

Policy portfolios can reduce GHG emissions in urban transport in 120 cities by 20% while improving welfare

Charlotte Liotta (✉ charlotte.liotta@gmail.com)

CIREN <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1412-6694>

Vincent Viguié

Centre International de recherche sur l'environnement et le développement (CIREN)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8994-2648>

Felix Creutzig

Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5710-3348>

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1 Policy portfolios can reduce GHG emissions 2 in urban transport in 120 cities by 20% while 3 improving welfare

4 Charlotte Liotta^{1,2,*}, Vincent Vigié¹, and Felix Creutzig^{2,3}

5 ¹CIREN (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech), Nogent-sur-Marne, France

6 ²Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

7 ³Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, Berlin, Germany

8 *To whom correspondence should be addressed; E-mail: liotta@centre-cired.fr.

9 ABSTRACT

City-level policies are increasingly recognized as key components of strategies to reduce transport greenhouse gas emissions. However, at a global scale, their total efficiencies, costs, and practical feasibility remain unclear. Here, we use a spatially-explicit urban economic model, systematically calibrated on 120 cities worldwide, to analyze the impact of four representative policies aiming at mitigating transportation GHG emissions, also accounting for their economic welfare impacts and health co-benefits. Applying these policies in all cities, we find that total transportation GHG emissions can be reduced by 28% in 15 years, compared with the baseline scenario. However, the consequences of the same policies vary widely between cities, with specific effects depending on the policy considered, income level, population growth rate, spatial organization, and existing public transport supply. Impacts on transport emissions span from high to almost zero, and consequences in terms of welfare can either be positive or negative. Applying only welfare-increasing policies captures most of the emission reductions: overall, they reduce emissions by 20% in 15 years. Our results highlight that there is no one-size-fits-all optimal policy to mitigate urban transport emissions but that cities can match their specific situation with a selection of mitigation policies: hence, we call for global climate mitigation models to better represent heterogeneity across cities.

11 1 Introduction

12 Urban action could significantly help to close the gap between Nationally Deter-
13 mined Contributions (NDCs) and the reductions in emissions needed to keep the
14 world within +1.5°C of warming¹⁻³. This is especially true for urban transportation,

15 which accounts for about 8% of total emissions^{4,5}. However, so far, the actual
16 potential of such local policies to reduce emissions on a global scale remains
17 largely unknown⁶. Correspondingly, NDCs largely neglect city policies, despite
18 urban transport emissions being a critical factor in mitigating climate change⁷.
19 These local policies are also crucial for wider sustainability goals. Decarbonizing
20 urban transport can indeed bring significant benefits on a large array of issues such
21 as cleaner air, noise and road accident reduction, or better health due to the shift to
22 active transportation modes⁸.

23 Global assessments of the environmental impacts of urban transport policies
24 have been carried out either using descriptive approaches focusing on current
25 situation and comparing cities, or using aggregated models aiming at simulating the
26 potential of future policies. Comparing current emissions in 274 cities worldwide
27 and using threshold regressions, a 2015 study by Creutzig et al. estimated that
28 adequate urban planning policies could reduce emissions by about 25% in 2050
29 compared with a business-as-usual scenario⁹. Using a scenario-based approach
30 and an aggregated model, the Coalition for Urban Transitions 2019 study estimated
31 a decrease of 21% in urban transport emissions by 2050 compared to a business-as-
32 usual scenario, via a reduction in travel demand and a shift to electric and more
33 efficient vehicles¹⁰. Using six representative urban archetypes, the 2017 report by
34 C40 and McKinsey estimated a 22% decrease via transit-oriented development,
35 new infrastructures for mass transit, walking, cycling, next-generation vehicles,
36 and commercial freight optimization¹¹. Global assessments of transport policies,
37 including urban and non-urban transport, have also been carried out using integrated
38 assessment models (IAMs), studying changes in technologies, infrastructures, and
39 behaviors^{12–19}.

40 However, urban scale policies are difficult to take into account in such studies
41 because of the complexity to capture the spatial heterogeneity, inside and within
42 cities, of the travel demand and mode choices of households^{20–23}. The local
43 characteristics of cities, especially their urban forms, significantly impact their
44 transportation emissions, and the potential efficiency of possible policies^{9,24}. For
45 example, a high population density and the coexistence of spatially distinct job
46 centers when cities are large enough are associated with lower emissions per
47 capita²⁵. A street-level analysis reveals that households' distances to the city
48 center and subcenters are a key predictor of urban transport GHG emissions²².
49 Hence, possible mitigation strategies for urban transportation depend on precise
50 city characteristics, which are difficult to consider globally²⁶. For instance, in
51 sprawled cities, promoting electric vehicles may be more efficient than investing in
52 mass rapid transit, while the contrary holds in dense cities^{27,28}. Another difficulty

53 comes from the fact that there is an interplay between transport policies and the real
54 estate market. Transport policies impact housing prices, with large consequences on
55 households' welfare and, indirectly, on long-term changes in transport demand^{13,29}.

56 At the local scale, such mechanisms can be taken into account using city
57 models, such as land-use transport interaction (LUTI) models simulating transport
58 and land planning policies in cities³⁰. Examples are numerous, with rich literature
59 analyzing case studies in various cities³¹⁻³⁴. However, generalization is difficult
60 as this field is highly fragmented, with a large diversity of methods, frameworks,
61 and indicators, and limited reference to previous works, which does not allow
62 accumulating knowledge or doing comparisons^{33,34}. What is missing is a scalable
63 approach that provides an assessment for a large number of cities while taking
64 urban idiosyncrasies into account.

65 Here, we use a spatially-explicit land-use transport interaction model to system-
66 atically assess and compare, on a collection of 120 cities worldwide (see figure 3),
67 the consequences of four urban transport policies on public finance, transportation
68 emission reduction, housing affordability, as well as health benefits due to varia-
69 tions in air pollution, noise, car accidents and exercise through active transportation
70 modes. The cities cover all continents except Africa, due to data availability, and
71 count in total 525 million inhabitants, or 13% of the global urban population (see
72 supplementary section C for the city selection process).

73 The model combines a transport mode choice model with a residential location
74 choice model derived from the standard urban economics framework^{29,35}. It
75 simulates, in each city, the residential and transportation choices of households as a
76 function of detailed city characteristics, such as the location of employment centers,
77 transportation costs, and the local land-use policies. The model is calibrated for
78 each city individually, with parameters structurally estimated using databases of
79 population densities, transport times, and rent levels within each city (see section 4
80 - Methods). Thus, our model enables to simulate city-level prospective scenarios
81 downscaling global techno-economic scenarios³⁶.

82 The four policies that we analyze (Table 1, Supplementary Section E) are
83 simplified representations of four broad types of city-level transport policies: a
84 local fuel tax targeting polluting transportation modes, investments in "cleaner"
85 transportation modes with the development of a bus rapid transit network, a land-
86 use policy promoting urban density, and a "fuel efficiency" policy that makes the
87 use of low-emission vehicles mandatory. These policies are simple enough to be
88 applied to a large sample of cities, but remain representative of existing policies.
89 We simulate their impact in 2035 in terms of transportation GHG emissions and
90 social welfare and compare it with a Business-As-Usual scenario in which we

91 assume the continuation of current trends with no additional city-level policy (see
 92 supplementary section D).

Policy name	Description
Fuel tax	Fuel price increases by 30% compared to the business-as-usual scenario (broadly corresponding to a level of carbon pricing of US \$50–100/tCO ₂ , the level required to cost-effectively reduce emissions in line with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement ³⁷). Local tax revenues are redistributed uniformly among inhabitants.
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	Construction of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network on all main streets of the city (identified using OpenStreetMap). The new BRT has a uniform speed of 40km/h and a construction cost of 12.23 million USD per km, equally shared by households over 50 years with a 5% interest rate.
Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)	Urban Growth Boundary, strictly forbidding any new construction beyond places already built in 2020. To accommodate the growing population, cities have to become denser. The associated increase in housing prices can negatively impact inhabitants' welfare. ²⁹
Fuel efficiency	Fuel consumption of private cars decreases by - 3.7% per year, in line with the IEA "2°C Scenario". ³⁸ In the business-as-usual scenario, the fuel consumption of private cars evolves in line with the business-as-usual Scenario of the same report (decrease by - 1% per year).

Table 1. Policies analyzed (see Supplementary Section E for a detailed description).

93 2 Results

94 2.1 Aggregated impacts of the four policies

95 Our analysis demonstrates that policies are effective but affect each city differently
 96 (Figures 1 and 3). Indeed, emission reductions typically stand between 19% and
 97 29% (25th and 75th quantile) with a median reduction of 22%. The combined
 98 four policies could lead to a reduction in annual urban transport emissions of 28%
 99 compared to the baseline scenario over the sample by 2035.

100 This emission reduction is slightly higher than existing global assessments in
 101 the literature but of the same order of magnitude. A 2015 review of local scenarios

102 of low-carbon urban transport strategies estimated potential global emission reduc-
103 tion by 20–50% in 2050 compared to baseline scenarios³⁹. Using machine learning
104 to meta-analyze thousands of case studies of climate change mitigation in cities, the
105 2020 article by Sethi et al. estimated a possible decrease of 28% in 2050 through
106 travel demand management, fuel shift, and intelligent transportation system (and
107 potentially more, but with no clear quantification, with pan-city expansions of
108 public transportation systems and more efficient vehicles)³³. The two aggregated
109 studies mentioned at the beginning of this paper estimated, in 2050 also, a possible
110 decrease of 21% and 22% compared to a baseline scenario^{10,11}. Our study suggests
111 that mitigation can happen earlier than modeled in other studies. A key reason
112 for this difference is that we model spatially explicit policies, thus broadening the
113 portfolio of options and improving the resolution of effects.

114 The impact of the policies on households' welfare is complex (Figure 2). They
115 increase households' financial burden due to the public investment required by
116 the construction of the BRT system, the increased fuel cost for the fuel tax, or the
117 increased housing prices, in particular for the urban growth boundary. However,
118 this burden is counterbalanced by health benefits through decreases in air pollution,
119 car accidents, and noise, together with an increase in active mode uses⁴⁰. We
120 find that, when expressed in monetary terms, these benefits do not seem to fully
121 compensate for the financial losses, leading to an average decrease in welfare
122 by 7% (figure 1). This decrease occurs in almost all cities: the median variation
123 in welfare is -5.1% and only two cities in our sample experience a positive (but
124 moderate) welfare increase by about 0.5%.

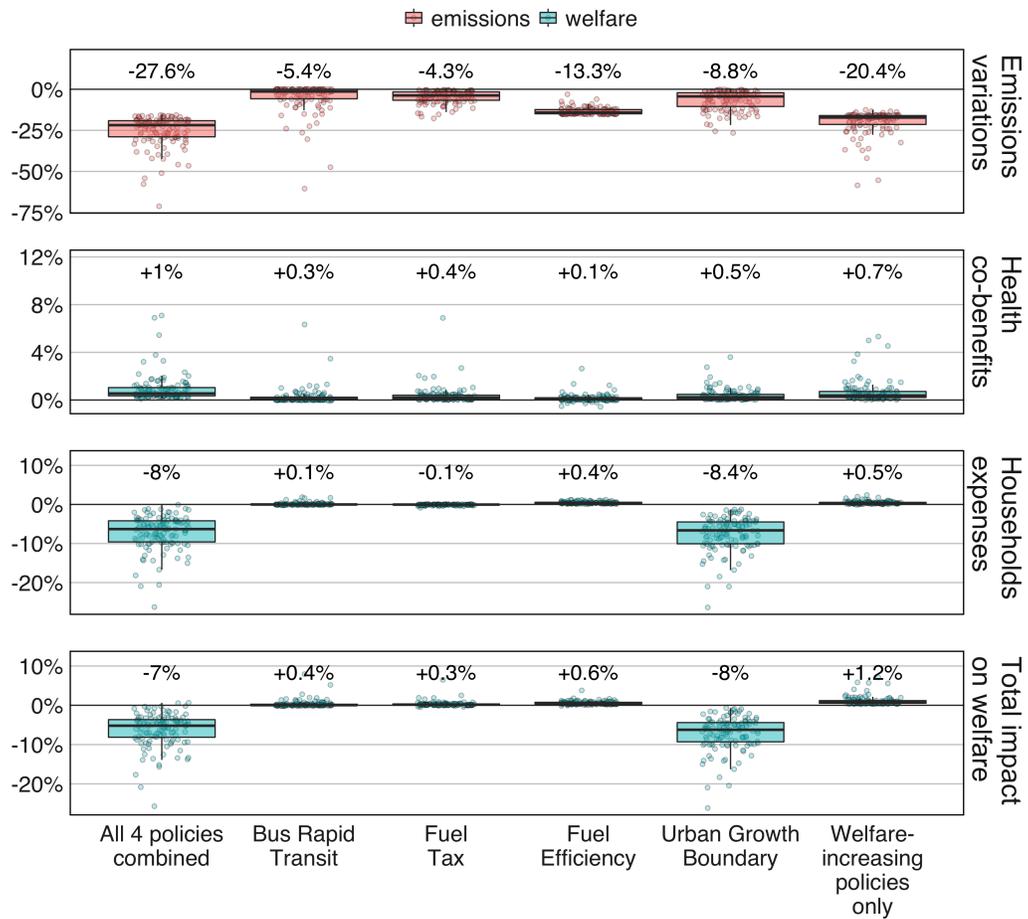


Figure 1. Impact of the four policies on annual transport emissions and average welfare in the 120 cities in 2035, compared with the business-as-usual scenario. Each dot represents a city. The numbers above the box plots represent the aggregated mean of changes, accounting for cities' population sizes.

Impact of each policy on welfare components

Average impact of each policy

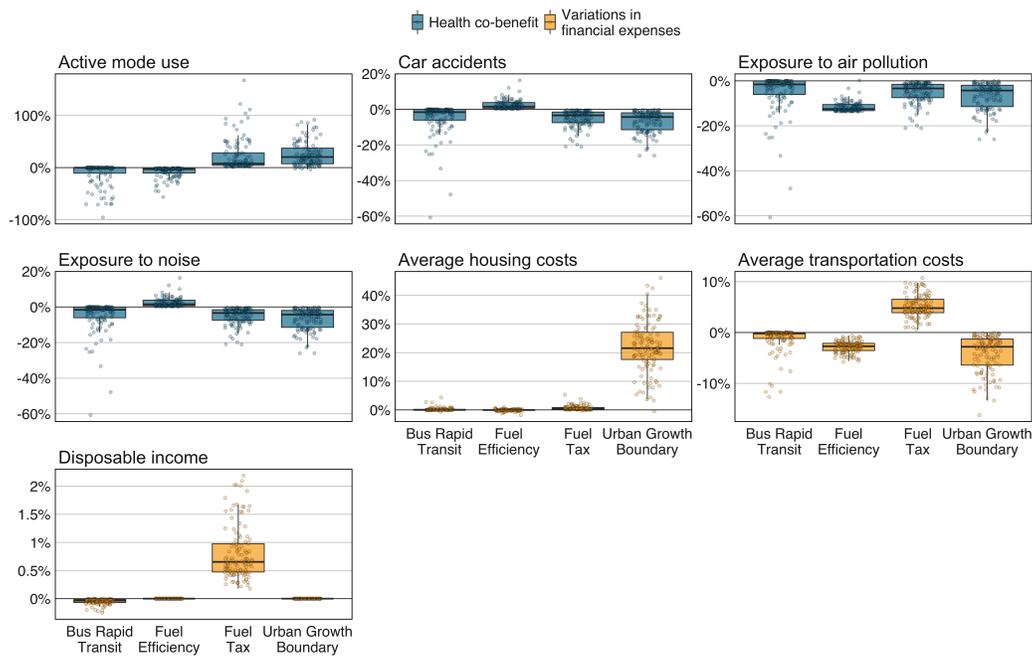


Figure 2. Decomposition of welfare variations between different drivers.

The figures represent the average variations over all cities in 2035, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. Disposable income is the variation of income due to local taxes (fuel tax revenues are redistributed uniformly among the inhabitants of each city, hence increasing disposable income, while the construction of the BRT is financed by households, hence decreasing their income).

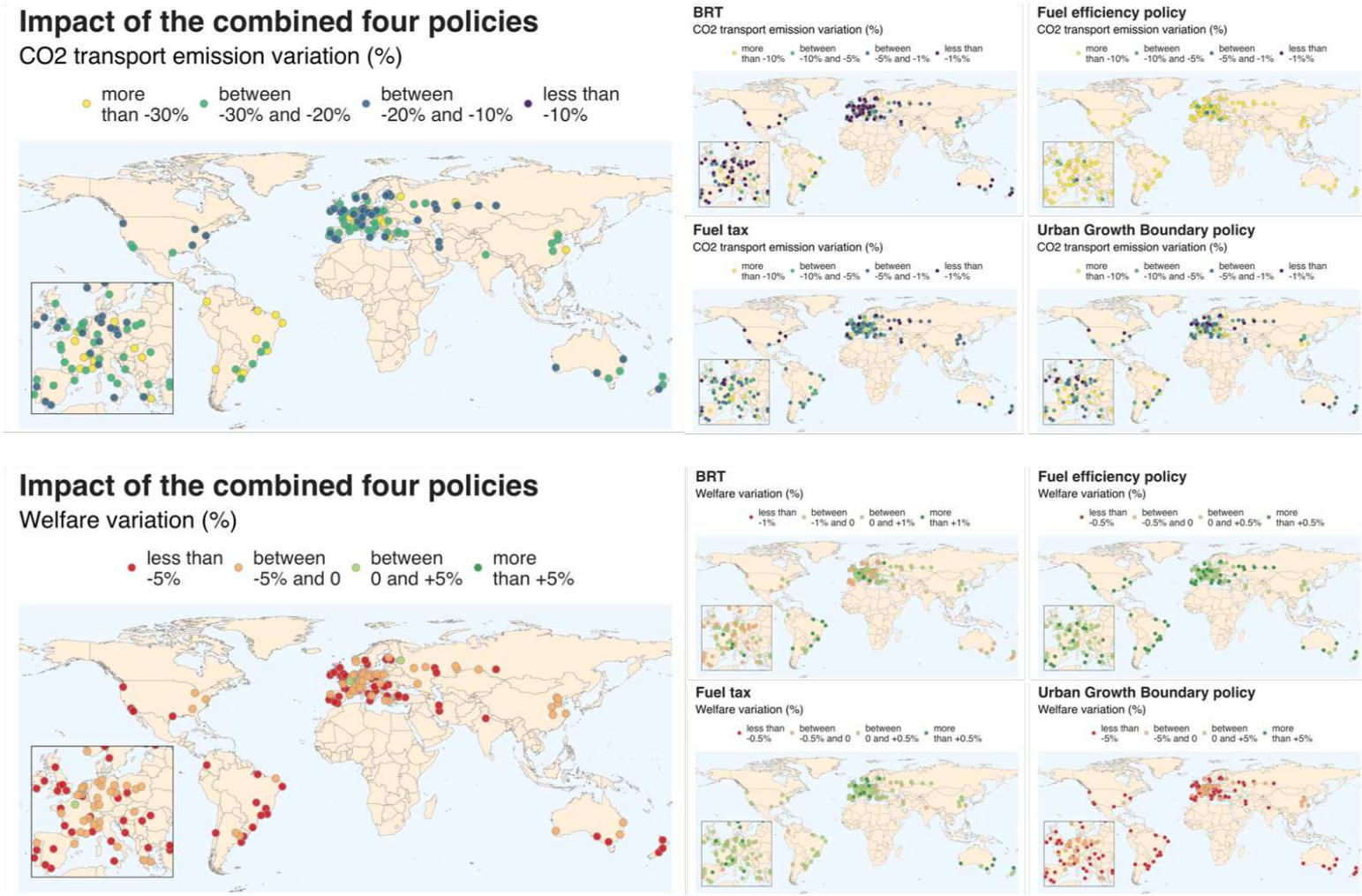


Figure 3. Effect of the four policies on urban transport emissions and on welfare (including direct and indirect financial cost of the policies and health co-benefits) in 2035, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. See also supplementary figures [S7](#) and [S8](#).

