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## Trends in Argentina

### Facts from the *Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status Report*

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#### Key Renewable Energy Takeaways in 2020 in Argentina

- Municipal procurement of renewables has spread rapidly in cities that face constraints to installing renewables within city limits. For example, in **Pico Truncado** the strategy for achieving renewable energy targets involves increasing the procurement of renewable electricity and/or partnering with third-party operators to develop projects.
- Few cities in Argentina have targets and/or policies specific to renewable energy. Notable exception: **Buenos Aires** had a target for 20% renewable electricity for the city's largest public sector users by 2025, which it has already surpassed with renewables making up 32% of the electricity mix in 2019.
- Argentinian cities are leaders in the net-zero movement, having set net-zero targets in 193 cities in 2020 for the year 2050.

#### Brand new data shows

- Only 7 cities in Argentina had renewable energy targets and/or policies (from a global total of over 1,300 cities). This covers 4.4 million people, 10.5% of the urban population in Argentina.
- Argentinian cities dominate the net-zero<sup>1</sup> target movement; they represent nearly 25% of all cities worldwide with net-zero targets. By 2020, 193 Argentinian cities had net-zero targets (from a global total of around 800 targets).

#### Renewable Energy Developments in Argentinian Cities

##### Urban renewable energy commitments and policies

- Few renewable energy targets in Argentinian cities: 3 cities had renewable energy targets (with a combined total of 6 targets). Only **San José** has set a target to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2022.
- Targets for electric mobility are emerging. **Buenos Aires** had multiple targets for electric and hybrid vehicles and one target for the installation of 2,500 EV chargers.
- Only 7 cities in Argentina had renewable energy policies as of 2020. Most of these support renewable energy in buildings.

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<sup>1</sup> "Net-zero" emissions can be achieved, for example, by using natural sinks, such as reforestation or adopting agricultural best practices, or through a technological solution, such as carbon capture and storage. Net-zero targets also are referred to commonly as "climate-neutral", "carbon-neutral" or "zero-emission" targets, although technically these are not the same. Carbon neutrality refers to net-zero emissions of only CO<sub>2</sub>, whereas climate neutrality indicates a broader focus on net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases. There is no agreed-upon definition, and implementation of these targets also varies broadly.

- **Rosario** is one of the few cities in the country to have established a solar mandate (adopted in 2012), requiring 50% of hot water consumption in public buildings to be covered by solar thermal systems.
- **Buenos Aires** had a policy to promote the use of solar energy collection systems for electricity and heat production.
- The government of **Cordoba** enacted a law for the promotion of Distributed Generation within the region.
- **San Martín de Los Andes** had an ordinance project for promoting renewable energies and other clean technologies in the city.

### Scaling up renewables in buildings and transport

- **Integrated solutions at the neighbourhood level:** Through the innovative “Barrio 31” Infrastructure Plan, which ended in 2019, **Buenos Aires** built 120 new homes with access to public services as a way to integrate this marginal neighbourhood into the city. The plan included energy efficiency measures as well as solar panels and solar water heating systems.
- **In comparison with other countries in Latin America, electrification of public transport is slower, but has started to pick up.**
  - **Buenos Aires** established a public-private partnership with an investment of USD 13 million to implement 220 electric fast charging stations. In 2018, the municipality adopted targets for 6,000 light duty electric and hybrid vehicles, 350 electric buses, and 2,500 EV charging stations.
  - **Mendoza** has added 18 electric buses; 8 electric buses are in operation in **Buenos Aires**.

### Financing renewables in cities

- Since 2018, the municipal bank of **Godoy Cruz** has provided citizens low-interest loans to finance solar PV systems. The municipality facilitates approvals and installation.
- In Argentina, innovative instruments such as crowdfunding have been used to provide finance for smaller-scale projects, especially for solar PV. The country has an online platform where users can invest in distributed solar PV projects or access cheaper financing for installing a distributed system.

### Argentina’s Energy Profile

<https://www.iea.org/countries/argentina>

### Regional Trends: Latin America

- The liberalisation of electricity markets in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru has made it possible for municipal governments and other large energy consumers in these countries to procure renewable electricity directly from local or nearby projects (although residential users remain excluded from choosing their supply companies).
- Investment in renewable energy capacity across Latin America has grown markedly, up 43% in 2019 to a record USD 18.5 billion. Four countries dominated this investment: Brazil (up

74% to USD 6.5 billion), Chile (up 302% to USD 4.9 billion), Mexico (up 17% to USD 4.3 billion) and Argentina (down 18% to USD 2.0 billion). PPPs, PPAs and development finance provide key support for projects in cities across the region.

- Some of Latin America's most populous cities – including **Bogotá** (Colombia) and **São Paulo** (Brazil) – have started to electrify their bus fleets to address local air quality concerns. By late 2020, an estimated 1,229 electric buses were in operation in 10 countries across the region, including Argentina.

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All report materials, figures, case studies and the full data pack can be downloaded here: <http://ren21.net/rec2021press>