

A review of the implementation
of sustainability in the City of Geneva

Voluntary Local Review

How do local strategies, programmes, data and
objectives align with the Sustainable Development
Goals of the 2030 Agenda?



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Introduction

Why this Voluntary Local Review?

This document takes stock of the implementation in Geneva of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), five years from the horizon defined by the 2030 Agenda adopted in 2015 by the United Nations.

To be implemented as close as possible to the population, these objectives must be proactively promoted at the local level. Indeed, cities, which face most environmental, social, and economic challenges and thus bear the brunt of their negative impacts, are also ideal spaces for fostering innovative solutions. They provide opportunities for productive encounters and exchanges that align with the SDGs' ambition for peace and prosperity. The size of urban areas, combined with their natural proximity to residents, makes them more flexible and observable environments for experimentation than the national level. Insights gained locally can then inform and enhance the implementation of policies on a broader scale.

The themes selected in this document are already priority policy areas pursued by the City of Geneva. From its 2020-2025 legislative programme, the Executive Council had in fact affirmed its vision of an "inclusive, creative, ecological and united Geneva" and endeavored in the context of all its public policies to put sustainable development issues at the forefront.

Driven by a constant desire to encourage inclusivity and creativity, the objectives of the past legislature were implemented through sectoral public policies, major strategies and specific action plans that were in many ways in line with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

For the Executive Council, it was therefore obvious that the invitation received from the City of New York and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should be accepted, and that the City of Geneva should prepare a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) before the end of the 2020-2025 term of office. This decision was also reinforced by the support provided by the Swiss Confederation, which has expressed its desire to promote this local VLR as part of the voluntary national report planned for 2026.

With its particularly high population density and compact morphology, the City of Geneva is an ideal space for the implementation of a "15-minute city", a responsible living space that promotes short circuits, limiting commuting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum. Through targeted actions at the level of its neighbourhoods, the Executive Council wants to see this objective of a more efficient city that promotes proximity become a reality by 2030.

Geneva in Numbers

The **City of Geneva** is one of the 45 municipalities in the **canton of Geneva**, which itself is part of the Swiss Confederation. It is located in the heart of a French-Swiss conurbation with a resident population of one million, known as “**Greater Geneva**”. Each of these administrative levels has visions and policies of sustainability that will be discussed in this publication, before zooming in on the local level in the rest of the document. Some figures in this document refer to the municipal level, others refer to the cantonal level, depending on the available data - this is specified each time.

The City and the Canton have distinct and complementary responsibilities: the municipal level is responsible for the following policies: early childhood and extracurricular services, cultural and sports services, social cohesion, maintenance of public spaces and green spaces, municipal police and urban planning. The City owns 800 buildings and also offers a significant amount of social housing in addition to its public buildings. Several proactive policies, complementary to cantonal policies, are deployed in the areas of the economy, external relations, climate, biodiversity, and the fight against discrimination. Finally, the City is a member of the board of directors of *Services Industriels de Genève* and *Transports Publics Genevois*, autonomous entities run by municipal and cantonal authorities



The city and canton of Geneva: some key figures

A medium-size city

205,839



Number of people residing in the city of Geneva.

At the heart of a large conurbation



1mio

Number of people residing in "Greater Geneva".

The most densely populated city in Switzerland



16 km²

with 12,865 pers./km².

A city of welcome and passage

~10,000



people arrive and ~8,000 leave every year.

Important daily flow

~100,000



cross-border workers coming to Geneva.

Great diversity



50%

of the population is non-Swiss, coming from 189 countries and residing in the city.

Multilateralism hub



40

international organisations.

Gross domestic product of the city



CHF 28

billion per year.

Annual budget of the municipality of Geneva

~ CHF 1.4



billion per year.

Municipal staff



4,139

people employed by the City of Geneva.

The 2030 Agenda and its implementation at different levels

The framework set by the United Nations

There are several ways to present and structure the issues addressed here. Historically, the term “sustainable development” is based on three pillars, the social pillar, the economic pillar and the environmental pillar, and is defined as the ability to “*meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”. This vision was then developed to become the **2030 Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, adopted by the United Nations in 2015 (see below) [1]. The 2030 Agenda primarily binds the States that are members of the United Nations. However, the pursuit of the SDGs relies on public policies, initiatives and actions deployed at the regional and local levels. This document was produced with reference to the 2030 Agenda, as the City of Geneva has committed to producing a “Voluntary Local Review” (hereinafter “VLR”) at least once per term of office, to explore the achievement of the 17 SDGs in its territory.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The national framework

In its **Interim Report on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy** published in 2024 [3], the Confederation takes stock of progress at the national level, focusing on three main areas of particular relevance to Switzerland (see below).

Indeed, as Switzerland already largely ensures that its population has its basic needs covered in terms of food, education, energy, water and health, by international comparison, the main challenges lie in the areas of responsible consumption, the climate, natural resources and equal opportunities; despite sectoral progress, Switzerland is far from achieving the relevant SDGs.

- 1

Responsible consumption: despite various data gaps, it appears that the Swiss population's material footprint has decreased since 2000, but not sufficiently. Recycling has increased, but the circular economy remains a minority economic phenomenon in the Swiss economic fabric.
- 2

Climate and natural resources: despite a steady increase in renewable energy, dependence on fossil fuels remains too high. The report also notes a marked erosion of biodiversity in several natural environments.
- 3

Equal opportunities and social cohesion: despite progress in terms of tertiary education and equality in the professional sphere, the report documents an increase in the poverty rate in Switzerland and identifies weaknesses in terms of discrimination and perceived violence.

The cantonal framework

The **Cantonal Sustainable Development Concept** [9] was approved by the Grand Council on 25 May 2018, and is divided into eight thematic areas (see below). A statistical document [10] published in 2024 documents the situation in Geneva in each of these fields. **Of 48 proposed indicators, 32 show a trend in the desired direction**, such as waste reduction, reduction of CO₂ emissions from buildings, increase in the number of "Nature in the city" projects, increase in the percentage of women holding political office, or decrease in the unemployment rate. **Eight indicators show stagnation:** for example, the modal share of public transport, meat consumption or the percentage of women in management positions. **Eight indicators document developments that run counter to the cantonal objectives**, in particular the housing vacancy rate, the water quality of Lake Geneva, and the number of social welfare recipients. For a detailed analysis of the situation at the cantonal level, it is recommended that you consult the publications and web links cited at the end of the document.



Modes of production and consumption



Climate change



Economic and financial system



Social cohesion



Territorial development



Natural resources



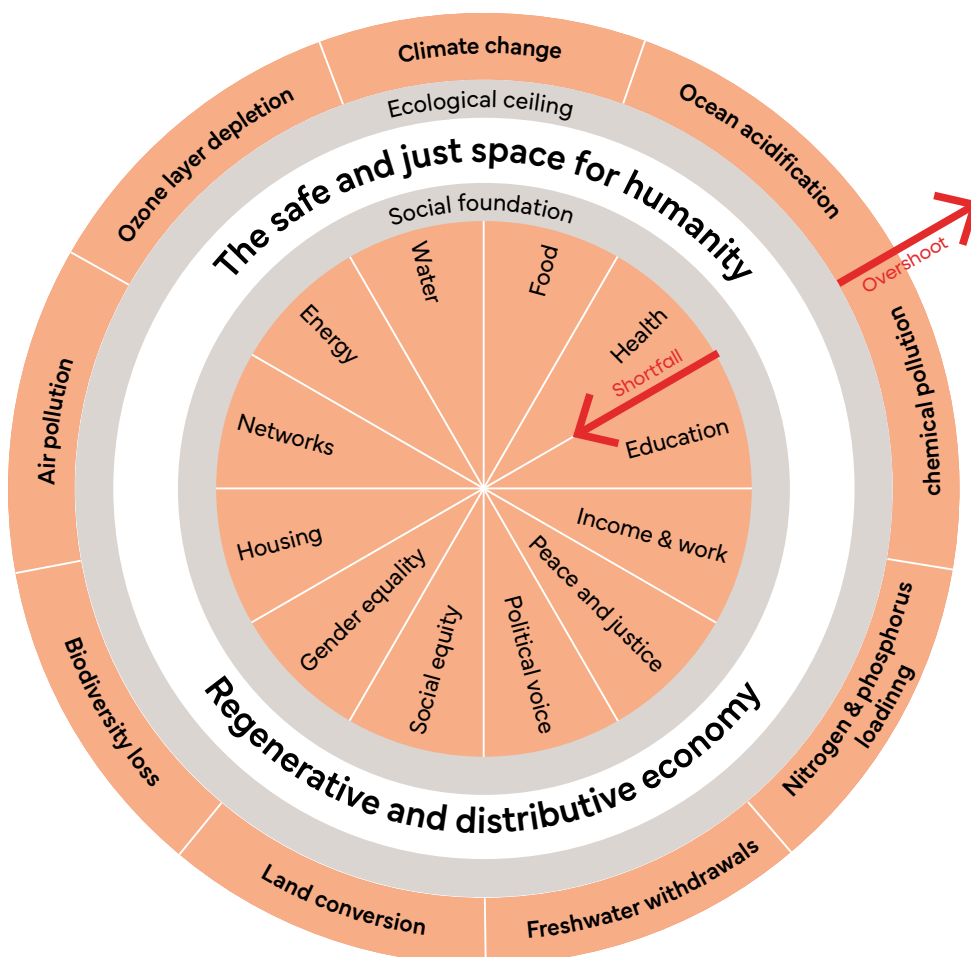
Education and innovation



Public health

The “Greater Geneva” framework

The City of Geneva is located at the heart of a cross-border urban area that represents a coherent living environment and a relevant frame of reference in terms of sustainability. Collaboration has developed within the framework of the Local Cross-Border Cooperation Group (GLCT), or “Greater Geneva”, which comprises eight partners (Switzerland: Cantons of Geneva and Vaud, City of Geneva and Nyon Region; France: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Departments of Haute-Savoie and Ain, as well as the French Genevois Metropolitan Pole). In July 2024, the Assembly of the Greater Geneva Local Cross-Border Cooperation Group (GLCT) adopted a **2050 Cross-Border Territorial Vision**, developed as part of a major participatory process, which will serve as a basis for the next territorial plans in France, Geneva and Vaud. The GLCT has chosen to rely not on the UN SDGs but on a theoretical framework that allows us to situate our socio-political-economic structures between an *ecological ceiling*, made up of non-negotiable planetary boundaries, and a *social foundation*, the basis of universal human rights that we wish to ensure for all of humanity. This is the “Doughnut” of the English economist Kate Raworth (illustration below [4]), which has been adapted to the cross-border level in the illustration on page 11 [5].



Ecological ceiling

A vision

Target indicators in 2050

A Greater Geneva that is carbon-neutral and respects planetary boundaries	①	ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY IN THE GENEVA TERRITORY	Zero carbon
	②	REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE GREATER GENEVA AREA TO RESPECT PLANETARY BOUNDARIES	Material footprint reduced by a factor of 5
A Greater Geneva where biodiversity, resources and the living environment are preserved	③	PRESERVING AND REGENERATING LOCAL BIODIVERSITY	Zero net loss of natural habitats
	④	PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC NETWORK AND WATER RESOURCES	100% of water bodies in good condition
	⑤	PRESERVING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SOIL AND SUB-SURFACE RESOURCES	Zero artificialisation or net consumption
	⑥	PRESERVING AND GUARANTEEING AIR QUALITY	100% of WHO objectives fulfilled
A Greater Geneva that enables the fulfilment and well-being of all its inhabitants	⑦	PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE TERRITORY	Healthy life expectancy > 70
	⑧	MAINTAINING CONDITIONS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION	Life satisfaction index > 7,5
	⑨	ENSURING FAIRNESS AND INCLUSION FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER GENEVA AREA	Income inequality declining
A Greater Geneva that contributes to the well-being of the population beyond its borders	⑩	CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION	

Social foundation

Review of the local situation in Geneva: methodology

What is the situation regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the City of Geneva? The Executive Council has not formulated a comprehensive sustainability programme with quantitative objectives, but it has integrated this essential concept into all its public policies and its legislative programme [16]. It has therefore adopted several proactive sectoral policies, including a **Climate Strategy** [17], an **Economic Strategy** [18], a **Food Charter** [19], a **Strategic Greening Plan** [20], a **Universal Accessibility Policy** [21], a **Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality** [22], an **LGBTIQ+ Municipal Strategy** [23], a **Municipal Policy on Cultural Diversity and the Fight against Racism** [24], a **Master Plan for the Digital Transformation of the Administration** [27] and a **Plan of Action for Geneva, a child-friendly municipality** [25]. Two key documents are also being finalized: the **Municipal Master Plan** [26] and the **Municipal Biodiversity Strategy** [40]. All these public policies are aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

The City refers here to the SDGs since they guarantee the legitimacy of its public policies regarding the United Nations and the other public and private institutions that make extensive use of them. However, their universal vocation sometimes makes them abstract and unsuitable for communication at the municipal level. This is why the **association Coord21**, which brings together some 70 local authorities in French-speaking Switzerland, including Geneva, conducted an in-depth study on this subject, which resulted in 2020 in a concrete proposal to **apply the SDGs at the local level by grouping them into 10 fields of action** corresponding to the main public policies for which the cantons and municipalities are generally responsible [8]. The transposition of the SDGs into fields of action is a valuable tool that allows to present their implementation in a more concrete way at the local level in Switzerland. The Geneva municipal administration has therefore decided to structure its VLR according to the ten fields below, as defined by Coord21 in its Practical Guide for an Agenda 2030 in Municipalities and Cantons.

- I. Consumption and production
- II. Urban development, mobility and infrastructure
- III. Energy and climate
- IV. Natural resources
- V. Economic and financial system
- VI. Education, research and innovation
- VII. Social security
- VIII. Social cohesion and the fight against discrimination
- IX. Health
- X. Governance and partnerships

These fields of action are aligned with the SDGs according to the diagram below:



The content presented in this VLR is based on **data from the various departments** working on a daily basis to make the city of Geneva more sustainable. It also includes indicators mainly collected as part of the national program of the **Cercle indicateurs** [7] and **cantonal statistics** [11]. It should be noted that the United Nations Global Urban Monitoring Framework was not used for this report, which relies entirely on local resources. In any case, the available figures only cover a small part of the issues involved in each of the fields. For example, consumption monitoring only covers waste production and recycling, and does not illustrate the supply of sustainable products or the reduction of waste at source. In the context of this VLR, a pragmatic selection of relevant figures has been applied to each field, depending on the availability of data, without any ambition of exhaustiveness.

