

Day 27 Greener

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The climate commitment that stands out for me is C40 Cities' **Net-Zero by 2050**. C40 is a global network of large cities and their mayors that coordinates ambitious climate action. Members commit to cutting emissions in line with science — halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero carbon by 2050 at the latest. The network supports city leaders with research, technical tools, peer learning and campaign platforms so local commitments can turn into real policies and projects.

Who makes these city commitments succeed? (the key actors)

1. **Mayors and city governments** — elected city leaders set targets, pass local regulations, and direct budgets. Their political will and public leadership are the primary drivers of progress.
2. **City departments and technical staff** — planners, transport, buildings and waste teams convert high-level targets into policies, codes and projects (e.g., building retrofit programs, low-emission zones).
3. **Private sector partners** — firms (energy companies, developers, technology providers) deliver solutions at scale — from clean power contracts to low-carbon construction materials. C40 actively connects cities with private-sector innovation.
4. **Civil society and local communities** — NGOs, universities, grassroots groups, and community leaders help shape fair policies, run pilots, and build public support.
5. **Funders and global partners** — philanthropic foundations, development banks and international agencies provide finance, technical assistance and credibility that help cities move from planning to implementation.

How C40 motivates cities and people to act (practical levers)

- **Science-based targets + clear milestones.** Cities commit to measurable goals (e.g., halve emissions by 2030), which creates urgency and a timetable for action.
- **Peer exchange and mayoral leadership.** Regular summits, peer networks and mayor-to-mayor learning let cities borrow proven solutions — speeding up implementation and reducing costly trial-and-error.
- **Technical programs & accelerators.** C40 runs targeted programs (for example, a Net-Zero Carbon Buildings Accelerator) that give cities toolkits, model policies, and step-

by-step guidance for specific sectors like buildings and transport. These make complex changes practical and replicable.

- **Public communications & visible wins.** Large relief-style campaigns or high-profile initiatives create tangible examples (new bus fleets, bike lanes, large tree-planting drives) that show immediate benefits and build trust.
- **Access to finance and investors.** By packaging city projects into investible and bankable plans (often with help from partners), cities can attract private finance for big infrastructure upgrades.

Partnerships that make it possible (who teams up with C40)

- **Global city networks:** C40 works with other municipal networks (e.g., ICLEI, Global Covenant of Mayors) to align standards and amplify reach.
- **Philanthropy and foundations:** Major funders and philanthropic partners provide grants, design support, and convening power. C40's funder list helps scale pilots into larger programs.
- **Research institutions and NGOs:** Universities and think tanks supply data, modeling, and evaluation methods that make city targets credible and trackable.
- **Private sector & utilities:** Energy companies, mobility providers, and construction firms are recruited to deliver low-carbon solutions and join finance mechanisms. C40 runs programs explicitly meant to engage industry.
- **UN initiatives and global campaigns:** C40 joins broader coalitions (e.g., Race to Zero) so city action links to national and global climate frameworks, helping cities meet international standards and attract resources.

Concrete examples of what success looks like under C40's model

- **Policy wins:** Cities pass building codes that require near-zero emissions for new buildings and retrofit incentives for old stock. (C40's buildings accelerator provides policy playbooks.)
- **Transport shifts:** Bus and taxi fleets run on electricity or low-carbon fuels; protected bike lanes and better public transit reduce car dependency.
- **Measurable results:** Large city coalitions commit to halving emissions by 2030 — these commitments are trackable, and progress is reported publicly through C40 and partner dashboards.

Why C40's model is inspiring and useful for local action

- **Mayors can act fast.** City governments control many levers (transport, buildings, waste, local planning) and can implement visible changes faster than national governments in many cases.
- **Replication at scale.** Tested city solutions are shared across a global network, so a pilot in one city can become policy in dozens — accelerating real-world impact.
- **Practical support, not just promises.** C40 pairs ambition with technical help, finance linkages and peer learning — a combination that turns pledges into projects.

My Vision

Cultivating a Healthier Dhaka: A Theory of Change for Organic School Meals

Inspired by the transformative work of **Conscious Kitchen** in California, my initiative aims to address a parallel challenge in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Conscious Kitchen demonstrated that school meals could be a powerful catalyst for community health, environmental resilience, and local economic vitality by shifting institutional purchasing towards fresh, local, and organic food. Their success in creating the first organic school district and building viable supply chains provides a powerful model.

This project seeks to adapt that model to the context of Dhaka. The core idea is to create a direct link between local farmers and urban schools. The process begins by working with farmers in the peri-urban areas around Dhaka, guiding them to transition away from chemical fertilizers to eco-friendly organic ones. This shift is crucial, not just for the health of the soil and the local ecosystem, but for the physical well-being of the children who will consume this food. Once a steady supply is established, the fresh, organic produce will be channeled into school tiffin programs, providing students with nutritious meals that can improve concentration and academic performance, while also building a market that rewards sustainable farming.

The following Theory of Change chart outlines the key individuals and groups—the "Targets"—who can help bring this vision to life, and the specific changes they need to make.

Theory of Change: Establishing an Organic Farm-to-School Program in Dhaka

TARGETS	OUTCOMES
1. Lead Farmers & Local Agricultural Cooperatives in the Dhaka periphery. These are respected, early-adopter farmers whose success can influence their peers.	A pilot group of 5-10 farmers fully transitions to organic practices within one growing season, creating the initial supply of organic vegetables for the program.
2. School Principals & Administration from 2-3 pilot schools in Dhaka. Their approval is essential for integrating the organic tiffin program into the school system.	At least 2 schools formally agree to pilot the organic tiffin program, committing to a trial period and providing a reliable market for the farmers.
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Executives & Engaged Parents. Their buy-in is critical for the program's acceptance and financial sustainability, as they often manage tiffin funds.	A majority of PTA members in the pilot schools vote to allocate a portion of tiffin funds to purchase the (potentially slightly more expensive) organic produce, understanding the long-term health benefits for their children.
4. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Department of Public Instruction. Their support can provide training resources for farmers and help scale the program to other schools.	Key officials endorse the pilot program, facilitating connections to agricultural extension services and exploring pathways for future policy support or integration.

Reflection on the Most Important Target

The most critical target to start with is undoubtedly the **Lead Farmers & Local Agricultural Cooperatives**.

While the schools are the final destination for the produce, the entire initiative hinges on a reliable supply of organic vegetables. Without the farmers making the transition, there is no product to sell, no healthy tiffins to serve, and no story to tell. Starting with the farmers builds the foundation of the entire system. Gaining the trust and commitment of a few influential farmers creates a tangible, successful example. This pilot supply can then be used as a powerful demonstration to convince school administrators and parents that the model is not just an idea, but a working reality. Their success becomes the most compelling argument for everyone else in the chain.

Instagram Link Here:

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This is my plan to build a better food system for the schools in Dhaka. Inspired by models like Conscious Kitchen, this project aims to connect local farmers transitioning to organic practices with city schools, providing students with fresh, nutritious tiffins for them. It will work like wonders for a developing country like ours.

The table is my Theory of Change—a clear roadmap showing exactly who needs to be involved to make this vision a reality, from the pioneering farmers to school principals and parents.

This is how we build a healthier future, one meal at a time. 🍌

@turninggreenorg, @c40cities

#OrganicRevolution #FarmToSchool #Dhaka #SustainableAgriculture #TheoryOfChange #FutureOfFood #pgc2025 #HealthyKids #ClimateAction

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