125 **2.2 Effectiveness of policy portfolio depend on city characteristics**

126 The impacts of the four policies on transportation emissions and welfare are largely
127 heterogeneous between cities (Figures 1 and 2). The level of emissions reduction
128 ranges from very high to almost zero depending on cities. Regarding welfare, we
129 notably observe that the BRT, the fuel tax, and the fuel efficiency policy increase
130 inhabitants' welfare in some cities and decrease it in others.

131 Individually considering each policy, some geographical patterns emerge (Fig-
132 ure 3). Regarding emissions, the BRT achieves the largest mitigation in South
133 America, while the fuel tax has the largest impact in Europe and South America.
134 By contrast, the fuel efficiency policy has a similar impact in most cities, except
135 for Europe where emissions' mitigation is of a lower magnitude. Finally, the
136 UGB allows achieving large emissions mitigation in some cities in South America,
137 Europe, and China. Regarding welfare, the BRT has a mostly positive impact in
138 South America and Europe. The fuel efficiency policy increases the welfare in
139 almost all cities, though of a lower magnitude in Europe. The fuel tax has a positive
140 welfare impact in North America, Oceania, and most of Europe but can be harmful
141 in South America, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Finally, the UGB is harmful in all
142 cities as it largely increases rents.

143 However, geographical factors are insufficient to explain the heterogeneity of
144 policies' impacts between cities, as we also observe heterogeneity within continents
145 and countries. To understand the role that might play other city characteristics,
146 we linearly regress emissions and welfare impacts of policies on some cities'
147 characteristics that have been shown to impact urban forms, urban emissions,
148 or policies' efficiency^{9,25,27,41,42} (supplementary section F). We find that the
149 availability of public transport, the level of income, or the population and income
150 growth of cities affect the efficiency and welfare impact of policies. However, the
151 characteristics that we listed are insufficient to fully explain the policies' impacts,
152 as almost 50% of the variations remain unexplained (the R2s of the regressions
153 are between 0.24 and 0.54, see supplementary tables S8 and S7 in supplementary
154 section F). Moreover, for a given policy, the characteristics which significantly
155 impact its consequences on emissions are generally not the same as those which
156 impact its consequences on welfare. This highlights the utility of using a spatial
157 model that explicitly accounts for cities' spatial characteristics and the interplay
158 between them to properly capture mitigation policies' impacts.

159 **2.3 A welfare-increasing policy portfolio catches most emission reductions**

160 As policies' impacts are heterogeneous between cities, alternate policy portfolios
161 designed in a context-adequate way may have higher efficiencies and fewer negative

162 side-effects than a policy portfolio made of the same policies for all cities. Here,
163 we simulate a scenario in which we implement, in each city, the policies that locally
164 increase inhabitants' welfare only. Depending on cities, this corresponds to at
165 least one and up to three emission-reducing and welfare-increasing policies (see
166 supplementary figure S14).

167 In such a scenario, the minimum decrease in urban transport emissions is 13%
168 (the median is 17%, and the interquartile range is 16.0% to 21.4%), and welfare
169 variation is always positive (Figure 1). Globally, urban transport emissions are
170 reduced by 20%, and welfare increases on average by 1.2%.

171 Therefore, by designing policies adapted to each city's characteristics, it appears
172 possible to systematically improve welfare while reducing emissions by more than
173 two-thirds of the initial figure. These results are a priori underestimated, as the
174 policy portfolio simulated in this paper is not optimal. The magnitude of emissions
175 reduction could potentially be increased while keeping welfare variation positive
176 by tailoring the policies to each city's characteristics, using, for instance, different
177 tax levels, or designing different urban growth boundary policies.

178 **3 Discussion and conclusion**

179 The main message of this study is that the current increase in available urban data
180 allows to model, although simply, the consequences of local policies in a large
181 set of cities, explicitly accounting for their spatial characteristics. This enables to
182 downscale global scenarios such as those produced by IAMs at the city scale and to
183 quantitatively assess the consequences of local strategies involving land-planning
184 or local transport infrastructure provision under such scenarios. Moreover, such
185 spatially-explicit modeling also enables to capture the impact of these strategies on
186 households' expenses related to housing and transport and on several side-effects
187 of the policies, especially health co-benefits.

188 In line with existing studies, we find that urban forms and cities' spatial charac-
189 teristics impact the mitigation policies' efficiency in a complex way, with no direct
190 one-to-one mapping.^{9,24,43} Even within the same continent or country, differences
191 can be large, and city models can help to capture this heterogeneity. In line with
192 the literature, we also find that the positive side-effects of urban transport policies
193 can be high, especially regarding the financial cost of these policies.⁴⁰ It appears
194 possible to reduce emissions in a welfare-increasing way in each city while keep-
195 ing most of the global emission reductions. However, a context-adequate policy
196 portfolio is required with strategies tailored to each city.

197 There are many limitations to the present study. If more and more city-level

198 data becomes available, data availability still heavily constrains our modeling and
199 scenarios. We could not include in our analysis any African city, and there is a
200 strong geographical bias in favor of developed countries, a common weakness of
201 the literature on cities.³¹ Our model is simple and did not consider, for instance,
202 any mechanism relative to endogenous job locations or description of income
203 inequalities inside cities. Recently, models capturing these dimensions have been
204 proposed in the literature and could be used to reproduce our analysis in the
205 future, when adequate data about the location of jobs and income groups within
206 cities becomes available.⁴⁴ We also ignored cities characterized by high levels of
207 informal settlements. Indeed, modeling such cities is still a research challenge, as is
208 the identification of low-carbon and sustainable mobility policies in this context.⁴⁵

209 Using more sophisticated models and additional data may enable to analyze
210 important policies that we could not assess with our framework. The promotion of
211 mixed land use, for instance, or the development of bicycle lane networks could not
212 be evaluated here. We also could not capture the inequalities created by the policies,
213 something which would require data about where richer and poorer inhabitants live
214 within each city. The welfare variations and health co-benefits that we simulate
215 therefore give an indication of the average effect of the policies, but should not be
216 considered as a direct indication of the political feasibility of their implementation.
217 With the current and continuous increase in available socio-economic, land-use,
218 and transport data on cities, however, progresses on these issues may occur in the
219 coming years.

220 **4 Methods**

221 **4.1 Urban modeling**

222 For each city individually, we run a spatially-explicit urban model based on the
223 model NEDUM^{36,46}. This model combines a simple transport allocation model
224 with a land-use model based on the Standard Urban Model (SUM) of urban
225 economics, or Alonso-Muth-Mills model⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹, with inertia in city evolution. It
226 allows spatially-explicit modeling of residential and transportation choices of
227 households as a function of employment center locations, transportation costs, and
228 land-use constraints, which enable the analysis of housing, transport, or land-use
229 policies. This model is easily tractable so that it can be applied to a large number
230 of cities. In addition, it relies on a limited number of inputs and hypotheses, which
231 makes its outputs easily interpretable.

232 Models based on the SUM have often been used to analyze mitigation and
233 transport policies: to cite a few recent examples, the construction of the Bus Rapid

234 Transit (BRT) system in Bogotá⁵⁰, London’s Congestion Charge⁵¹, or an urban
235 growth boundary in Cape Town⁵². The SUM has been shown to capture well the
236 spatial patterns of population density and housing prices in several cities across
237 the world^{53,54}, and the recent rise of available urban data has allowed testing some
238 predictions of the SUM on large numbers of cities, for instance in the US⁵⁵, in
239 Europe⁵⁶, and in developing countries⁵⁷.

240 Our model is fully described in supplementary section A and summarized
241 below. In a first step, we assume that, within a city, households trade-off between
242 transportation costs to employment centers and rents per unit of dwelling, resulting
243 in rents decreasing when transportation costs increase. In this paper, we assume
244 that households select the transport mode with the lowest generalized transportation
245 costs, choosing between private cars, public transport, and walking.

246 In a second step, private developers build the amount of housing that maxi-
247 mizes their profit, accounting for households’ bid-rents and for land-use constraints.
248 Under standard hypotheses on the construction function, this results in the construc-
249 tion of capital-intensive buildings near employment centers, where bid-rents per
250 unit of housing are higher. Here, we use a dynamic version of the model, assuming
251 housing depreciation and inertia in housing construction.

252 As a result, our urban model allows us to estimate population density, housing
253 supply, transportation choices, and rents as a function of employment centers’
254 location, transportation infrastructures, and land-use constraints.

255 4.2 Outputs of the model

256 Our model allows to estimate two main outputs at the city level: GHG transportation
257 emissions and inhabitants’ welfare. The computation of these outputs is detailed in
258 supplementary section A.5 and described below.

259 Transportation emissions are derived from the transportation demand of each
260 mode and the greenhouse gases intensity of each transportation mode, assuming
261 that the level of emissions of private cars per unit of distance depends on their fuel
262 consumption and that the level of emissions per unit of distance of public transport
263 is fixed and exogenous.

264 Total social welfare is measured as the sum of individual utilities, derived in
265 our framework from the consumption of housing and composite good, and from
266 health co-benefits related to transportation. While the consumptions of housing and
267 composite good are standard outputs of urban economics models, directly resulting
268 from households’ utility maximization, we also include four health co-benefits in
269 our analysis: exposure to noise, air pollution, and car accidents, which negatively
270 impact welfare, and the positive health impact of active transportation modes.

271 We compute the monetary equivalent of the impacts of air pollution, noise and
272 car accidents, assuming that they linearly depend on the demand of transportation
273 from private cars, as well as on the fuel consumption of private cars for air pollution.
274 For health improvements through active transportation modes, we adapt the HEAT
275 model of the WHO⁵⁸, assuming that walking or cycling to work brings reduced
276 mortality, which translates into a monetary gain through the Value of Statistical Life.
277 We include these co-benefits in the utility function as described in supplementary
278 section A.2.

279 **4.3 Data sources and parameters calibration**

280 We individually calibrate the model's city-specific parameters on each city of the
281 sample using spatially-explicit data on population densities, rents, transportation
282 costs, land use, and dwelling sizes for the 120 cities for 2015 (see supplementary
283 section A.6). Due to data availability, in each city, we only consider the city center
284 as the main employment center. The validity of such an approximation was one of
285 the constraints on the choice of the cities in our sample (see supplementary section
286 C).

287 We use the dataset from Lepetit et al. (2022)⁵⁹, which provides spatially explicit
288 data on population densities, rents, dwelling sizes, land use, and transportation
289 costs for 191 cities on five continents at a 1km-resolution. Population density and
290 land cover are from the GHS-POP⁶⁰ and the ESA CCI⁶¹ databases respectively,
291 while transportation and real estate data have been obtained from the Google Maps
292 API and the web scraping of real estate websites. This dataset is the first including
293 spatialized data on real estate and transportation in a large sample of cities covering
294 both developed and developing countries and allowing an integrated analysis of
295 density, real estate, transportation, and land use. In addition, we use city-level data
296 on city characteristics, including incomes, the fuel consumption of private vehicles,
297 fuel costs, and agricultural rents. All data sources are in supplementary section B.

298 We tried to assess the model's ability to reproduce urban structures in two ways.
299 First, within each city, we compared simulated densities and rents with density
300 and real estate data. Then, at the city level, we compared simulated modal shares
301 and transportation emission levels with existing data. Results are in supplementary
302 section A.7.

303 **4.4 Scenarios**

304 The baseline scenario is a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, assuming the continu-
305 ation of current trends with no additional city-level mitigation policies. It uses the
306 population growth scenarios of the World Urbanization Prospects of the United

307 Nations, which provides population growth projections from 2015 to 2035 for
308 cities with more than 300 000 inhabitants and for national urban populations. For
309 income variations, it uses income per capita growth scenarios from the global
310 integrated assessment model (IAM) IMACLIM-R⁶². More details about this BAU
311 scenario are in supplementary section D.

312 We also run our four policy scenarios, designed to be representative of a wide
313 spectrum of potential urban policies, yet simple enough to be generically applied
314 to our sample of cities. We assume the same trends for population and income as in
315 the BAU scenario, while transportation infrastructures and land-use constraints are
316 impacted by the policies. Details about the policy scenarios are in supplementary
317 section E.

318 **4.5 Robustness checks**

319 In supplementary section I, we carry out a robustness check of the results of this
320 paper: we simulate an alternative version of each type of policy and check that the
321 results remain qualitatively the same.

322 More precisely, we assume, starting in 2020, that the fuel tax increases fuel
323 prices by 10% instead of 30%, that the fuel efficiency policy reduces the fuel
324 consumption of new vehicles by 2% each year instead of 3.7%, and that the
325 Urban Growth Boundary prevents new constructions in areas with a density below
326 400 inhabitants per km² in 2020. For the BRT, instead of using OpenStreetMap
327 street network data, we assume more simply that two new public transport lines,
328 North-South and East-West, are opened in each city.

329 Results are qualitatively the same as with the main policies' specifications.
330 The combined four policies allow mitigating transport emissions by 13.5% in 15
331 years, with large heterogeneity in policies' efficiencies between cities. However,
332 city-specific policy portfolios that only implement welfare-increasing policies
333 allow keeping most of the emissions mitigation (-11.8%) while increasing average
334 welfare by 1.1%.

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663

664 **Supplementary information**

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673 **A NEDUM-2D model**

674 **A.1 Overview**

675 Our urban model, NEDUM, is based on the Standard Urban Model (SUM) of
676 urban economics^{35,63}. The SUM allows in-depth modeling of residential and
677 transportation choices of households as a function of employment center locations,
678 transportation costs, and land-use constraints, which enable the analysis of housing,
679 transport, or land-use policies. This model is easily tractable so that it can be
680 applied to a large number of cities. In addition, it relies on a limited number of
681 inputs and hypotheses, which makes its outputs easily interpretable. Finally, it
682 allows estimating both transportation emissions in cities, from households' housing
683 and transportation choices, and social welfare, from households' consumption of
684 housing, transportation, and other (composite) goods.

685 Models based on the same framework have been used a large number of times
686 to analyze mitigation and transport policies: to cite a few recent examples, the
687 construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Bogotá⁵⁰, London England's
688 Congestion Charge⁵¹ or an urban growth boundary in Cape Town⁵².

689 The SUM has been shown to capture well the spatial patterns of population
690 density and housing prices in several cities across the world^{53,54}. For instance, in
691 Berlin, employment accessibility is a determinant of urban land prices, and the
692 evolution of public transport supply explains the urban sprawl^{64,65}. The recent rise
693 of available urban data has allowed testing some predictions of the SUM on large
694 numbers of cities, for instance on urban sprawl in 329 US cities⁵⁵, on urban sprawl
695 and urban fragmentation in 282 European cities⁵⁶, and on population density and
696 land use in 300 European cities⁶⁶. The SUM can also account for the difference

697 between city structures (population density, city size, building heights) in rich and
 698 poor countries⁵⁷.

699 **A.2 Housing demand**

In a city composed of I discrete locations indexed i , households' utility is given by

$$U^{health}(z, q) = (z + health)^{1-\beta} q^\beta \quad (1)$$

with q the size of the dwellings, R the yearly rent, T the yearly transportation cost to the city center (where we assume for simplicity that all jobs are located), z the consumption of a composite good and $health$ the monetary value of health co-benefits related to transportation. We assume that households do not account for health co-benefits of transportation in their utility maximization as these co-benefits arise from the aggregation of individual behaviors and that they seek to maximize their perceived utility:

$$\max U(z, q) = z^{1-\beta} q^\beta \quad s.t. \quad z + qR + T \leq Y \quad (2)$$

Y notes the yearly income. From equation 2, we find that:

$$\begin{aligned} q_i &= \beta(Y - T_i)/R_i \\ z_i &= (1 - \beta)(Y - T_i) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Writing u the uniform utility at equilibrium, we find:

$$R_i = R_0 \left(1 - \frac{T_i}{Y}\right)^{1/\beta} \quad with \quad R_0 = \left(\frac{(1 - \beta)^{(1-\beta)} \beta^\beta Y}{u}\right)^{1/\beta} \quad (4)$$

700 R_0 , therefore, represents the rent in the city center.

701 **A.3 Transport mode choice**

The city inhabitants choose between 3 modes of transport: car, public transport, and walking. We suppose that at each location i within the city, they choose the transport mode with the lowest generalized cost:

$$T_i = \min(t_i^c, t_i^p, t_i^w)$$

702 with t^c the generalized transportation cost by car, t^p the generalized trans-
 703 portation cost by public transport, and t^w the generalized transportation cost by
 704 walking.