The VLR has been reviewed and validated by all the departmental directorates of the City of Geneva. However, it does not include a participatory component carried out in connection with the production of the document itself. Indeed, the people of Geneva have already had several opportunities to participate in citizen processes related to sustainability, particularly in the context of the development of the **Cross-Border Territorial Vision** mentioned above, or by random selection in the context of the **Climate Council of the Canton of Geneva** (for more information, it is possible to consult the documents dedicated to these processes [5, 6, 13, 14]). At the municipal level, the City has conducted

a major **participatory process around the renewal of its 2040 Municipal Master Plan** [26], which fully integrates the ambitious objectives of its Climate Strategy. Several other targeted participatory processes are regularly proposed or supported by the City, including the Participatory School Budgets [28], the Neighbourhood Committees for *La ville est à vous* [29] and the *Conférence romande des enfants* [30]. In addition, the significant support provided by the municipality to civil society, particularly in the form of subsidies or free use of premises, helps to strengthen and stimulate a very rich, active and well-equipped civic ecosystem that contributes to the transformation of our society.

Finally, the **widespread circulation of the VLR following its publication** at the start of the new legislative term will help to strengthen policies related to the 2030 Agenda: on the one hand by highlighting the importance of this Agenda and on the other hand by encouraging the continuation of these efforts during the coming legislative term from 2025 to 2030. Furthermore, this publication will enable the municipality to share its efforts with the general public. Finally, the City of Geneva's collaboration with the Global Cities Hub [15] will enable it to raise awareness of its practices among other cities committed to the 2030 Agenda.



Review of the local situation in Geneva: the 10 fields of action

Structuring of the fields of action:

- a quote from the 2020-2025 legislative program [16] related to the topic in the photo, introducing each field;
- a concise text presenting the main municipal strategies and programs related to the field, as well as a selection of emblematic actions;
- a close-up on a concrete example;
- a selection of figures and graphs related to the field;
- the City of Geneva's position with regard to the relevant targets of the SDG(s) concerned by the field - the "quotes" in this section are verbatim extracts from the 169 targets formulated for the 17 SDGs;
- outlook for the coming legislature.

Sources of the data cited:

For the sake of readability and brevity, the documentary references and sources of the figures quoted (rounded to the nearest unit) as well as the dates of the survey (which vary between 2018 and 2024, depending on the source) will not be detailed in the text. It should be noted here that many of the figures quoted come from the Cercle indicateurs program, which is updated every 4 years for the participating cities. Several figures therefore date from 2021 and will be updated at the end of 2025 in the online version of this document. In future, Cercle Indicateurs surveys will be planned every two years.

Each reference and each figure quoted will be accompanied by a [number], enabling the source to be found in the list of references at the end of the document. In some cases, where the data is internal information that has not yet been published, the figure will refer to the email address agenda21@geneve.ch, which you can contact if you have any questions

Consumption and production

"The City will have to take action to encourage civil society as a whole to participate in the ecological transition."



The consumption of goods and services accounts for 44% of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint of the City territory 2020 [17]). These emissions are mostly indirect, as very little is produced locally. As the City has no direct leverage over these production conditions, it is pursuing a **proactive policy in favour of more responsible consumption**. Several measures target everyday goods that generate significant emissions, such as electronic devices and clothing. Other measures aim to reduce the impact of cultural, sporting and leisure events. The population is mobilized through **communication campaigns** and the City grants **subsidies** to associations, organises meetings with the population and sets up tools and training for municipal staff and the public to facilitate behavioural change. The City and its partners are developing web platforms such as nosgestesclimat.ch, ge-consomme.ch, agirageneve.ch and it maintains an active presence on social networks. In addition to actions aimed at promoting responsible consumption, the City supports initiatives aimed at strengthening the supply of sustainable products, the **sharing and repair economy** as well as the circular economy. As opportunities for affordable rental premises are rare in the city center, one form of support for activities relating to the sustainable local economy is the **provision of premises** at a preferential rate.

In terms of **sustainable food**, an **ambitious charter** [19] has been adopted, which aims to promote local products, increase the plant-based content of menus, favour food produced using sustainable and fair production methods and reduce packaging. Much work has been done, particularly with school restaurants and early childhood care facilities, where the objectives of the Charter are being successfully applied. In addition, the City mobilizes the population during major events, such as Festi'Terroir, supports agroecology projects, promotes short supply chains and urban agriculture projects.

At the same time, the City is taking action to **minimize and recycle waste**. It has banned single-use plastics in its buildings and public spaces, requires the use of reusable tableware in these same places, distributes compost bins and provides portable ashtrays. Determined to increase the recycling rate, it regularly installs new eco-points and runs awareness campaigns. A new directive has enabled waste reduction and better waste management within the administration.

Finally, **it also aims to set an example in its public procurement**, particularly with the expertise of its municipal purchasing center. First and foremost, it checks that purchases are well-founded, then sets sustainability requirements that take into account the entire life cycle of the products, as well as social requirements. A minimum lifespan, the possibility of repair or of returning the product at the end of its life are thus regularly required of suppliers. **Despite these efforts, the evolution of our practices is slow and there is still a long way to go to reduce our material footprint.**



Focus on *La P'tite Poubelle Verte* (the little green rubbish bin)!

The City of Geneva has actively joined forces with the Canton and other Geneva municipalities to promote the sorting of kitchen waste, by distributing a bin and suitable bags to the population and increasing the number of collection and sorting points for organic waste. The amount collected has thus increased dramatically: +42% between 2015 and 2023. For more information, see laptitepoubelleverte.ch

Consumption and production: some figures

Carbon emissions



44%

of Geneva emissions are due to consumption.

1.2 million school meals



93%

of seasonal products, 11% of organic products and 7% of meat-based products.

Unsorted waste



180^{kg}

Incinerable waste collected from households has fallen from 194kg to 180kg per capita since 2018.

Reuse



3,500

reusable containers for take-away meals have been distributed locally.

Repair and reuse

+20,000



people visited the ge-repare and ge-reutilise websites.

Climate week

~3,000



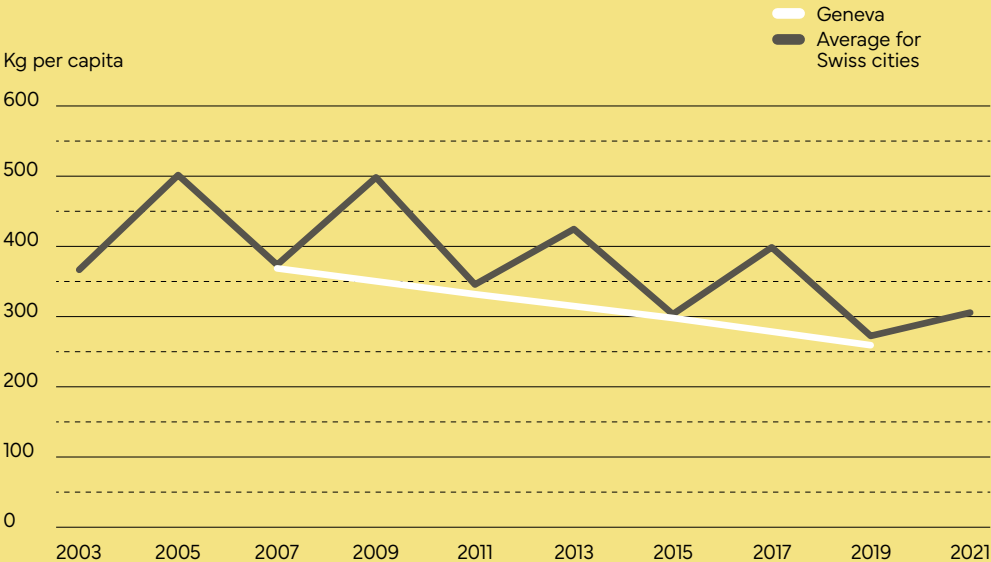
people took part in a workshop, watched a film or listened to a lecture.

Sources: [17], [40].

Graphs

Urban waste

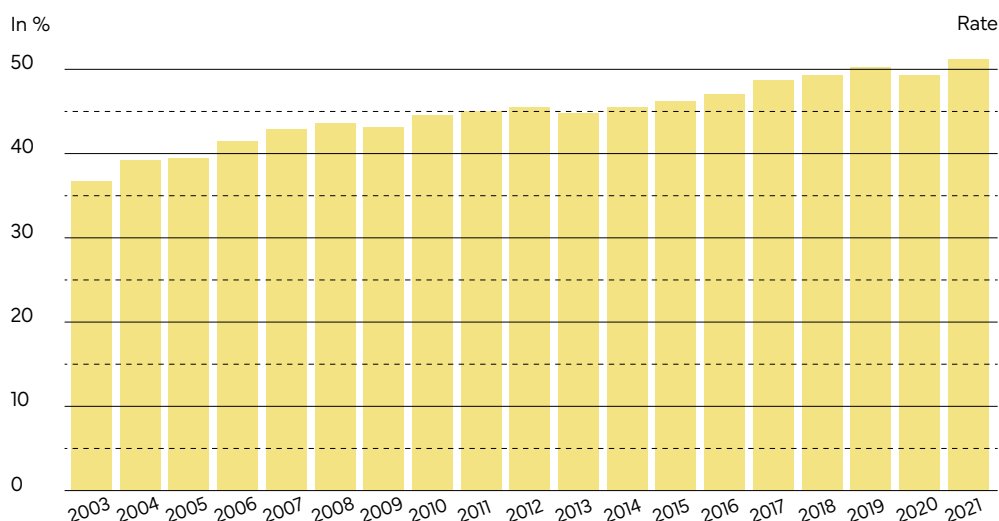
Urban waste incinerated and collected separately, per capita



Please note: this figure is higher than the figure mentioned above because it includes all waste produced in the territory, including that collected from the streets and generated by businesses.

Sources: OFS – ESPOP, STATPOP; Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Urban waste recycling rate in Geneva since 2003, exceeding 50%



Source: Geology, Soil and Waste Service [11]. These figures will be updated in 2026.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The elimination of famine is not a key issue in Geneva: the vast majority of the population is sufficiently, if not over-nourished: 30% of people aged 15 or over are overweight and 11% are obese. That said, food insecurity also exists in Geneva, necessitating the distribution of food packages, the establishment of social grocery stores or meals offered to people in need and the City participates in a cantonal commission on the right to adequate food for all. With regard to sustainable agricultural production (SDG 2, target 2.4): although it is far from widespread, at the local level or through our imports, the proactive action of the city of Geneva to support the transformation of this sector should be commended here, through its *Nourrir la ville* (Feed the City) programme and the criteria of its Food Charter. The preservation of the diversity of local seeds (SDG 2, target 2.5) is encouraged by the city, through support for associations such as 'Pro Specie Rara' and 'Semences de pays'. The issues of subsidies and taxes on national and international markets do not fall within the municipal remit. Issues of international solidarity are addressed in Field of action 10.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

For many years, the City has been taking proactive measures to encourage more responsible consumption, through campaigns aimed at the general public and by supporting local stakeholders who are experimenting with new forms of consumption and production with an emphasis on sharing, reuse and recycling. Therefore, the aim today is to assess the effectiveness of these campaigns, as well as the backlash that they can sometimes provoke. The municipality shares its experiences with its peers and regularly collaborates with the academic sector with the aim of better understanding and facilitating behavioural changes. Despite the efforts underway, it does not seem realistic to achieve by 2030 a *"sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources and to halve per capita global food waste"* (SDG 12, targets 12.2 and 12.3). The City is certainly acting at its level to reduce plastics and other waste in public spaces, but it does not have the power to regulate the marketing and distribution of polluting products and materials. Thus, the observed reduction in waste per capita is a step in the right direction but cannot be described as *"substantial"* (SDG 12, target 12.5). Finally, the City systematically promotes sustainable practices in the context of public procurement, via its municipal purchasing center. It is not involved in the granting of subsidies to fossil fuels.

Outlook for the next 5 years

The municipal level has few regulatory levers to influence the practices of overconsumption that are widely encouraged worldwide. However, the City of Geneva can choose to play a key role, within its urban area and in relation to its peers – other European cities – by promoting more responsible consumption and strengthening local sustainable production. The normalization of concepts such as frugality, short supply chains, sharing and repair contributes to changing attitudes, as do the ambitious criteria applied in the context of charters or calls for tenders, which over time lead to a transformation of public procurement. In addition, in the coming years, the policy regarding ground-floor usage and supporting businesses with positive externalities will be strengthened. In addition, the City of Geneva is engaged in a process of responsible digital certification. With this label, the municipality is making its commitments concrete, setting objectives of responsibility and sobriety to reduce its digital footprint. Finally, it aims for a progressive professionalization of green advisors in municipal cultural and scientific institutions in order to anchor skills and deepen the sustainable practices already underway.

Urban development, mobility and infrastructure



"The Executive Council wishes to promote non-motorized forms of transportation, such as cycling and walking, as well as public transportation. It will therefore work towards a coherent and equitable sharing of public space."



Geneva is **the most densely populated city** in Switzerland and is located **at the heart of a large cross-border conurbation**. This reality puts significant pressure on the use of space, which is both non-expandable and highly sought after for a growing number of uses: housing, transportation, work, entertainment, relaxation, etc. Through its **Municipal Master Plan** [26], its **Climate Strategy** [17], its **Economic Strategy** [18], its **Lighting Plan** [31] and its **Greening Strategy** [20], the City is trying to reconcile as best it can these different needs, which constitute both challenges and opportunities, in particular to move closer to the concept of the “15-minute city” as conceived by Carlos Moreno.

Although **the majority of its inhabitants travel by foot, cycle or public transport**, Geneva attracts a workforce from all over the Franco-Vaud-Geneva conurbation, with a **high level of motorized individual transport**. This traffic creates nuisances, particularly noise and air pollution. The municipality is investing in **short-and long-term solutions**, such as the installation of sound-absorbing surfaces, the regular extension of the cycle network and the creation of 30 km/h zones. It also ensures that new development projects strike a good balance between housing and employment. The City also pays particular attention to ensuring a better harmony between built-up and green spaces, which promote the well-being of the population and **the space left for biodiversity**. A proactive policy of planting trees throughout the municipal area was adopted in 2020 and the role of vegetation and permeable soils is being promoted in all new projects; it will also be strengthened following the adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy [27] by the Executive Council at the end of 2024.

In addition, the City is committed to making the city **accessible to people with disabilities**, as part of its Universal Accessibility Policy [21]. This involves architectural and urban planning, but also welcoming and supporting users with specially trained staff. Strengthened communication in this regard stimulates the political and civic participation of all. The City has also been awarded the “**Child-Friendly City**” label [25] by UNICEF and ensures the protection, inclusion and participation of children at all levels, including in public spaces. Finally, the “**Zero Sexism in My City**” Action Plan [34] aims to combat sexist and sexual violence in public spaces. Launched in 2019, this programme aims to create a more inclusive city. This involves measures on the symbols present in the street (signs, statues, street names, etc.), events that make visible the contribution of women to the history of the city, such as “Journée du matrimoine”, or even work to prevent sexism in sports facilities and places of celebration.



