

Freetown's first Climate Action Strategy

2022-2030



"There can be no global impact without local action."

Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers OBE,
Freetown City Council

“...we all must play our part; governments, lawmakers, mayors, corporations and every individual.”

Freetown's
First
Climate
Action
Strategy

Foreword from Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE

Freetown City Council



It is generations of hard work that has transformed what was once a modest haven for freed slaves in 1792 into a bustling city in 2022. Freetown is testament of our cultural diversity and religious tolerance; and it drives the economic output of our great nation.

However, our great history – and the even greater future that we have been working towards through the Transform Freetown agenda – hangs in the balance as our city becomes more and more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As this global phenomenon unfolds, the resources that are meant to support our development are now posing a threat to that development due to climate change. As a city that lies along the Atlantic on the west coast of Africa, rising sea levels and sea deoxygenation threaten coastal settlements whose livelihoods are closely linked to our marine resources. As climate-driven rural-urban migration continues, our forest-covered mountains are continuously decimated for new settlements, putting biodiversity at risk, reducing air quality and water availability, exacerbating the urban heat island effect, and just as importantly, limiting our tourism potential.

There are countless other ways in which climate change leaves our city reeling and these are not unique to Freetown. Although Africa is only responsible for 2-3% of the world's global emissions, many other sub-Saharan cities like Freetown are most affected. Climate change does not discriminate. When it hits, its effects are felt by everyone and therefore we all bear the responsibility to do what is necessary to help reverse the changing climate. As a member of the C40 Cities Leadership Group, it is my firm belief that **we all must play our part; governments, lawmakers, mayors, corporations and every individual.**

I am delighted that the city of Freetown is playing its part, which starts by our commitment to Deadline 2020 (net zero emissions and climate resilience) and embarking on this worthwhile journey of developing a Climate Action Plan – **our first blueprint on how we will consistently contribute to national, regional and global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience.** This Plan details how Freetown will contribute to this fight, and how everyone – from businesses to individuals – will work together to reach our goal of cutting down on carbon emissions and creating a sustainable way of life for all.

The Plan focuses on feasible projects that prioritise the grassroots and introduces policies and ideas that will help the city to move forward with the already existing consequences of climate change. The Plan, which strongly aligns with the Government of Sierra Leone's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and mirrors Freetown City Council's Transform Freetown Agenda, follows the two-pronged approach of implementing mitigation and adaptation measures in the fight against climate change. Freetown will focus on urban energy, mobility and sanitation as part of its mitigation efforts; and on ecosystems and land restoration, disaster risk management, water and urban planning to foster adaptation.

Freetown's spirit of resourcefulness and innovation will be useful in our battle against climate change. Even as we prepare to undergo a citywide change, I acknowledge that our global goal cannot be met through the actions of one city alone. Therefore, I am extremely glad to be a part of a group of cities that are committed to making the necessary changes to save our environment. I look forward to implementing this Plan, and to the hopeful future of a sustainable world.



Foreword from **C40 Cities** *Hastings Chikoko*

Managing Director of Regions and
Mayoral Engagement & Regional
Director for Africa, C40 Cities

Freetown has witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of climate change in deadly landslides, flooding and coastal erosion. Climate change is threatening the lives of Freetonians and particularly of those who are most vulnerable. While being one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions of cities on the African continent, Freetown joined the C40 Cities Leadership Group in November 2019 and has ever since taken on a lighthouse role for climate action - far beyond the African continent.

As a member of the C40 Climate Leadership Cities group, the city embarked on a path to develop its first Paris compatible climate action strategy by setting high ambitions to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate risks at a significant pace, while improving the well-being of its residents. In creating this first city-led climate action strategy, Freetown provides a key building block for the city's resilient and low-carbon development path. The strategy complements the Government of Sierra Leone's ambition under the Paris agreement, supports limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above the average pre-industrial temperature, and strengthens protection of its people and systems from the impacts of climate change.

With limited resources, developing this strategy wasn't an easy task for the city. The city, supported by C40, showed great perseverance, ambition and innovation to develop a strategy that is not only becoming a working document for the city's newly established Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management Unit, but that is also in line with C40's Climate Action Plan Framework criteria.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and appreciate Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer's strong and dedicated leadership on climate change, including but not limited to her role as a Vice-Chair on C40's Steering Committee, representing the Innovator Cities.

With this strategy, we hope to have planted a seed that allows us to grow and learn from each other in the fight against climate change. We look forward to continuing this engagement to ensure that this transformational plan is implemented, and our dream of a low-carbon and climate-resilient future is realised.



Freetown City, Sierra Leone
Photography by Michael Duff

TOPICS

1. Making the case for climate action in Freetown.
2. A first step on Freetown's climate action planning pathway.
3. Climate change in Freetown.
4. Towards a climate safe future for Freetonians.
5. How can we achieve our ambitious goals?
6. Climate actions come with additional benefits.
7. Taking climate action forward, monitoring progress and future iterations of this strategy.

1.

Making the case for climate action in Freetown

Cities are as powerful as they are vulnerable in the context of climate change. Cities are the largest emitters of the greenhouse gases (GHGs) leading to climate change, producing approximately 70% of global emissions and they also feel the impacts of climate change most acutely. At the same time, and while cities are recovering from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, urban growth shows no sign of slowing and poses more pressure than ever on cities to not only deliver services, but to do so in the face of more frequently occurring climate-related disasters. According to the United Nations World's Cities Report 2018, in early 2000, the world counted 371 cities with at least 1 million inhabitants; by 2018 that number rose to 548 and is projected to reach 706 in 2030. 48 out of the 706 cities will pass the 3 million inhabitant threshold by 2030.

Freetown, the Western Area Urban located on a mountainous peninsula, is currently home to more than 1.1 million residents and is one of the most densely populated cities in West Africa. **Even though Freetown is among the lowest emitters of GHG emissions of capital cities on the African continent, it is one of the cities that is most vulnerable and susceptible to the effects of climate change.** If the world is unable to stem the levels of GHG emissions, cities like Freetown will be among the worst affected and will see rising temperatures and sea levels as well as more frequent and severe disasters such as flooding and landslides. Therefore, it is critical that Freetown takes action now to build climate resilience whilst adopting a climate-friendly development trajectory.

