The literature landscape on 1.5°C Climate Change and Cities – Supplementary Material

*William Lamb1, Max Callaghan1, Felix Creutzig1,2, Radhika Khosla3, Jan Minx1,4*

*Affiliations*

*1 Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, Berlin*

*2 Technical University Berlin*

*3 Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi*

*4 Hertie School of Government, Berlin*

## Additional figures

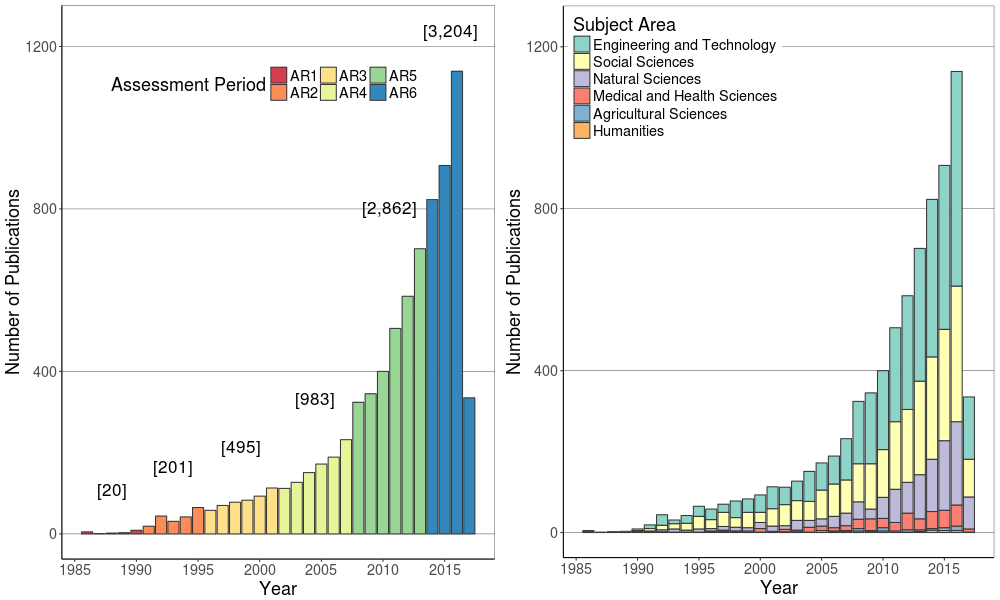


