
WORLD HABITAT DAY

Theme: Cities and Climate Change

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11 October 2011

Roughly half of the world's population lives in urban areas. Cities consume a great majority 60-80% of energy production and account equivalent share of global CO₂ emissions and cities. Cities are more vulnerable to climate change because of its exposure and sensitivity. Urban climate challenges includes climate change analysis, urban system analysis and vulnerability assessment to increase urban resilience. Chennai's maximum Temperature has increased up to 1.6°C in the past 60 years and 75% of total change is in the last 30 years. Numbers of flooding incidences are increased after 2000. Chennai city population density per sq km is 26903 and it is highly dense populated city in India. Urban agglomeration of the city goes nearly 7 million and the city expands up to 1184 sq.km. Population has grown rapidly in the last 20 years due to its major industrialization and tremendous growth. Chennai has the largest contribution (13.5%) of CO₂ emission in India and the CO₂ emission from vehicular transport of the city is 34 903.50 Mg Km⁻². Since 1975 there are 57 fold increases in the vehicle number. Green cover of Chennai has undergone drastic changes from 1991 to 2007. Dense forest in the city has reduced from 1368.3hec in 1991 to 70.84hec in 2007. Increase in density, reduction in open spaces and green cover, increase in built up spaces have proved to increase the heat island phenomenon. The growth in population, urban and industrial area, economic activities and changing climate are forced to develop the infrastructure includes climate friendly policies to adopt and to ensure resilience of the city.