In November 2019, the City of Freetown joined the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and committed to delivering on the highest ambitions of the Paris Agreement: the development of a pathway towards GHG emission neutrality latest

by 2050 and demonstrate how the city will adapt and improve its resilience to climate hazards. **Freetown is using its commitment to being a net zero emissions city by 2050 to demonstrate leadership, and to leverage support for improving the liveability of the city and the well-being of its citizens.** This commitment to the Paris Agreement will complement the Government of Sierra Leone's (GoSL's) existing mitigation commitments and efforts, as identified in its recently updated and submitted NDC, as well as the GoSL's NAP. Fulfilling its commitment to the Paris Agreement will also address the city's most primary development needs and support Freetown to contribute to the country's first Medium Term National Development Plan 2019-23 (MTNDP), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Freetown's Climate Action Strategy is the city's first attempt towards delivering on its commitment to the Paris Agreement and presents innovative, yet evidence-based solutions to guide the city with adapting to the risk climate change poses, such as flooding, coastal erosion and landslides, while simultaneously strengthening mitigation efforts that will ensure the city's development follows a green and sustainable path. **There are numerous benefits associated with pursuing carbon neutrality beyond the city's contribution to the global effort to curb climate change and Freetown's first Climate Action Strategy highlights these.** For example, reducing GHG emissions and increasing resilience to climate induced risks and hazards in Freetown can also result in a reduction in air pollution, improved health and sanitation, urban greening and stimulating green growth. **Taking climate action can thus allow Freetown to deliver a higher quality of life for its residents with greater prosperity and better health.**

Western Area Urban

Western Area Rural

Freetown Municipality Borderline

Freetown Western Area



2.

A first step on Freetown's climate action planning pathway

Developing Freetown's first Climate Action Strategy has not been an easy task, particularly with many pressing needs often taking centre stage. However, since Freetown became a C40 member city and committed to Deadline 2020 in November 2019, its climate action planning pathway gained momentum.

Freetown's Climate Action Strategy is based on international standards and was developed according to C40's Climate Action Planning Framework, a standard developed specifically for cities aiming to do their part to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is intended to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees celsius and assure climate resilience by 2050. Freetown's Climate Action Strategy considers climate change mitigation and adaptation in an integrated way, identifying interdependencies to maximise efficiencies; it includes evidence-based, inclusive and tangible goals and targets for achieving the city's transformational visions; and it includes detailed climate actions, all in line with the city's planning mandates.

Freetown's Climate Action Strategy builds and complements key subnational and national strategies, policies and frameworks, including the Transform Freetown Agenda, which is the first of its kind for the city of Freetown and a

reflection of a mindset to inspire change. The development process that led to Freetown's Climate Action Strategy was based on the extensive engagement process that culminated in the Transform Freetown Agenda in 2018. In addition, technical work sessions were held with members of FCC's administrative arm, the Mayor's Delivery Unit, as well as technical staff from C40 Cities. A number of initial external engagements with main government and civil society representatives also took place - both virtually and in person. The FCC also engaged its councillors and created a council committee for Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management. As a result of this inclusive process, and in keeping with the Transform Freetown Agenda, clusters and sectors selected for Freetown's Climate Action Strategy echo those included in the Transform Freetown Agenda. **Sectors already considered a priority in the Transform Freetown Agenda have been closely looked at through a climate lense and adjusted and they have also been built upon taking into account the findings of the city's GHG inventory, emissions trajectory modelling work, research on the city's air quality, as well as the outcomes of the city's climate risk and hazard assessment - resulting in seven key themes and sectoral visions for Freetown's Climate Action Strategy.**

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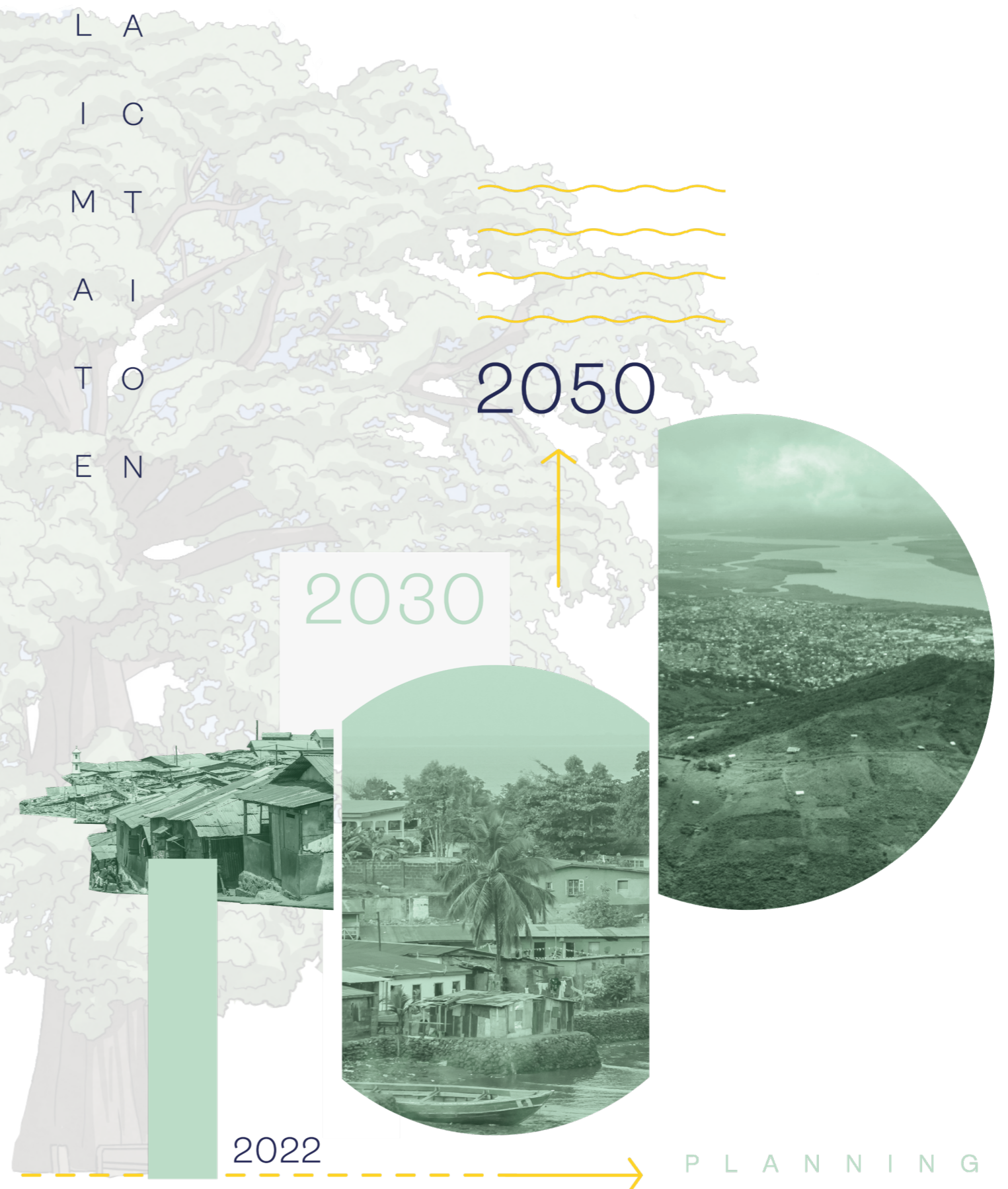
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3.

Climate change in Freetown

SOURCES OF EMISSIONS



Freetown's GHG Inventory is the foundational piece of evidence for the development of mitigation actions. Mitigation actions are activities or projects, which reduce emissions and the city's contribution to climate change. At the same time, they also drive the development of a cleaner, more equitable and environmentally sustainable city. The GHG Inventory helps to understand where emissions are coming from within a city and also provides insights into the activities in the city that could limit emissions.