Focus on the City of Geneva in 2040!

The City of Geneva is developing its new Municipal Master Plan for 2040. The Municipal Master Plan is a land-use planning instrument [26] that commits the authorities for the next fifteen years, but is not binding on third parties. This version is resolutely geared towards an ecological and social transition of the territory. Thus, all public policies that influence planning (housing, facilities, activities, environment, mobility, etc.) have been reassessed with this in mind. A public exhibition and consultation took place in 2024 to present the main thrusts of the Plan, which will promote the development of a compact, resilient, productive, friendly and nature-rich city.

Urban development, mobility and infrastructure: some figures

Carbon emissions



10%

of Geneva's emissions are due to land transport (cars, trains).

A compact city



65m²

The built-up area (housing, offices, roads, etc.) per inhabitant, i.e. 65m², is the lowest in Switzerland.

Green mobility



79%

of journeys made by people living in the city of Geneva are on foot, by bicycle or by public transport.

Leisure travel



70%

of the distances travelled by the population (excluding air travel) are for leisure activities.

Urban greening



2,600

trees planted since 2020 (excluding micro-forests).

Universal accessibility



~200

municipal buildings and public spaces listed in the Pro Infirmis app.

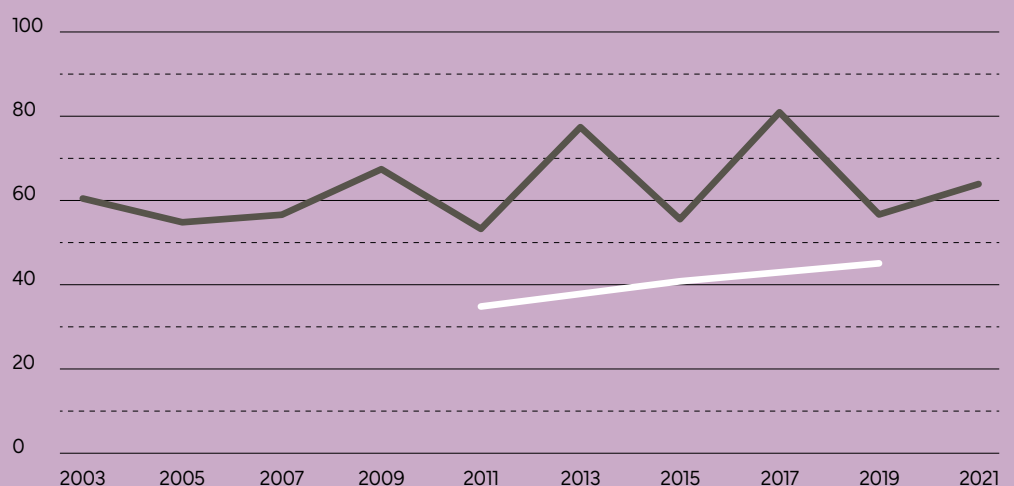
Sources: [11], [17] and [40]

Graphs

Traffic moderation

Proportion of 30 km/h zones, shared zones and pedestrian zones in the length of municipal roads

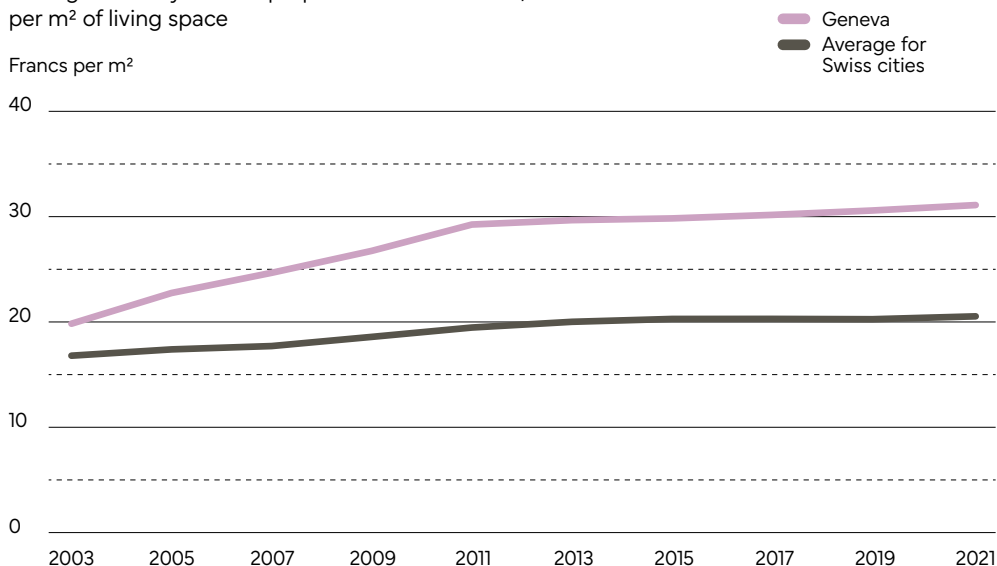
Index in %



Source: Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Rent levels

Average monthly rent for properties on the market, per m² of living space



Source: Wüest Partner Ltd. [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The City and State of Geneva are working with all local stakeholders to establish a “*quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure*” (SDG 9, target 9.1): a prime example of this is the launch of the “*Léman express*” at the end of 2019, a frequent cross-border regional train line. In addition, the City facilitates access to information and communication technologies through the services provided by its libraries and by providing free Wi-Fi in public places. The City contributes to scientific research via its museum sector, even if research support is primarily a cantonal and federal responsibility, as is the modernisation of industries and infrastructures. Finally, the City is committed to promoting and encouraging innovative and sustainable entrepreneurial initiatives, as specified in Field of Action 5. International solidarity issues are addressed in Field of Action 10.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Overall positioning of the City in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The City pursues a proactive policy of sustainable urbanisation, with the participation of the population, in a dense context, subject to nuisances. Thanks to various measures, particularly in terms of traffic calming, air quality has recently improved. The main challenge in terms of housing in Geneva is its very high cost and the extremely low vacancy rate, which is inaccessible without public support for a significant part of the population. *Transports Publics Genevois (TPG)*, an autonomous entity on whose board of directors the City has a seat, provides a dense network of “safe, accessible and sustainable transport” (SDG 11, target 11.2). Through its public policies, the City pays particular attention to access for everyone to public spaces and municipal infrastructure, especially “women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities” (SDG 11, target 11.7), but the development of public spaces to meet these ambitions is ongoing and will probably not be completed by 2030. Furthermore, the City has participated in the development of the Cross-Border Territorial Vision, in particular to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning” (SDG 11, target 11.a). High-performance emergency services, organized at the cantonal level, have so far prevented major damage in the event of flooding, but this risk will increase in frequency with global warming. The Climate Strategy thus includes several measures for adaptation and protection of populations, which are currently being implemented. The challenges of international solidarity are addressed in Action Area 10.

Outlook for the next 5 years

The implementation and monitoring of the 2040 Municipal Urbanisation Master Plan will be at the heart of public policies related to the development of the municipal territory in the coming years, in particular with the continued expansion of soft mobility infrastructure and pedestrian facilities, the improvement of universal accessibility, and an urgent reinforcement of greening and de-impermeabilisation of soils, as well as better rainwater management, with a view to adapting the territory to climate change. Several particularly vulnerable neighbourhoods have been identified and will be the focus of priority measures. The balance between workspaces and housing will also be a key concern, as pressure on rents continues to increase. Finally, the City of Geneva is preparing a bid for the *Vélocity 2027* event.

Energy and climate

"In the face of the climate emergency, the Executive Council is doing everything it can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050."



The City published its Climate Strategy [17] in 2022. Its **carbon footprint**, which includes direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ equivalents), estimates the carbon footprint of the Geneva population at 13 tons per inhabitant per year. The objective, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate adopted by Switzerland in 2015, is to reach 2 tons by 2050. The municipality therefore has a key role to play in **reducing these emissions** and in **adapting the territory** to the consequences of anthropogenic climate change. Beyond action on its own buildings and in public spaces, the City is taking steps to **mobilise local actors**: the population, businesses and associations, in order to achieve the ambitious objectives set out in the strategy together.

The building stock contributes to more than 29% of Geneva's carbon footprint. Unlike consumption, half of the emissions in this area are direct emissions: these are mainly the fuels used for heating and domestic hot water. In terms of energy policy, the municipality is committed to a **global approach that aims to reduce its energy consumption, to disengage from fossil fuels and to strengthen its solar production**. Its objective is to achieve 100% renewable energy for heating its buildings and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, in particular by connecting to district heating networks [32]. The City is investing in the modernisation of its equipment and has accelerated the renovation of its building stock, targeting large consumers, so that these buildings obtain the cantonal "(very) high energy performance" certificate. At the same time, the City has committed to increasing its photovoltaic solar energy production fivefold by 2030 and to supporting the deployment of thermal networks with the *Services Industriels de Genève*. **While these projects are progressing too slowly in relation to the objectives set, the completion of several major projects in the near future will make it possible to partially close this gap.**

The City of Geneva has committed to gradually replacing its combustion engine **vehicles with vehicles with low CO₂ emissions** and is developing the necessary network of electric charging stations. By the end of 2024, 20% of the 508 municipal vehicles will be electric, 54% will run on diesel or biodiesel, 11% on petrol and 15% on natural gas or biogas. By 2030, planned investments should make it possible to reach approximately 50% electric vehicles in the entire vehicle fleet.

Despite these reduction efforts, the municipal area is already suffering the effects of global warming. Average temperatures in Switzerland are +2.8°C above the pre-industrial average, while the global average is +1.5°C [12]. In addition, the rise in temperatures is exacerbated in certain neighbourhoods due to the density of construction, the impermeability of surfaces and the obstruction of air currents: this is **the urban heat island effect**, which can cause temperatures to rise by +6°C compared to the surrounding area. In the short term, the City is taking action with **temporary measures** (shade, misting, etc.) and **facilitating access to the lake**, but in the long term all the developments, architecture and vegetation will have to be adapted to the warming, in particular by making the soil less impermeable and through planting.



Focus on the renovation of the Minoteries residential complex!

In 2020, the City of Geneva completed a major project to make this large rental and social housing building entirely powered by renewable energy. A solar power plant provides electricity to the buildings, as well as hot water and part of the heating. This system is supplemented by the use of a heat exchanger that recovers energy from wastewater flowing in the sewers to heat the buildings. This saves 500,000 liters of fuel oil every year. A video presents this renovation. [32]

Energy and climate: some figures.

Carbon footprint of the population



13^{tn}

tons of carbon are emitted per person per year, on average, in Geneva.

Building heating



9%

of the heating needs of the city's 800 buildings are met by renewable energies.

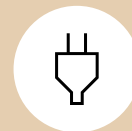
Climate subsidies

CHF 1 mio



per year is allocated to local projects related to the Climate Strategy measures.

Electricity consumption



-10%

In five years, electricity use in public spaces and municipal buildings has fallen by 10%.

Cooling urban spaces



8

'micro-oasis' urban furniture structures are installed in the city during the summer.

Renewable electricity



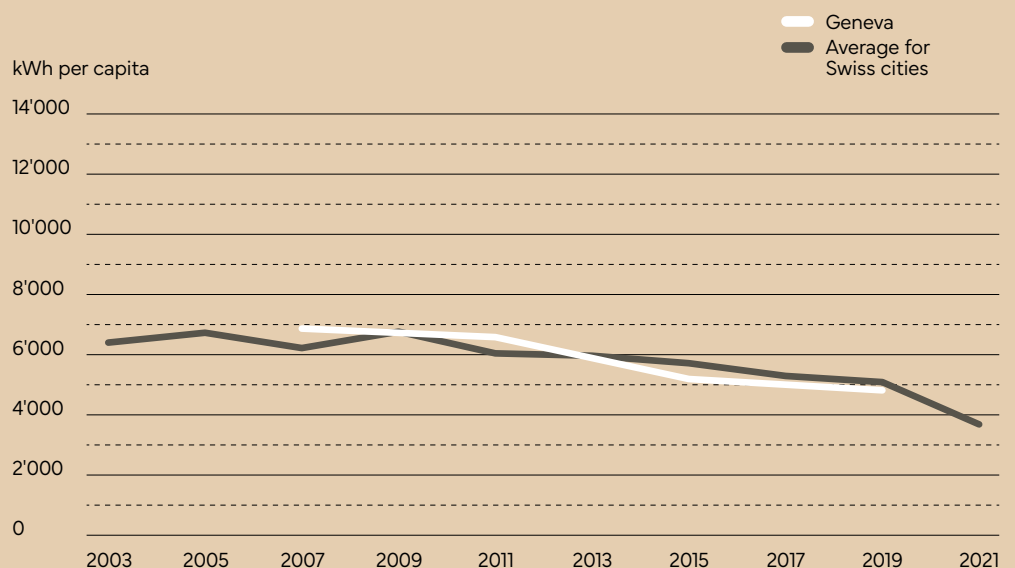
46

Thanks to its 46 photovoltaic power plants, the city produces approximately 1GWh of electricity each year.

Sources: [17], [32] and [40]

Graphs

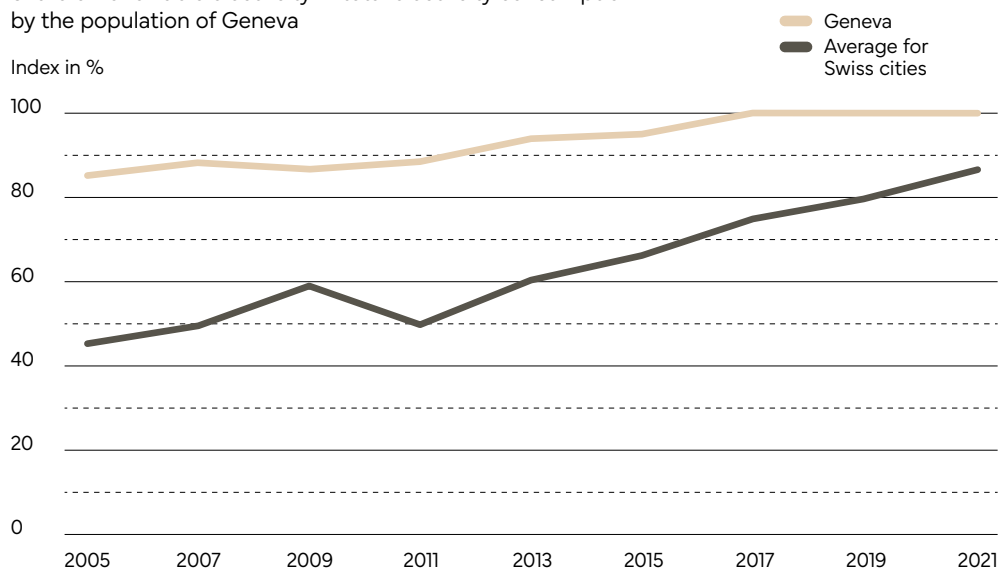
Electricity consumption per person per year



Sources: OFS – ESPOP, STATPOP; Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Renewable electricity

Share of renewable electricity in total electricity consumption by the population of Geneva



Sources: Pronovo SA ; Swisspower SA ; AES [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

Here we must distinguish between the supply of electricity and other energy sources. Services Industriels de Genève, an autonomous entity on whose board of directors the City has a seat, already guarantees reliable access to 100% renewable electricity for all households in Geneva (SDG 7, targets 7.1 and 7.2). Thus, in terms of electricity, the objectives have been achieved. However, significant work is underway to decarbonise heating and transportation energy. The city is making progress, but still too slowly, in terms of the energy renovation of buildings and the electrification of its vehicle fleet. International solidarity issues are addressed in Field of action 10.



