



WRI TÜRKİYE
— ROSS CENTER

WRI TÜRKİYE BRIEF

Credit: Yunus Tuğ

ABOUT WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is a trusted partner for change. Using research-based approaches, it works globally and in focus countries to meet people's essential needs, protect and restore nature, stabilize the climate, and build resilient communities.

WRI aims to fundamentally transform the world's food, land and water; energy; and cities, as well as the economic, finance and governance structures that underpin these key systems. WRI works across several topics to achieve systemic change globally and in focus countries: Cities, Climate, Energy, Food, Forests, Freshwater, Ocean, Equity, Business, Finance, Economics.

Founded in 1982, WRI has nearly 1,800 staff around the world, with country offices in Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and the United States, and regional offices in Africa and Europe.

WRI has earned a reputation for practical solutions and global impact based on rigorous analysis and deep long-term engagement with governments, corporations, city leaders, and communities. It has also become a leader in the use of new technologies and big data, while expanding the "do tank" side of its work to ensure better impact from its traditional "think tank" role. Most of its experts today are actively engaged with decision-makers on the front line.

WRI'S APPROACH

Count It

WRI starts with data, creating user-friendly information systems, protocols and standards. It conducts independent, unbiased research to analyze relationships and design solutions, and communicates the findings in a compelling manner.

Change It

WRI works with leaders of cities, companies and countries to achieve change, testing its ideas in complex, messy, real-world situations. It sets clear objectives and hold itself accountable.

Scale It

WRI identifies and overcomes barriers to change so that proven solutions spread quickly and widely. It works with coalitions of remarkable leaders who transform business sectors, societies and economies, nationally and globally.



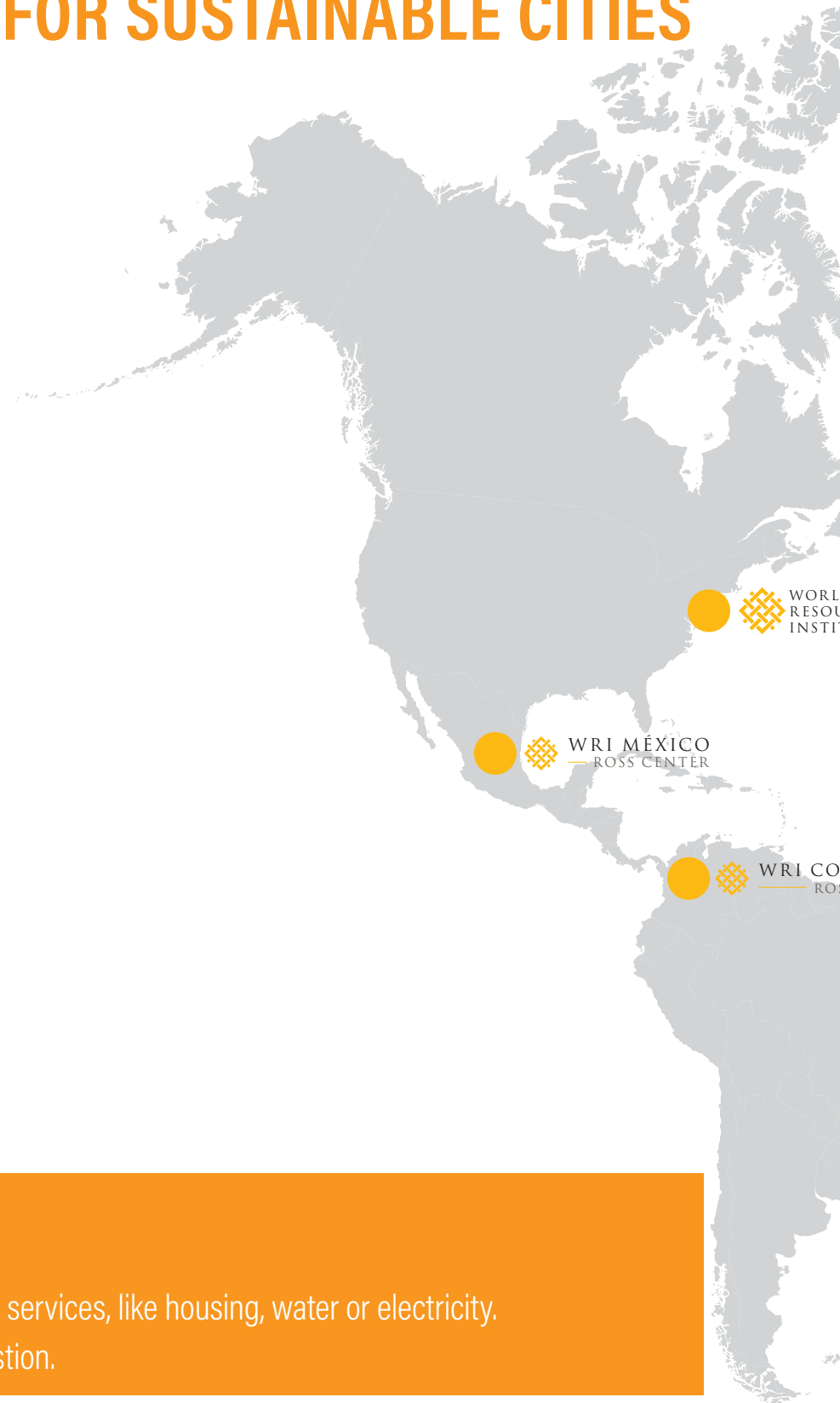
ABOUT WRI ROSS CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities focuses on integrated solutions to longstanding and new urban challenges. Through innovative research, deep engagement with urban leaders, and global partnerships, the network of local and international experts puts cities on a trajectory of more sustainable and equitable development. It accelerates transformative urban initiatives that turn cities into resilient, inclusive, low-carbon places that are good for people and the planet.

WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities is a team of 400+ local and international experts with deep expertise in urban planning and development, mobility, energy efficiency, resilience, housing, water management, and more. About 80% of its staff is based in offices in Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and Türkiye. WRI Ross Center combines the research excellence of WRI with two decades of on-the-ground impact in transport and urban development by the EMBARQ network to catalyze innovative solutions in other sectors, including air quality, water, buildings, land use, and energy.

WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities focuses primarily on cities in low- and middle-income regions: Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific. Cities here represent the greatest opportunity for a radical shift in how urban areas are planned, built, and governed. It also works at the front lines of the mobility and energy revolutions, including in the United States.

- 80% of global GDP is produced in cities.
- 75% of energy-related emissions come from cities.
- 1 in 3 city dwellers lack reliable access to at least one core services, like housing, water or electricity.
- 2 - 5% of Asia's GDP is lost every year due to traffic congestion.





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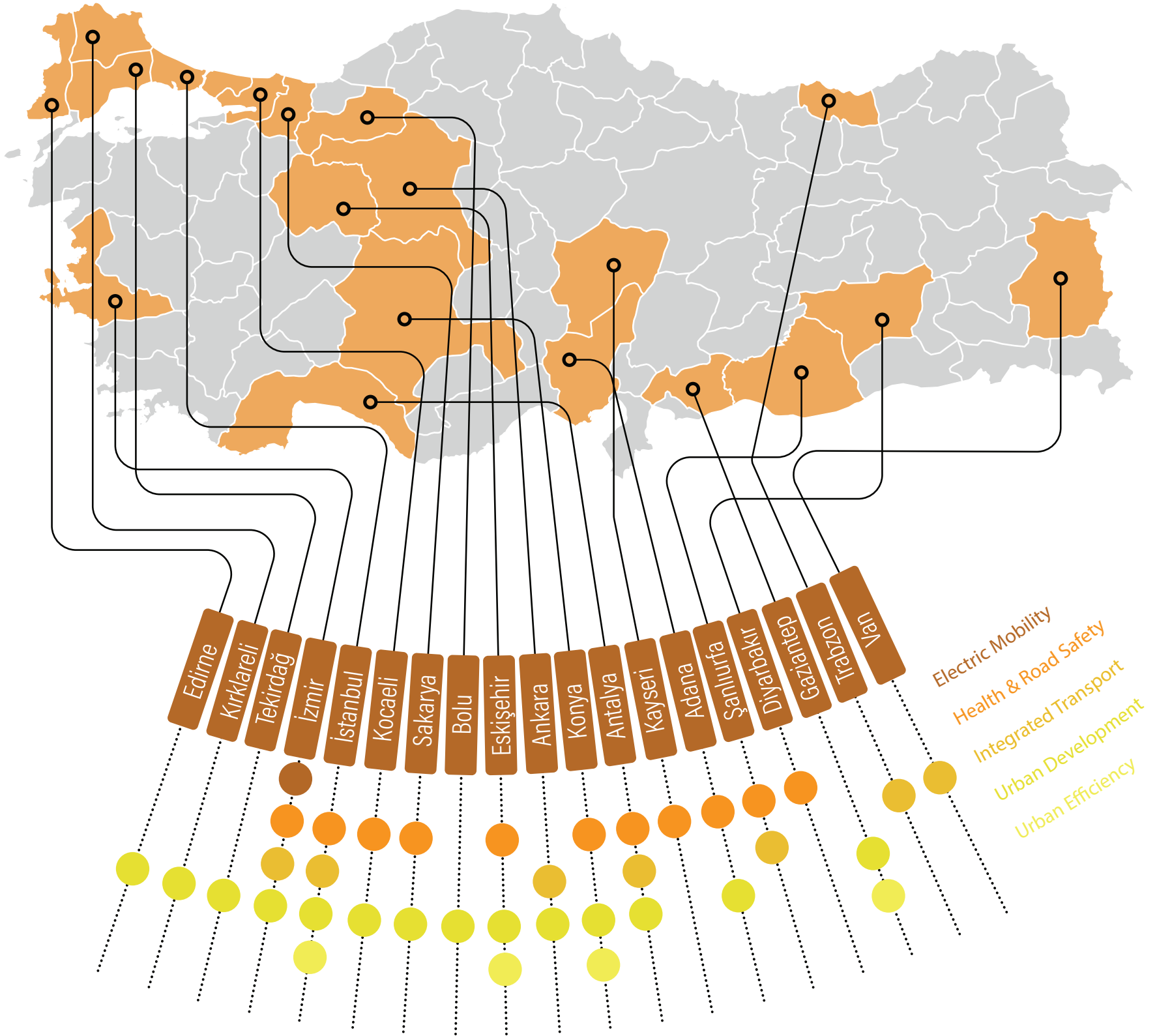
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THE CITIES WE WORK IN