705 These costs take into account the monetary cost of the trip, and the cost
 706 associated to travel times. We note D^c the duration of the trip to the city center by
 707 car, D^p the duration of the trip to the city center by public transport, and D^w the
 708 duration of the trip to the city center by walking. We suppose that D^w is proportional
 709 to the distance to the city center by walking, $Dist^w : D^w = Dist^w * walking_speed$.

We suppose that the monetary cost of walking is equal to 0, and we assume for simplicity that public transport is priced at a flat fare $COST^p$ and that the cost of travel by car is proportional to the trip distance $Dist^c$. More precisely, this cost is equal to $fuel_conso * fuel_cost$ where $fuel_conso$ is the consumption of fuel and $fuel_cost$ the unitary cost of fuel, with $fuel_conso$ and $fuel_cost$ being constant within cities and varying between cities. If $cost_time$ is the monetary cost of time, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} t^c &= D^c * cost_time + Dist^c * fuel_conso * fuel_cost \\ t^p &= D^p * cost_time + COST^p \\ t^w &= Dist^w / walking_speed * cost_time \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

710 Due to data availability, in each city, we only consider the city center as the
 711 main employment center. The transport times and costs that we consider are
 712 therefore the transport times and costs from each location i towards this center (the
 713 validity of such an approximation was one of the constraints on the choice of the
 714 cities in our sample, see supplementary section C). In each city, the city center
 715 was defined by a compromise between five qualitative criteria: the geographical
 716 center of the data, the historical center of the cities, the location of the public
 717 transport hub, the official central business district, and the city hall location (see
 718 supplementary section B).

719 A.4 Housing supply

Absentee private developers produce housing from capital K and land L with the following production function:

$$H(K, L_i) = \kappa L^{1-b} K^b \quad (6)$$

With $k = K/L$ (capital intensity per land surface) and $h = H/L$ (housing density, i.e. number of m² built per m² on the ground), equation 6 can be rewritten:

$$h(k) = \kappa k^b \quad (7)$$

Developers seek to maximize their profit per land surface $\pi = Rh(k) - \rho k$ considering a capital cost (interest rate, for instance) ρ . Thus, housing supply and

population write:

$$H_i = \kappa^{1/(1-b)} (bRi/\rho)^{b/(1-b)} L_i \quad (8)$$

and

$$n_i = H_i/q_i = \kappa^{1/(1-b)} (bRi/\rho)^{b/(1-b)} L_i/q_i \quad (9)$$

720 with L_i accounting for natural constraints at location i .

721 We assume that the housing supply adjusts with inertia. First, private developers
722 form their expectations on the equilibrium at $t+1$: $h_{t+1}^{eq}(i)$ such that $h_{t+1}^{eq}(i) \geq$
723 $h_t(i) - \frac{h_t(i)}{\theta}$ with θ the depreciation time of buildings, assumed constant within and
724 between cities.

Then, we assume that building takes time. Writing τ the construction time:

$$\begin{aligned} h_{t+1}(i) - h_t(i) &= \frac{h_{t+1}^{eq}(i) - h_t(i)}{\tau} - \frac{h_t(i)}{\theta} & \text{if } h_t(i) < h_{t+1}^{eq}(i) \\ h_{t+1}(i) - h_t(i) &= -\frac{h_t(i)}{\theta} & \text{otherwise} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

725 Given the housing supply at $t+1$, rents and dwelling sizes adjust instantaneously.
726 It is worth noting that, with this setup, there is hysteresis in cities' evolution:
727 increasing housing supply at any location takes less time than decreasing housing
728 supply. This captures the somewhat irreversibility of constructing buildings.

729 **A.5 Outputs of the model: emissions, welfare and health co-benefits**

730 We measure policies' impacts on 2 outcomes: emissions per capita variation
731 compared with the BAU scenario, 15 years after policy implementation, and total
732 social welfare variation compared with the BAU scenario, 15 years after policy
733 implementation.

734 Aggregated emissions are computed as a function of the number of passenger-
735 km and of the GHG intensity of each transportation mode: $E = \sum(n_i(T = t^c) *$
736 $Dist^c * E_c) + \sum(n_i(T = t^p) * Dist^p * E_p)$, writing respectively E_c and E_p the emis-
737 sions per passenger per km by car and by public transport. We assume that E_p
738 is equal to 15 gCO₂ / pkm (GHG emissions typically vary between 20 and 300
739 gCO₂/pkm, depending on the transportation mode⁶⁷), and that E_c is proportional to
740 the city's average fuel consumption of cars (data sources can be found in Appendix
741 B), with 1L of gasoline burning approximately 2.3 kg of CO₂.

742 Total social welfare is measured as the sum of individual utilities, given by
743 equation 1. In this equation, z and q are given by the model. The monetary value

744 of health co-benefits *health* is computed as the sum of 4 components: impacts of
 745 air pollution, noise, and car accidents on health, which are negative, and impact of
 746 active transportation modes on health, which is positive.

747 We assume that the monetary equivalent of the impacts of air pollution, noise
 748 and car accidents linearly depends on the number of passenger-km for private
 749 cars and that the monetary equivalent of the impacts of air pollution also linearly
 750 depends on the fuel consumption of private cars. Assuming proportionality to GDP
 751 per capita, marginal costs (in euros per passenger-km) are derived from the report
 752 *External costs of transport in Europe*⁶⁸ and adjusted for each country and to 2015
 753 using GDP per capita growth⁶⁹.

754 For health improvements through active transportation modes, we adapt the
 755 HEAT model of the WHO⁵⁸, assuming that walking or cycling to work brings
 756 reduced mortality, which translates into a monetary gain through VSL (value of
 757 statistical life). Mortality and VSL for each country are taken from the parameters
 758 of HEAT.

759 **A.6 Calibration and parameters**

760 We calibrate the city-specific parameters β , b , κ , and R_0 for the 120 cities of the
 761 final sample using the 2015 data. Denoting R_i , q_i , and n_i the estimated rents,
 762 dwellings sizes and densities, \hat{R}_i , \hat{q}_i , and \hat{n}_i the actual rents, dwellings sizes, and
 763 densities from 2015 data, and $\varepsilon_{R,i}$, $\varepsilon_{q,i}$, and $\varepsilon_{n,i}$, the error terms on rents, dwellings
 764 sizes, and densities, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \log(\hat{R}_i) &= \log(R_i) + \log(\varepsilon_{R,i}) \\ \log(\hat{q}_i) &= \log(q_i) + \log(\varepsilon_{q,i}) \\ \log(\hat{n}_i) &= \log(n_i) + \log(\varepsilon_{n,i}) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

From equations 3, 4, and 9, we compute $\log(R_i)$, $\log(q_i)$, and $\log(n_i)$ as:

$$\begin{aligned} \log(R_i) &= \log(R_0) + \frac{1}{\beta} \log(1 - \frac{T_i}{Y}) \\ \log(q_i) &= \log(\beta) + \log(Y - T_i) - \log(R_i) \\ \log(n_i) &= \frac{1}{1-b} \log(\kappa) + \frac{b}{1-b} \log(\frac{bR_i}{p}) + \log(L_i) - \log(q_i) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

765 We assume that error terms on densities, rents, and dwelling sizes are idiosyn-
 766 cratic variables whose values follow a normal distribution centered on 0. We
 767 proceed by minimizing the sum of the log-likelihoods of $\varepsilon_{n,i}$, $\varepsilon_{R,i}$ and $\varepsilon_{q,i}$, using
 768 the `scipy.optimize` python package, with $[0.1, 0.99]$, $[0.001, 0.95]$, $[0.000001, +\infty)$,
 769 and $[0.001, +\infty)$ as boundaries for β , b , κ , and R_0 .

770 As there exists no consistent definition of urban boundaries across countries,
 771 we restrict our calibration to the discrete locations i where more than 50% of
 772 the area is urbanized according to the data. We carried out a sensitivity analysis,
 773 considering the discrete locations i where more than 20% and more than 80% of
 774 the area is urbanized, without major changes in the results.

775 **A.7 Validation**

776 First, we checked that the model allows fitting rents and densities data. For each
 777 city, we computed the correlation coefficient between simulated densities and
 778 densities data and between simulated rents and rent data. Fig S2 shows examples
 779 comparing simulated rent and real estate data and simulated densities and densities
 780 data, and the distribution of these coefficients is in Table S1 and Figure S1. For
 781 densities, the fit between the model and the data is generally good, with a minimum
 782 correlation coefficient of 0.31, a median of 0.63 and a maximum of 0.89. For
 783 rents, the fit is good for most cities (median of the correlation coefficients of 0.46,
 784 maximum of 0.84) but is low for some cities (the correlation coefficient is below
 785 0.32 for 25% of the cities). From Figure S1, the fit between the model and density
 786 data is the best for Europe and South America and the lowest for North America,
 787 with heterogeneity within continents as well. Liotta et al. (2022)⁵⁴ highlights some
 788 city characteristics that might explain the low fit of the Standard Urban Model,
 789 including polycentricity, informal housing, and local amenities.

	Minimum	Quartile 1	Median	Quartile 3	Maximum	N
Density	0.31	0.56	0.63	0.75	0.89	120
Rent	0.02	0.32	0.46	0.59	0.84	120

Table S1. Densities and rents.

Distribution of the correlation coefficients between data and our estimations of densities and rents in 2015.

790 Then, we aimed at checking that the model allows estimating the modal shares
 791 of cities. We compared the outputs of the model in 2015 with external databases
 792 on modal shares: CDP data (<https://data.cdp.net>), Deloitte data⁷⁰, EPOMM
 793 data (<https://epomm.eu>), or a combination of these three (prioritizing Deloitte
 794 and CDP data, and using EPOMM data instead when they are not available).

795 However, the relevance of the comparison between the external databases and
 796 the model outputs is limited for some reasons. First, none of the external databases

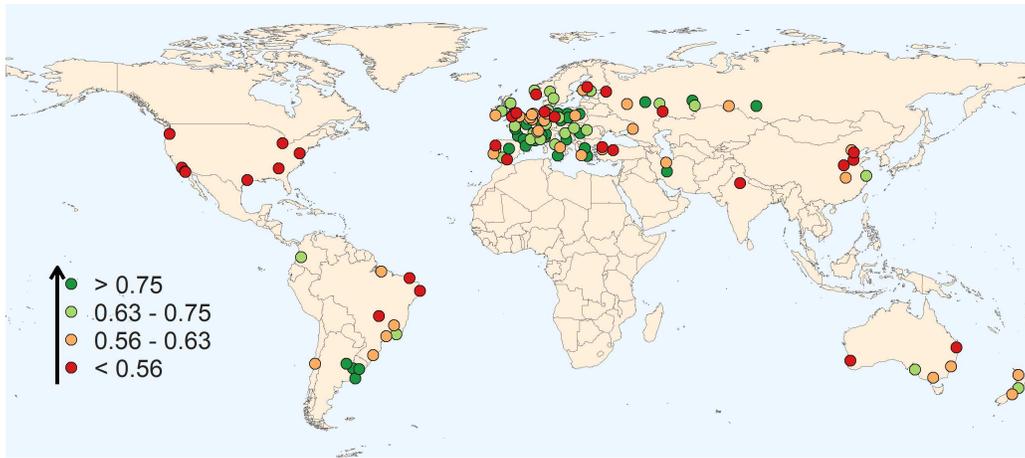
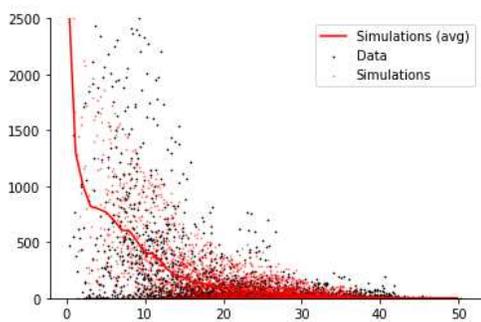


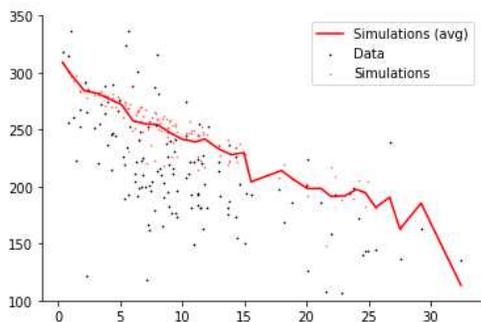
Figure S1. Correlation coefficients between density data and our estimations of densities in 2015.

797 contains all the cities of our sample: combining the three databases, we have
 798 data for only 76 cities out of 120. Second, the CDP and the EPOMM databases
 799 are composed of data reported by the cities themselves, and the Deloitte data
 800 are composed of the aggregation of a variety of sources (governments' statistical
 801 databases, third-party reports, private vendors, nongovernmental organizations,
 802 expert judgments), which doesn't guarantee the validity of the comparison between
 803 cities. Third, there are some methodological differences between external databases
 804 and our model, in particular in terms of urban boundaries definitions. In our model,
 805 we adopt a wider delineation of cities than for most cities of the external databases,
 806 as external databases often rely on administrative boundaries whereas we consider
 807 the whole urban area.

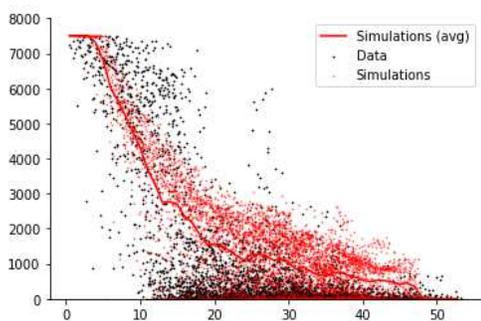
808 We find a good fit between our model and external databases regarding the
 809 modal share of private cars and public transportation (table S2). The coefficient of
 810 correlation between the combination of the three external databases and the outputs
 811 of the model is 0.35 for private cars and 0.63 for public transport. However, the fit
 812 is less good for active modes. An explanation is that, as external databases often
 813 have narrower definitions of urban boundaries, usually limited to administrative
 814 boundaries, they tend to overestimate the modal share of walking and cycling
 815 compared to our model.



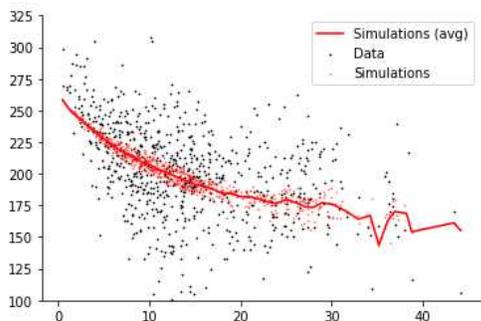
(a) Densities (pers./km2) - Bergen



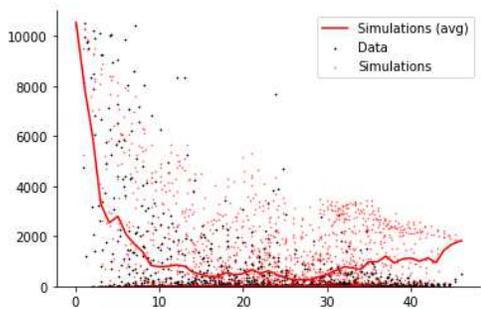
(b) Rents (USD per m2 per year) - Bergen



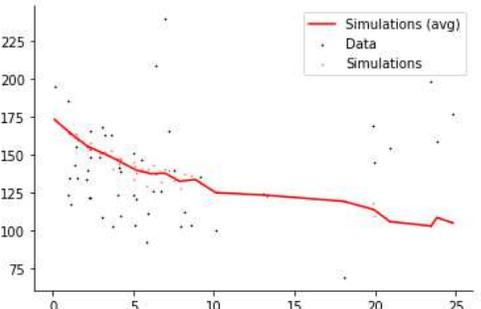
(c) Densities (pers./km2) - Berlin



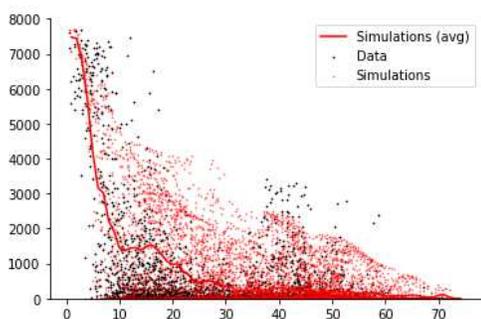
(d) Rents (USD per m2 per year) - Berlin



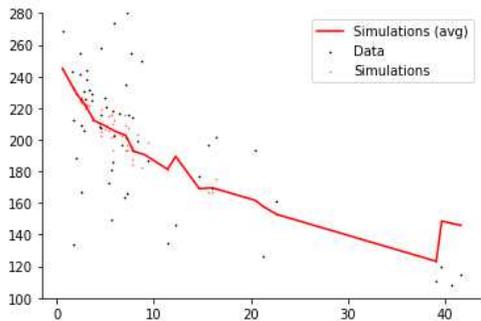
(e) Rents (USD per m2 per year) - Genoa



(f) Rents (USD per m2 per year) - Genoa



(g) Densities (pers./km2) - Yekaterinburg



(h) Rents (USD per m2 per year) - Yekaterinburg

Figure S2. Comparisons between simulated rents and real estate data, and simulated densities and density data, for the cities of Bergen, Berlin, Genoa and Yekaterinburg

	Cars	Public transport	Active modes
Deloitte (N=15)	0.42	0.60**	0.21
CDP (N=29)	0.45**	0.47**	0.17
EPOMM (N=57)	0.33**	0.62***	-0.13
All (N=76)	0.36***	0.63***	0.05

Table S2. Modal shares. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Coefficient of correlation between the modal shares derived from the model for 2015 and external databases.