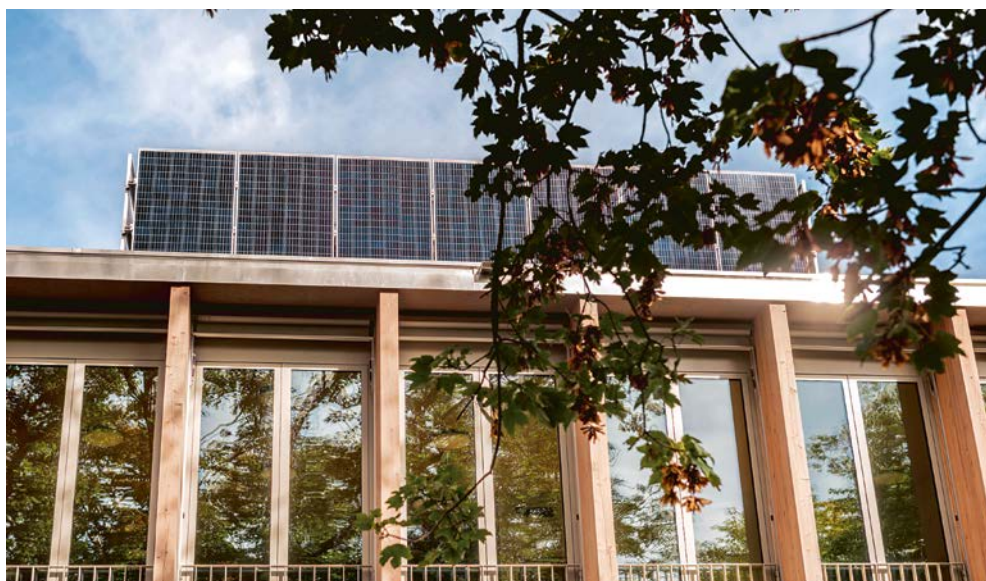
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The city's carbon footprint published in 2022, which includes indirect emissions related to the consumption of its population, documents emissions of 13 tons of CO₂ equivalents per person living in Geneva per year, which places the city far from the trajectory targeted by the Paris Agreement. On the other hand, through the development of its Climate Strategy, the City has incorporated "*climate change measures*" (SDG 13, target 13.2) into all of its public policies, sectoral strategies and territorial planning. It also pursues a proactive policy to "*improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning*" (SDG 13, target 13.3). International solidarity issues are addressed in Field of action 10.

Outlook for the next 5 years

The major challenge in the coming years will be to successfully implement large-scale heating networks in partnership with other regional stakeholders and to accelerate the renovation of buildings in order to decarbonise the energy needed to heat buildings in winter. At the same time, with the increase in heat waves in summer, adaptation of Geneva's buildings must also be initiated in order to avoid having to resort to carbon-based air conditioning in summer. More broadly, adaptation to climate change will require increased interventions, both in terms of physical planning (materials used, misters, etc.) and behaviour (activities and schedules adapted to protect the health of the population). In terms of mobility, reducing the modal share of motorised individual transport remains a major challenge for Geneva. The Climate Strategy aims to reduce the number of parking spaces and transform them into green spaces or spaces for social cohesion. Finally, the work already begun on the decarbonisation of the many events organised or supported by the City will continue and be stepped up in the coming years, particularly with subsidised partners.



Natural resources

"The Executive Council acts to preserve the quantity and enhance the quality of local natural resources. By optimizing water management and preserving the soil and subsoil, it will promote the preservation of local fauna and flora, as well as an increase in biodiversity."



IV.

In a highly urbanized and dense area, **the space left for biodiversity, particularly for the regeneration cycles of water, air and soil, is limited in Geneva**. However, nature in the city is essential to ensure the resilience of the area and the quality of life of the population, while providing a multitude of ecological, social and economic benefits, defined as “ecosystem services”. Today, there is knowledge available that can significantly increase the quantity and quality of natural environments in the heart of the city, by rethinking the use of public space, promoting **extensive maintenance** and **stimulating the use of roofs, walls and the many interstices** that can serve as alternative habitats for fauna, flora and fungi. In addition, the City supports citizen greening initiatives that promote nature in the city. A new Biodiversity Strategy was validated at the end of 2024 to reinforce this policy.

The municipality has already carried out significant work to identify and better protect endangered plants and “priority” sites in its territory. A **map of the ecological infrastructure** has been produced [40], as well as a calculation of the soil naturalness index, which enable the City to act effectively to strengthen the place of biodiversity. The monitoring of fauna is less comprehensive and less systematic than that of flora and will need to be strengthened. A particular challenge is linked to the emergence of invasive species, brought by human activities and/or as a result of migrations linked in particular to global warming. The management of these species represents a major challenge for the years to come.

The City also protects local natural resources by **abandoning, for the past decade, the use of pesticides** in the maintenance of the Conservatory and Botanical Garden (CJB) (Bio Suisse certified) and the areas managed by the Parks Department. Not only does this have an immediate impact on the soil and on human and animal health, and on biodiversity with the reappearance of locally extinct species, but it also has a long-term impact on the quality of the lake water and groundwater. Furthermore, by taking action to promote agroecology and the organic label, the City is helping to conserve natural resources on a wider scale.

Furthermore, **biodiversity** is one of the key areas of research for scientists at the CJB and the Geneva Natural History Museum, both internationally and locally. This centre of expertise in terms of flora, fauna and fungi is anchored in the Municipal Biodiversity Strategy, validated by the Executive Council and implemented in partnership with stakeholders in the field and the Canton of Geneva.

Finally, the City of Geneva is implementing various measures to **save water** and thus reduce the amount that is withdrawn from the natural environment. It is taking specific action with regard to the consumption of water from fountains, for watering and for swimming pools, which will enable a slow but steady reduction in water consumption by its various services over the years.



Focus on the participatory planting of micro-forests!

The City has funded the participatory creation of four urban micro-forests in different neighbourhoods through www.foret-b.ch. Two sites are de-asphalted parking lots, where the soil has been improved with organic waste. The young trees benefit from a few years of watering by people living in the neighbourhood before becoming independent. These pockets of native greenery will quickly become home to a rich biodiversity and will cool the city, especially if they can be linked together. A total of 2,300 trees have been planted by 230 volunteers. The City plans to continue these plantings in the coming years, in coordination with the gradual removal of parking spaces in the city center.

Natural resources: some figures

Tree cover



22%

of the municipal area has tree canopy cover.

Accessible fountains



+330

public water points are listed in the municipal territory.

Open ground



33%

The rate of open ground within the city limits is 33%.

Local fauna



1,000

animal species have been listed in the territory of the city of Geneva.

Limited naturalness



10%

of the ground surface is considered to be natural in the city of Geneva.

Invasive species



50

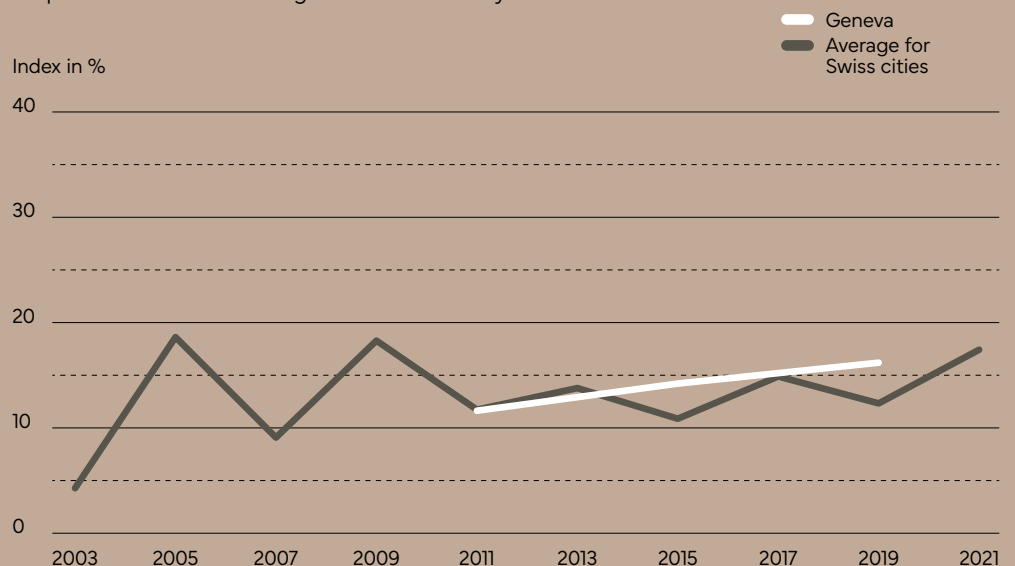
plant species present in Geneva are potentially invasive.

Sources: [27], [40]

Graphs

Areas of ecological value

Proportion of areas of ecological value in the city's total surface area

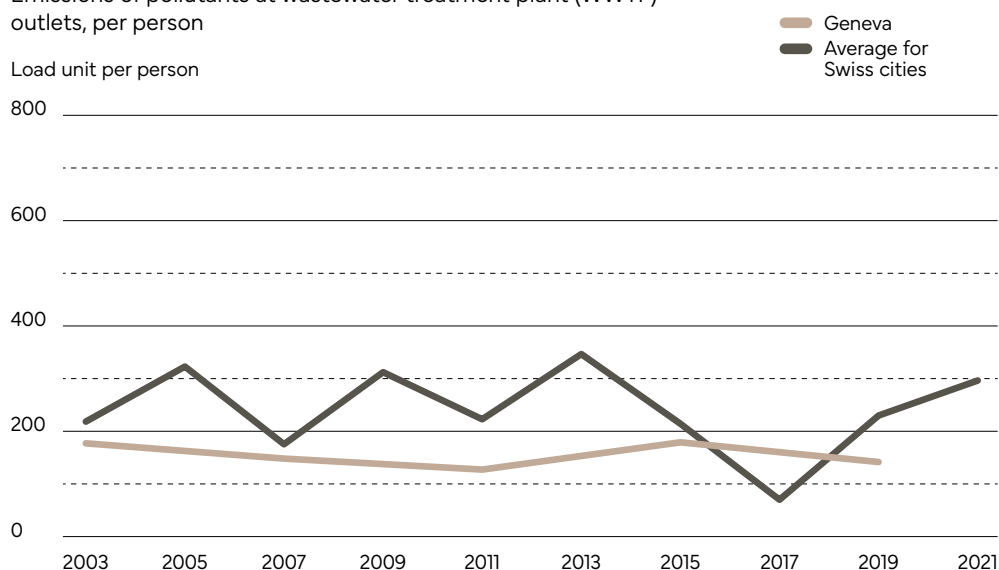


Sources: OFS – AREA; Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Pollutants at WWTP outlets

Emissions of pollutants at wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) outlets, per person

Load unit per person



Source: Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The Services Industriels de Genève, an autonomous entity of which the City is a member of the board of directors, today guarantees *"universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all"* (SDG 6, target 6.1). In addition, they provide adequate sanitation and hygiene services via treatment plants. The challenge is therefore not the existence of these networks in Geneva, but rather their optimisation and better management of invisible micropollutants such as nanomaterials or endocrine disruptors. The City has rationalised its water consumption in public spaces. The State of Geneva is responsible for the management of the lake and rivers, but the municipality is actively involved, particularly in cleaning up the banks and tackling littering. The issues of international solidarity are addressed in Field of Action 10. Finally, it should be noted here that in addition to the issues of drinking water, Geneva, due to its geographical location, enjoys immense potential in terms of access to clean outdoor water. The municipality is committed to offering its population practical and safe access to natural bathing areas, particularly in Lake Geneva and the Rhône River, to provide a refreshing experience in summer while preserving the biodiversity of the banks and shores.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Overall positioning of the City in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

As the city is geographically far from the sea, its only link with this goal is through consumption, which is covered in Field of Action 1. Responsible criteria for fishery products and marine materials are part of municipal tenders and the Food Charter. With regard to pollution, efforts undertaken in freshwater (which are part of SDG 15) will have a positive impact on the oceans.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Overall positioning of the City in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The City participated in the formulation and implementation of the 2030 Cantonal Biodiversity Strategy, but this did not guarantee, by 2020, *"the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services"* (SDG 15, target 15.1): biodiversity remains under serious threat, both locally and globally. Through its Municipal Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 2024 and the recruitment of a Biodiversity Task Force, the City is now mobilising additional resources to strengthen this policy. It participates in cantonal programmes to control invasive species and tries to limit littering around lakes and rivers. It has no jurisdiction over poaching or imports.

Outlook for the next 5 years

The implementation of the 17 measures of the Municipal Biodiversity Strategy [27] will be a key issue in the coming legislature. The growing urban pressure on the City's limited territory, as well as climate change, will continue to put species and ecosystems under great pressure. Introducing a "biodiversity reflex" as part of every renovation, construction or development project, as well as appropriate maintenance of existing surfaces, should help maximise natural habitats in the heart of the city. In addition, awareness-raising and mobilisation of the population will be strengthened between now and 2030.

Economic and financial systems

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



"The city intends to preserve its prosperity by building on the diversity of its economic fabric, in particular on a local, social and solidarity-based economy."



V.

In 2023, **the City of Geneva adopted its first Economic Strategy** [18], developed under the aegis of its new Delegation for the Economy. It is designed to complement the policies pursued at the federal and cantonal levels. This initiative reflects the Executive Council's desire to **support the development of business and employment in its territory**. The first axis of the strategy deals with maintaining and stimulating the wealth of its economic fabric. The private sector generates the majority of added value in Geneva. Only 0.3% of companies represent 22% of jobs and a significant tax share. The City is a leader in several fields, such as watchmaking, finance, trade and diplomacy. Its economic structure is characterized by a high level of service companies (almost 95%) and a high proportion of jobs in high productivity sectors. As a city center, it accounts for 54% of companies and 47% of jobs in the canton of Geneva, although it only represents 40% of the canton's population. However, the unemployment rate is higher than the national average, as is often the case in urban areas. A sustainable city is an attractive city for businesses, and the local quality of life facilitates recruitment. The city therefore nurtures the assets of its municipal territory and, with a view to diversification; it particularly supports local commerce, initiatives related to ecological conversion and the cultural and creative economy.