According to Freetown's GHG Inventory, an estimated total of 1,284,191 tCO₂e were emitted in 2018. The main source of emissions is the use of energy within the city boundary. Stationary energy emissions, mostly attributable to the residential sector, contribute 40% to the

total citywide emissions (or 512 565 tCO₂e). These emissions are particularly high due to the high use of wood and charcoal for cooking and for heating water. Transport and waste emissions are also major contributors, and respectively contribute 31% (or 399,865 tCO₂e) and 29% (or 371,762 tCO₂e) to the total citywide emissions profile. The transport emissions are mostly from on-road transport whilst the waste emissions are approximately evenly split between solid waste and wastewater generated and disposed within the city boundary.

If no climate action is taken, Freetown's emissions by 2050 will be nearly twice the 2018 levels and are estimated to reach 2,565,621 tCO₂e in 2050.

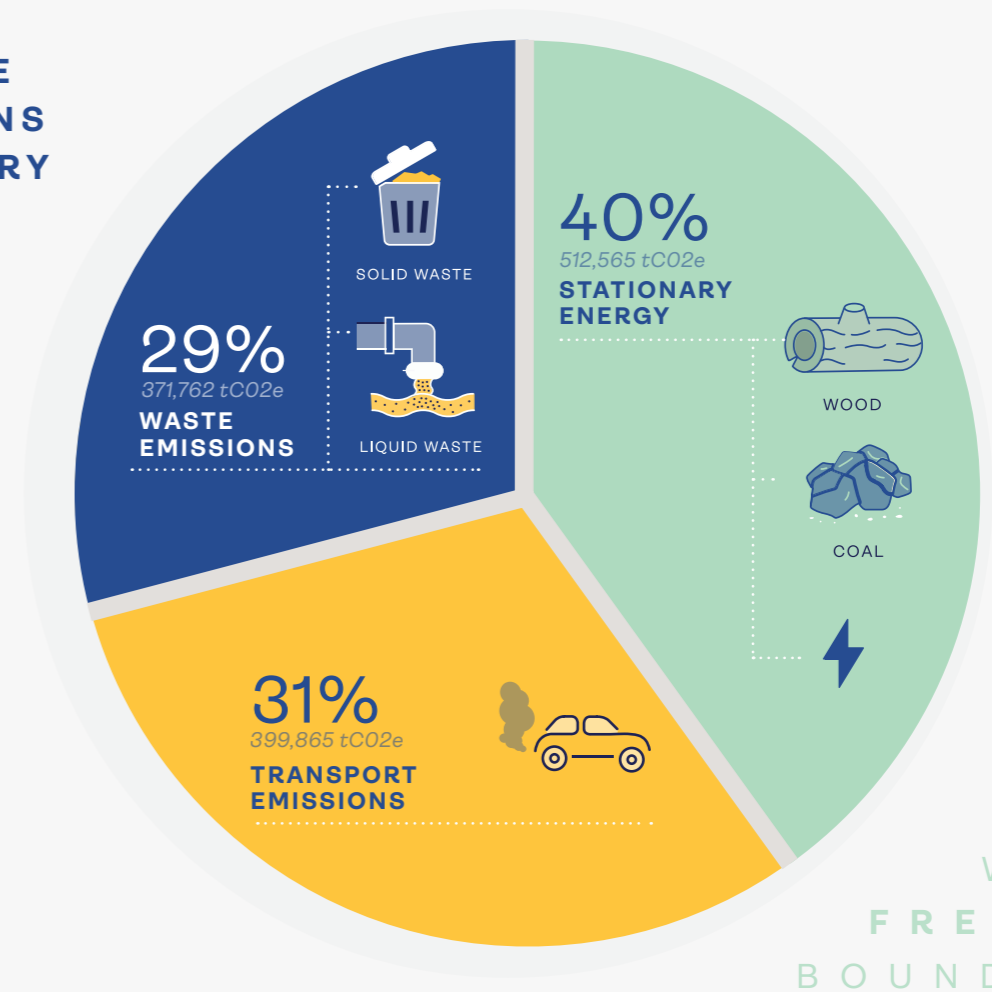
2018 FREETOWN LEVEL EMISSIONS EQUALS TO

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x 16.4 MILLION TRIPS



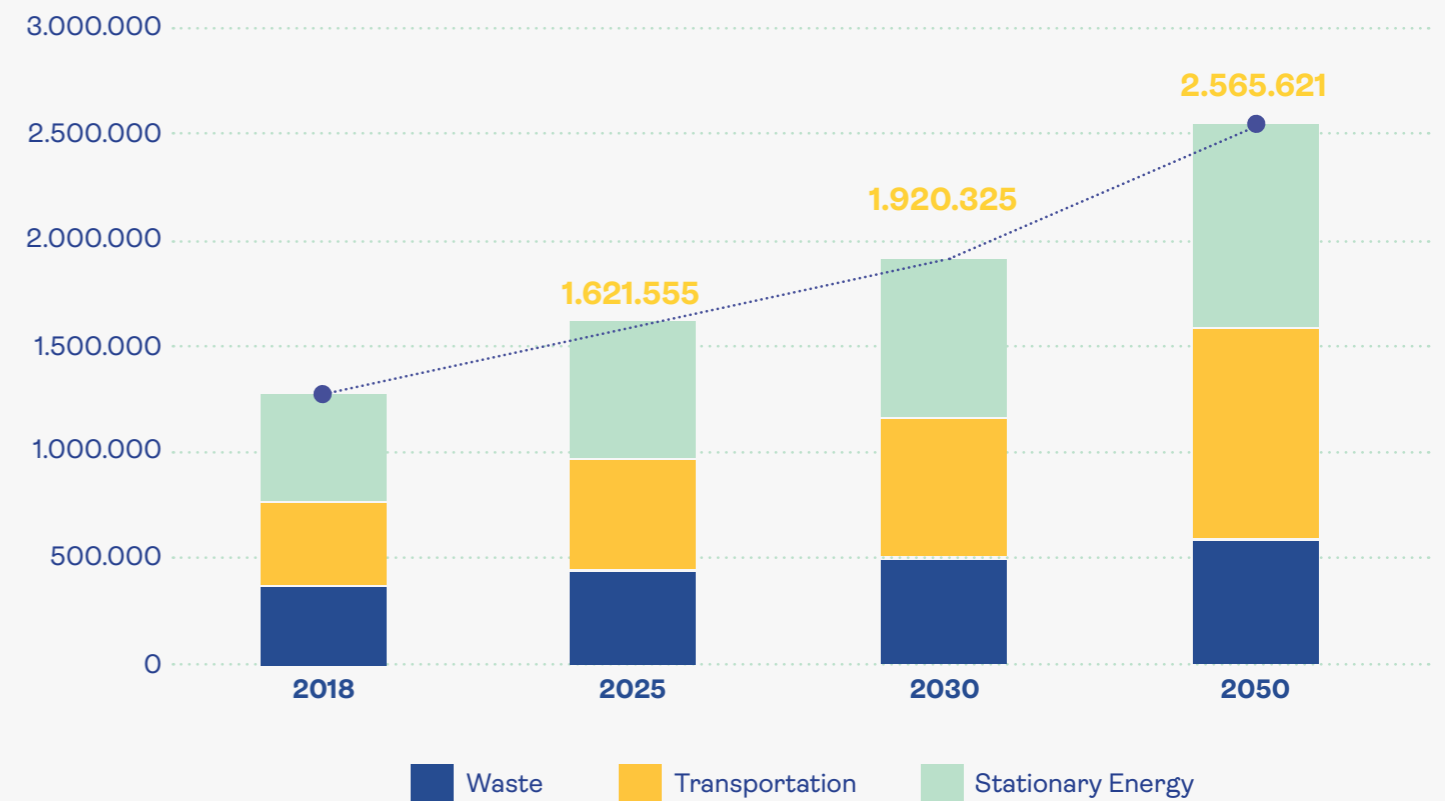
2018 BASELINE EMISSIONS INVENTORY



WITHIN FREETOWN BOUNDARIES

BUSINESS AS USUAL SCENARIO

tCO₂e / year



CLIMATE RISKS AND HAZARDS

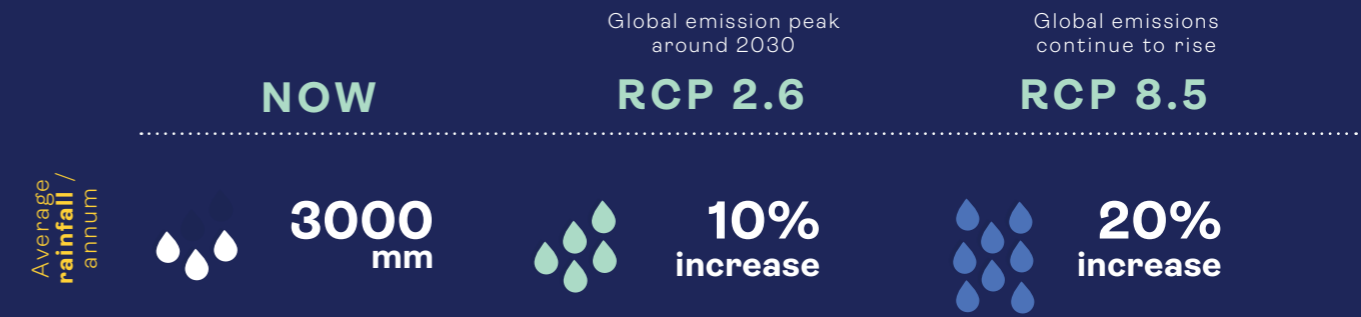
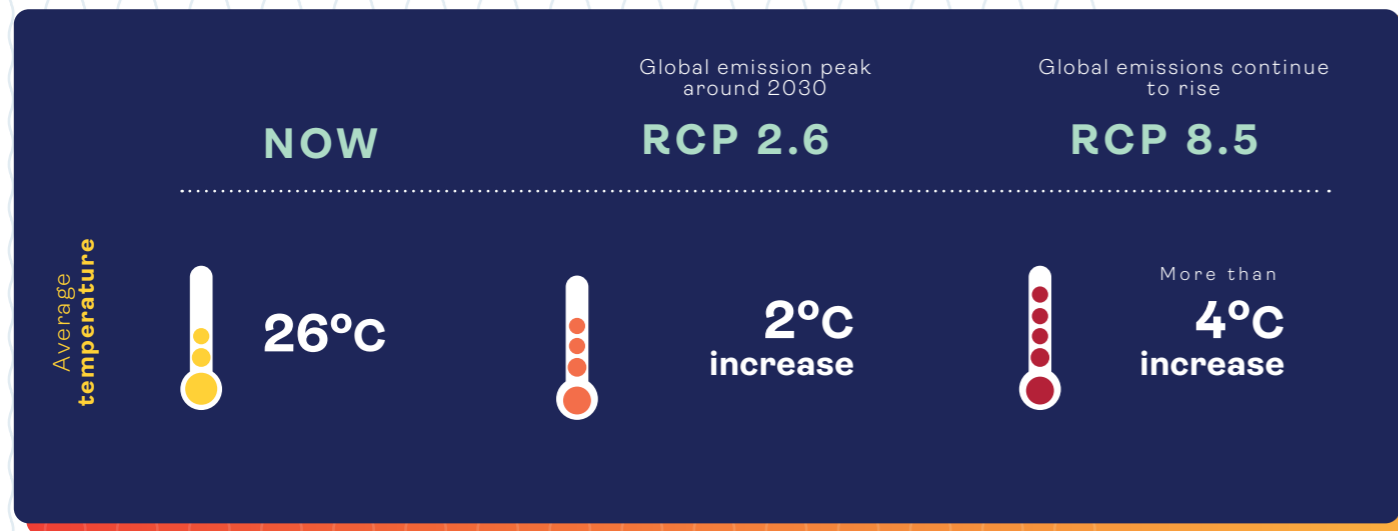


Historically, Freetown has always experienced high temperatures, heavy rainfall as well as high humidity and the city's climate has typically been marked by two 'seasons': rainy and dry. Currently Freetown's average daily temperature is 26°C and the city experiences seasonal rainfall variability, with a rainy season between May and November.

Analysis shows that both Freetown's average daily temperature and annual rainfall patterns are likely to increase as global emissions rise, which will likely result in more frequent and intense heat waves and more intense periods of rainfall with associated flash floods and landslides too.

According to the IPCC, if global emissions peak around 2030 and then decline in line with the

Paris Agreement (known as the RCP 2.6 scenario), the average daily temperature in Freetown is projected to increase by up to 2°C by 2100. However, if global emissions continue to rise throughout the twenty-first century (known as the RCP 8.5 scenario), Freetown can expect over 2°C increase by 2060 and over 4°C by 2100. The trends are similar for rainfall. Up to 10% increase in rainfall can be expected under RCP 2.6 by 2060, and up to a 20% increase under RCP 8.5 by 2060. The IPCC also indicates a high confidence in increasing seasonal rainfall variability, as well as an increase in heavy precipitation events by 2060 (from a 1960 baseline).