816 Finally, we aimed at checking that the model allows estimating urban trans-
817 portation emissions. We compared the outputs of the model in 2015 with external
818 databases on urban emissions: Moran et al. (2018)⁷¹, Nangini et al. (2019)⁷², and
819 Kona et al. (2021)⁷³. However, two elements question the relevance of the compar-
820 ison. First, Moran et al. and Nangini et al. do not report transportation emissions
821 but only total emissions, whereas our estimates are for transport emissions only.
822 Second, the data themselves are not fully consistent: comparing the databases on
823 the cities they have in common, we find a correlation coefficient of 0.41 (p-value
824 of 0.000) between Nangini et al.'s and Moran et al.'s data, a correlation coefficient
825 of 0.16 (p-value of 0.573) between Nangini et al.'s and Kona et al.'s data, and a
826 correlation coefficient of 0.04 (p-value of 0.843) between Moran et al.'s and Kona
827 et al.'s data. Indeed, the methodologies of the three databases differ: Nangini et al.
828 and Kona et al. use a bottom-up approach, with cities reporting their emissions,
829 whereas Moran et al. use a top-down approach, downscaling national or subna-
830 tional emissions at the city scale; Nangini et al. report Scope 1 emissions, Kona et
831 al. report direct transport emissions and Moran et al. Scope 3 emissions.

832 Comparing the model's estimations of transportation emissions per capita with
833 external datasets (table S3), we find a correlation coefficient of 0.45 with Nangini
834 et al., of 0.32 with Kona et al., and of 0.53 with Moran et al.

Nangini et al. (2019)	Moran et al. (2018)	Kona et al. (2021)
0.45** (N=24)	0.53*** (N=68)	0.32* (N=38)

Table S3. Emissions per capita. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Coefficient of correlation between the transportation emissions per capita derived from the model for 2015 and external databases.

835 **B Data sources**

836 **B.1 Spatially-explicit data**

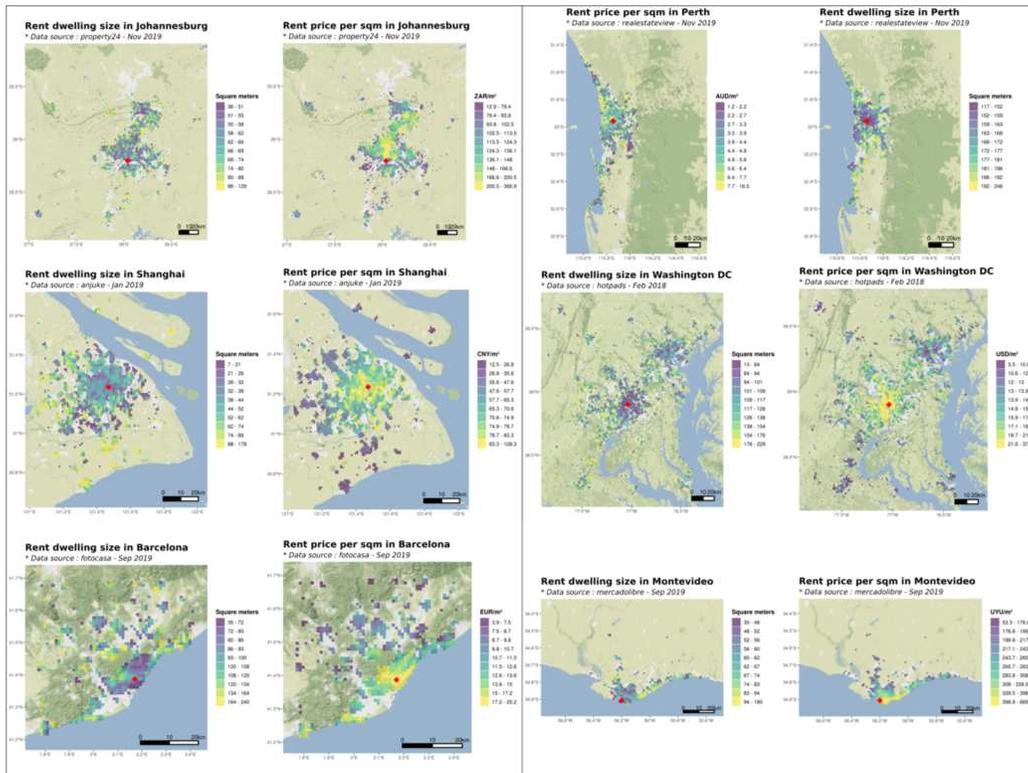
837 Our main data source is the dataset from Lepetit et al. (2022)⁵⁹, which provides
838 spatially explicit data on population densities, rents, dwelling sizes, and transporta-
839 tion costs for 191 cities on 5 continents (see also section C). This dataset allows
840 calibrating the model (parameters β , b , and κ) and thus is essential to our analysis.

841 For population density, Lepetit et al. used the GHSL data of the European
842 Commission, available for 1975, 1990, 2000, and 2015 at a 250m resolution⁶⁰. For
843 land use, they used the European Space Agency (ESA) land cover data, available
844 worldwide at a 300m spatial resolution on an annual basis from 1992 to 2015⁶¹.
845 Land cover data are reclassified as “urbanizable” or “with natural constraints”
846 areas.

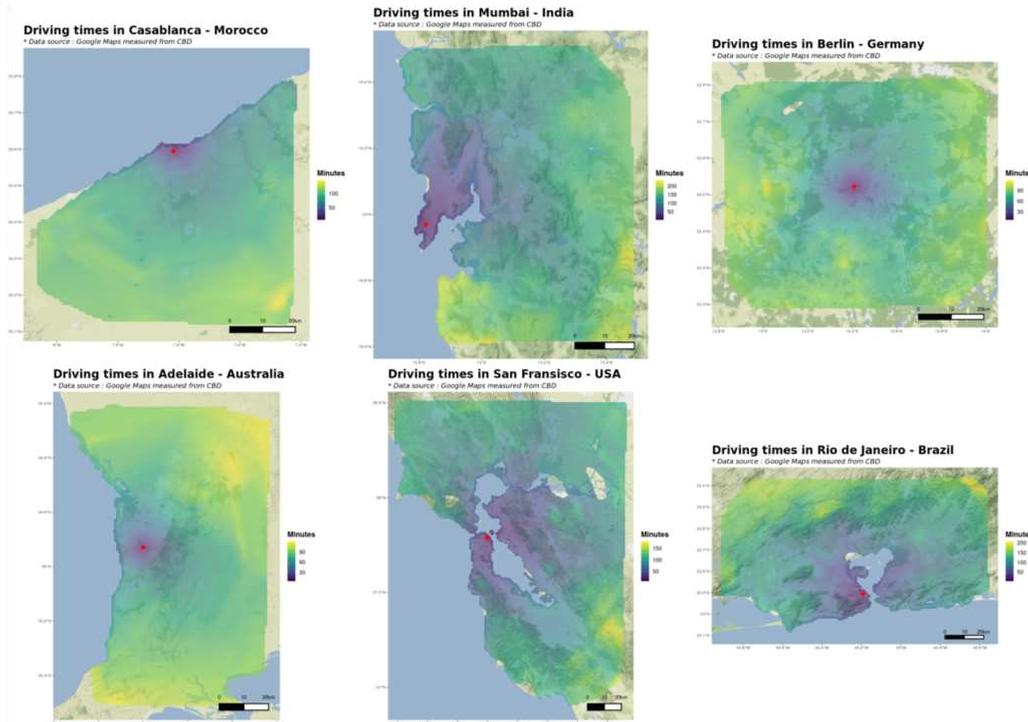
847 Lepetit et al. obtained real estate data on rents and dwelling sizes from the web
848 scraping of real estate websites from 2017 to 2020. The real estate websites have
849 been selected following four criteria: the website must have nationwide coverage to
850 ensure consistent results in a given country, it must geolocalize the dwellings, have
851 values for both rent or sale prices and dwelling size, and read in local languages
852 and propose prices in local currency to limit real estate ads targeting expatriates.

853 Finally, the authors collected transport distances and durations to the city center
854 using Google Maps and Baidu Maps APIs (Application Programming Interfaces).
855 Different definitions of city centers exist in the urban economics literature. Most
856 rely on job density data, which are unfortunately not available consistently in the
857 cities of the database. Therefore, the authors defined city centers by a compromise
858 between five qualitative criteria: the geographical center of the data, the historical
859 center of the cities, the location of the public transport hub, the official central
860 business district, and the city hall location. They conducted transport data collection
861 from the centers defined above to each grid cell, and during typical afternoon rush
862 hours. They collected, when available, both driving and public transport data. It
863 was not possible to collect transport data from each grid cell, so they collected data
864 from 10% of all cells and interpolated them.

865 Population density data, real estate data, transportation data, and land cover
866 data have then been aggregated on 1km²-resolution grids encompassing urban
867 areas. Examples of these grids can be found in Figure S3.



(a) Real estate data



(b) Driving times data

Figure S3. Examples of real estate and transportation data for a few cities

868 **B.2 Other data sources and parameters**

869 We gathered additional data on city characteristics.

870 **Transport** Regarding transportation costs, we used World bank data on gaso-
871 line prices (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EP.PMP.SGAS.CD>) and
872 data on average car fuel efficiency per country from the International Energy
873 Agency⁷⁴. We collected data on the fixed monetary cost of public transport (fare for
874 a one-way ticket) from various sources: our preferred source is Numbeo ([https://](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_price_rankings?itemId=18)
875 www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_price_rankings?itemId=18), a
876 crowd-sourced global database of quality of life data, and, in case of missing data
877 for some cities, we used two additional sources, kiwi.fr ([https://www.kiwi.com/](https://www.kiwi.com/stories/cheapest-and-most-expensive-public-transport-revealed/)
878 [stories/cheapest-and-most-expensive-public-transport-revealed/](https://www.kiwi.com/stories/cheapest-and-most-expensive-public-transport-revealed/)) and
879 Wordatlas (<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/cost-of-public-transportation-around->
880 [html](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/cost-of-public-transportation-around-)).

881 **Income** For average income per city, we combined three datasets: OECD GDP per
882 capita at the city scale data ([https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CITIES)
883 [CITIES](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CITIES)), Brookings GDP per capita at the city scale data⁷⁵, and World Bank GDP
884 per capita at the country scale data ([https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD)
885 [NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD)).

886 **Population** We compute the total population as the sum of densities over the grid.

887 **Agricultural rent** We used agricultural rent data from the FAO ([https://www.fao.](https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home)
888 [org/faostat/en/#home](https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home)), dividing agricultural GDP by the total agricultural area
889 in the country.

890 **Other parameters** Finally, some parameters are assumed as being constant, both
891 within and between cities. We assume that the cost of time is equal to the hourly
892 wage and that the walking speed is 5 km/h, regardless of, e.g., walkability or
893 weather. We assume that the emissions of public transports are equal to 15 gCO₂ /
894 pkm, as GHG emissions typically vary between 20 and 300 gCO₂/pkm, depending
895 on the transportation mode⁶⁷. Based on a case study in Paris³⁶, we consider a
896 uniform time lag for housing construction of 2 years and a depreciation time of
897 buildings of 100 years. One limitation of this study is that we do not account for
898 the fact that buildings' lifetimes vary with cities. However, urban forms might
899 adapt faster to the policies, for instance by becoming denser when a fuel tax is
900 implemented if buildings' lifetimes are shorter.

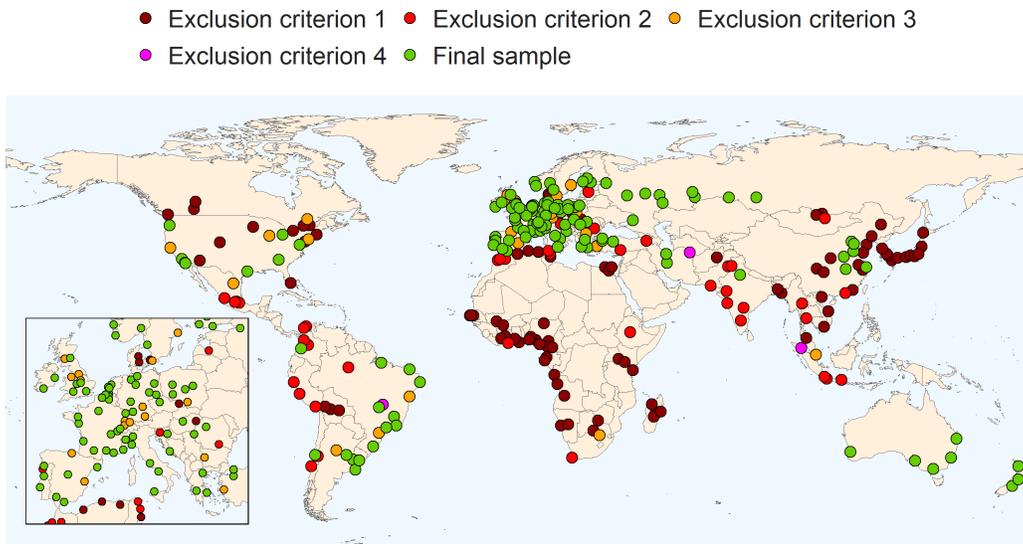


Figure S4. Cities that have been excluded from the analysis and final sample.

901 **C City sample selection**

902 From the initial sample of 281 cities of Lepetit et al. (2022)⁵⁹, we have restricted
 903 our analysis to 120 cities (figure S4) following a selection process described below
 904 (see Table S4).

905 Lepetit, Liotta and Viguié initially selected a sample of 281 cities following
 906 two criteria: cities had to have more than 300 000 inhabitants in 2015 so that
 907 the sample contains a large share of the global urban population, and cities had
 908 to be on different continents and with different cultural, political, and historical
 909 backgrounds, to maximize the heterogeneity between the cities. Among these 281
 910 cities, the authors identified geolocalized real estate data for 191 cities. Such data
 911 being needed to calibrate the model, we restricted our sample to these 191 cities.

912 We also removed from the sample 42 cities in which the real estate data from
 913 the database and our income proxy did not appear consistent. More precisely,
 914 we removed the cities in which, for more than 80% of the population, the yearly
 915 housing budget (computed using average rents and average dwelling sizes from
 916 the database) appeared higher than the GDP per capita. An explanation for these
 917 discrepancies between income and real estate data is that, as data on average
 918 income is often not available at the city level, we used the GDP per capita data
 919 at the country level (source: World Bank) as a proxy. Such an approach is likely
 920 to underestimate average incomes in cities as incomes are generally higher in big

Initial sample	281 cities	
Exclusion criterion 1: Real estate data availability	-90 cities	Lack of real estate data, mainly in Africa and Asia.
Exclusion criterion 2: Real estate data consistent with income data	-42 cities	Lack of data on income at the city level. Lack of data on informal housing.
Exclusion criterion 3: Transportation data quality	-26 cities	Insufficient quality of the data on public transportation.
Exclusion criterion 4: Reasonable fit of the model	-3 cities	Lack of data on informality, local regulation, and amenities ⁷⁶ .
Final sample	120 cities	

Table S4. Sample selection process.

921 cities than in the rest of the country. Discrepancies between income data and real
 922 estate data might also be due to high levels of informality: informal settlements are
 923 not accounted for in our real estate data, while the low-income households living
 924 in these informal settlements pull down average income data. Another explanation
 925 might be the parents subsidizing their children or relatives, for instance in Asia¹.

926 In another step, we removed 26 more cities because we found large discrep-
 927 ancies between the modal share of public transport computed by a simple mini-
 928 mization of transport generalized costs across the city, and external data sources (a
 929 combination of CDP data (<https://data.cdp.net>, accessed on 10.1.2022), Deloitte
 930 data⁷⁰, or EPOMM data if none of the previous two is available). This likely
 931 indicates a lack of quality of the data on public transportation (due for instance to
 932 the inclusion of only part of the network in Google Maps and Baidu Maps).

933 Lastly, we removed 3 additional cities (Brasilia, Mashhad, and Medan) in
 934 which the model that we use performed poorly. More precisely, the correlation
 935 coefficient between the densities simulated by the model and density data was
 936 negative, or the correlation coefficient between the rents simulated by the model
 937 and rent data was negative. Explanations for these low correlation coefficients may
 938 be low data qualities or the fact that the standard framework of urban economics is
 939 not valid in cities with high levels of informality, local regulations, or amenities
 940 that are not properly accounted for in the model⁷⁶.

941 The final sample includes 120 cities representing 525 million inhabitants, or
 942 13% of the global urban population. Due to the sample selection process largely

¹<https://www.echinacities.com/china-news/Survey-Most-Chinese-Parents-Willing-to-Support-Children>

943 driven by data availability, the final sample is unbalanced. Europe is overrepre-
 944 sented, with 78 cities. In North America, the USA are also well represented (7
 945 cities) although Canada is absent from the sample. South America (15 cities) and
 946 Oceania (8 cities) are also well represented in the sample, whereas South-East Asia
 947 and India (with 12 cities in total in Asia) are underrepresented. There is no African
 948 city in the final sample. Overall, cities included in the sample are richer and have
 949 fewer informal settlements than the cities that are not included in the sample (table
 950 S5).

	Cities included (N = 120)	Cities excluded (N = 161)
Average income (mean)	33,529 USD per year	18,574 USD per year
Average income (median)	34,616 USD per year	7,957 USD per year
Share of slums (mean)	4.7%	20.5%
Share of slums (median)	0.0%	16.0%
Gini index (mean)	0.36	0.39
Gini index (median)	0.35	0.39

Table S5. Characteristics of the cities included or not in the sample.

951 **D Baseline scenario**

952 **D.1 Data source**

953 The baseline scenario is a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, assuming the con-
 954 tinuation of current trends with no additional city-level mitigation policies. Our
 955 population growth scenarios are based on the World Urbanization Prospects of the
 956 United Nations⁷⁷, which provides population growth projections from 2015 to 2035
 957 for cities with more than 300 000 inhabitants and for national urban populations.

958 Income per capita growth scenarios are derived from the integrated assessment
 959 model (IAM) IMACLIM-R⁶². In particular, the scenario that we retain is a baseline
 960 scenario, based on the "middle of the road" SSP2: it is quite standard in the IAM
 961 community, and corresponds to a central scenario.