Figure 1: Urban climate change mitigation publications by year and discipline

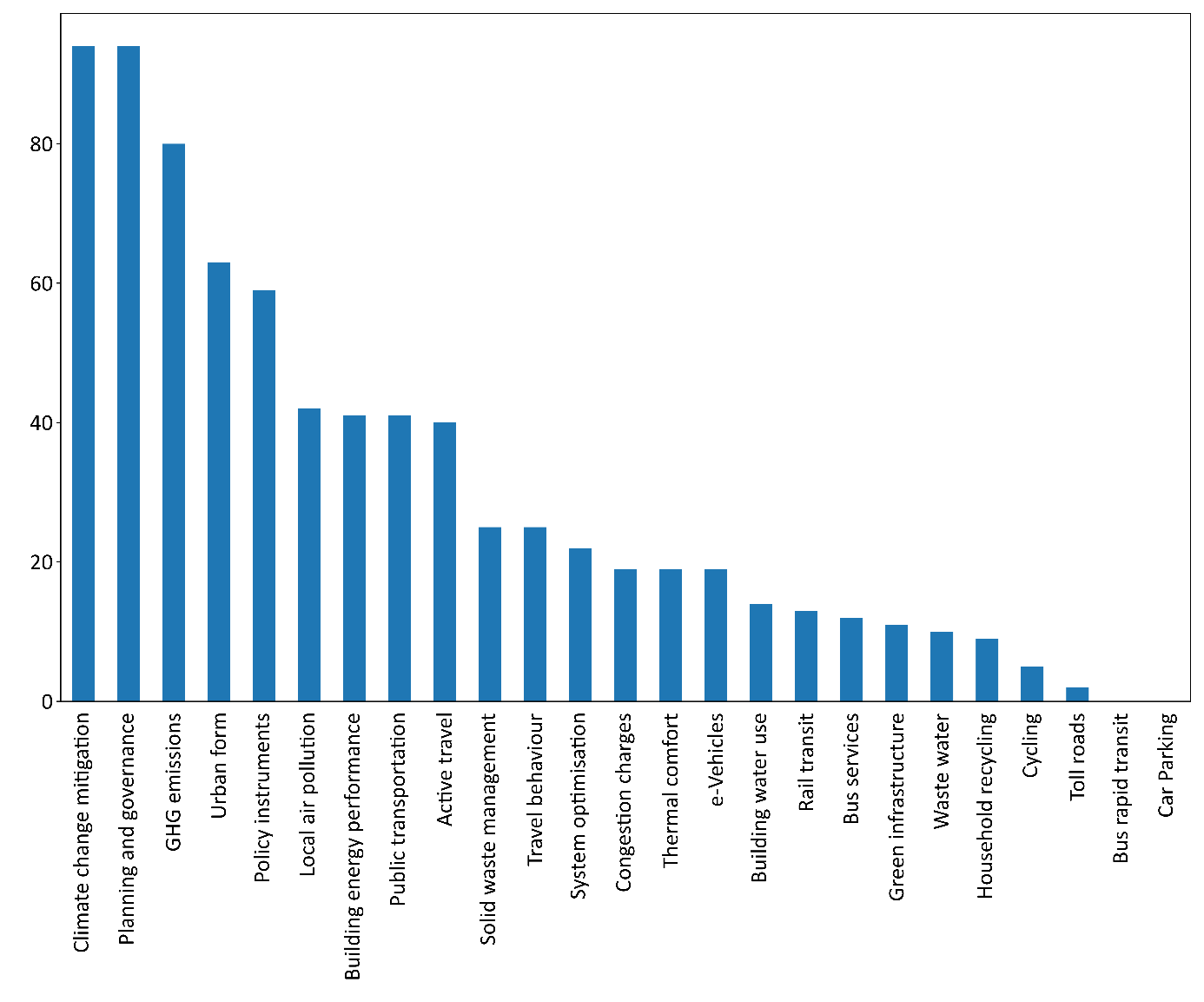


Figure 2: IPCC references of the urban mitigation literature, by topic (111 papers in total). References were scraped from IPCC assessment reports, and matched with our database. Matches were counted in a topic bar if the topic score for that document was above 0.015