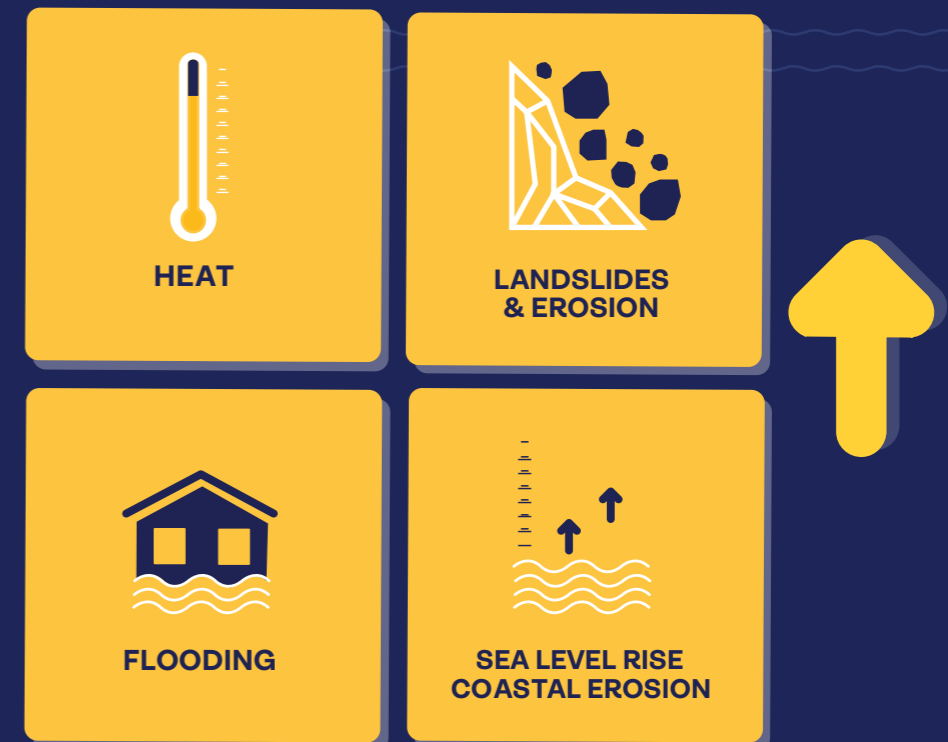


Data Source: IPCC AR6 Interactive Atlas.

intense periods of rainfall, residents of Freetown are already witnessing first-hand the escalating trail of destruction left in the wake of increased instances of both flooding caused by heavy rains, landslides and mudslides as well as heatwaves and instances of coastal flooding caused by rising sea-levels.

If no action is taken to combat these climate hazards, climate impacts will continue to, and will increasingly, affect livelihoods, the economy, assets and infrastructure as well as the natural environment and take a toll on Freetown's social capital: resident' health and education.

The instances of flooding and landslides will likely be intensified causing increases in annual fatalities and loss of homes and livelihoods. Sea level rise and coastal erosion will increasingly affect the future of people who live along the coastline and depend on the coast for their living, and high financial losses and fatalities can be expected. Prolonged and frequent heat waves are an increasing risk too, affecting lives and livelihoods throughout the city, particularly of those who are most at risk - namely children and the elderly. There is an urgent need for the city to address these impacts now to avoid the worst of these effects.



4. Towards a **climate safe** future for Freetonians

The evidence makes it clear that with no action, Freetown’s emissions will continue to rise in the years to come and the impacts of climate change and climate hazards on residents of Freetown will worsen across all aspects of urban life. To avoid this scenario and capitalise on the benefits climate actions can bring to the city, the city of Freetown has set ambitious targets to tackle these issues head on.



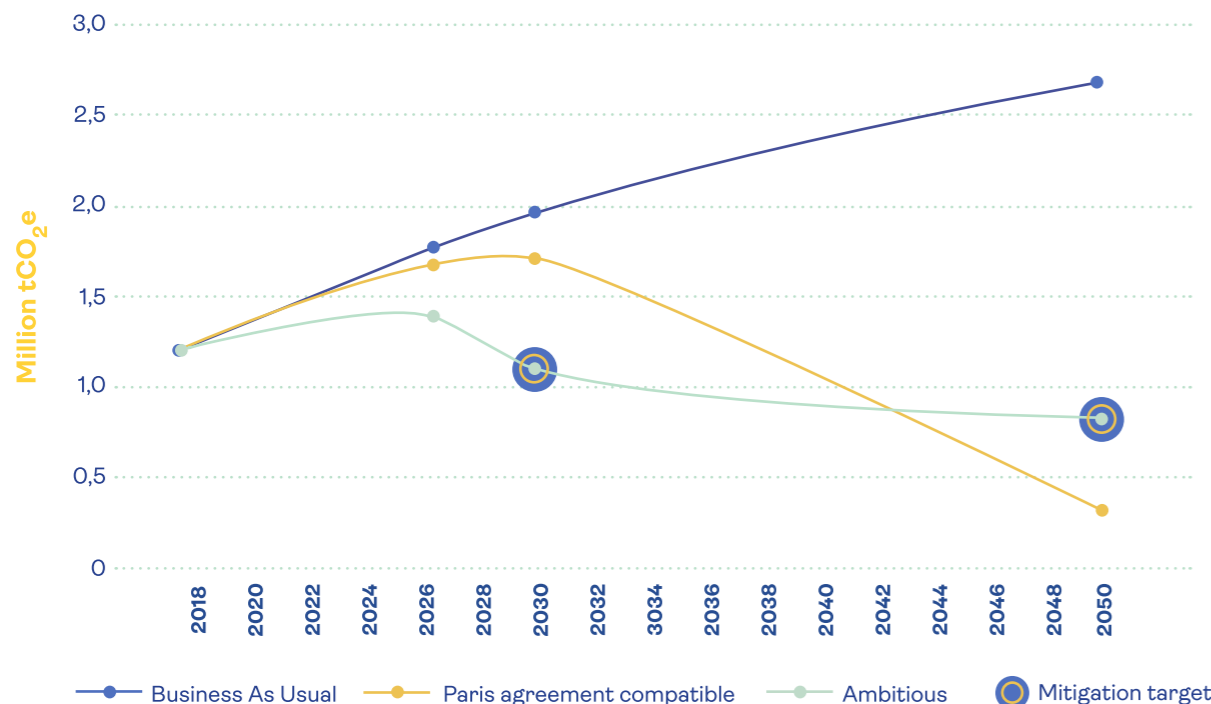
Freetown commits to building the institutional capacity and enabling environment required to adapt to climate-related hazards and natural disasters by 2030 and create climate resilient people, infrastructure and city systems by 2030.

Freetown uses its commitment to being a net zero emissions city by 2050 to demonstrate leadership, and leverage support for improving the liveability of the city and the health and well-being of its citizens. This commitment will complement the national government’s mitigation commitments and efforts, and address the city’s primary development needs with regards to energy, transport, sanitation and waste management.



Freetown commits to reduce GHG emissions by at least 44% by 2050 compared to the base year (2018) level and an interim target of 13% below base year levels by 2030.

GHG EMISSIONS BY SCENARIO



5. Climate actions come with **additional benefits**

Whilst climate actions are included in Freetown’s first Climate Action Strategy to achieve a very specific purpose, climate actions often serve multiple purposes and can support a city with not only meeting their climate action goals but achieving other mandates too - at the same time, and at no extra cost.