962 Finally, we assume that there is no change in public transports infrastructures
 963 and that the fuel consumption of new private cars decreases by 1.0% per year, in
 964 line with current trends for light-duty vehicles³⁸, assuming a vehicle lifespan of
 965 15 years: it means that, each year, the oldest vehicles (corresponding to 1/15th of

966 all vehicles) are replaced by new ones, and are assigned the fuel consumption of
 967 new vehicles, which decreases by 1.0% per year, while the fuel consumption of the
 968 remaining 14/15th of the vehicle fleet remains unchanged. This improvement in
 969 the fuel efficiency of private vehicles can also be interpreted as an increase in the
 970 share of electric vehicles.

971 D.2 Description of the scenario

972 Figure S5 shows the distribution of emissions per capita variations in the cities
 973 of the sample between 2015 and 2035 in the BAU scenario. Overall, urban
 974 transport emissions per capita tend to decrease, largely because of fuel efficiency
 975 improvements, or to moderately increase. For a few cities, the growth in urban
 976 transportation emissions per capita is very large. It exceeds +50% for 2 of them,
 977 Beijing and Shanghai, which are experiencing large population growths, a fast
 978 urban sprawl and development of subcenters in peripheries, an increase in trans-
 979 portation demand, and insufficient, though rapidly developing, public transport⁷⁸.

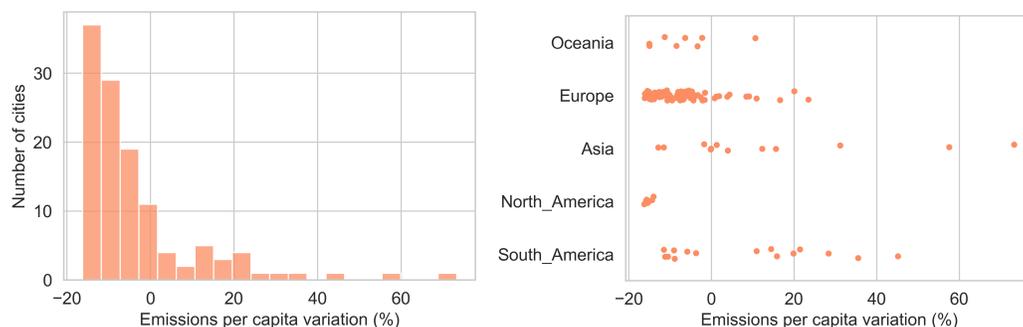


Figure S5. Transportation emissions per capita increase between 2015 and 2035, over the 120 cities of the sample.

980

981 The distribution per continent shows that, in North American and Oceanian
 982 cities, transportation emissions per capita generally decrease in the BAU scenario,
 983 which can be explained by high initial levels. European cities will have decreasing
 984 or moderately increasing transportation emissions per capita. South American and
 985 Asian cities are highly heterogeneous, with transportation emissions growth up
 986 to +45% for South America and +73% for Asia. However, our sample of cities
 987 is not representative by continent: we do not have any Canadian cities for North
 988 America, and we do not have any Japanese cities for Asia for instance.

989 These baseline results are in line with the literature. The road transportation
990 sector emissions have grown by about 2% per year since 1970⁵. Urban emissions
991 per capita (non necessarily related to the transportation sector) have increased by
992 11.8% globally between 2000 and 2015, ranging from -6.5% in developed countries
993 to 71.7% in Asia and developing Pacific⁷⁹. IAMs also provide various projections
994 of non-specifically urban passenger transportation emissions evolution, reviewed
995 in Edelenbosch et al. (2017)²⁰: they forecast an increase of total transportation
996 emissions between 2010 and 2050, with a large heterogeneity between IAM, but
997 the result for emissions per capita is not explicitly displayed, preventing direct
998 comparisons with our results.

999 **E Policies simulated**

1000 **E.1 Overview**

1001 To assess the impact of urban transport policies on transportation emissions and
1002 inhabitants' welfare in cities, we designed four policy scenarios representative of
1003 a wide spectrum of potential policies. These policy scenarios had to be simple
1004 enough to be generically applied to a large sample of cities, yet to be representative
1005 of existing urban policies. Therefore, we choose 4 policies which are simplified
1006 representations of four broad types of city-level transportation mitigation policies
1007 (summarized in Table S6):

- 1008 • Taxes and tolls targeting polluting transportation modes: congestion tolls⁵¹,
1009 carbon taxes⁸⁰, “flat” taxes proportional to the distance traveled in the city
1010 center⁸¹.
- 1011 • Investments in “cleaner” transportation modes: an increase in public trans-
1012 port speed⁵⁰, a decrease in public transport cost (see the example of Vi-
1013 enna, [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/09/vienna-euro-a-day-
1014 public-transport-berlin-365-annual-ticket](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/09/vienna-euro-a-day-public-transport-berlin-365-annual-ticket), accessed March 26, 2021), con-
1015 struction of new public transport infrastructures.
- 1016 • Land-use policies: Transit-oriented development, policies aiming at limiting
1017 urban sprawl (e.g. greenbelts)⁸², property taxes⁸³.
- 1018 • Technological improvements and regulations: requirement of low-emission
1019 vehicles (LEV), mandatory increase in the uptake of LEV⁸⁴.

1020 We simulate the evolution of each city between 2015 and 2035, assuming that
1021 policies are implemented in 2020.

Policy type	Scenario name	Modeling
-	BAU	No mitigation policy.
Taxes and tolls	Fuel tax	Fuel price increases by 30%.
Investments in “cleaner” transportation modes	BRT	BRT on the main streets of the city.
Land-use policies	UGB	Constructions beyond 2020 area forbidden.
Technological improvements and regulations	Fuel efficiency	Fuel consumption of private car - 3.7% per year.

Table S6. Policy scenarios.

1022 **E.2 Taxes and tolls**

1023 **Description of the policy** We accounted for the first category of city-level policies
1024 by simulating a fuel tax which increases fuel cost by 30%. This level broadly
1025 corresponds to a level of carbon pricing of US \$50–100/tCO₂ (for instance, in
1026 the United States, between 2007 and 2010, a carbon tax of \$92/tCO₂ would have
1027 translated into a 30%-increase in gasoline prices⁸⁵) required to be implemented in
1028 2030 to cost-effectively reduce emissions in line with the target of the Paris Agree-
1029 ment to limit global warming to 2°C^{37,86}, with tax revenues being redistributed
1030 uniformly among households.

1031 **Impacts on emissions** The fuel tax makes car use more expensive, and impacts
1032 transportation emissions by inducing a modal shift toward public transport or active
1033 modes, and by incentivizing shorter commuting distances.

1034 **Impact on welfare** The fuel tax increases transportation costs, but tax revenues are
1035 redistributed among households, with ambiguous effects on welfare⁸⁷. However,
1036 the fuel tax and the modal shift toward clean transport modes it induces have
1037 positive impacts on health through reduced air pollution, noise, car accidents, and
1038 increased physical activity.

1039 **E.3 Investments in “cleaner” transportation modes**

1040 **Description of the policy** For the second category of policies, we simulated a
1041 policy that consists in the implementation of a network of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
1042 on the main streets of the city. The main streets of the city have been identified
1043 using OpenStreetMap, and we assume a speed of 40km/h and a capital cost of

1044 12.23 million USD per km that is equally shared by households over 50 years with
1045 a 5% interest rate⁵⁰.

1046 **Impacts on emissions** The BRT enriches the available public transportation op-
1047 tions and thus can reduce emissions by leading to a modal shift toward public
1048 transportation. It is also an incentive to densify housing near the new BRT lines,
1049 with an unclear effect on average distances to the city center.

1050 **Impact on welfare** BRT has ambiguous effects on welfare: it provides households
1051 with a new mode of transport, potentially reducing transportation costs, but it is
1052 also financed by households in the model, hence decreasing their available income.
1053 However, BRT also has positive health impacts through reduced pollution, noise
1054 and car accidents.

1055 **E.4 Land-use policies**

1056 **Description of the policy** We accounted for the third category of city-level policies
1057 in our study by simulating an urban growth boundary (UGB), assuming that the city
1058 cannot expand beyond its 2020 limits, i.e. beyond the areas that were urbanized
1059 in 2020. Areas are considered "urbanized" if they are qualified as "urban" in ESA
1060 2015 global land cover database, and if population density in 2015 GHSL data is
1061 not zero (these databases are presented in supplementary section B).

1062 **Impacts on emissions** The UGB reduces transportation emissions by largely
1063 reducing commuting distances to the city center. As households live closer to
1064 the city center, a larger share of the population tend to have access to public
1065 transportation, generally decreasing the modal share of private car and reducing
1066 transportation emissions.

1067 **Impact on welfare** By imposing large land-use constraints, the UGB largely in-
1068 creases housing costs, with negative welfare impacts. This is partially mitigated
1069 by the decrease in transportation cost, the increase in active mode use, and the
1070 decrease in car accidents, exposure to air pollution, and noise due to the decrease
1071 in the modal share of private cars.

1072 **E.5 Technological improvements and regulations**

1073 **Description of the policy** For the fourth category of policies, we simulate that the
1074 fuel efficiency of private vehicles improves faster than in the BAU scenario. More
1075 precisely, in the BAU scenario, vehicles have a 15-year life span, and the fuel
1076 consumption of the new vehicles that replace old vehicles in the fleet decreases by
1077 1% each year, in line with current trends³⁸ (see section D). In the fuel efficiency

1078 scenario, we keep assuming that vehicles have a 15-year life span, but we assume
1079 that the fuel consumption of the new vehicles decreases by 3.7% each year, in line
1080 with the IEA "2°C Scenario"³⁸. This improvement in the fuel efficiency of private
1081 vehicles can also be interpreted as an increase in the share of electric vehicles.

1082 **Impacts on emissions in the simulations** For the fuel efficiency policy, emissions
1083 reduction is due to the fact that private cars become less polluting, but there is a
1084 rebound effect because transportation using private cars is less expensive as cars
1085 consume less fuel.

1086 **Impact on welfare** The large positive welfare impact through reduced transporta-
1087 tion costs is partially attenuated by the negative health impact related to the increase
1088 in transportation demand by private cars, such as increased noise and car accidents,
1089 or reduced physical activity. In addition, the costs of investments in this new
1090 technology are not accounted for in the model.

1091 **F Impact of city characteristics on the policies consequences**

1092 **F.1 Methods**

1093 To understand which factors influence emissions and welfare variations in cities,
1094 we linearly regress them on some cities' characteristics that have been shown to
1095 impact urban forms, urban emissions, or policies' efficiency.^{9,25,27,41,42}

1096 These characteristics are: urban population in 2015, average income in 2015,
1097 agricultural land rent in 2015, modal shift potential (defined as the share of the
1098 population that has a public transport option to go to the city center that is less
1099 than 40% longer than the private cars' option), population growth rate from 2015
1100 to 2035, income growth rate from 2015 to 2035, total urban area in 2015, a
1101 variable controlling for the monocentric urban model's ability to explain the spatial
1102 distribution of populations in cities (the share of the variance in population spatial
1103 distribution explained by the model in 2015), and length of the BRT network
1104 simulated per capita (i.e. length of the primary road network per capita). See
1105 supplementary sections **B** and **D** for the list of the databases that we used to
1106 compute these variables.

1107 Then, as our data on city characteristics suffer from multicollinearity, we
1108 perform a Principal Component Regression. The city characteristics on which the
1109 Principal Component Analysis is performed are urban population in 2015, average
1110 income in 2015, modal shift potential, population growth rate from 2015 to 2035,
1111 income growth rate from 2015 to 2035, and density in 2015.

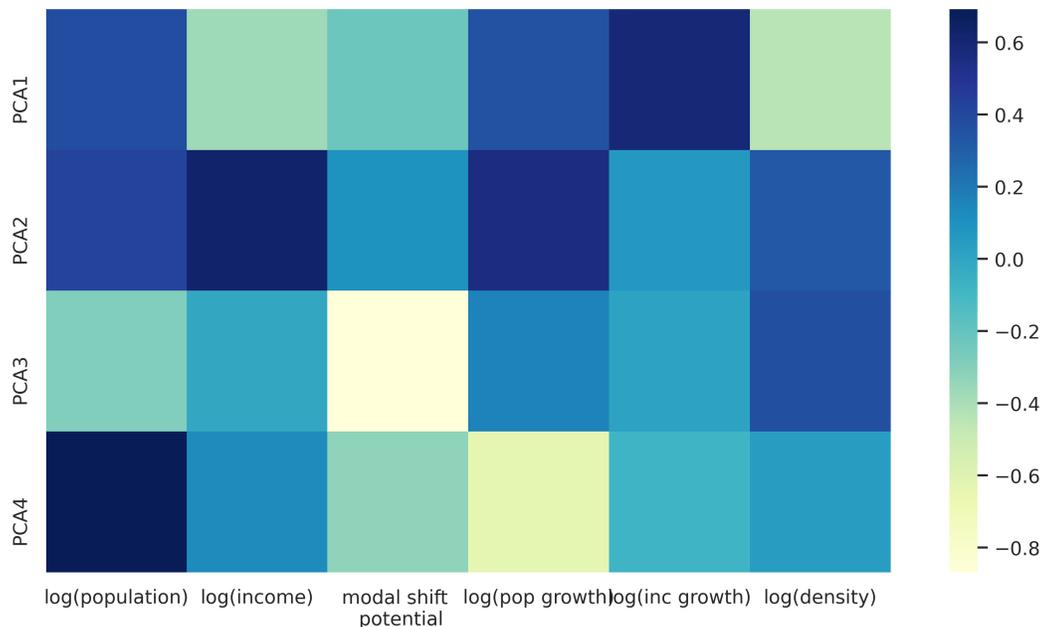


Figure S6. PCA components and features

1112 We use four principal components, displayed in figure S6, and explaining 91%
 1113 of the variation in the dependent variable. Highly populated and poor cities, with
 1114 few modal shift potential, rapidly growing in terms of population and income, and
 1115 spread out, have a high score along principal component 1. Highly populated,
 1116 rich and dense cities with many public transport have a high score along principal
 1117 component 2. Small cities with few public transports have a high score along
 1118 principal component 3. Highly populated cities that are not growing in terms of
 1119 population have a high score along principal component 4.

1120 F.2 Linear regression - Welfare

1121 The Fuel Tax increases more (or decreases less) inhabitants' welfare in cities with
 1122 a large modal shift potential: indeed, it means that commuters can, in some cases,
 1123 switch to public transport instead of paying the full cost of the fuel tax. The fuel tax
 1124 also tends to improve more (or decrease less) the welfare in cities that are growing
 1125 in terms of population but not of income. The Fuel Efficiency policy tends to
 1126 improve welfare more in sprawled and low-income cities where income is slowly
 1127 growing. The Urban Growth boundary has the largest negative impact on welfare
 1128 in low-income cities that are growing rapidly in terms of population, but not of

1129 income. Finally, the BRT policy has the largest positive impact on welfare in large
 1130 and poor cities. Its impact on welfare also depends on the length of the network in
 1131 a parabolic way: increasing the length of the network starts by increasing welfare,
 1132 but an inefficiently long network might also be too costly.

	<i>Dependent variable: welfare variation</i>			
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	Urban growth boundary	Bus rapid transit
log(population)	0.119 (0.083)	-0.032 (0.056)	-0.614 (0.705)	0.271** (0.109)
log(income)	-0.262 (0.208)	-0.519*** (0.120)	7.476*** (1.498)	-1.016** (0.426)
log(farmland rent)	-0.101 (0.126)	-0.141** (0.069)	0.144 (0.379)	-0.011 (0.068)
modal shift potential	0.532** (0.241)	-0.115 (0.104)	-2.032 (1.750)	0.550 (0.422)
log(population growth)	1.763*** (0.689)	0.343 (0.437)	-13.167*** (3.684)	0.377 (0.446)
log(income growth)	-1.430*** (0.554)	-0.616* (0.335)	9.169** (4.138)	-0.233 (0.561)
urban area	4.786e-11 (1.1e-10)	1.685e-10*** (5.79e-11)	9.499e-11 (7e-10)	-1.056e-10 (8.5e-11)
model's performance	-0.040 (0.130)	-0.306*** (0.099)	3.786 (2.310)	-0.350 (0.315)
BRT network / capita				3.173* (1.671)
(BRT network / capita) ²				-2.510* (1.321)
Intercept	1.521 (2.254)	6.560*** (1.306)	-80.611*** (17.277)	6.468 (4.494)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.247	0.379	0.380	0.236
Adjusted R ²	0.192	0.335	0.336	0.166

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S7. Impact of cities' characteristics on the welfare variation due to the policies, compared with the BAU scenario, 15 years after implementation.

Dependent variable: welfare compared with BAU in 2035. For instance, for the fuel tax policy, welfare tends to increase more when the substitution potential is larger. Non-significant coefficients at the 10% level are not shown here.

1133 F.3 Linear regression - Emissions

1134 The Fuel Tax allows to largely mitigate transportation GHG emissions in large,
 1135 poor cities, with a high modal shift potential, in line with previous findings that

1136 demonstrate that the price elasticity of GHG emissions is twice as high in the short
1137 run if public transport options exist. The Fuel Efficiency policy is more efficient at
1138 mitigating emissions in rich cities with little public transport. The Urban Growth
1139 Boundary is more efficient at mitigating emissions in cities with a high farmland
1140 rent, i.e. cities that tend to be compact anyway. However, it seems surprising that
1141 an urban growth boundary is not more efficient in rapidly growing cities (in terms
1142 of population), even though it is more harmful in these cities. An explanation might
1143 be that the efficiency of the urban growth boundary does not simply linearly depend
1144 on population growth, but on how this population growth translates spatially and
1145 on whether it leads to urban sprawl. Finally, the BRT is more efficient in terms of
1146 emissions mitigation in large and poor cities.