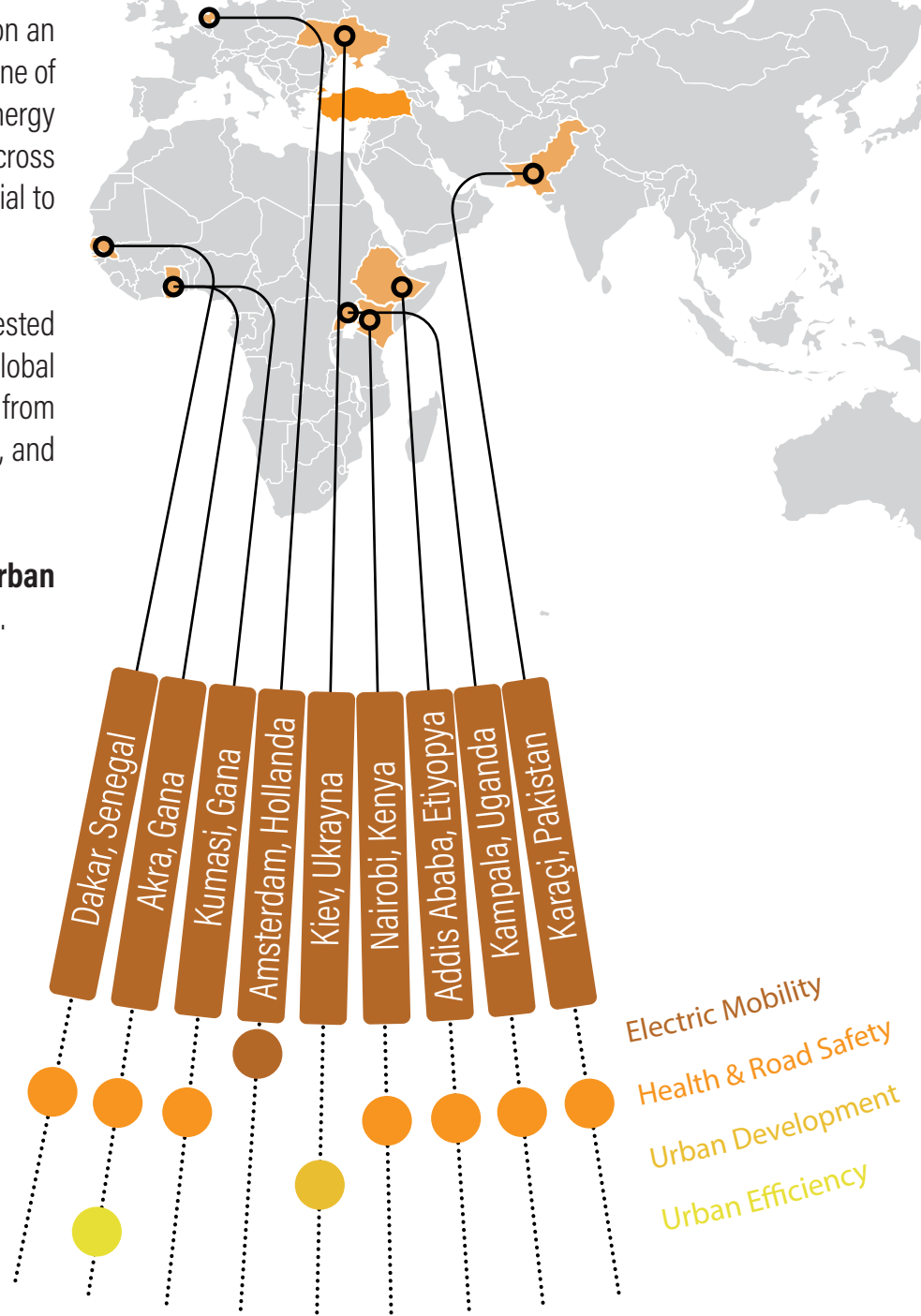
OUR WORK

WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities' goal is to help cities transform their physical infrastructure, institutions, and mindsets.

Cities are complex, living systems; single-sector solutions do not always address the full scope of urban problems. We focus on an integrated approach across three areas that form the backbone of cities: land use and economic development, mobility, and energy and resource efficiency. We have found solutions that cut across multiple sectors are most effective, with the greatest potential to trigger systemic, lasting change.

WRI Ross Center's value is that we can bring these road-tested and data-proven solutions to scale, from the local to the global level. Our unique strategy allows us to effect change from neighborhood projects to municipalities, national legislation, and global coalitions.

WRI Türkiye has been working on **urban mobility**, **urban development** and **urban efficiency & climate** since 2005.



URBAN MOBILITY

Improving quality of life, health, and opportunity in cities through sustainable and safe transport and urban design.

WRI helps cities design and operate cleaner, safer, more efficient, and more accessible mobility systems. We promote high-quality, integrated public transportation systems that include bus rapid transit (BRT), urban buses, informal transport, micro mobility, autonomous vehicles, and more. We encourage shifts to more active mobility options, like bicycling and walking, and public spaces that safely accommodate these modes. And we help cities navigate the transition to cleaner-burning fuels and electric vehicles.

Integrated Transport

Fostering multi-modal transport that connects people to opportunity and reduces emissions.

Integrated transport refers to a multi-modal transport system that expands access to opportunities and services for users while reducing emissions. This system efficiently links different modes of travel to active and micro mobility.