For example, developing green corridors in vulnerable communities will not only support Freetown with improving the city’s resilience to heat impacts by cooling the immediate area but will also reduce GHG emissions as trees absorb many of these harmful gases thereby supporting Freetown to achieve some of its mitigation goals too. Urban greening can improve air quality which improves the health of people living in the area. If the green corridors are developed using fruit trees, this has the opportunity of improving food security, particularly among the urban poor. Planting and maintaining urban green corridors can result in skills development opportunities and the creation of green jobs. Planting of vegetation can also help reduce the risks of landslides as well as decrease the impact of flooding. As such, just this one action can not only have a cooling effect for the city to combat heat but it can also reduce greenhouse gases, improve air quality, improve health, enhance food security, create opportunities for skills development and job creation as well as reduce the risks of other hazards.

Similarly, finding solutions for more efficient and cleaner options for cooking, particularly in vulnerable communities will support Freetown to achieve its goal of transitioning to a clean, accessible and equitable city energy system. At the same time, this activity will also result in improved health, particularly for women and girls, who are most often involved in the preparation of meals for the family and community. The use of wood and charcoal burning for cooking contributes



significantly to the city’s poor air quality, which in turn impacts the residents’ health. Hence, more efficient and clean cookstoves could not only prevent disease but also would allow women and girls to stretch the use of their cooking fuel for longer hours and/or more meals, which in turn frees a small portion of the already small household income for other purposes.

The bulk of the actions included in this strategy are associated with significant co-benefits so by implementing the actions presented above, Freetown can make significant gains in many of its other priority sector areas including health, education, skills development and job creation and favour some of the most vulnerable, like women and girls.

6.

How can we achieve our ambitious goals?

To realise these ambitious goals, Freetown co-created innovative actions in seven key areas. While all actions are important to achieve the city's goals, several ready-to-implement actions are highlighted. Each action also includes the action status and an envisioned implementation timeline:

1 / KEY AREA

Resilience - Disaster Risk Management & Climate Resilient Infrastructure



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by developing climate resilient communities in Freetown by promoting the safety of communities in the face of climate change and extreme climate events.



This can be supported through implementation of the following actions:

! DISASTER PREVENTION

Raise the awareness of disasters at ward level and reduce the re-identified risks within communities	Additional action	2025
Develop risk and hazard maps at ward level and corresponding action plans	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2030
Implement action plans for high-risk areas	Additional action	2050
Update the FCC's facilitators guide for the development of a long term DRM policy	Existing action	2025
Mainstream DRM across sectors at FCC and strengthen collaboration among levels of government	Existing action	2025
Revise and subsequently enforce Sanitation by-laws at the city level to prevent disasters and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for fire safety at existing sanitation facilities.	Existing action	2030
Support and enforce where possible flood proof development of new neighbourhoods	Additional action	2030



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Continue and strengthen Freetown's Rapid Emergency Response	Existing action	2050
Strengthen the FCC's emergency response and incident training and build capacity for the CA&DRM Team	Existing action	2025
Explore options to scale up the early warning systems at FCC	Existing action	2030
Strengthen the collaboration between SL Met and FCC to improve local understanding of risks and supporting early warning systems	Existing action	2030
Develop a flood evacuation plan for high risk areas	Existing action	2030
Support the understanding of emergency responses perform incident trainings and increase capacity building for the most vulnerable at ward level	Additional action	2030
Develop a drought response plan and integrate aspects of water scarcity within the council's DRM functions	Additional action	2050
Strengthen collaboration across DRM stakeholders for the deployment	Existing action	2025



CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Cooperate with the GoSL on the construction of stormwater drainage and river training works	Existing action	2025
Cooperate with EDSA on building affordable and safer distribution of electricity in vulnerable communities	Additional action	2025



CLIMATE RESILIENT

SAFETY

EMERGENCY RESPONSE -



2 / KEY AREA Resilience - Heat



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by increasing Freetown's climate resilience to heat impacts and becoming a more livable, cool and sustainable city for its people.



This can be supported through implementation of the following actions:

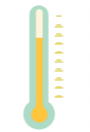
IDENTIFICATION OF HEAT RISK AREAS

Assess spatially the heat risk in the city (map the exposure and vulnerable areas) and determine the most vulnerable areas (hot spots) to heat in the city (including vulnerable population and critical infrastructure)	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
Evaluate the health and socio-economic impact of extreme heat across different segments of the population	Additional action	2025
Develop a heat action plan, with a strong focus on the identified hot spots and the most vulnerable segments of the population	Additional action	2025

HEAT SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ARCHITECTURE

Create shade at markets and along walkways	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
Develop further passive building cooling and heat sensitive architecture in the city's hottest areas	Additional action	2025
Develop green corridors in vulnerable communities	Additional action	2050
Engagement with SL Engineers to raise awareness on heat proof building materials and design a standard passive cooling model for housing	Additional action	2025

RISK MEASURES



HEAT RISK MEASURES WITHIN REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Once building control and permit functions are devolved to the subnational level, integrate building cooling techniques and requirements for heat sensitive building architecture into the building code.

Pending 2030

COMMUNICATION OF RISK

Establish a Heat Health Task Force to coordinate the development and implementation of the Heat Action Plan and related activities

Additional action 2025

Create Early Warning Systems and protocols to cover heat waves, with a strong focus on the identified hot spots and the most vulnerable segments of the population

Additional action 2025

3 / KEY AREA

Resilience -
Environmental Management



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by *Developing climate resilient communities in Freetown by enhancing nature in our urban environments and the natural ability of ecosystems to buffer climate change impacts.*



This can be done through actions focussing on

BIODIVERSITY

Restore 3000 hectares of urban land, some proportion of which across natural spaces including a) River /Stream / Watershed, b) Mangrove Area, c) Wetland, d) Urban Forest, and e) Natural Area with Steep Slopes	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2030
Restore 3000 hectares of urban land, some proportion of which across urban areas and communities including a) Populated Area(s)/Communities - requiring distinction within one or between two communities, b) Populated Area/Community + Different Land Use Zone - requiring visual spatial boundary and c) Populated Area/Community – requiring Community Tree(s) or Iconic Trees.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2030

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Incentivize a pathway to protection of the natural environment and away from harmful practices, like sand mining, stone mining and charcoal burning through job creation, particularly for women and youth	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
Incentivize a pathway to protection of the natural environment and away from harmful practices, like sand mining, stone mining and charcoal burning by training women and youth as Community Climate Action Ambassadors	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025

IMPACT INVESTMENT FOR NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Develop administrative processes and tools to issue impact tokens to investors and finalise carbon credit registration and market entry strategy / roadmap.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE		
Develop a heat action plan, with a strong focus on the identified hot spots and the most vulnerable segments of the population.	Additional action	2025
Build a replicable blueprint for sustainable reforestation to be shared with other cities through publication, direct exchanges and networks.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
FCC planning policies will give priority in developing Action Area Plans targeted at preventing unsuitable development in hazard prone areas.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025

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4 / KEY AREA **Healthy Cities**
Water



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by *Creating water security for all users and uses in Freetown.*