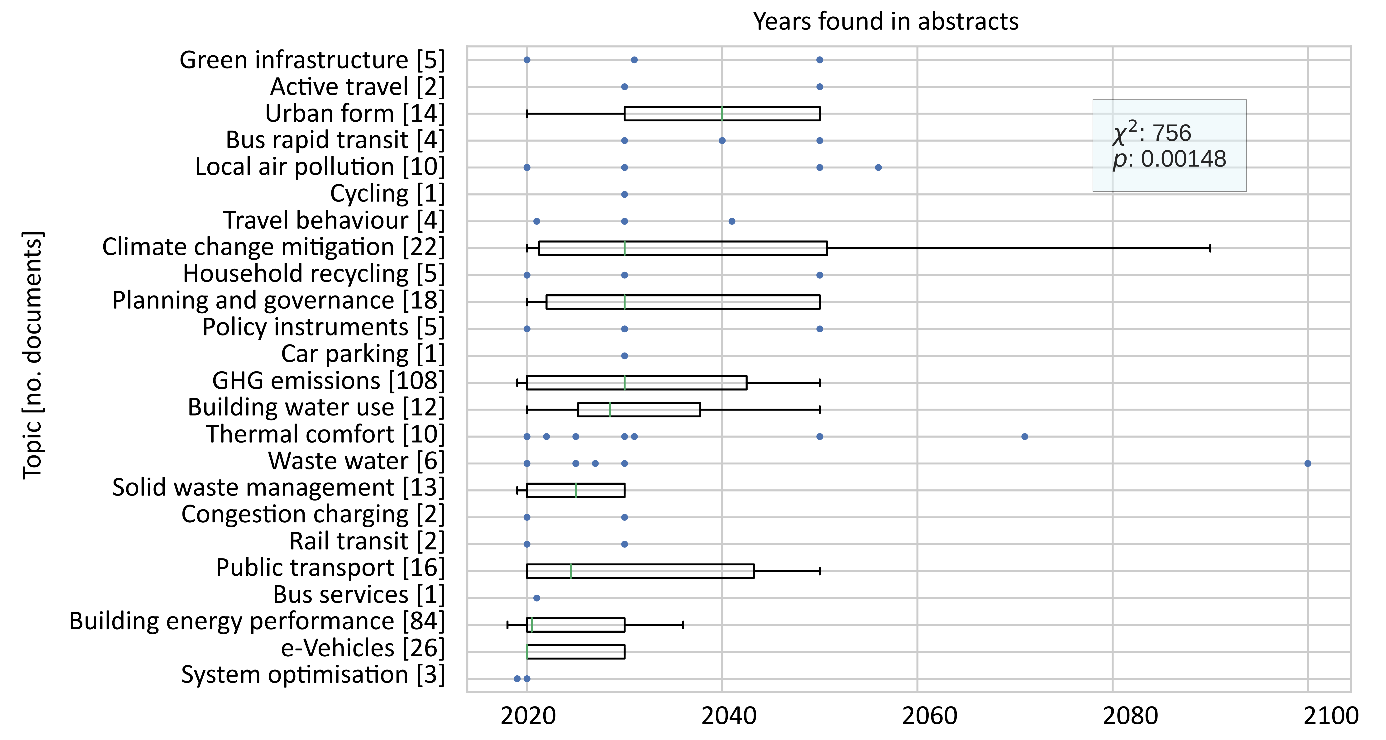


Figure : Years found in abstracts by largest topic . Dots represent a single data point for topics where the number of years found is n<10. Box plots are calculated where n>10.The high Chi squared score strongly suggests that the distribution of years in documents is not independent of the document topic assignment.

## Search query

The query consists of five overarching urban topics that we judge to directly or indirectly contribute to urban climate change mitigation, as widely discussed in the literature: transportation, buildings, waste management, urban form, and city-level mitigation plans and policies (Fig. 2). We divide each topic into sub-topics, build a set of query keywords based on our expertise, then apply certain restrictions, discussed below. The results are validated via a two-person review of random samples of 25 papers in each sub-query. The keywords were refined until we achieved approximately 90% relevance for each sub-query. For transparency, the full search query is provided in the supplementary information.

The first restriction is to narrow our search to an urban context. In particular, this is necessary for transportation and waste management, as in other areas the urban context is largely implicit (e.g. urban form, urban climate action plans). In the case of buildings, we omit this restriction, assuming that the bulk of building mitigation options apply to cities. The result of this restriction and selection of topics is to narrow the urban literature towards demand-side energy and material use, while excluding the supply-side impacts of energy and material production. Although supply-side activities also take place within cities, they are well captured by other research communities (e.g. IAMs); by contrast, the demand-side of climate change mitigation has received less attention in the literature and is a natural point of focus for an assessment of urban systems, as the everyday practices and uses of energy in transport, buildings, and infrastructures are all highly influenced by urban form, development, and city-level planning and policies.

The second restriction, applied to all topics in the query, is to focus only on policies or policy-relevant research. In practice this restriction is achieved with a relatively broad string of hard policies (subsidies, grants, taxes, etc.) and soft policies (information, education, certification, etc.), with the result that more descriptive research tends to be excluded. Given the enormous body of existing climate change literature, the short timeframe for assessing the 1.5°C goal, and the increasing need to focus assessments on policies, this seems to be a reasonable restriction. Importantly, it will include city-level policies that are not directly oriented towards mitigation, but are relevant for, for example, public transportation provisioning.

Our search results in a fairly restrictive selection of papers that is by no means comprehensive, but is sufficient to provide an overview of the major topics of urban climate change mitigation. Obviously, diverging emphasis and wording in the search query could be equally plausible. For example, a broader focus on infrastructure provisioning may be relevant (e.g. electricity access, affordable housing), but this is perhaps better suited to a sustainability themed assessment of the urban literature, rather than our narrower climate change mitigation focus.

In the following tables, each row represents a search query entered into Web of Science using the “advanced search” function, for an unrestricted time period (the final search was performed on XX), and for all document types.