WRI supports countries, cities, and other transport stakeholders to reduce carbon emissions and meet Paris agreement goals; advance high-quality public transport connected to other modes such as bicycling and walking; improve informal transport that provides the plurality or majority of trips and many cities globally; foster innovations in urban mobility within the public and private sectors; and advance sustainable urban freight.

PROJECT:

Sustainable Urban Transport Network Türkiye

Enabling policy change and an engaged civil society in Türkiye through a sustainable urban transport network.

In Türkiye, road transport is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector (94%). Civil society and other actors in Türkiye who can stimulate change in this field are generally dispersed and disconnected from one another, unable to benefit from each other's technical expertise, good practices, and resources.

WRI Türkiye carries out the "Sustainable Urban Transport Network Turkey" project, which aims to establish an efficient sustainable urban transport network with its wide variety of stakeholders to create a greater impact on policy-making, democratic governance, and social change to enable a more democratic civil society in Türkiye.



Electric Mobility

Increasing access to electric vehicles, charging infrastructure and optimizing to reduce emissions.

The transport sector is responsible for 24% of CO2 emissions from fuel combustion globally, with road transport accounting for almost three-fourths of total transport emissions in 2018. Plans to reduce these emissions increasingly rely on large-scale transportation electrification.

Electric vehicles (EVs) present an opportunity to contribute to both transportation and energy transformations through vehicle-grid integration solutions, more equitable access to zero-emission fuels, and expanded options for sustainable transit and shared mobility.

REPORTS:

Barriers to Adopting Electric Buses

Electric buses (e-buses) can help cities address air quality issues and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (along with a clean grid).

Electric buses, which have zero tailpipe emissions, hold the potential to provide outsized air quality and climate benefits. Faster adoption of cleaner buses is an important part of the bigger climate solution, helping put cities on track towards sustainability.

Based on analysis from 16 case studies, one of which is the city of Izmir, and the literature, this report provides a matrix of barriers facing electric bus adoption. Barriers are categorized by three general barriers to clean energy innovation: technological, financial, and institutional barriers; and three key elements of electric buses: vehicles and batteries, agencies and operators, and grid and charging infrastructure.

How to Enable Electric Bus Adoption in Cities Worldwide

Electric buses could pioneer a new age of clean and efficient urban transport and put cities on track towards sustainability.

The aim of this report is to fill in knowledge gaps and provide actionable guidance for transit agencies and bus operating entities (ESHOT in Izmir) to help them overcome the most common and debilitating barriers to electric bus adoption. It provides step-by-step guidance to establish and achieve electric bus adoption targets using concrete and diverse real-world experiences.



Health & Road Safety

Creating safer mobility systems to connect people to opportunities and foster sustainable, equitable cities.

Through a “Safe System” approach that places people at the heart of urban design, urban mobility can be safe, equitable, and sustainable. By reducing the need for car travel, setting safe speeds, and moving people through safely designed infrastructure and mass transport, WRI works to prevent traffic crashes, encourage healthy lifestyles, and reduce air pollution. The results save lives and help advance a greener, healthier future.

PROJECTS:

[Bloomberg Philanthropies for Global Road Safety \(BIGRS\)](#)

WRI works to ensure the future of African cities by helping city administration, private and public investors, and donors make informed decisions on city planning and policy.

WRI Türkiye conducted road safety inspections of roads, intersections, light rail systems, and bus rapid transit (BRT) and gave capacity-building workshops on safer systems in Addis Ababa, Kampala, Kumasi, and Accra cities in Africa.

[Cycling for All](#)

Empowering cycling NGOs to better engage in policy- and decision-making through capacity development and mentoring.

Building on the experience of the Netherlands in creating a similar national-level project, WRI Türkiye brings together cycling NGOs and city administrations in eight cities with the national government to promote active, democratic participation of civil society in cycling policy and build their capacity to work with government.

[Parklet Istanbul](#)

Making Istanbul safer and more pedestrian-friendly with traffic-calming parklets.

While the modal share for walking is almost 50% in Istanbul, a city of more than 16 million, the current pedestrian infrastructure is neither sufficient nor safe. Congestion and car-oriented urban planning is degrading livability, leaving either very narrow space or no space at all for safe and attractive sidewalks.