<i>Dependent variable: variation in emissions</i>				
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	Urban growth boundary	Bus rapid transit
log(population)	-0.750* (0.449)	0.427 (0.271)	-0.556 (0.965)	-2.387** (1.153)
log(income)	1.902* (0.997)	-1.344** (0.558)	1.525 (1.789)	7.548** (3.354)
log(farmland rent)	-0.962*** (0.322)	0.524*** (0.188)	-1.285** (0.564)	0.044 (0.687)
modal shift potential	-7.008*** (1.033)	3.969*** (0.593)	-0.966 (1.872)	-3.896 (3.706)
log(population growth)	0.610 (2.243)	0.242 (1.145)	-2.215 (4.582)	0.886 (4.904)
log(income growth)	2.943 (2.553)	-1.786 (1.235)	-2.241 (4.332)	-2.236 (5.506)
urban area	-2.771e-10 (4.49e-10)	3.913e-10 (4.24e-10)	-4.522e-10 (6.89e-10)	1.401e-09 (9.21e-10)
model's performance	-4.213*** (0.966)	1.796*** (0.504)	-9.503*** (2.813)	-0.369 (2.884)
BRT network / capita				-30.302** (13.094)
(BRT network / capita) ²				24.016** (10.651)
Intercept	-13.194 (10.600)	-5.876 (7.145)	-11.275 (19.829)	-40.967 (36.193)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.535	0.534	0.228	0.235
Adjusted R ²	0.501	0.500	0.173	0.165

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S8. Impact of cities' characteristics on the emissions variation due to the policies, compared with the BAU scenario, 15 years after implementation. *Dependent variable: emissions compared with BAU in 2035. For instance, for the fuel tax policy, emissions tend to decrease more when the population is larger and when the city is poorer. Non-significant coefficients at the 10% level are not shown here.*

1147 **F.4 PCA - Welfare**

1148 Table S10 shows that the fuel tax has the largest negative impact on welfare
 1149 alongside PC1 and PC3, i.e. for highly populated and poor cities and small cities
 1150 with little public transport. The fuel efficiency policy tends to increase welfare
 1151 more in small cities with little public transport. The UGB is more harmful in
 1152 highly populated, poor, growing, and sprawling cities, and less harmful in highly
 1153 populated cities that are not growing in terms of population. Finally, the BRT
 1154 tends to increase welfare in large, poor, and rapidly growing cities with little public
 1155 transport, and less welfare-increasing in small cities.

	<i>Dependent variable: welfare variation</i>			
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	UGB	BRT
PC1	-0.058** (0.024)	0.028 (0.023)	-0.680** (0.330)	0.245** (0.098)
PC2	0.171* (0.087)	-0.035 (0.049)	0.706* (0.373)	-0.178 (0.113)
PC3	-0.113** (0.050)	0.078** (0.036)	0.463 (0.440)	-0.274** (0.132)
PC4	-0.080 (0.059)	0.057 (0.055)	1.367*** (0.481)	-0.019 (0.111)
model's performance	0.020 (0.125)	-0.238** (0.102)	2.597 (3.000)	-0.045 (0.343)
BRT network / capita				3.794* (2.028)
(BRT network / capita) ²				-2.804* (1.609)
Intercept	0.584*** (0.076)	0.659*** (0.058)	-7.996*** (1.182)	0.274 (0.243)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.129	0.075	0.216	0.227
Adjusted R ²	0.091	0.034	0.181	0.179

Note:
 *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S9. Impact of cities' characteristics on the welfare variation due to the policies (PCR analysis).

For instance, the fuel tax has a larger negative impact on inhabitants' welfare in cities that perform well along PC1, i.e. large, poor, and growing cities.

1156 **F.5 PCA - Emissions**

1157 Table S10 shows that the fuel tax mitigates less emissions in highly populated,
 1158 poor, and sprawling cities, and in small cities with few public transportation. By
 1159 contrast, the fuel efficiency policy is more efficient in mitigating emissions in these

1160 cities. The UGB is more efficient to reduce emissions in large, poor, growing,
 1161 and sprawling cities. Finally, the BRT is more efficient in reducing emissions in
 1162 large, poor, growing, and sprawling cities and less efficient in small cities with
 1163 little public transport.

	<i>Dependent variable: emission variation</i>			
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	UGB	BRT
PC1	0.394** (0.161)	-0.150*** (0.077)	-0.885*** (0.316)	-2.414*** (0.817)
PC2	-0.104 (0.219)	0.184 (0.126)	-0.250 (0.428)	1.864** (0.881)
PC3	2.198*** (0.287)	-1.198*** (0.171)	0.631 (0.555)	2.384** (1.137)
PC4	0.048 (0.271)	0.059 (0.171)	-0.116 (0.694)	-0.004 (0.982)
model's performance	-4.378*** (0.917)	1.959*** (0.465)	-9.147*** (2.544)	-3.108 (2.419)
BRT network / capita				-35.917** (15.556)
(BRT network / capita) ²				26.796** (13.057)
Intercept	-3.176*** (0.381)	-14.022*** (0.196)	-3.706*** (0.837)	2.286 (1.759)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.491	0.462	0.207	0.262
Adjusted R ²	0.469	0.438	0.172	0.216

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S10. Impact of cities' characteristics on the emission variation due to the policies (PCR analysis).

For instance, the fuel tax is less efficient in mitigating emissions in cities that perform well along PC1, i.e. large, poor, and growing cities.

1164 G Impact of city characteristics on the welfare-effectiveness

1165 G.1 Methods

1166 In this section, we aim at understanding the impact of cities' characteristics on
 1167 the welfare-effectiveness of the 4 urban mitigation policies in the 120 cities of the
 1168 sample, compared with the BAU scenario, 15 years after implementation. Welfare-
 1169 effectiveness is the ratio between relative change in welfare and relative change in
 1170 emissions under the policies, compared with the BAU scenario. A high welfare-
 1171 effectiveness (for a policy, in a given city) means that the policy allows to increase

1172 welfare while decreasing emissions by a large amount. A low welfare-effectiveness
1173 means that the policy decreases welfare and/or has a small impact on emissions.

Welfare-effectiveness is computed as :

$$\frac{\frac{WELFARE_{p,2035}}{WELFARE_{BAU,2035}}}{\frac{EMISSIONS_{p,2035}}{EMISSIONS_{BAU,2035}}}$$

1174 As in the previous section (see section F.1), we run linearly regress the welfare-
1175 effectiveness of the policies on city characteristics, and then perform a Principal
1176 Component Analysis.

1177 G.2 Linear regression

1178 The regression of the welfare-effectiveness of policies on city characteristics (Table
1179 S11) reveals that modal shift potential is a key variable influencing the welfare-
1180 effectiveness of public policies. In particular, a fuel tax is more welfare-efficient in
1181 cities where a modal shift is easy, in line with previous findings that demonstrate
1182 that the price elasticity of GHG emissions is twice as high in the short run if public
1183 transport options exist⁴². The fuel efficiency policy, in contrast, is more efficient
1184 in cities where there is little public transportation. Indeed, in these cities, people
1185 are constrained to use private cars, and efficient cars translate into cost savings and
1186 decrease the emissions of the car-dependent majority.

1187 For the fuel tax, in addition to the modal shift potential, farmland rents, incomes,
1188 and urban areas also impact the welfare-effectiveness of the policy. The fuel tax
1189 is more welfare-efficient in cities with high farmlands rents, as urban economic
1190 theory predicts that these cities will spread out less and spare farmland^{88,89}. Higher
1191 fuel prices also matter in poor cities as low-income households are more sensitive
1192 to changes in transportation prices, and they matter in large cities that typically
1193 boost competitive public transportation supported by sufficient ridership density²⁴.

1194 Farmland rents also impact the fuel efficiency policy's welfare-efficiency. The
1195 fuel efficiency policy is more welfare-effective in cities where the farmland rents
1196 are lower: an explanation might be that the urban economics theory^{88,89} predicts
1197 that, everything else being equal, lower farmland rents lead to more spread-out
1198 cities, where the modal share of private cars tend to be higher⁹⁰.

1199 The UGB policy is more welfare-efficient in cities that are growing in terms
1200 of income but not in terms of population. Indeed, urban economics predicts that,
1201 everything else being equal, higher incomes will lead to more spread-out cities^{88,89};
1202 the UGB might thus have the potential to prevent the city from sprawling too much.
1203 Regarding population growth, an explanation might be that, in cities that are

1204 growing too much, the UGB might be too harmful in terms of welfare by leading
1205 to very small housing sizes. In these cities, other policies might be more welfare-
1206 efficient than a UGB, such as a transit-oriented development policy allowing the
1207 city to keep sprawling while shaping it to increase its density and reduce the modal
1208 share of private cars.

1209 Finally, the BRT policy is more welfare-efficient in low-income cities, probably
1210 because low-income households are more likely to use it as its monetary cost is
1211 often lower than the monetary cost of commuting by private cars. Its welfare-
1212 efficiency also depends on the length of the network implemented in a parabolic
1213 way: increasing the length of the network starts by increasing the welfare-efficiency
1214 of the policy, but a network that is inefficiently long might be also too costly.
1215 However, BRT and other expansions of public transit are predicted to be a fitting
1216 complement for rising fuel taxes or congestion charges, reducing the opportunity
1217 costs of car drivers choosing to restrain from driving⁹¹, an issue to model in further
1218 studies.

1219 The variable controlling for the model's ability to explain the spatial distribution
1220 of populations in cities has an ambivalent status. It can be seen as a control variable
1221 of the quality of the model, or as a variable indicating whether structures of cities
1222 can be explained by the monocentric Standard Urban Model (SUM), i.e. whether
1223 the city is monocentric and whether inhabitants' locational and modal choices
1224 are based on transportation costs to the city center and land-use constraints. For
1225 instance, the fuel efficiency policy is more welfare-efficient in North American
1226 cities, where the SUM has little explanatory power as cities are sprawled.

1227 Cities' characteristics appear alone insufficient to explain policies' welfare-
1228 effectiveness, as more than 50% remains unexplained. A spatial model that explic-
1229 itly accounts for cities' spatial characteristics and the interplay between them is
1230 needed to properly capture the impacts of the policies on welfare and emissions.

<i>Dependent variable: welfare-effectiveness</i>				
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	Urban growth boundary	Bus rapid transit
log(population)	0.010* (0.006)	-0.006 (0.004)	2.024e-05 (0.016)	0.032 (0.020)
log(income)	-0.025** (0.013)	0.011 (0.008)	0.067** (0.028)	-0.166* (0.089)
log(farmland rent)	0.010** (0.005)	-0.008*** (0.003)	0.016* (0.009)	0.001 (0.013)
modal shift potential	0.086*** (0.014)	-0.053*** (0.008)	-0.009 (0.034)	0.110 (0.087)
log(population growth)	0.012 (0.030)	0.000 (0.017)	-0.118* (0.071)	-0.006 (0.087)
log(income growth)	-0.052 (0.034)	0.015 (0.017)	0.125 (0.077)	0.044 (0.101)
urban area	3.641e-12 (6.19e-12)	-2.883e-12 (5.69e-12)	4.977e-12 (1.31e-11)	-1.757e-11 (1.67e-11)
model's performance	0.046*** (0.012)	-0.028*** (0.007)	0.150*** (0.054)	-0.045 (0.068)
BRT network / capita				0.623* (0.360)
(BRT network / capita) ²				-0.483* (0.277)
Intercept	1.169*** (0.137)	1.137*** (0.098)	0.215 (0.330)	2.170** (0.955)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.491	0.533	0.261	0.186
Adjusted R ²	0.454	0.499	0.208	0.111

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S11. Impact of cities' characteristics on the welfare-effectiveness of the 4 urban mitigation policies.

Lecture: A fuel tax is more welfare-effective in cities with a high modal shift potential, meaning that it can reduce emissions while maintaining a high level of welfare in these cities.

1231 **G.3 PCA Analysis**

	<i>Dependent variable: welfare-effectiveness</i>			
	Fuel tax	Fuel efficiency	UGB	BRT
PC1	-0.005*** (0.002)	0.002 (0.001)	0.001 (0.006)	0.043** (0.019)
PC2	0.004 (0.003)	0.002 (0.005)	0.015 (0.009)	-0.040* (0.024)
PC3	-0.027*** (0.004)	0.019*** (0.003)	-0.003 (0.012)	-0.050* (0.027)
PC4	9.712e-05 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)	0.030* (0.017)	-0.011 (0.022)
model's performance	0.049*** (0.012)	-0.031*** (0.009)	0.127* (0.065)	0.007 (0.065)
BRT network / capita				0.742* (0.433)
(BRT network / capita) ²				-0.544 (0.333)
Intercept	1.038*** (0.005)	1.176*** (0.005)	0.964*** (0.024)	0.944*** (0.048)
Observations	120	120	120	120
R ²	0.440	0.240	0.173	0.205
Adjusted R ²	0.415	0.207	0.137	0.155

Note:
*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table S12. Impact of cities' characteristics on the welfare-effectiveness of policies (PCR analysis).

For instance, the fuel tax is less welfare-effective in cities that perform well along PC1, i.e. large, poor, and growing cities.

1232 Then, we perform a Principal Component Regression (table S12), following
 1233 the components described in section F.1. The fuel tax is less welfare-effective
 1234 for big, poor, spread out and developing cities with few public transports and
 1235 for small cities with few public transports. The fuel efficiency policy is more
 1236 welfare-effective for small cities with few public transport. The UGB is more
 1237 welfare-effective for big cities that are not growing in terms of population. Finally,
 1238 the BRT is more welfare-effective for big, poor, spread out and developing cities.

1239 **H Supplementary graphs**

1240 S7 Maps of emission variations 56

1241 S8 Maps of welfare variations 57

1242 S9 Decomposition of welfare variations 58

1243 S10 Variations in households expenses and income as a function of

1244 variations in monetized health co-benefits 59

1245 S11 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations (all policies

1246 combined) 60

1247 S12 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations (welfare-

1248 increasing policies) 61

1249 S13 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations (for each policy) 62

1250 S14 Number of welfare-increasing policies 63

1251 S15 Impact of welfare-increasing policies (box-plot) 64

1252 S16 Impact of welfare-increasing policies on emissions (map) 65

1253 S17 Impact of welfare-increasing policies on welfare (map) 66

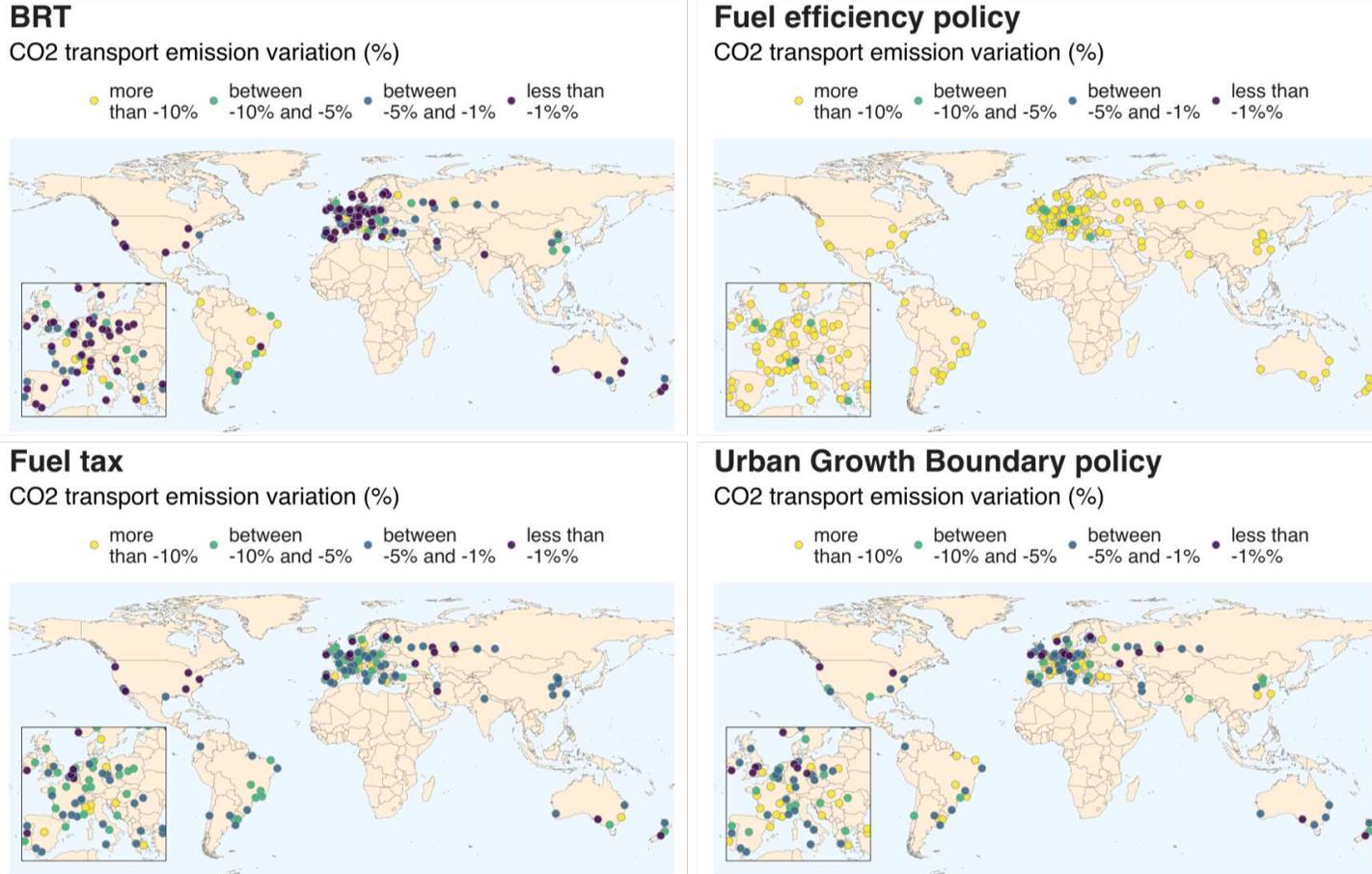


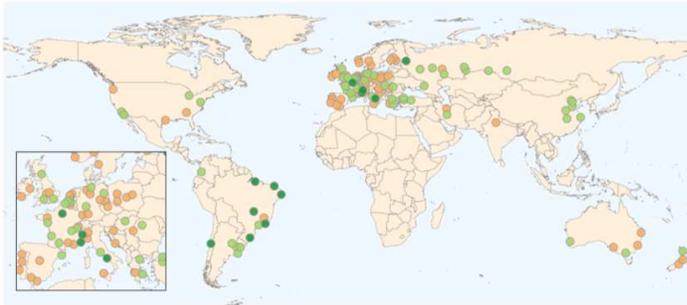
Figure S7. Emission variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately. These maps appear also in figure 3.