## Transport

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AND…** | |
| **Sub-topics** | **Urban context** | **Policies** |
| **Public transport (specific)**  TS = ("bus" OR "metro" OR "subway" OR "train" OR "light rail" OR "heavy rail" OR "tram" OR "railway") AND ("transport\*" OR "traffic" OR "commut\*" OR "travel\*") | AND TS = ("urban\*" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities" OR "metropolitan") | AND TS = (("provision\*" OR "subsid\*" OR "incentive\*" OR "grant\*" OR "regulat\*" OR "governance" OR "codes" OR "standards" OR "tax\*" OR "compliance" OR "zoning" OR "pricing" OR "planning" OR (("public" OR "state" OR "government" OR "infrastructure") NEAR/3 ("investment\*" OR "procurement" OR "financ\*")) OR ("information campaign" OR "marketing" OR "participatory" OR "public awareness" OR "education" OR "cooperation" OR "labels" OR "certifi\*"))) |
| **Public transport (generic)**  TS = ("public" NEAR/3 ("transit" OR "transport\*") OR ("mass" OR "rapid") NEAR/3 "transit") |
| **Intermodal travel**  TS = ("modal shift" OR "park and ride" OR "car sharing" OR "bicycle sharing" OR “active travel” OR ("intermodal" AND ("travel" OR "transport") |
| **Electric Vehicles**  TS = ("electric" NEAR/1 ("car" OR "vehicle" OR "taxi")) |
| **Transport mitigation (generic)**  TS = ("transport\*" AND ((("climat\* chang\*" OR "global warm\*" OR "carbon emission\*" OR "greenhouse gas" OR GHG OR CO2) NEAR/3 mitigation) OR decarboni\*ation OR "energy demand reduction\*" OR "energy efficienc\*" OR ("low carbon" AND "climat\* chang\*"))) |
| **Active travel**  TS = ("bicycle" OR "pedestrian\*" OR "walking" OR "cycling" OR "rickshaw\*") NEAR/2 ("infrastructure\*" OR "path" OR "paths" OR "trail\*" OR "network" OR "route\*" OR "corridor\*" OR "lane\*") | |
| **Congestion and parking**  TS = (("congestion" OR "parking") NEAR/3 ("charg\*" OR "tax" OR "pric\*" OR "policy") AND ("transport\*" OR "traffic" OR "vehicle" OR "car" OR "travel" OR "urban")) OR TS = "parking management" | | |

**Note:** Filters were applied to generic public transport (NOT TS = “cell”) and active travel (NOT TS = “evacuation”) due to unexpected results not within our search criteria.

## Buildings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AND…** | |
| **Topics** | **Energy and building context** | **Policies** |
| **Thermal comfort**  TS = (“heating” OR “cooling” OR “thermal comfort” OR “air condition\*” OR “thermostat”) | AND TS = ((“energy” OR “carbon” OR “CO2” OR “material\*” OR “GHG” OR “greenhouse gas”) NEAR/3 (“saving\*” OR “conservation” OR “perform\*” OR “efficiency” )) AND ("building\*" OR “occupant\*”) | AND TS = (("subsid\*" OR "incentive\*" OR "grant\*" OR "regulat\*" OR "governance" OR "codes" OR "standards" OR "tax\*" OR "compliance" OR (("public" OR "state" OR "government" OR "infrastructure") NEAR/3 ("investment\*" OR "procurement" OR "financ\*")) OR (“information campaign” OR “marketing” OR “participatory” OR “public awareness” OR “education” OR “cooperation” OR “labels” OR "certifi\*"))) |
| **Appliances**  TS = (“lighting” OR “appliances” OR “refrigerat\*” OR “cooking” OR "electrical device\*") |
| **Energy consumption**  TS = (“consumption” OR “behavior\* change” OR “lifestyle” OR “sufficiency” OR “rebound”) |
| **Green buildings**  TS = ("cool roofs" OR "green roofs" OR "passive house" OR "net zero" OR "mixed mode" OR "zero energy" OR “green building\*”) |

**Note**: A filter was applied to thermal comfort (NOT TS = “thermal regulation”), as this resulted in an overly-technical literature that was not within our search criteria.

## Waste management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AND…** | |
| **Topics** | **Urban context** | **Policies** |
| **Waste management**  TS = ("biological treatment" OR ("waste" OR "landfill") NEAR/3 ("management" OR "prevention")) | AND TS = ("urban\*" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities" OR "metropolitan") | AND TS = (("subsid\*" OR "incentive\*" OR "grant\*" OR "regulat\*" OR "governance" OR "codes" OR "standards" OR "tax\*" OR "compliance" OR "zoning" OR (("public" OR "state" OR "government" OR "infrastructure") NEAR/3 ("investment\*" OR "procurement" OR "financ\*")) OR (“information campaign” OR “marketing” OR “participatory” OR “public awareness” OR “education” OR “cooperation” OR “labels” OR "certifi\*"))) |
| **Recycling and composting**  TS = (("household\*" OR "residential" OR "business\*" OR "municipal" OR "council" OR "metropolitan") NEAR/3 (“recycling” OR “composting”)) | |

**Note**: A filter was applied to recycling and composting (NOT TS = “revenue recycling”) due to unexpected results not within our search criteria.

