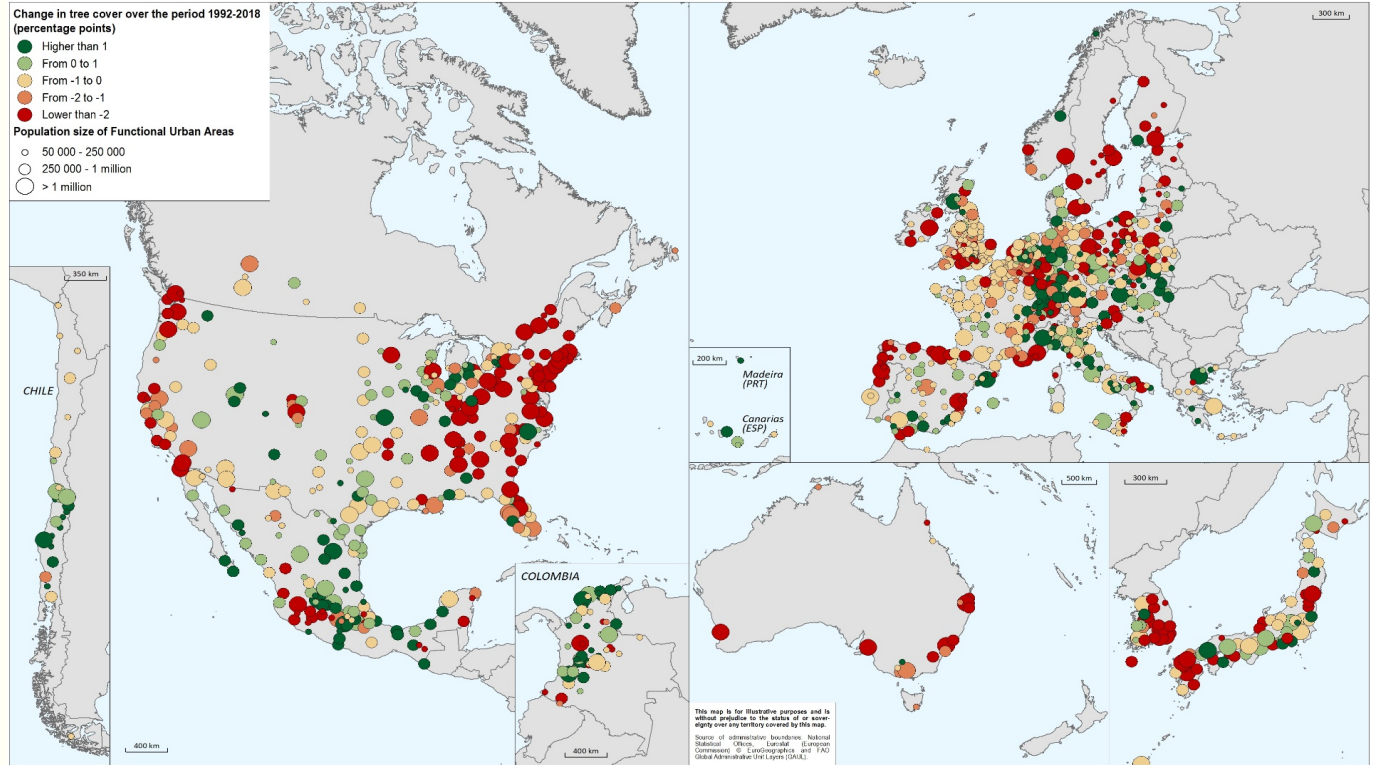
Source: Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020



# Metropolitan areas: less tree cover

Change in tree cover in OECD cities and their commuting zones: 1992-2018

Tree cover has declined in **more than half** of cities between 1992 and 2018. Most severe impacts were in **North America and Australia.**



Source: Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020





# Why a “territorial approach”? What benefits?

Paris Agreement challenges:

- **Geographical disparities** in potential and needs
- SNGs are very ambitious (net-zero Copenhagen 2025) but cannot achieve full potential **if acting alone**
- **Urgency** – NDCs insufficient to limit to 2°C by 2100, low political buy-in

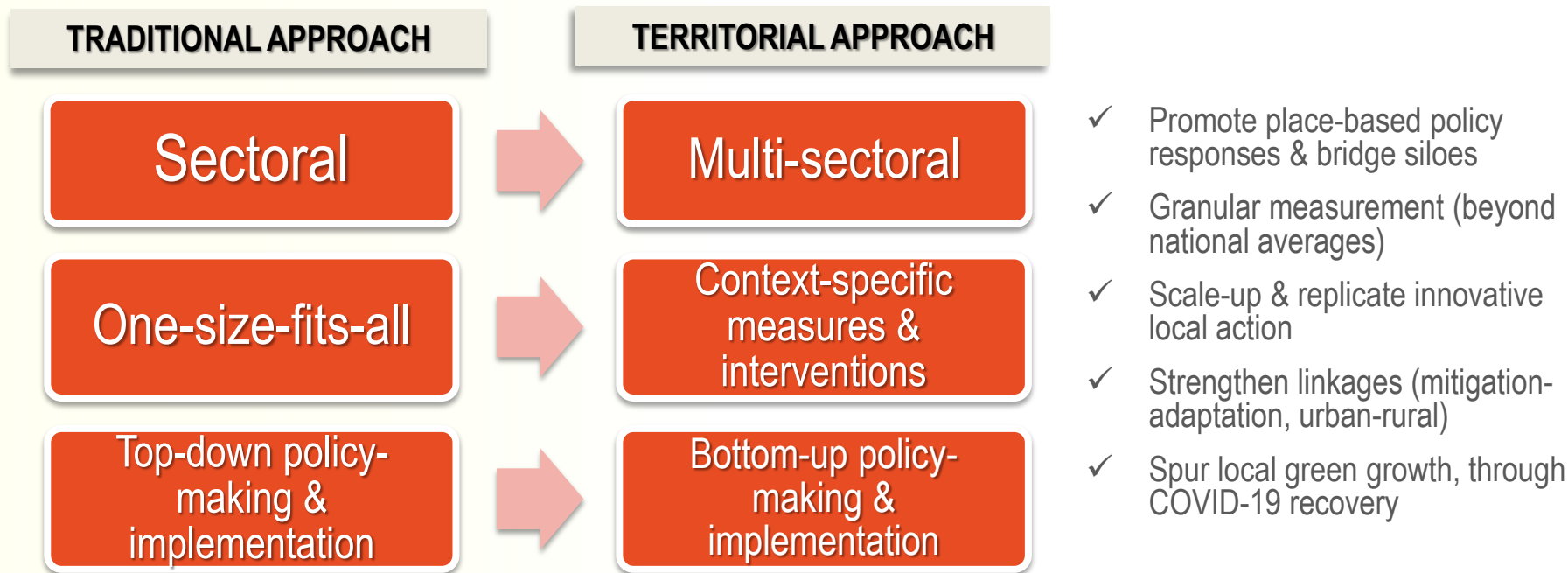


A territorial approach seeks to:

- Understand **context-specific strengths and challenges + measuring distance**
- Ensure **policy coherence** between levels of gov't
- Support & scale up action in **cities and regions**



# What is a territorial approach and how can it help?





# A Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience

To drive the zero-carbon transition & reinforce climate resilience through a territorial approach

## Evidence base

- Demonstrate subnational potential by strengthening localised reporting/monitoring frameworks, including for investment and financing
- Develop **zero-carbon transition & climate resilience benchmarks** and track **subnational climate finance**

## Multi-level policy reform

- Assess national & subnational policy and governance frameworks
- Provide tailored recommendations for mitigation/adaptation policies
- **Checklist for action** (e.g. integrating climate action in territorial/urban development policies, regulations and incentives)

## Knowledge exchange

- Share & disseminate innovative policies to drive the transition and recovery

# Thank you!



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