This can be done through actions focussing on

WATER ACCESS

Gain insights through research about the nexus of water management and climate change at the city level, in cooperation with the GoSL.	Additional action	2025
Engage and cooperate with the GoSL in hydrological monitoring of water use to create a national database and strategic planning of water resources in face of climate change.	Additional action	2025
Involve and empower the most vulnerable communities in Freetown in the water space.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
Provide water and storage systems to facilities for community use, including in informal settlements, at markets and in PHUs.	Existing action	2025
Provide portable water and storage systems to water deprived and hard to reach communities through the installation of water kiosks.	Existing action	2025
Cooperate with the national government on the developments of the Guma dam reservoir and transmission expansion and improvement.	Additional action	2025
Enhance demarcation activities of encroached areas in communities of catchment areas	Existing action	-
To stem the rapid rate of deforestation on the periphery of the city, areas will be identified in the Local Area Plans as Protected forested areas. The approach will aim to protect areas within existing water supply catchment and areas at risk of flooding.	Ongoing action with potential for scaling up	2025
Establish and operationalize a water quality lab	Additional action	-
Rehabilitate and expand existing water sources (springs, weirs)	Additional action	-

WATER USE

Cooperate with newly established Water Loss Reduction Unit at GVWC	Additional action	2025
Cooperate with the national government on the development of policies and procedures to address unauthorised consumption, water loss and pipe replacement programs	Additional action	-
Strengthen local water management by developing and delivering training on water management and maintenance	Existing action	2025
Develop of a drought response plan and integration of aspects of water scarcity within the council's DRM functions	Additional action	-



WATER SECURITY



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5 / KEY AREA

Healthy City
Sanitation



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by Freeing Freetown from waste and develop a smart and sustainable waste management system that enables and fosters quality of life and livelihoods for communities.



This can be supported through implementation of the following actions:



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Implement intermediate transfer stations, under inclusion of the informal workforce, to avoid duplicated collection routes and minimise the distance travelled by collection vehicles	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2050
Develop and implement revenue-sharing mechanisms for collection entities, particularly, informal workers	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2025
Cooperate with collection entities to ensure understanding/ compliance with service users and to thereby encourage the development and expansion of new skills and provide employment opportunities, particularly for the informal workforce within the sector.	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	-
Develop a fleet and data management system for tricycles	Additional action	2050
Procure additional tricycle carts to expand the waste management system and provide additional employment opportunities, particularly for the informal workforce	Existing action	2050
Expand household registrations	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2050
Develop and further expand existing community based waste management plan and support waste collection in hard-to-reach areas	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2030
Close Kissy dumpsite safely	Existing action	-
Install a weighbridge	Existing action	-
Improve Kingtom dumpsite and transform it to an engineered landfill	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	-
Support the development of the new sanitation landfill/waste management park and its integration within the city's waste management system	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2030
Remove illegal dumpsites and thereby strengthen compliance with sanitation bylaws	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2050
Continue running of the FSM Treatment Plant and expanding coverage and services	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	-
Procure Vacuum Trucks to further expand the FSM and integrate the informal workforce	Additional action	2025
Develop public toilets across the city	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2025

Develop a pilot for segregated food waste and organics collection	Additional action	-
Implement citywide segregated food waste / organics collection	Additional action	-
Integrate picking and sorting of plastics within the waste management system, also through cooperation and partnerships with the private sector and the informal workforce in the sector.	Additional action	-

RECOVERY AND BENEFICIATION OF VALUABLE MATERIALS IN THE WASTE STREAM

Develop a strategy for plastics	Existing action	-
Strengthen / enhance the development of a plastic recycling market and value chain	Additional action	2050
Support initiatives that generate energy from organic waste at low scale	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2050
Encourage and support the development of briquettes production and compost from liquid waste	Additional action	2050

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE TO INCREASE WASTE COLLECTION, RECOVERY AND RECYCLING

Strengthen capacity of METPOL & improving METPOL stations to enhance enforcement of bylaws	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2030
Revise, develop and enforce sanitation by-laws to encourage behavioural change	Existing action	2050
Improve the complaints system to support behavioural change and encourage compliance with sanitation by-laws	Existing action	2025
Strengthen outreach and community engagement at ward level encouraging behavioural change and compliance with sanitation bylaws.	Ongoing action with potential scalling up	2025
Run the Cleanest Zone Competition to enhance behavioural change	Existing action	2025
Run the Cleanest School Competition to sensitise children at early ages on waste management	Existing action	2025

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RECYCLE



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by Building a cleaner, safer and more equally accessible transport system.



This can be supported through implementation of the following actions:

USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Partner with the Ministry of Transport and Aviation to introduce a regulated high-occupancy bus service along the Freetown East-West Corridor	Existing action	2025
Partner with the Ministry of Transport and Aviation to increase the proportion of high-occupancy electric buses	Additional action	2050
Conduct a Feasibility Study for and procurement of the Freetown Cable Car East Line (Pilot Route)	Existing action	2025
Implement the cable car pilot and other routes as part of the integrated transportation system	Additional action	2030
Introduce On-Street Parking Controls	Additional action	2025
Implement a Low Emission Zone and Congestion Charging Schemes	Additional action	2050
Support a ban on import of high polluting vehicles	Additional action	2025
Cooperate with national stakeholders to implement a national vehicle emission testing roadworthiness regime	Additional action	2025
Support the development of a system for and the performance of on-the-spot vehicle emission testing	Additional action	2025

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT & URBAN PLANNING

Promote Transit Oriented Development to minimise car travel by introducing high density development at locations with good public transport links	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Partner with the Ministry of Transport and Aviation in developing a Sustainable Transport Management Strategy for the Western Area	Existing action	2025
Devolution of Planning Controls to Local Councils	Pending	2025
Devolution of Maintenance of Local Roads to FCC	Pending	2025

Through the development of the Western Area Structure Plan, policy interventions will seek to restrict development in hard to reach areas that are difficult to service due to limited levels of accessibility.

Ongoing action with potential scaling up

2025

FCC planning policies will give priority in developing Action Area Plans targeted at preventing unsuitable development in hazard prone areas

Ongoing action with potential scaling up

2025

To stem the rapid rate of deforestation on the periphery of the city, areas will be identified in the Local Area Plans as Protected forested areas. The approach will aim to protect areas within existing water supply catchment and areas at risk of funding.