## Urban form, infrastructure, and city-wide mitigation policy

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AND…** | |
| **Topics** | **Urban context** | **Policies** |
| **Lock-in**  TS = ("lock-in" OR "path dependen\*" OR "development path") AND ("infrastructur\*") | AND TS = ("urban\*" OR "building\*" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities") | AND TS = ("subsid\*" OR "incentive\*" OR "grant\*" OR "regulat\*" OR "governance" OR "codes" OR "standards" OR "tax\*" OR "compliance" (("public" OR "state" OR "government" OR "infrastructure") NEAR/3 ("investment\*" OR "procurement" OR "financ\*")) OR (“information campaign” OR “marketing” OR “participatory” OR “public awareness” OR “education” OR “cooperation” OR “labels” OR "certifi\*")) |
| **Urban form**  TS = (“urban form” OR “compact city” OR "dense city" OR (“low-carbon” AND “urban” AND “transition”) OR “transit-oriented development” OR “integrated land use and transport planning” OR “green infrastructure”) | |
| **Urban mitigation (generic)**  TS = (("CO2" OR "carbon" OR "GHG" OR "greenhouse gas" OR "climate change") NEAR/1 ("trading" OR "tax" OR "control" OR "regulation" OR "mitigation" OR "decarbonisation") AND ("urban" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities" OR "metropolitan") NOT ("adaptation" OR "resilience" OR "flood\*" OR "rural")) OR TI = (("urban" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities" OR "metropolitan") AND ("decarbonisation" OR "energy efficiency" OR "low-carbon" OR (("CO2" OR "carbon" OR "GHG" OR "greenhouse gas" OR "climate change") AND ("trading" OR "tax" OR "control" OR "regulation" OR "mitigation" OR "reduction")))) | | |
| **Urban climate governance**  (TI = ((("climate change" AND ("poli\*" OR "plan" OR "governance")) OR "climate poli\*" OR "climate governance" OR "climate protection" OR "energy poli\*") AND ("urban\*" OR "municipal" OR "city" OR "cities" OR "metropolitan" OR "local")) NOT TS = ("adaptation" OR "resilience" OR "flood\*")) | | |

Note: A filter was applied to generic urban mitigation and urban climate governance (NOT TS = ("adaptation" OR "resilience" OR "flood\*")) to exclude adaptation focused climate policy.

## General exclusions

A further general set of exclusions was applied to the entire search query to remove unexpected results: NOT TS = ("TRAM-34" OR "taxa" OR "subsidence" OR "ataxia").

## Topic modelling

Our data originates in a Web-of Science literature query (all document types) up to April 2017. Web of Science is a subscription-based scientific citation indexing service that provides a comprehensive citation search.

Given the large amount of information that has accumulated on urban mitigation options, we apply Non-Negative Matrix Factorisation to identify latent topics which represent the various themes that characterize the urban mitigation literature emerging from our search query [6]. As a first step, we prepare the data, removing common stopwords (the, and, etc.) and stemming each word (replacing both “congested” and “congestion” with “congest”). Then we construct a matrix of terms x documents. The cells of the matrix are filled with the term frequency inverse document frequency weighting (tf-idf). Tf-idf scores assign higher weights to terms in a document, if the term appears infrequently across all documents, and vice versa. This matrix V is factorized into two matrices WH, whose product approximates V. W describes a set of topics, where rows are topics, columns are words, and each cell is a word-topic score. H describes the documents, where each row is a document, each column is a topic, and each cell a document-topic score. Topics can be understood as lists of high-scoring words, and documents are combinations of those topics.

As the number of topics needs to be specified exogenously, we sample different numbers of topics and analyze the resulting word distributions manually. Overall, 25 topics proved to be a meaningful and manageable number, covering a broad spectrum of themes, while minimizing uninterpretable results.