Policy's have heterogeneous impacts with cities. The BRT achieves the largest emissions mitigation in South America, while the fuel tax has the largest impact in Europe and SoUth America. By contrast, the fuel efficiency policy has a similar impact in most of the cities, except for Europe where the emissions mitigation is of a lower magnitude. Finally, the urban growth boundary allows to achieve large emissions mitigation in some cities in South America, Europe and China.

BRT

Welfare variation (%)

- less than -1%
- between -1% and 0
- between 0 and +1%
- more than +1%



Fuel efficiency policy

Welfare variation (%)

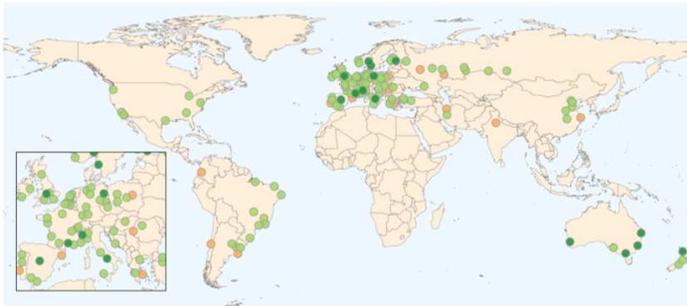
- less than -0.5%
- between -0.5% and 0
- between 0 and +0.5%
- more than +0.5%



Fuel tax

Welfare variation (%)

- less than -0.5%
- between -0.5% and 0
- between 0 and +0.5%
- more than +0.5%



Urban Growth Boundary policy

Welfare variation (%)

- less than -5%
- between -5% and 0
- between 0 and +5%
- more than +5%

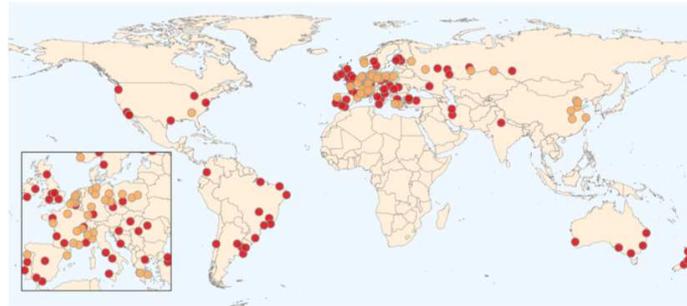


Figure S8. Welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately. These maps appear also in figure 3.

Decomposition of welfare variations

Impact of variations in expenses, and of health co-benefits

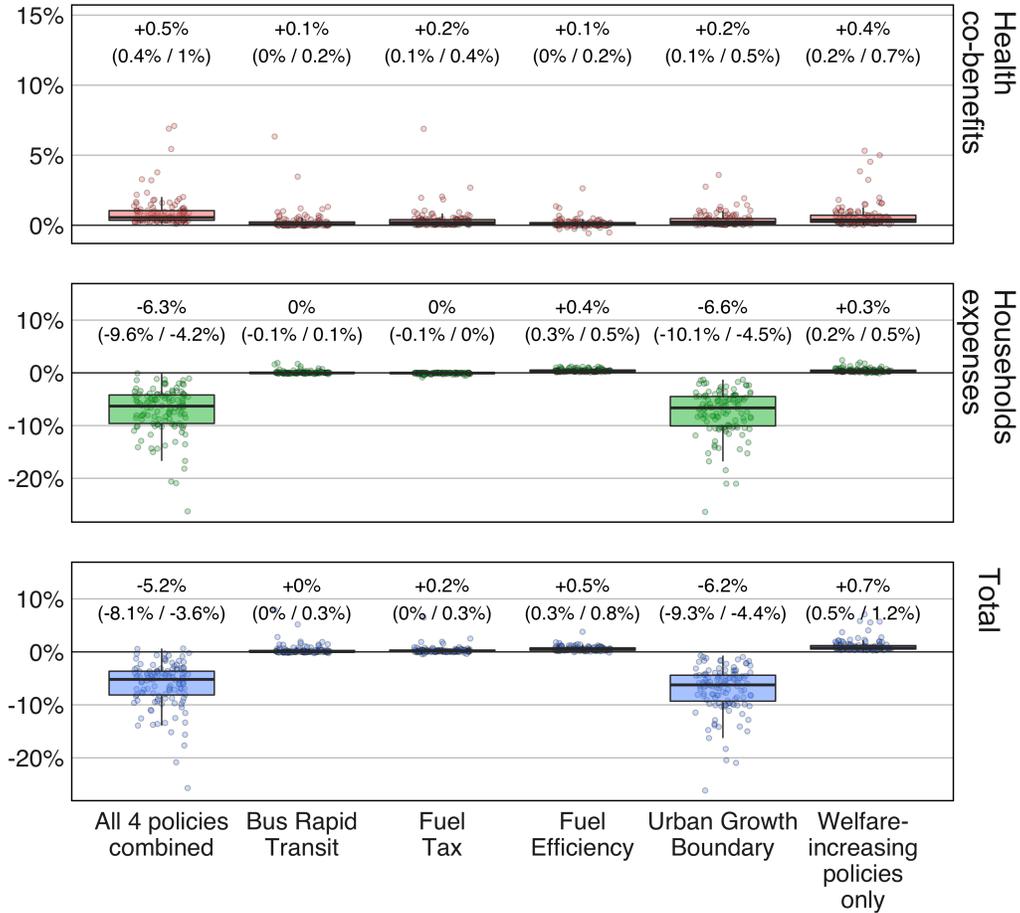


Figure S9. Decomposition of welfare variations between variations in households expenses and income, and variations in monetized health co-benefits. The number above the box plots represent the median, and in brackets, the 25th and the 75th quartiles.

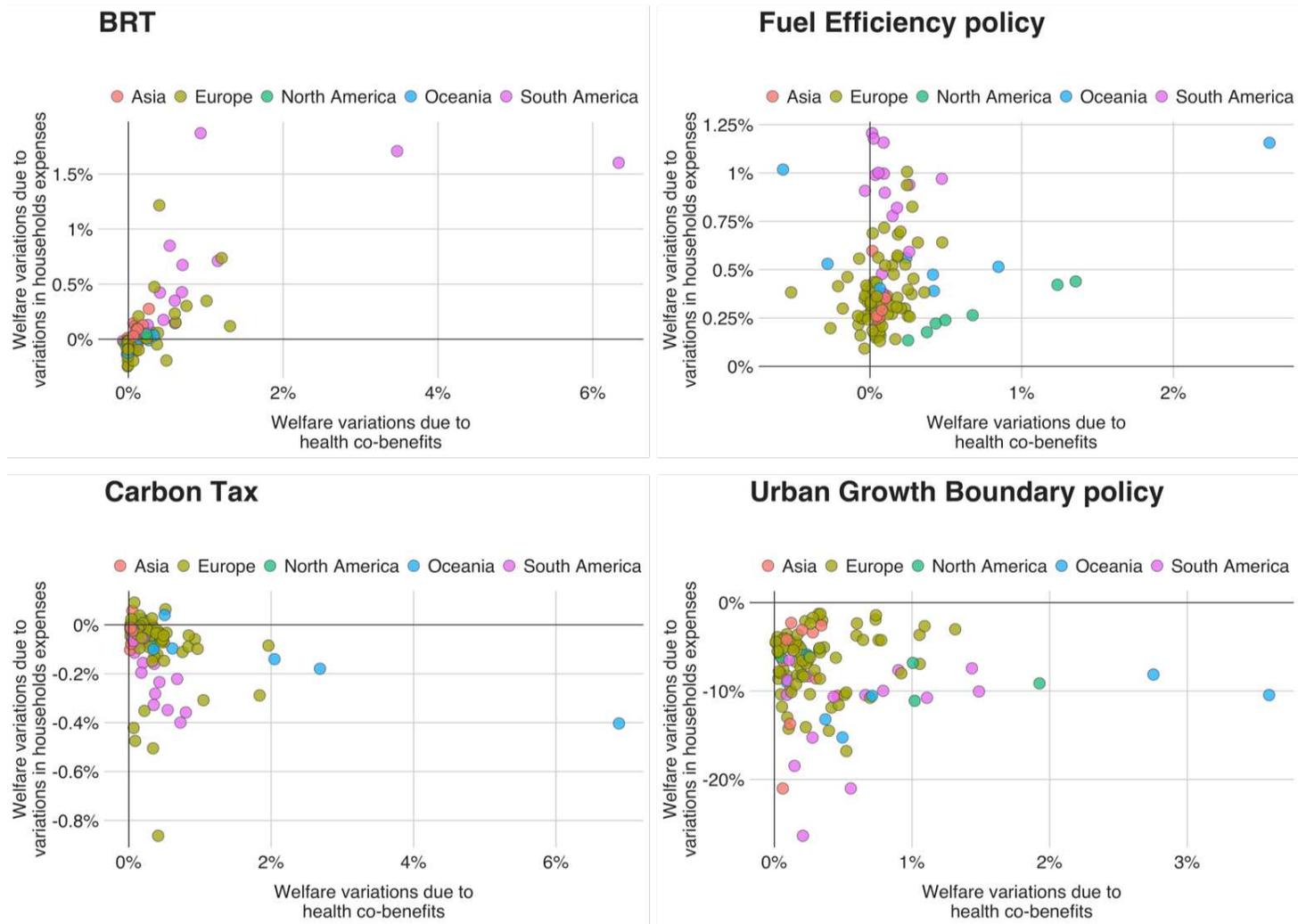


Figure S10. Decomposition of welfare variations: variations in households expenses and income as a function of variations in monetized health co-benefits.

Impact of the combined four policies

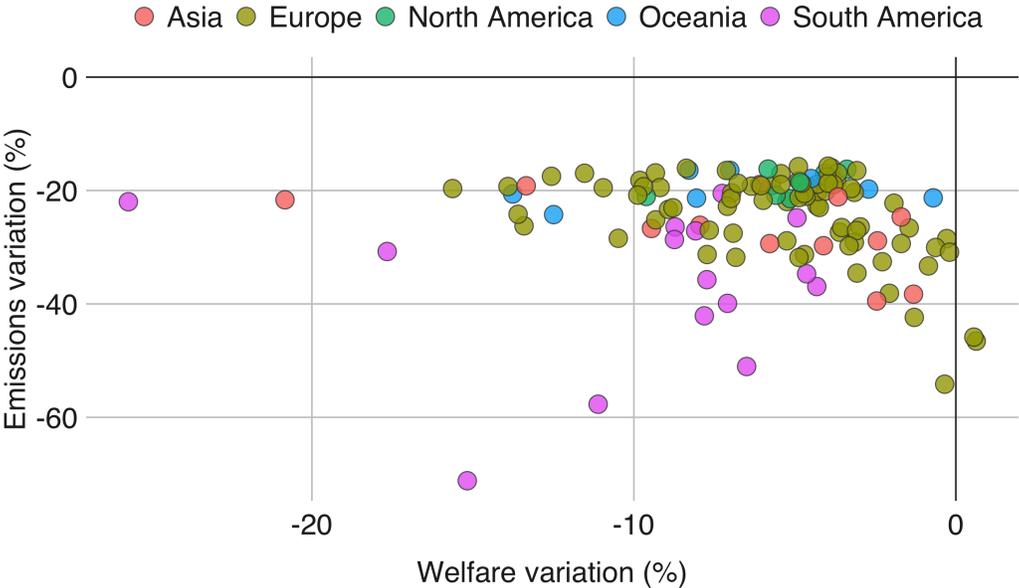


Figure S11. Emission and welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario.

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only

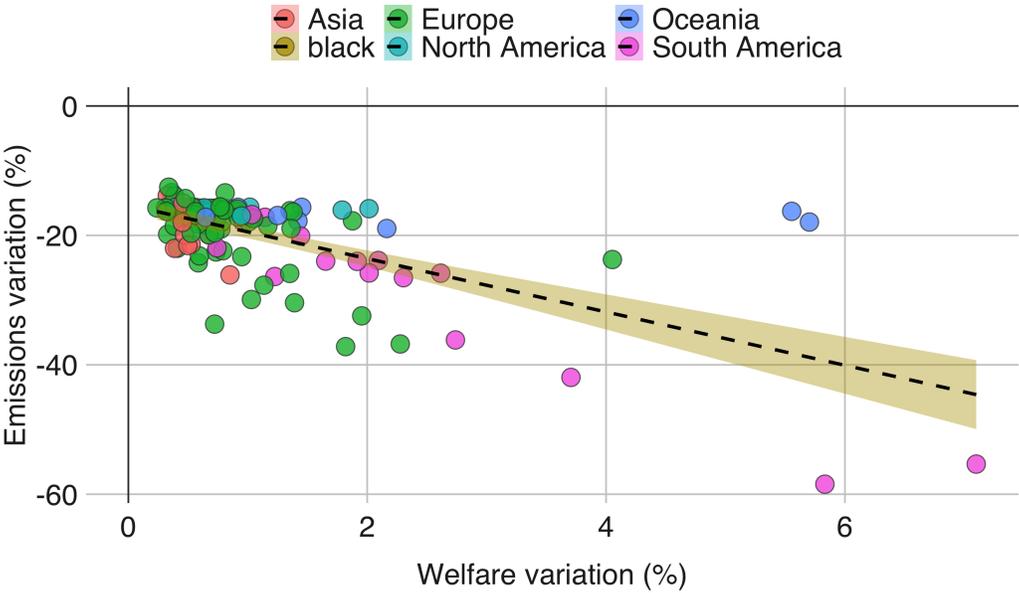


Figure S12. Emission reductions as a function of variations in welfare in all cities, when applying in each city welfare-increasing policies only. The dotted line represents the regression line. Welfare increases are significantly associated to emission decreases (p-value lower than 0.1%).

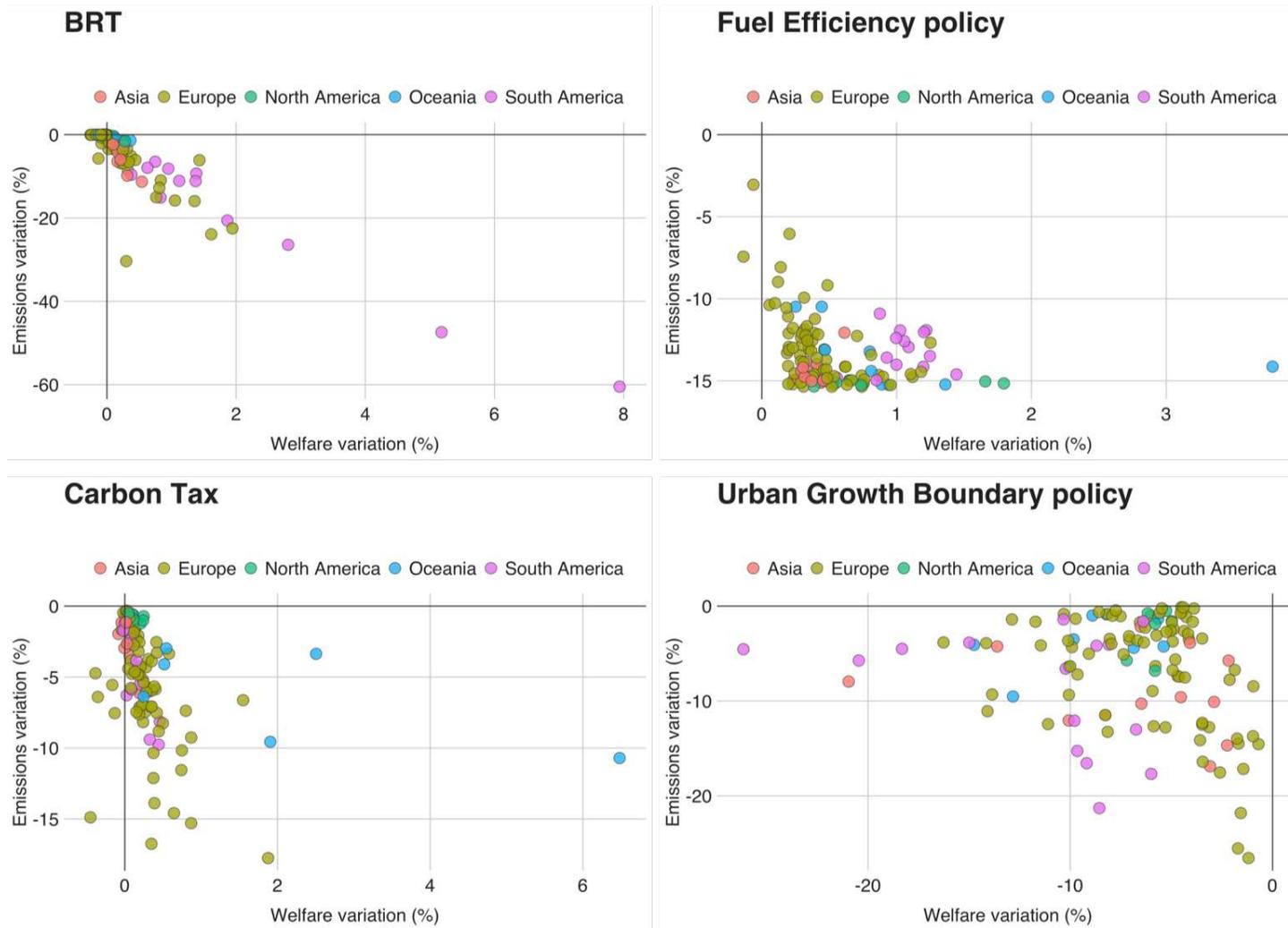


Figure S13. Emission and welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately.