Within the scope of its powers, the City of Geneva acts to boost and **strengthen the local economy from a sustainability perspective**. Its municipal foundation Fondetec supports SMEs through loans and personalised support; since its creation, it has enabled more than 750 companies to develop. The municipality also supports the development of sustainable economic activities, in particular the circular economy and the social and solidarity economy: Fondetec's LIDEV program for the creation of local businesses with a sustainable impact, APRES-GE's REZ-ACTIFS/IMPACTANTES programme for the consolidation of social and solidarity enterprises, the Impact Hub Geneva circular economy incubator, and the Manufacture Collaborative MACO, which brings together several players in the circular economy in the same place. Proactive thinking has allowed to revitalise premises located in the Charmilles industrial zone, a local service area in the city centre. The City also offers increased visibility to repair, second-hand and rental companies via websites. In addition, the municipal property management's regulations for the allocation of commercial leases include sustainability criteria. In terms of municipal finances, the City of Geneva is working to **control its public spending** and maintain a sustainable level of indebtedness. Finally, in 2023 the City issued an initial **green bond** of 140 million to finance Climate Strategy projects, such as the renovation of the Minoteries building, the renovation of the Vernets ice rink, the construction of public facilities for Eaux-Vives station, the planting of vegetation and installation of photovoltaic equipment on roofs, as well as the installation of double-glazed windows and central heating (energy compliance).



Focus on sustainable finance with Building Bridges!

The City has supported www.buildingbridges.org since its creation in 2019, in collaboration with the Swiss public authorities, the finance sector, the United Nations, NGOs and other international partners. This initiative, which culminates in an annual event in Geneva, aims to accelerate the transition to a global economic model aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The scale and complexity of the transition of the traditional economic world towards greater sustainability requires the building of bridges between the multiple stakeholders in the worlds of finance, government and international development.

Economic and financial systems: some figures.

Unemployment rate



4%

of the working population of Geneva is unemployed.

Local purchases



95%

of the central purchasing contracts go to Swiss companies, **73%** to Geneva-based firms.

Cross-border workers

38,164



people living in France work in companies located in the city of Geneva.

Jobs in the city centre

~200,000



the City of Geneva hosts as many jobs as it has residents.

Local shops



-5%

The number of small shops (bakeries, shoe repair shops, etc.) has fallen by 5% since 2010.

Cultural and creative economy



12%

of establishments are in the cultural and creative economy sector.

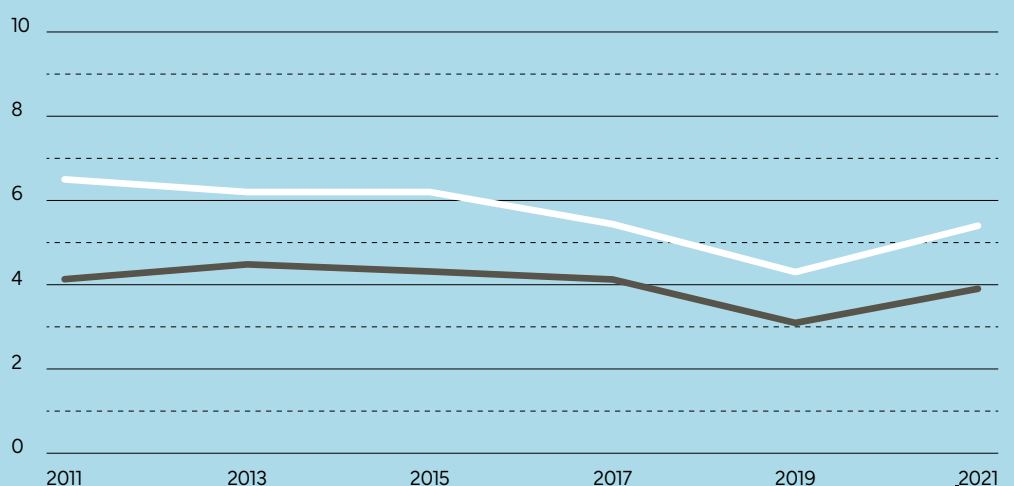
Sources: [7], [18], [40]

Graphs

Unemployment rate

Proportion of people registered as unemployed in the working population

Index in %

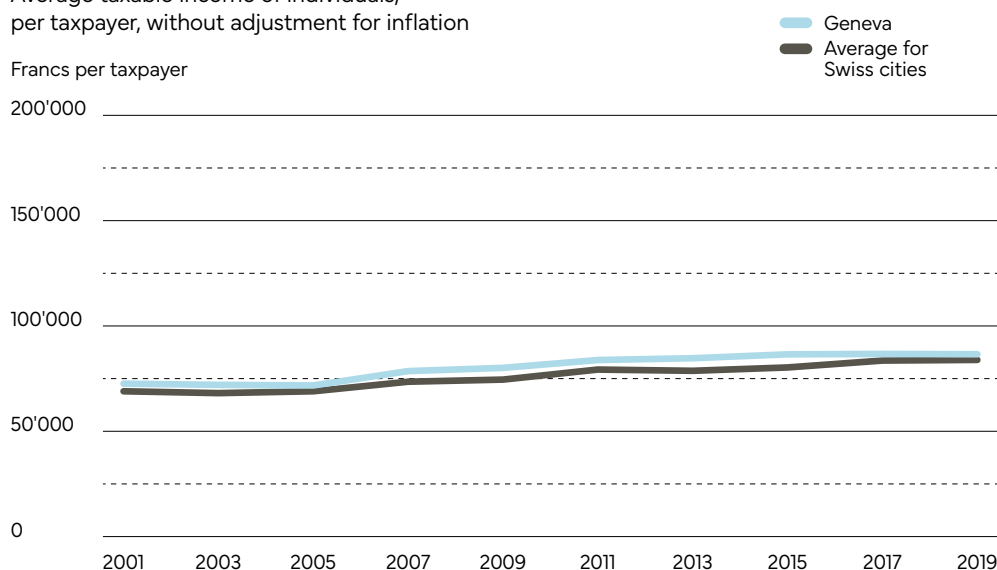


Source: SECO – Unemployment statistics [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Taxable income

Average taxable income of individuals,
per taxpayer, without adjustment for inflation

Francs per taxpayer



Source: AFC [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

In a context of relative prosperity and overconsumption, but also of stagnating incomes and inflation, the need for economic growth (SDG 8, target 8.1) was questioned by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty at the Human Rights Council in July 2024. Thus, certain sub-targets of SDG 8 related to growth objectives can be questioned. Indeed, GDP growth alone does not necessarily ensure sufficient income for the population in relation to the cost of living, nor does it guarantee a sustainable tax base enabling local authorities to implement desired public policies.

With regard to the need to “endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation” (SDG 8, target 8.4), the City of Geneva applies ambitious criteria to its calls for tenders, but it would be naïve to claim that this goal has been achieved. However, at its level, it is pursuing policies “promote productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services” (SDG 8, target 8.4).

From a sustainable development perspective, the economic and financial systems must above all serve the collective good and enable each individual to access employment with decent and fair working conditions. By municipalising daycare and cleaning jobs, in particular, the City of Geneva is helping to guarantee good working conditions in these sectors, and thus defending *"labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment"* (SDG 8, target 8.8).

Finally, it is collaborating with local actors, in particular Geneva Tourism, to *"devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products"* (SDG 8, target 8.9).

Outlook for the next 5 years

The implementation of the City's new Economic Strategy will be at the heart of the coming legislature, namely: maintaining the richness of Geneva's economic fabric, strengthening the local economy and supporting businesses in their necessary transitions and evolutions. Each of these areas is broken down into several measures, such as the *"Mon entreprise durable"* (My sustainable business) programme, which offers support specifically designed for local SMEs. Global economic uncertainties will also have to be taken into account in the development of a more resilient local economy. At the same time, the world of work will be turned upside down by the digital shift that is accelerating with the advent of artificial intelligence, and the City of Geneva will have to support, within the limits of its powers, the technological transformations and human issues that this entails. In addition, the City of Geneva will continue to work towards improved working conditions. In particular, it will continue the work begun in the wake of the health crisis to strengthen the status, remuneration and welfare conditions in the cultural sector, a sector often associated with precarious status and/or low and unstable pay.



Education, research and innovation



"The Executive Council aims to strengthen its children and youth policy, and intensify collaboration with institutional, associative and private partners."

VI.

The City of Geneva has limited powers in the areas of education, research and innovation, but it acts with conviction in the sectors under its responsibility: **early childhood, extracurricular care, libraries, museums, vocational and continuing education**, as well as through its support for innovative projects from civil society. In addition, it subsidises environmental education and the fight against discrimination among school and preschool audiences.

The municipality has a strong policy of **support for families**: around a thousand new preschool places have been created over the last decade, meeting 83% of demand [40], one of the highest demand coverage rates in the canton. In 2023, the City of Geneva initiated a process of gradual municipalisation of early childhood care facilities, thus affirming its conviction that preschool education should be considered a public service, just like school. For children aged 4 to 12, the municipality organizes extracurricular activities and subsidises Discovery Workshops and Mobile Workshops to enable registered children to take part in cultural, sporting and environmental activities. It contributes to the application of Children's Rights and was awarded the "Child-Friendly Municipality" label by UNICEF in 2018 [25].

The municipal network includes seven **libraries** and a mobile library service. It offers adult and youth spaces where documents on all subjects and in all formats (books, music collections, films, etc.) can be consulted and borrowed. The various sites have workspaces and offer free cultural events and training workshops. In addition to the seven public libraries, there are eleven scientific and heritage libraries that ensure the conservation and promotion of an exceptional documentary heritage covering almost all fields of knowledge. As places of collection and conservation, research and transmission, the **municipal museums** play an essential role in the dissemination of knowledge, the promotion of heritage and access to culture for all: the Art and History Museum, the Ethnography Museum, the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Ariana Museum, the Geneva Museum with the Natural History Museum and the Science History Museum and finally the Geneva Library. Several municipal policies aim to strengthen **creative and digital activities** in its territory.

The City helps young adults enter the labour market through a fund that supports companies hiring apprentices and sets an example by offering numerous opportunities for vocational and continuing education within its administration. Finally, **the municipality places innovation at the heart of the ecological and social transition** by encouraging the realization of ecological and socially useful associative or entrepreneurial projects through the G'innove program and the IDDEA prize.



Focus on the concrete commitments of the cultural sector!

The Department of Culture and Digital Transition has deployed a "Climate and Environment Action Program" in its services and institutions [35] which includes an Eco-Responsible Commitment Charter and a list of concrete measures, such as the eco-design of exhibitions, the pooling of equipment and elements of decor and lighting, a systematic weighting of practices before each project, and the reduction of waste and the carbon impact of major events such as the 'Fête de la Musique' music festival.

Education, research and innovation: some figures.

Early childhood facilities



4,894

children cared for in municipal facilities or facilities subsidised by the City.

Vocational training



> 300

The City offers 96 apprenticeship places and supports >220 places in companies via the Apprenticeship Fund.

After-school care

+ 3,000



children benefit each year from Discovery Workshops or Mobile Workshops.

Municipal libraries



7

Free access to books and digital media in the seven libraries and the Bibliobus.

Museum attendance



1,5 mio

visits to municipal museums each year.

Societal innovation



+ 100

projects supported financially by the G'innove programme.

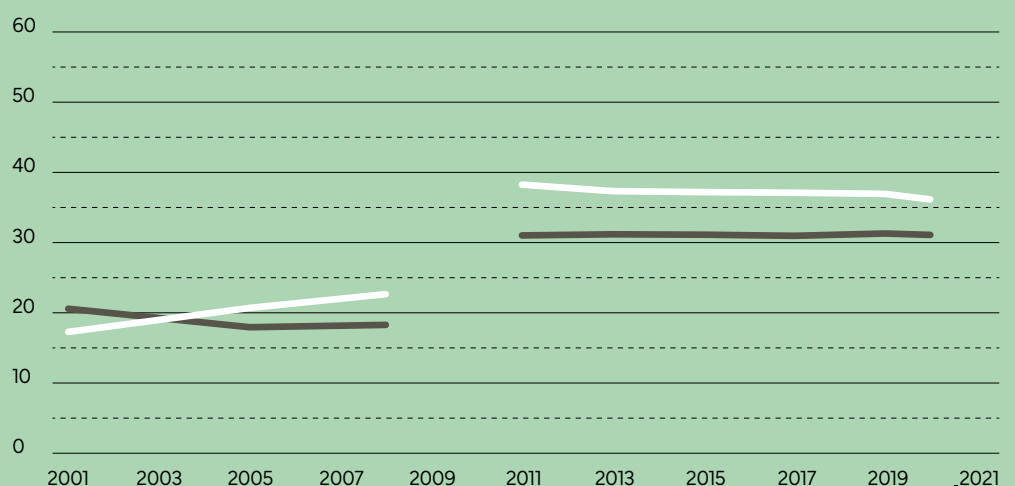
Sources: [40]

Graphs

Innovative sectors

Proportion of jobs in innovative sectors as a percentage of total jobs in the secondary and tertiary sectors

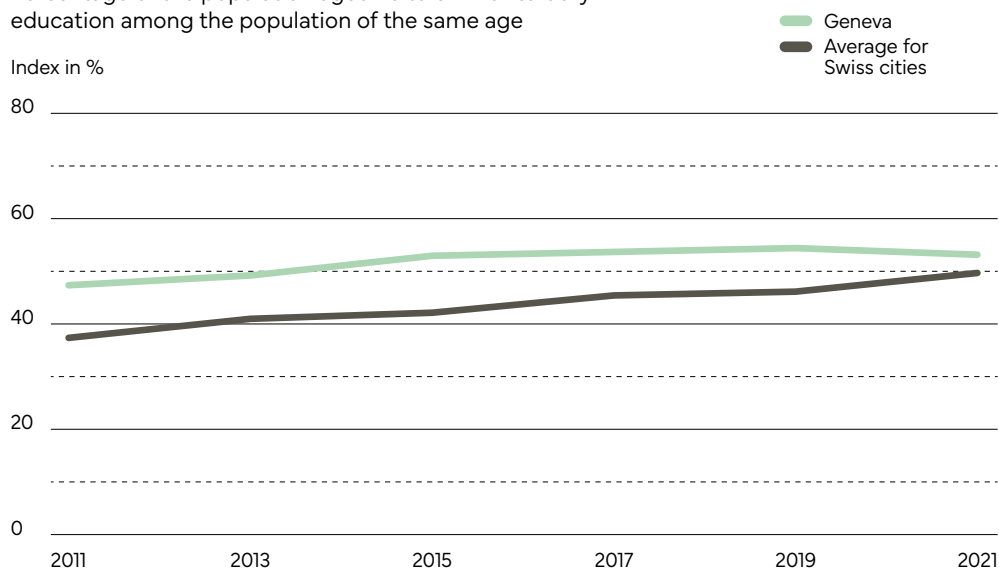
Index in %



Sources: OFS – RE, STATENT [7] These figures will be updated in November 2026.