Ongoing action with potential scaling up

2025

PROMOTING CYCLING AND WALKING

Improve Pedestrian Walkways	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Create Pedestrianised Streets	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Improve Street Lighting in the CBD area	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Introduce Car Free Days	Additional action	2025
Introduce Bicycle Sharing Rental Scheme	Additional action	2050
Introduce Cycle Lanes	Additional action	2050

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

LEOMWISSIONS



URBAN PLANNING

7/ KEY AREA **Urban Energy**



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by *Transitioning to a clean, accessible and equitable city energy system.*



Freetown aims at achieving its ambitious goals by:

SUPPLY OF OFF-GRID RENEWABLE SOURCES OF POWER

Develop CBD Solar Powered Street Lighting	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Develop a program that includes the provision of solar panels for electricity generation in PHUs in Freetown	Additional action	2025

CLEAN COOKING SOLUTIONS

Conduct a feasibility assessment of clean cooking solutions for Susan's Bay	Existing action	2025
Implement programs delivering clean cooking solutions at household level in informal communities	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2030

PROMOTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Develop and implement cooking energy awareness and engagement programs, particularly in informal communities	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	2025
Support the GoSL to develop and promote a minimum energy efficient performance standard for existing buildings and regulations for minimum energy efficiency requirements for new buildings	Additional action	-
Cooperate with the GoSL to support the transition to improved efficiency of cooling appliances and climate friendly refrigerants in Freetown	Additional action	-

Cooperate with the GoSL, on its energy policy and strategy to develop an implementation plan aimed at improving access to energy, improving energy efficiency and transitioning to cleaner fuels and renewable energy. This planning will be supported by a programme for gathering and analysis of data at the city level as well as the development of a tailored implementation plan for aforementioned policy and strategy at the city level.	Additional action	-
Support the development of a tax reduction scheme that encourages clean cooking plans	Additional action	-
Expand PPP portfolio to mobilise more finance and unlock funding opportunities for off-grid connection, especially in hard to reach areas	Ongoing action with potential scaling up	-



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7.

Taking **climate action forward**, monitoring progress and future iterations of this strategy

In 2018, when sworn in, Mayor Aki-Sawyers started off with limited financial and human resources. For the FCC to create an enabling environment for its first climate action strategy and carry forward its implementation it was crucial to work past existing boundaries, think outside of the box and not limit itself to available resources.

Freetown's efforts in addressing climate change rely heavily on the improvement of climate governance capacities to ensure that key stakeholders across the board are able to drive and monitor implementation at various levels of the FCC's work. Two key bodies within the FCC's political and administrative framework are the Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management (CA&DRM) Council Committee and the CA&DRM Unit respectively, both newly constituted in 2021, as a result of a gap analysis in addressing climate action and resilience in local planning in Freetown. In the future, the FCC also aspires to integrate a youth council to further strengthen climate governance capacities.

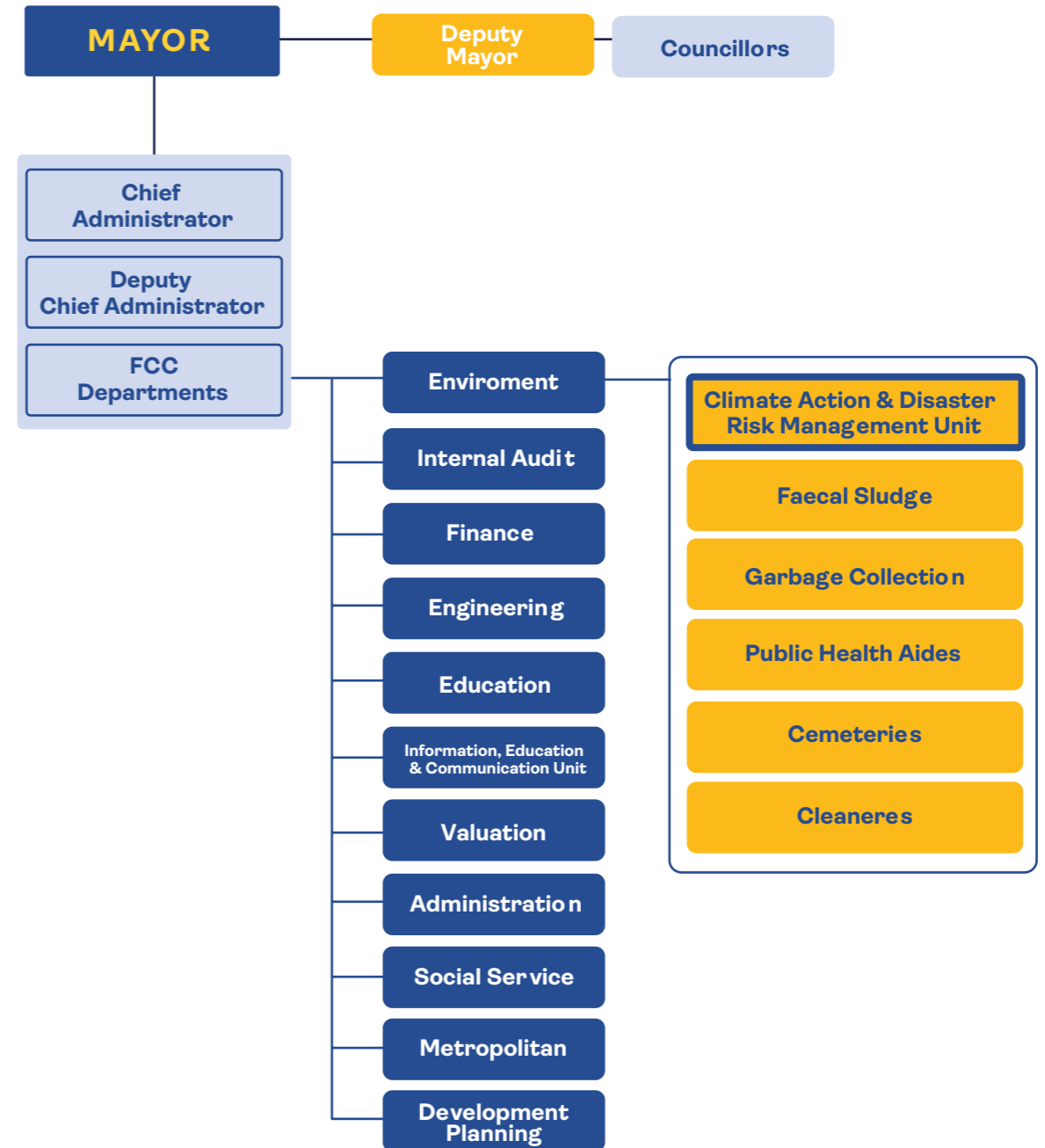
The visions, goals and actions identified in this strategy will heavily depend on the existing political and administrative framework, particularly the Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management

(CA&DRM) Council Committee and the CA&DRM Unit and its cooperation with other sectoral units. However, the existing framework's role needs to also be strengthened through partnerships with relevant MDAs, development partners, NGOs and CSOs, as well as the private sector. It is envisioned that this will be ongoing processes to support the city's climate change response. It is only by working together, combining efforts from multiple stakeholders that Freetown can implement, monitor and ultimately evaluate progress of Freetown's first Climate Action Strategy. Additionally, working together will also support Freetown with the necessary periodic reviews and updates of the Strategy in five years time to keep on improving the city's climate response.

If Freetown's Climate Action Strategy and future iterations are implemented successfully, Freetown will be able to reduce its GHG emissions, reduce the impacts of climate change on the city and improve the livelihoods and opportunities for its current and future residents.



**FREETOWN
CITY COUNCIL
ORGANOGRAM**



 For futher information go to: **fcc.gov.sl**

**Freetown's
First
Climate
Action
Strategy
2022 - 2030**



**URBAN
SH/FT**