With support from WRI Türkiye, Istanbul is introducing “parklets” to create safe, efficient, and attractive sidewalks and public spaces and encourage walking short distances. In addition to improving walking areas, the parklets also improve road safety by helping to calm surrounding traffic.



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Designing and influencing urban spaces that build resilience, improve health, and equitably connect people and opportunities.

More equitable, resilient cities require systemic changes to how we design and govern across multiple urban systems, from land use to water resilience to the informal economy.

WRI helps to build more holistic infrastructure and thriving cities by emphasizing integrated planning. We help cities, national governments, and regional partnerships respond to the needs of all residents through innovative data initiatives, more climate-resilient and accessible built environments, nature-based solutions, and the integration of informal systems.

PROJECT:

Deep Dive Cities

Driving transformative change through long-term, cross-sectoral, data-driven engagement in cities to create a healthier, more resilient, and sustainable urban environment for all.

WRI Ross Center's Deep Dive Cities Initiative focuses on locally driven strategic projects as entry points to foster long-term, cross-sectoral, and transformative change. Through the initiative, WRI provides strategic funding and additional technical capacity to support a wide range of projects, from decarbonizing transportation and enhancing climate action to strengthening disaster preparedness and urban resilience.

This initiative provides funding in Istanbul for formulating policies, preparing communication campaigns, and developing pilot infrastructure designs to promote bicycle transportation in the first phase of the project, as well as developing criteria, and preparing a transportation-focused concept plan and guide to create a livable neighborhood approach in the second phase of the project.



URBAN EFFICIENCY & CLIMATE

Helping cities optimize, electrify, and decarbonize.

By 2030, 70% of the world's population will live in cities. Buildings already consume nearly 40% of global energy and account for about one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Transport emissions account for about a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions but are on track to reach as much as 40% without significant change.

Greener buildings, transport, and energy systems not only cut greenhouse gas emissions but also reduce operating costs and resource demand and improve people's health, productivity, and resilience.

PROJECT:

Zero Carbon Building Accelerator

Helping cities reduce building emissions to meet climate goals.

The Zero Carbon Building Accelerator builds on WRI's success with the Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) to bring new ambition and build on the lessons, expertise, and resources of the BEA with a broader mandate to support decarbonizing the world's buildings by 2050.

Within the scope of the Zero Carbon Building Accelerator project, WRI Türkiye developed Türkiye's national and local Zero Carbon Buildings roadmap and action plans for two pilot cities in Türkiye to decarbonize the building sector, as well as their executive summaries.



Credit: Victor

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Livable Cities Symposium

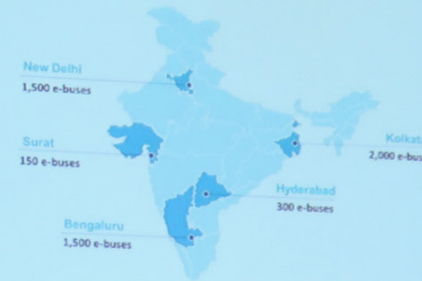
WRI Türkiye has been organizing its flagship event, the Livable Cities Symposium, every year in Autumn since 2013.

In the symposium, our focus is on sharing the recent global and local developments, best practices, and lessons learned in the areas of sustainable urban mobility, urban development, urban efficiency and climate, health and road safety, and buildings with all participants.

As is customary each year, the symposium brings together experts from around the globe to share their insights and experiences. We scrutinize exemplary practices, drawing inspiration from them, and collaboratively explore solutions for designing and implementing cities that are more conducive to vibrant and sustainable living.

SHOWING HOW TO SCALE ACROSS CITIES

- The world's largest e-bus tender in May 2022, **5,450 buses across 5 cities:** Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Surat
- **Resulted in lowest-ever prices for e-buses: reduced costs 23-27% compared to diesel/CNG**
- **Reduced costs will together save \$1.3 billion**
- **Status:** Buses will start hitting road by September 2023



Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WRI concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE





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