Level of education

Percentage of the population aged 25 to 64 with tertiary education among the population of the same age



Source: OFS – Structural survey (SS) [7] These figures will be updated in November 2026.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The State of Geneva ensures “that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education” (SDG 4, target 4.1). In terms of higher education and vocational training, which is also a cantonal and federal responsibility, the City acts only in a subsidiary capacity, notably by supporting training companies through the Apprenticeship Fund, offering apprenticeships within its own administration, and through the university collaboration of its museums. It also supports initiatives such as *Futurs en tous genres* (Futures of All Kinds) to encourage young people to question gender stereotypes. The proportion of tertiary graduates is 32% among the over-65s, 41% among the 45-64 age group and 55% among the 25-44 age group. 15% of young people under the age of 25 leave the school system without a diploma; however, the State has recently introduced new measures to combat this phenomenon.[11]

The City is primarily responsible for the pre- and after school sectors. It is able to meet 83% of the demand for early childhood places and regularly creates new quality places. The City also supports associations working in schools on education for sustainable development. It is also responsible for primary sector buildings, which are regularly renovated and improved in terms of accessibility; a budget for greening several school playgrounds has been approved: in this way, the City is contributing to the availability of *"education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all"* (SDG 4, target 4.a).

Outlook for the next 5 years

Several large-scale projects will occupy the City of Geneva in the coming years regarding education, including the continued municipalisation of early childhood institutions as well as the maintenance, renovation, construction and greening of primary buildings in order to meet growing needs in the neighbourhoods. In addition, the UNICEF review in connection to the renewal of the "Child-Friendly Municipality" label will lead the relevant departments to expand the participatory offer for children and young people. Finally, discussions will need to be held to perpetuate and/or increase the societal innovations emerging from programmes such as G'innove and IDDEA.



Social security



"The Executive Council is placing the issues of reducing inequalities and combating impoverishment at the heart of its term, and will be working to offer all residents the opportunity to prosper and bring their projects to fruition."



VII.

Through its actions, the City of Geneva contributes to **strengthening social ties, combating precariousness, and developing community and neighbourhood life**. Favouring local action, it adapts its services to different audiences and local situations. It has three main objectives: to take action before social and health issues arise, to promote social inclusion and to develop a policy in favour of specific populations, in particular the elderly, young people and people with disabilities.

The social situation in the City of Geneva is based on a fragile balance, since, even though the population has high average incomes, around a fifth of taxpayers live on less than CHF 30,000 per year [7]. As the cost of living is very high in Geneva, the proportion of people receiving social assistance is more than twice the national rate.

The municipality is fighting against precariousness and offers various forms of financial assistance, in addition to regular individual social assistance which, in Geneva, is the responsibility of the Canton: one-off support, social benefits, back-to-school allowance and payment of school meal costs. Info Points are open to the entire population and form part of the local social services. They aim to facilitate access to social services of all kinds (federal, state, municipal and association).

In partnership with the Association of Geneva Municipalities, associations, the State and various private actors, the City of Geneva offers **emergency accommodation assistance to people in precarious situations and the homeless**. A team of social workers is tasked with contacting people on the street and establishing a link with the most vulnerable, to refer them to the services appropriate to their situation. Thanks to various social partners, the disadvantaged have the opportunity to benefit from free hygiene care and free clothing, as well as access to healthcare via mobile consultations and the presence of a permanent service for people without a regular doctor or health insurance. As far as possible and depending on their legal status, the Social Service supports beneficiaries in finding more sustainable solutions. Several innovative measures target specific issues: for example, a scheme called “Stop précarité menstruelle” (Stop menstrual precariousness) has been rolled out to reach people exposed to precariousness, migrants or LGBTIQ+ people.

Finally, the City of Geneva has a large stock of **social housing** under the responsibility of the municipal property management, which offers more than 4,800 homes.



Focus on support for the employability of young people!

As part of its youth policy, the City has strengthened its support for professional integration by setting up one-off financial assistance to promote the employability of young people. The aim of this new scheme is to reduce inequalities and help young people build a solid professional future. It takes the form of financial assistance for people aged between 18 and 25, particularly those in a precarious financial situation. With a ceiling of CHF 1,000 per person, this assistance is intended to cover essential expenses related to the search for employment, such as the purchase of computer equipment, professional equipment, registration for training courses, as well as any other expenses useful for the realisation of a professional project.

Social security: some figures.

Information Points

> 12,000



responses given per year.

Emergency accommodation



The City's Social Services Department provides nearly 58,000 overnight stays per year within the inter-municipal system.

58,000

Modest incomes



1/5

in 5 people live on an income of less than CHF 30,000 per year.

Municipal property management



90%

of the 5,300 homes managed by the municipality are intended for social housing.

Period precariousness



126

free menstrual product distributors installed in the city since 2021.

Back-to-school allowance

~4,000



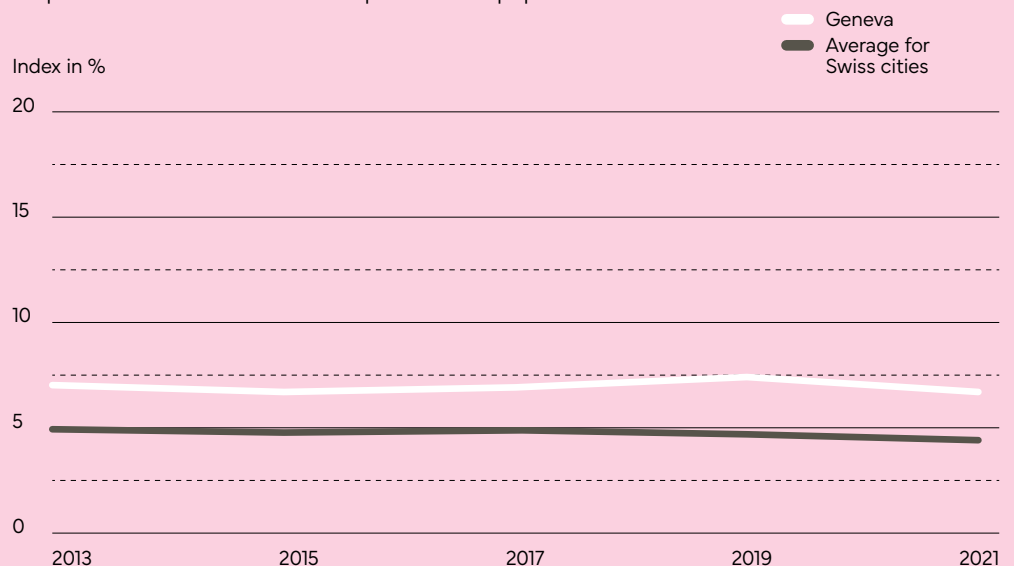
families receive ad hoc support for the purchase of school supplies.

Sources: [7], [11], [40]

Graphs

Social assistance rate

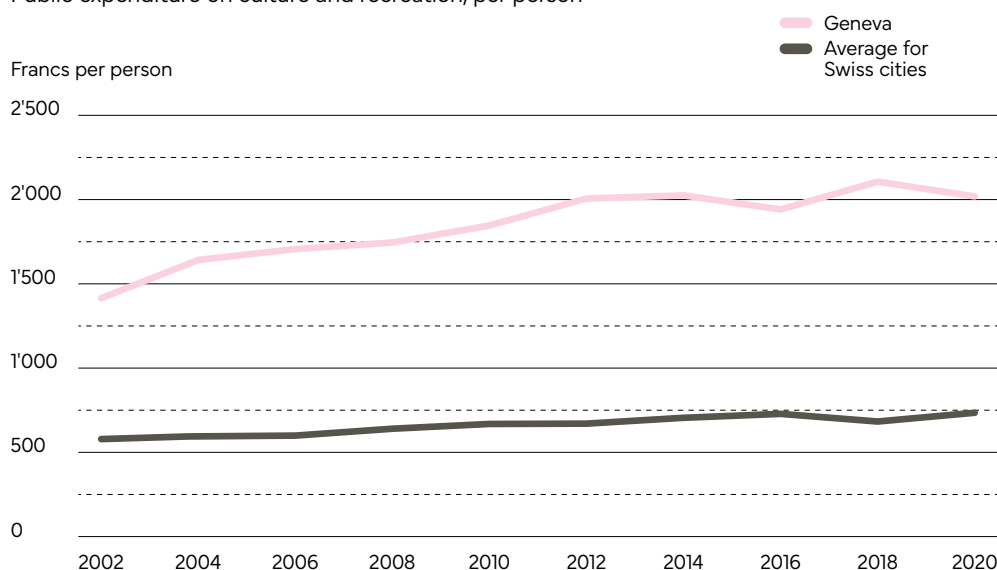
Proportion of social assistance recipients in the population



Source: OFS – SAS [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Expenditure on culture and recreation

Public expenditure on culture and recreation, per person



Sources: OFS – ESPOP, STATPOP; AFF – SF [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

Absolute poverty (living on less than \$1.25 a day) is not an issue for Geneva, but rather relative poverty: the social assistance rate has remained relatively stable – at a relatively high level – over the past ten years, while the sub-targets of this SDG aim to “*reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions*” (SDG 1, target 1.2). Thus, the situation observed today does not correspond to the desired decline. On the other hand, the various administrative levels (federal, cantonal and municipal) have succeeded in “*implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable*” (SDG 1, target 1.3).

Furthermore, as part of its policy of planting trees and combating heat islands, the City plans to prioritise the transformation of the most modest and least green neighbourhoods, thus helping to “*build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events*” (SDG 1, target 1.5). International solidarity actions related to the fight against absolute poverty are discussed in Field of action 10.

Outlook for the next 5 years

In an international context of repeated crises and in the face of rising living costs, the City of Geneva will continue to commit itself to combating the precariousness of the most vulnerable populations. More generally, it will continue its work in the coming years to reduce the physical, social and administrative obstacles faced by various groups wishing to access government services. It will thus step up its fight against the non-use of services, in particular through the development of inter-institutional collaboration and the simplification of procedures. It will analyse and, where appropriate, address the newly identified needs of people in precarious situations.



Social cohesion and the fight against discrimination

"Geneva is the cradle of human rights, a defender of real equality between women and men and of the fight against all forms of discrimination linked, for example, to sexual orientation, gender, origin or skin color."



VIII.

The municipality promotes inclusion and social cohesion through its local social policy, implemented by its local social branches [38]. It carries out numerous initiatives in the neighbourhoods to meet the collective and individual needs of the population. In particular, it offers support to senior citizens and activities for young people, and encourages **civic participation** and activities in public spaces, for example through calls for projects or events such as “La ville est à vous” (The city is yours) [29]. A new **Long Life Policy** was presented at the end of 2024 and will be rolled out during the new legislature. In addition, the City spends CHF 2,000 per inhabitant per year on culture, leisure and sports [7], which improves the quality of life and promotes social cohesion. This relatively high amount reflects the city's position at the center of a larger urban area. The municipality facilitates access to these services for young people, the elderly, migrants and people with disabilities through specific actions and regularly invests in maintaining high-quality infrastructure. Finally, since 2019, it has adopted a **policy of universal accessibility**, in order to make the physical and human environment more welcoming for the people concerned.

The City of Geneva promotes **equality between women and men and fights against discrimination based on origin, sexual or emotional orientation, gender identity or expression**. Three cross-cutting public policies are coordinated in this respect by the Agenda 21 – Sustainable City Department: the Municipal Strategy 2020–2030 for the promotion of equality between women and men [22], the Municipal LGBTQ+ Strategy 2030 [23] and the Municipal Policy on Cultural Diversity and the Fight against Racism [24]. These global strategies are accompanied by specific action plans in three areas: the “Zero Sexism in My City” Action Plan [34], the Trans, Intersex and Non-Binary Programme [36] and the Racist Monuments and Heritage in Public Space Action Plan [37]. These strategies are deployed both internally and externally to the administration. In addition, good practices are shared at the regional and international level with other committed municipalities. The City also collaborates closely with the academic and voluntary sectors in the deployment of these policies.

Finally, **as an employer, the City is proactive and strives to be exemplary**, aiming to achieve equal opportunities, equal treatment and de facto equality at all levels of its administration. To this end, it is developing measures for equal pay, recruitment and internal training, some of which are compulsory for all staff, particularly with regard to the prevention of sexual harassment at work. However, recent studies have shown that these objectives have not yet been fully achieved and additional measures will be deployed in the coming years.



Focus on the Accessible Culture initiative

Since 2004, the City has been committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are not marginalised when it comes to culture. Municipal action is carried out in close collaboration with the relevant communities. The design of buildings, the development of specific tools and new mediation practices allow for the provision of an offer that meets the needs, expectations, and particularities of people with disabilities. The www.culture-accessible.ch website provides information on events with accessibility measures in the Geneva region and gives a list of cultural venues, as well as an inventory of contacts specialized in these services.

Social cohesion and the fight against discrimination: some figures.

Professional equality



45%

of senior managers in the municipal administration are women.

An international population



50%

of Geneva's population does not have Swiss nationality.

Racist legacy in our streets



5

Implementation of an information system focusing on five controversial historical figures.

Disability



1/5

In Switzerland, one in five people live with a permanent or temporary disability.

Support for the LBGTIQ+ network

40,000



people took part in the Pride March in Geneva in 2023.

Activities in neighbourhoods

200,000



people attend the annual neighbourhood events "The city is yours".

