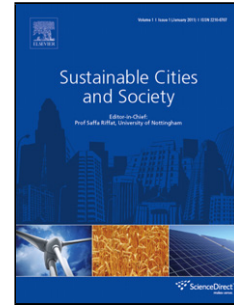


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# How does local economic development in cities effect global GHG emissions?

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## Highlights

- **Shifting to compact, transit-oriented urban form could have economic benefits and reduce emissions by reducing average travel distances, average dwelling size and clearing of land for development.**
- **Attractive, well-functioning urban infrastructure and services are key enablers for delivering the GHG and economic benefits of a compact urban form.**
- **City-scale emission reductions will not always yield global-scale emission reductions.**
- **Measures to reduce urban air pollution can also reduce global GHG emissions.**
- **To maximize contributions to global GHG emission reductions will need to address emissions associated with consumption of goods and services.**

## Abstract

City governments are increasingly taking an active role in economic development. Urban leaders around the world have different resources, strengths and priorities, but cities focus on creating an attractive environment to live, work and grow businesses, and they often invest in enhanced infrastructure and improved public services. As economic hubs, cities also have a crucial role to play in mitigating global climate change. Cities at all levels are pursuing climate action, and many of the measures they are choosing have also been shown to have broader economic and social benefits. This paper looks at this issue in the other direction, examining the potential GHG impact of policies and actions that are already widely used by cities to advance economic development and competitiveness. We find

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