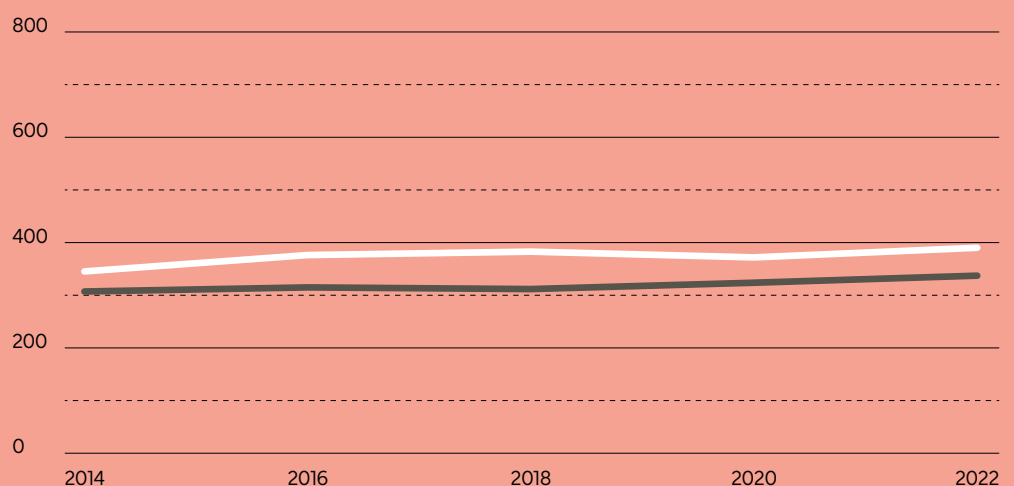
Sources: [11], [37], [39], [40]

Graphs

Non-family childcare

Number of non-family childcare places for pre-school children, per 1,000 children in the same age group

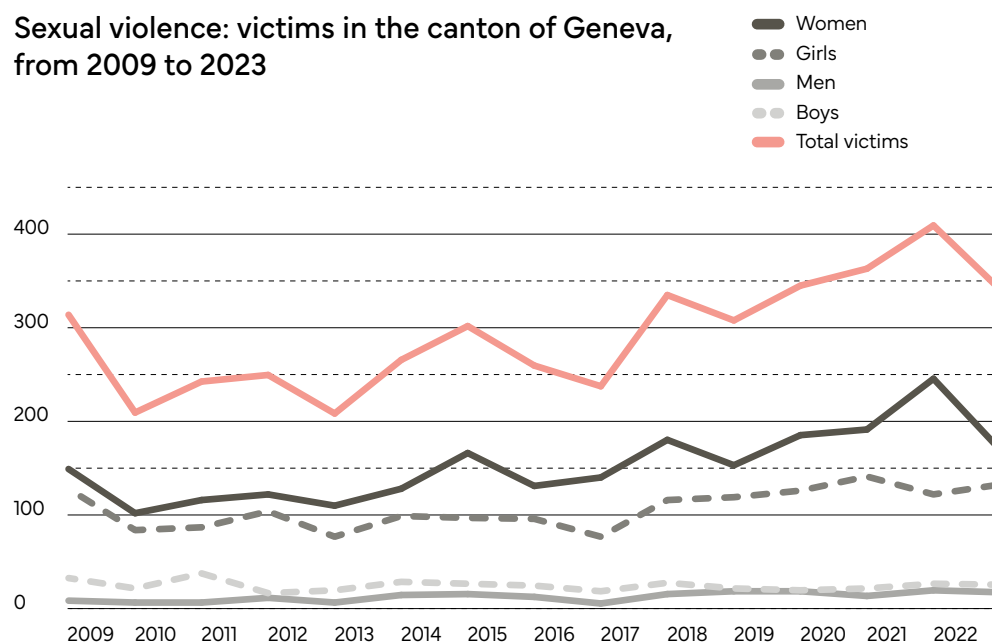
Places per 1,000 children (pre-school)



Please note: family day care is not included in the figures for Geneva, which only count places offered by early childhood institutions, but family day care is included in the statistics for other cities.

Sources: OFS – STATPOP, Partner cities of the Indicators Circle [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Sexual violence: victims in the canton of Geneva, from 2009 to 2023



Source: OFS – Police Crime Statistics (SPC) [11] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The City of Geneva has been proactively committed for many years to “*end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere*” (SDG 5, target 5.1). Its “Zero Sexism in My City” Action Plan, adopted in 2019, aims in particular to prevent sexual harassment and sexism in public spaces. Other projects, such as the “25novembre-Genève” campaign, organised by the City, the Canton and a coalition of associative and institutional partners, disseminate strong messages against all forms of violence against women, girls and gender minorities. The City is thus contributing to “*eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres*” (SDG 5, target 5.2), even if today sexual harassment is still regularly documented in Geneva. The populations concerned can benefit from specialised support offered in Geneva to meet the needs generated by “*all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*” (SDG 5, target 5.3). Several City policies, particularly those relating to children and human resources, encourage the coordination of lives and the “*promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family*” (SDG 5, target 5.4). Finally, the political participation of women at the municipal level is very satisfactory during the 2020-2025 term of office, with three women among the five members of the Executive Council and 39 women among the 80 members of the Municipal Council. At the administrative level, there is a significant – but not yet equal – proportion of women managers (45%) [39].



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

Unfortunately, the current trend is not at all in line with the aim of this SDG: *"By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average"* (SDG 10, target 10.1). The City's ad hoc actions to support certain vulnerable populations are not enough to counteract the underlying trends observed at the national and international level. On the other hand, the City is making significant efforts to support various minority or discriminated populations through several specific policies in order to *"promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status"* (SDG 10, target 10.2). The City does not have legislative authority or authority over migration regulations, but it does pursue proactive policies to welcome and provide the best possible guidance to migrants arriving in its territory.

Outlook for the next 5 years

With regard to the fight against discrimination, one of the challenges of the coming years will be to be able to continue to deploy committed and necessary public policies, in a context of growing tensions in certain media spheres and a political instrumentalisation of these social issues. The City's continued policy of accessibility and inclusion will be reflected in particular in the accessibility of new public buildings and in the development of municipal regulations relating to this cross-cutting public policy.



Health

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



"A factor in bringing everyone together, sport, which also conveys the values of mutual aid and respect, must have its place in the public arena."

IX.

In Geneva, the State has primary responsibility for health issues and ensures the availability of healthcare services. That said, the City has an essential role to play upstream, **to promote the good health of its population**, through the development of public space and the activities it finances, whether by increasing opportunities for regular physical activity, by supporting soft mobility, by promoting healthy eating and by establishing optimal framework conditions for mental health, strengthening local ties and access to culture and nature.

The City of Geneva encourages **sports for people of all ages**. In 2023, it received the “Commune en santé - ville en santé” (Healthy Municipality - Healthy City) award from the Radix Foundation for its “Restons dynamiques” (Let's stay dynamic) project aimed at senior citizens. It provides high-quality sports facilities for a wide range of disciplines and offers local facilities in the parks. It supports clubs and associations located in its territory and facilitates the holding of several major sporting events each year, such as the Course de l'Escalade, which attracted 53,805 registered participants in 2024.

Thanks to its Sustainable Food Charter, the City encourages **healthy eating**, since the plant-based and organic content of meals [19] offered in various situations (crèches, school restaurants, receptions, managed restaurants, etc.) is being increased, in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization. The Fourchette verte junior label tightens the criteria to which school meals are subject, in particular by limiting processed, fatty, salty or sweet foods. At the same time, several educational activities are offered to children to reinforce their knowledge and food skills.

The City specifically protects **vulnerable populations** by placing the elderly at the heart of protection against the risks associated with extreme heat. It is also developing a “Youth and Climate” programme with the aim of taking action against eco-anxiety, by facilitating concrete commitment and civic participation among 15-25 year olds. Several projects subsidised by the City are related to health, for example the Women's Health Center*, the Zero Pollutant Workshops for families or, in the context of international solidarity, the prevention of gender-based violence in Haiti by Médecins du Monde.

Finally, to reduce noise pollution from motorised traffic and **prevent accidents**, the City is implementing 30 km/h zones, installing sound-absorbing paving and protecting the youngest children by making key crossings near schools safer. In addition, the municipal police intervene every year in schools with awareness-raising courses that address the issues of respect for people and their environment as well as the prevention of the dangers to which they are exposed, particularly on social networks.



Focus on “Restons dynamiques” – Moving together as seniors!

The *Restons dynamiques* (Let's stay active) programme offers free weekly walking sessions in parks. These walks enable 3,700 senior citizens to engage in physical activity close to home while promoting general well-being and socialisation among peers. The one-hour sessions are professionally supervised by the Social Service in terms of sports and nursing.

Health: some figures

Participation in sport

115,000



people are members
of a sports club.

Safety of primary school pupils



78

locations near schools are
patrolled by school patrols.

Heatwave plan



32

measures implemented by
the City to protect the most
vulnerable people.

Fourchette verte ("Green Fork") label



3

portions of fruit and
vegetables at least at every
meal in school canteens.

Racism and health



1

week dedicated to exploring
the effects of racism
on health or access to
healthcare.

Traffic accidents



< 3

Fewer than 3 road accidents
with victims per 1,000
inhabitants per year.

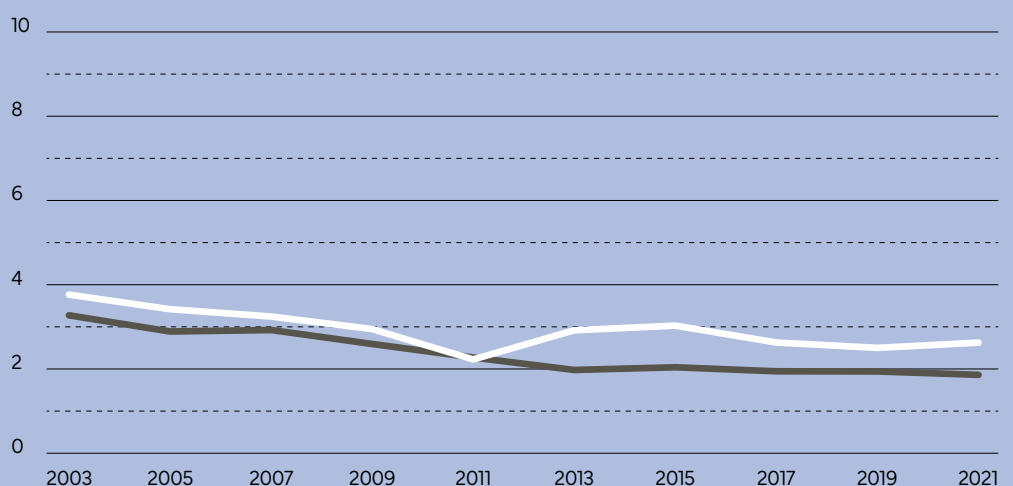
Sources: [7], [40]

Graphs

Road accidents

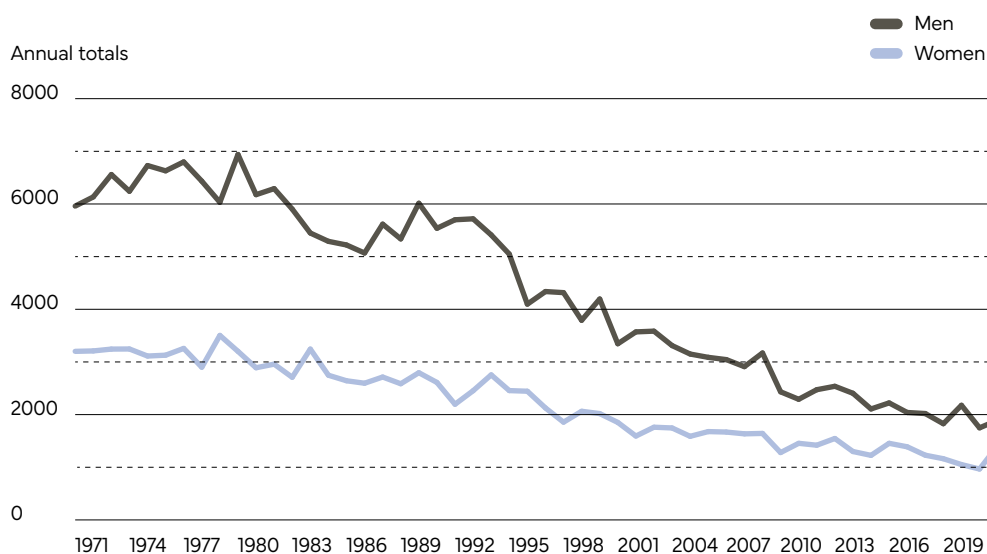
Number of road traffic accidents with victims
(deaths and injuries) per 1,000 people

Accidents per 1,000 people



Sources: OFROU, OFS – SVU; OFS – ESPOP, STATPOP [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Potential years of life lost, by gender, per 100,000 inhabitants aged 1 to 69, in the canton of Geneva



Source: OCSTAT – Cantonal population statistics / OFS – Statistics on natural population movement [11]



Ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of all at all ages

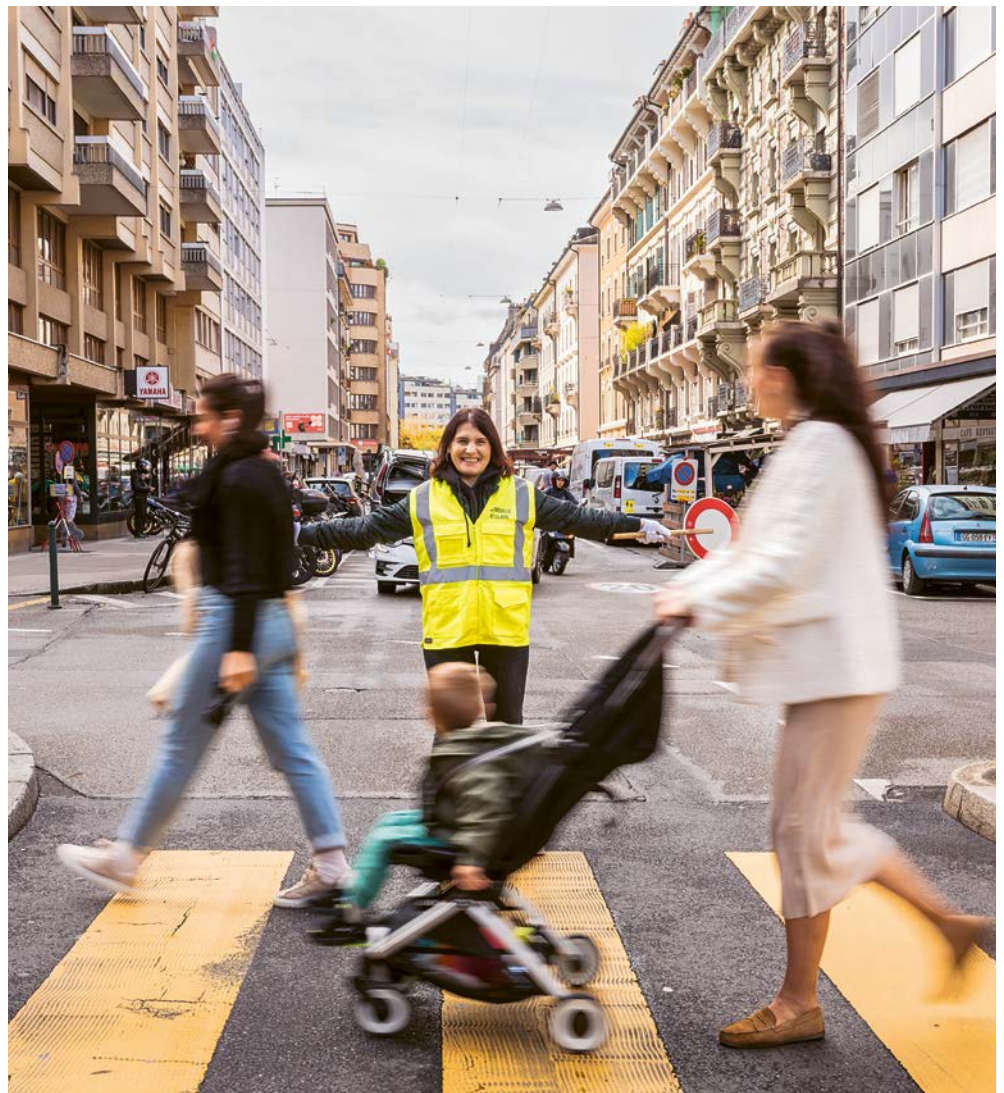
Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

Health statistics are mainly cantonal [11] and, between 1992 and 2017, the self-assessed general health of the Geneva population remained stable and at a high level, around 82%. Infant mortality is 1.5 ‰, well below the maximum target (SDG 3, target 3.2). There has been a decline in the number of people suffering from tuberculosis and AIDS since 1990 (SDG 3, target 3.3), and an overall decrease in the number of years of life lost, with a more rapid decrease among men than among women.

As in the rest of Europe, the major health issues in Geneva are related to non-communicable and chronic diseases, mental health, addictions and prevention; areas that depend above all on the living environment and social cohesion-parameters on which the City of Geneva acts through several public policies mentioned in other parts of the document. Other health challenges are gaining in importance, related to climate change, pollution and other environmental degradation on which the City can act as described in fields of action II and IV. However, the health and care system is primarily a cantonal and federal responsibility, not a local one.

Outlook for the next 5 years

In a context of recurring crises, particularly health crises, climate change and the increasing role of digital technology in our lives, the role of local governments in promoting the health of the population is becoming increasingly important. During the upcoming legislature, the primary aim will be to strengthen policies that create an urban living environment conducive to soft mobility, sports, nature and relaxation. At the same time, there will also be an effort to activate neighbourhood ties essential to combating isolation and strengthening personal resources. To cope with increasingly intense and frequent heat waves, the City will continue its significant efforts to prevent damage to health, improve the protection of the most vulnerable people and act on the isolation of senior citizens during heat wave



Governance and partnerships

"We must defend the International Geneva sector with conviction, as it is an integral part of the City's identity."



X.

Geneva's governance is complex, as several political and administrative levels overlap in a small territory housing 200,000 people, nested in an agglomeration of one million people covering two Swiss cantons and two French departments. Uneven development of the region, with more jobs in the center and more housing on the outskirts, has put great pressure on both sides of the border. That said, remarkable collaboration has developed under the aegis of Greater Geneva, resulting in the shared vision of sustainability presented on page 11. For example, the commissioning of the Léman Express cross-border train is an encouraging expression of the region's collective transformation. At the national level, Switzerland is a country with **stable governance**, recognised for its **direct democracy** and federalism. The population is often called to the polls and the turnout varies between 35% and 55%. With almost half of the population not having a Swiss passport, the right of foreigners to vote is a topical issue. This right is granted at municipal level after eight years of residence. In addition, the City and the State are experimenting with **different consultation procedures**, in particular via www.participer.ge.ch, in addition to petitions, assemblies or other forms of citizen expression open to all.

An international city par excellence, Geneva is home to the main European headquarters of the United Nations and numerous international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental. **A major centre for multilateral diplomacy**, Geneva plays a key role in global cooperation and governance, promoting inclusive and innovative multilateralism. The city encourages increased interaction between traditional and emerging players in international relations, as well as between local and international networks. International Geneva is a unique space for dialogue, **bringing together an exceptional concentration of expertise and know-how in key areas such as human rights, peacekeeping and peace-building, humanitarian action and sustainable development**. Through its partnerships and engagement with a variety of stakeholders, the City actively contributes to global challenges and a sustainable future. **Its involvement in some twenty city networks not only strengthens its international influence**, but also its position as a player in urban diplomacy. In collaboration with the canton and with the support of the Confederation, the City is behind the Global Cities Hub [15], a platform bringing together cities and city networks with the players in International Geneva. At the regional level, it plays a leading role in the ecological transition through its involvement in Coord21, the association of public authorities in French-speaking Switzerland dedicated to sustainability [8].

The municipality makes a concrete commitment by investing around 0.7% of its budget [40] each year in **international solidarity projects**, either directly or via the Geneva Federation for Cooperation and Development. It prioritises the following issues: the reduction of poverty and social inequalities; the promotion of human rights; the strengthening of the capacities for action of disadvantaged populations and ecological transition, in particular through the promotion of biodiversity, agroecology and better waste management.



Focus on international solidarity projects!

The City combines solidarity and sustainability by supporting projects of the NGO Albert Schweitzer Ecological Center in Burkina Faso. For example, one supported project seeks to design and implement a process to ensure the long-term future of public municipal waste management services (collection-sorting-recovery), and another supported project aims to develop the cultivation of Moringa, a shrub rich in nutrients, which grows easily in difficult climatic conditions and helps to combat malnutrition.

Governance and partnerships: some figures.

International sector



40

Geneva is home to **40** international organisations, **400** NGOs and **183** permanent missions.

International solidarity



0.7%

of the city's budget is devoted to international solidarity.

Citizen participation



46

children from the Conférence romande des enfants (Romandy Children's Conference) came together to issue recommendations.

A bustling conurbation



660,000 daily crossings at the borders of the canton of Geneva.

660,000

2050Today initiative



70

institutions of International Geneva, committed to reducing their climate impact.

Regional collaboration



70

local authorities are members of the French-speaking Coord21 sustainability network

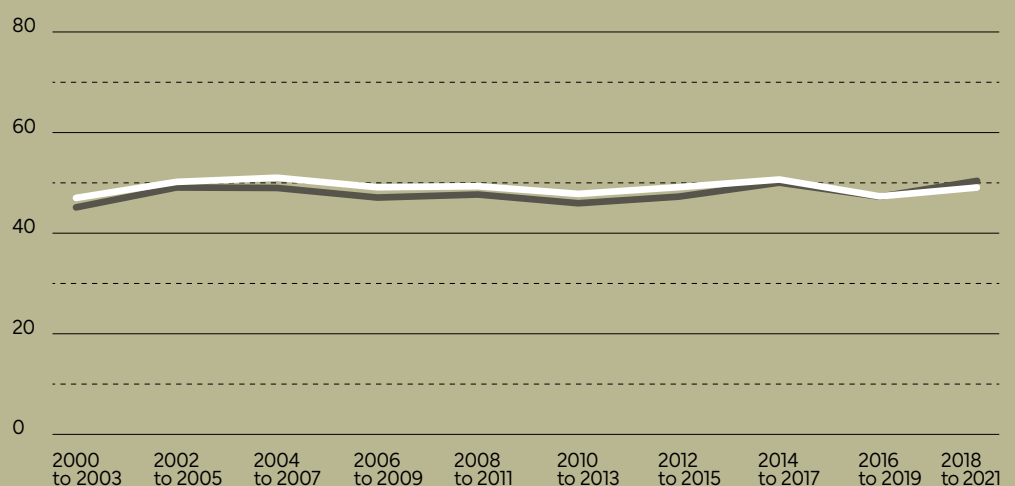
Sources: [11], [40]

Graphs

Participation in votes and elections

Voter turnout in federal referendums and National Council elections

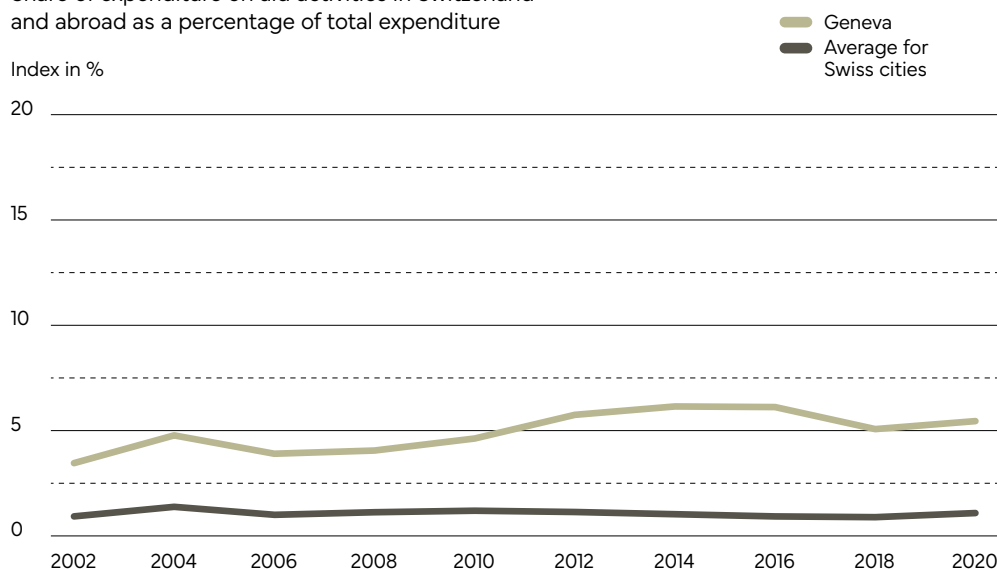
Index in %



Source: AFF – SF [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.

Aid activities

Share of expenditure on aid activities in Switzerland and abroad as a percentage of total expenditure



Please note: these figures do not include emergency aid or the salaries of the staff of the Geneva Solidarity Delegation, which is why they are lower than 0.7%.

Source: OFS – Voting and election statistics [7] These figures will be updated in 2026.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

Committed to respect for human rights and the promotion of peace, the City of Geneva works to defend fundamental rights by funding numerous NGOs active in this field around the world and at the municipal level. For example, the City supports events dedicated to human rights that raise public awareness of these crucial issues. Furthermore, the City implements public policies and measures to ensure access to its services for everyone, with particular attention to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Position of the City of Geneva in relation to the targets set out in Agenda 2030:

The City of Geneva devotes 0.7% of its budget to international solidarity, thus contributing to capacity building in developing countries and North-South cooperation (SDG 17, Finance target). To come back here to some of the targets formulated in the previous 16 SDGs, the Geneva Solidarity City Delegation provides financial support for projects in the areas of sustainable food and the fight against famine, technical and digital cooperation, sustainable construction and renewable energy in the Global South. Through its participation in the “Fair Trade Town” label, the City of Geneva contributes to strengthening fair trade. Macroeconomic issues and issues relating to international treaties and debt relief do not fall within the remit of the municipality.

In addition to its local activities, the City of Geneva promotes partnerships between cities, particularly through the Global Cities Hub and city networks. The City is a member of nearly twenty Swiss and international networks focusing on issues such as human rights, sustainable development and the fight against inequality. The municipality works closely with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), known as the “UN of cities”, a global organisation that strives to build a world where local authorities have the tools and autonomy necessary to improve the quality of life of citizens, and which serves as a spokesperson for cities on the international stage. Geneva is also a member of the International Association of French-speaking Mayors (AIMF), a forum for exchange, dialogue and advocacy, as well as a privileged partner in decentralised French-speaking cooperation. At the same time, the City provides financial support to thematic networks such as the Climate Action Accelerator and 2050Today, promoting the ecological transition in the humanitarian sector and within international organisations. Finally, its participation in the Cercle indicateurs (“Indicators Circle”), which develops sustainability measurement tools for Swiss cities and cantons, some of which are mentioned in this VLR, allows the City of Geneva to go beyond the sole framework of GDP to measure the prosperity of its territory.

Outlook for the next 5 years

In the coming years, the City is committed – within the scope of its powers – to consolidating and revitalising the key sector of International Geneva, a pillar of its identity and a driving force behind the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the City aims to strengthen the universality of International Geneva by encouraging the participation of all individuals and entities that can contribute to its missions for a more just, secure and sustainable world. Furthermore, the municipality wishes to strengthen the links between international Geneva and local Geneva, for example by making the people of Geneva more aware of the actions and impact of international institutions. Aware of the growing challenges facing cities, particularly due to rapid urbanisation and the complexity of global issues, the City of Geneva will continue to play an active role in networks such as UCLG and AIMF. These commitments enhance the unique expertise of cities, their in-depth knowledge of the field and their proximity to residents, while offering concrete solutions to these global challenges. Finally, the City will pursue its proactive policy of international solidarity, thanks to an annual budget that tends towards the UN target of 0.7%, with a strong focus on human rights and projects aligned with the SDGs, deployed on all continents.

Conclusion: challenges and opportunities for Geneva between now and 2030

One conclusion is inescapable at the end of this analysis: the City of Geneva is particularly fortunate. Located in a renowned landscape, on the shores of a lake suitable for swimming, the city brings together people from all over the world, who live peacefully side by side in a stable environment, with the opportunity to earn salaries that are attractive by international standards and to enjoy a diverse range of social, cultural and artistic activities.

This attractiveness is obviously gratifying, as it shows that Geneva is a dynamic city that is doing very well overall. However, this enviable situation also brings with it its share of challenges and disparities, which cannot be ignored. The continuous growth of our region is leading more and more Genevans to question the situation: the pressure of urbanisation, high rents and the low rate of vacant housing, combined with complicated mobility, are creating increasingly visible tensions.

Financial inequalities between segments of the population and the temptation to pit long-time residents against newcomers fuel racism and sexism. Preserving a good quality of life for all, strengthening social cohesion and fighting discrimination are constant challenges that require fair, collective responses in order to promote stability and dignity for each person.

Furthermore, the prosperity of Geneva, like that of its neighbouring countries, is achieved at the expense of the planet's resources and the inhabitants of other countries, most often in the "Global South." They pay a high price for our carbon emissions and our high demand for raw materials, as well as for the food and industrial production that we have outsourced. The effects of climate change are starting to directly affect the Geneva region, with an increase in heat waves and floods and increased exposure to multiple forms of pollution.

These observations demonstrate the need to continue the proactive implementation of our public policies in terms of sustainable consumption and production, preservation of our natural resources and biodiversity, social cohesion and the fight against discrimination. Indeed, the systemic perspective offered by this VLR draws our attention to the SDGs and fields of action that represent the greatest margin of progress needed for the City of Geneva.

In view of the urgency to act, additional resources will need to be identified and mobilised between now and 2030 to accelerate environmental and social policies. In order to achieve this, strengthening dialogue and the sharing of good practices between municipalities at the regional and international levels, particularly through city networks and with the support of the Global Cities Hub, and increased collaboration between territorial levels (local-regional-national-global) will be key elements in enabling the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

For Further Study



You will find this document and links to many other information sources on the website www.geneve.ch/ville-durable

External references

1. United Nations website on the 2030 Agenda
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment
2. Country report by Switzerland to the United Nations
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 40. Internal documents or data – contact agenda21@geneve.ch