Number of welfare-increasing policies

● 1 ● 2 ● 3

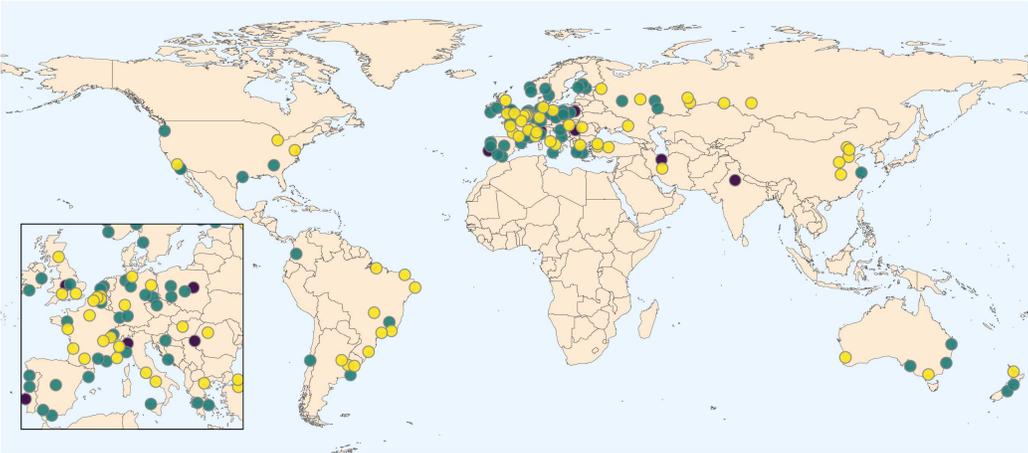


Figure S14. Number of policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate.

Impact of welfare-increasing policies

Global variation with respect to BAU scenario

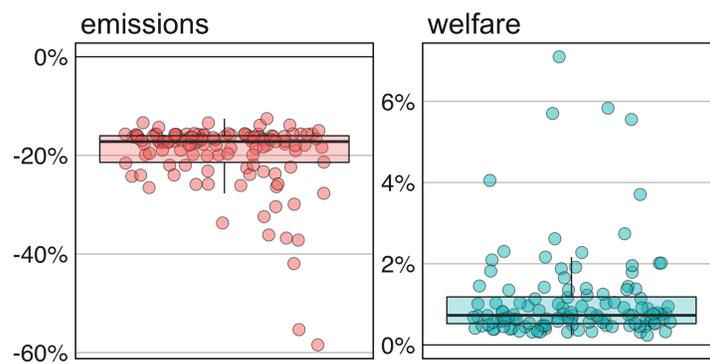


Figure S15. Impacts, in each city, of the only policies which increase welfare. The box plot represents the median, the 25th and the 75th percentile of each indicator. The emission decrease is typically between 16.0% and 21.4% (interquartile range, median is 17.2%), and the welfare increase between 0.53% and 1.18% (interquartile range, median is 0.73%).

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only

CO2 transport emission variation (%)

- more than -30%
- between -30% and -20%
- between -20% and -10%
- less than -10%

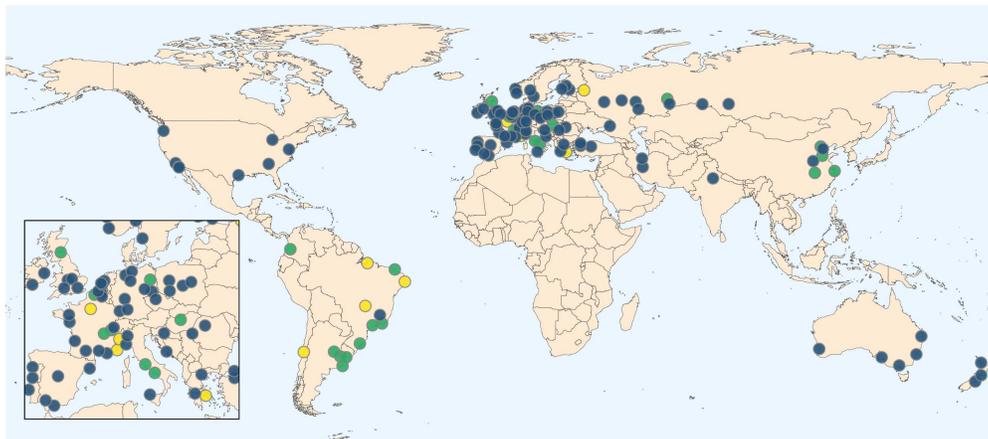


Figure S16. Impact on emissions of the policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate.

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only

Welfare variation (%)

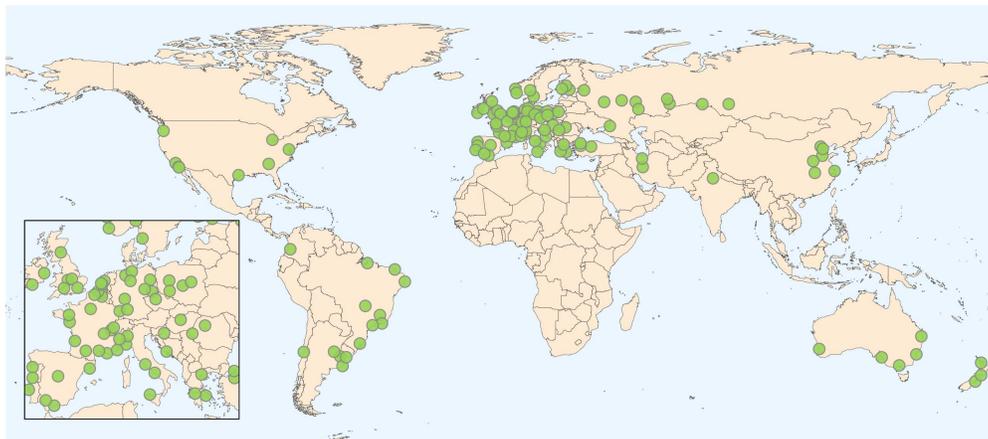


Figure S17. Impact on welfare of the policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate.

1254 **I Robustness checks**

1255 As a robustness check, we implement a slightly different version of each policy
 1256 and check that the results are qualitatively the same. For the fuel price and the
 1257 fuel efficiency policies, we change the parameters: for the fuel tax, we assume
 1258 that fuel prices increase by 10% in 2020, and for the fuel efficiency policy, we
 1259 assume that the fuel consumption of new private vehicles decreases by 2% per
 1260 year starting in 2020. For the BRT policy, we assume that 2 new public transport
 1261 lines (North-South and East-West) are built in each city, abstracting from the street
 1262 network. Finally, for the UGB, we assume that constructions beyond the areas that
 1263 have a density lower than 400 inhabitants per km² in 2020 are forbidden.

Policy	Modeling
BAU	No mitigation policy.
Fuel tax	Fuel price increases by 10%.
Fuel efficiency	Fuel consumption of private car - 2% per year.
BRT	2 new public transport lines (North-South and East-West), speed of 25km/h.
UGB	Constructions beyond 2020 area with a density lower than 400 inhabitants per km ² forbidden.

Table S13. Policy scenarios considered in this robustness check.

1264 Here are the results:

1265 [S18 Maps of emission variations](#) 69

1266 [S19 Maps of welfare variations](#) 70

1267 [S20 Variations in emissions and welfare \(box-plot\)](#) 71

1268 [S21 Decomposition of welfare variations](#) 72

1269 [S22 Variations in households expenses and income as a function of](#)
 1270 [variations in monetized health co-benefits](#) 73

1271 [S23 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations \(all policies](#)
 1272 [combined\)](#) 74

1273 [S24 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations \(welfare-](#)
 1274 [increasing policies\)](#) 75

1275 [S25 Emission variations as a function of welfare variations \(for each policy\)](#) 76

1276 [S26 Number of welfare-increasing policies](#) 77

1277 [S27 Impact of welfare-increasing policies \(box-plot\)](#) 78

1278 [S28 Impact of welfare-increasing policies on emissions \(map\)](#) 79

S29 Impact of welfare-increasing policies on welfare (map) 80

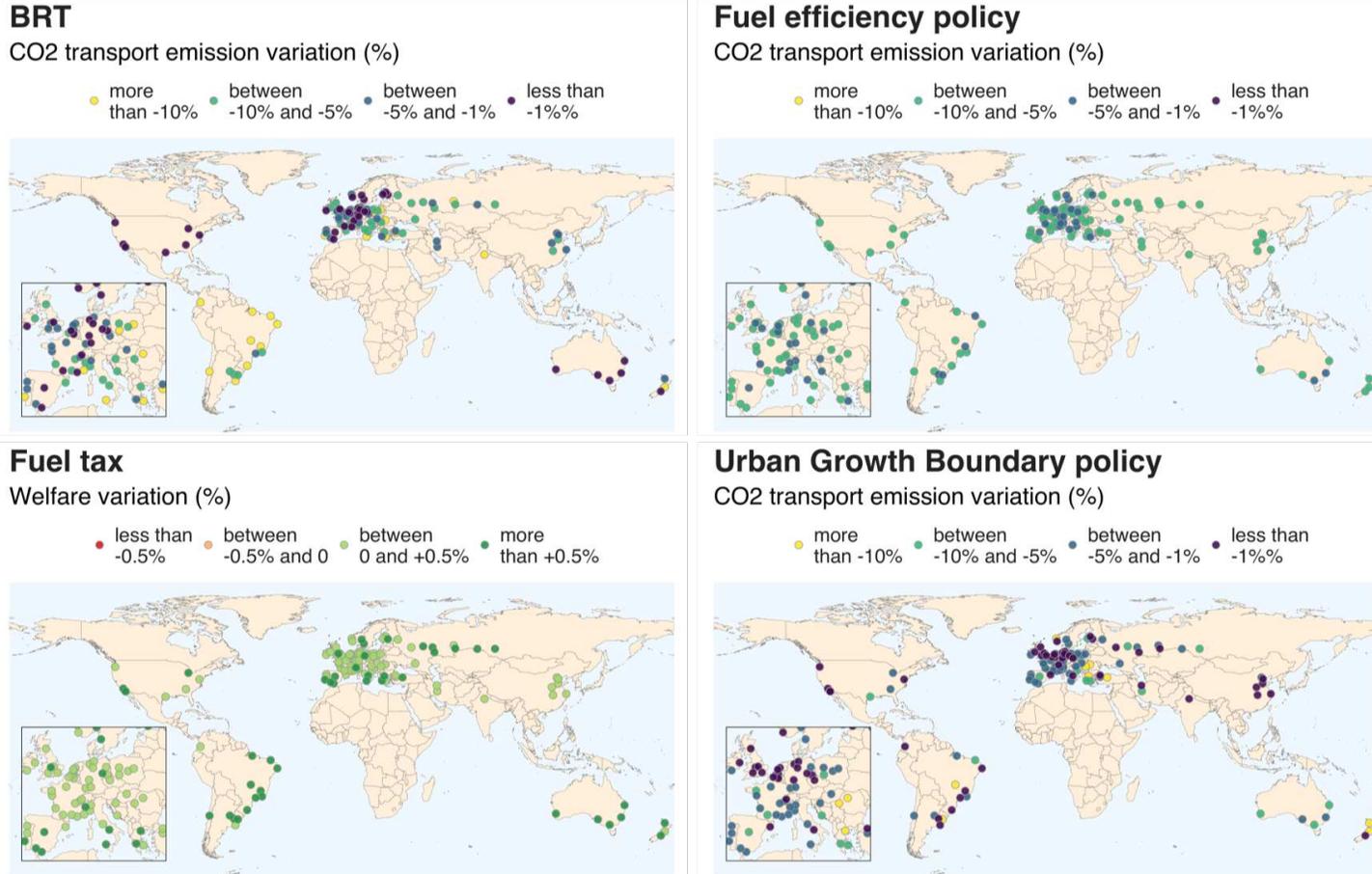


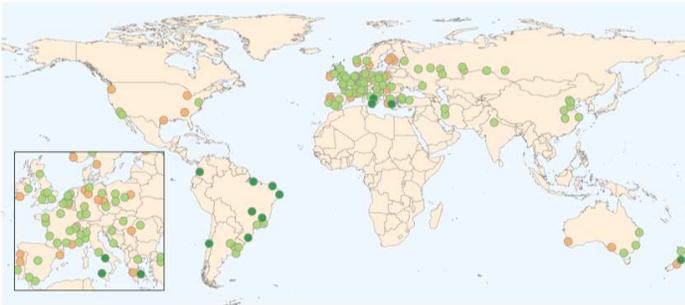
Figure S18. Emission variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately.[robustness check]

Policy's have heterogeneous impacts with cities. The BRT achieves the largest emissions mitigation in South America, while the fuel tax has the largest impact in Europe and SoUth America. By contrast, the fuel efficiency policy has a similar impact in most of the cities, except for Europe where the emissions mitigation is of a lower magnitude. Finally, the urban growth boundary allows to achieve large emissions mitigation in some cities in South America, Europe and China.[robustness check]

BRT

Welfare variation (%)

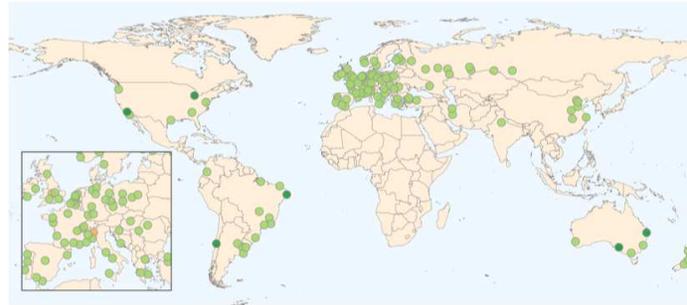
- less than -1%
- between -1% and 0
- between 0 and +1%
- more than +1%



Fuel efficiency policy

Welfare variation (%)

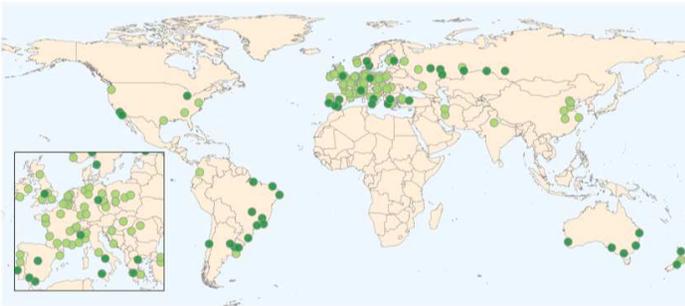
- less than -0.5%
- between -0.5% and 0
- between 0 and +0.5%
- more than +0.5%



Fuel tax

Welfare variation (%)

- less than -0.5%
- between -0.5% and 0
- between 0 and +0.5%
- more than +0.5%



Urban Growth Boundary policy

Welfare variation (%)

- less than -5%
- between -5% and 0
- between 0 and +5%
- more than +5%

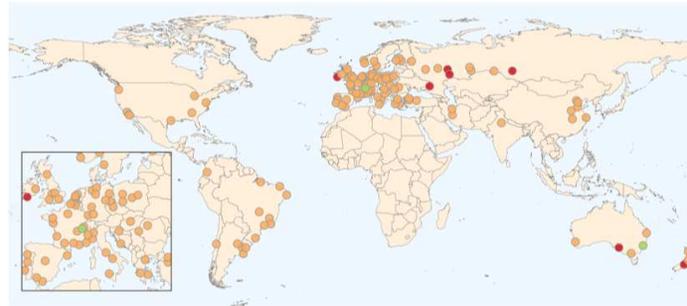


Figure S19. Welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately.[robustness check]

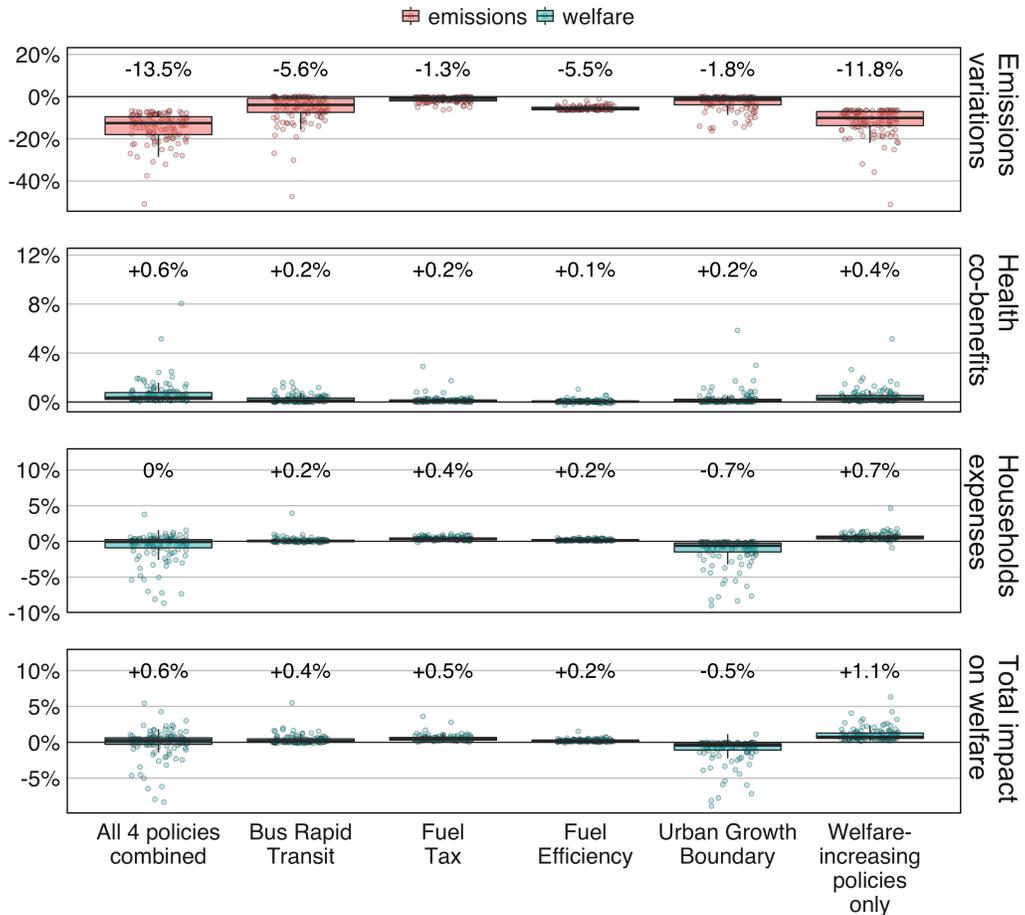


Figure S20. Impact of the four policies on annual transport emissions and average welfare in the 120 cities, in 2035, compared with the business-as-usual scenario. Each dot represents a city. The numbers above the box plots represent the aggregated mean of the changes, when taking into account cities population sizes. [robustness check]

Decomposition of welfare variations

Impact of variations in expenses, and of health co-benefits

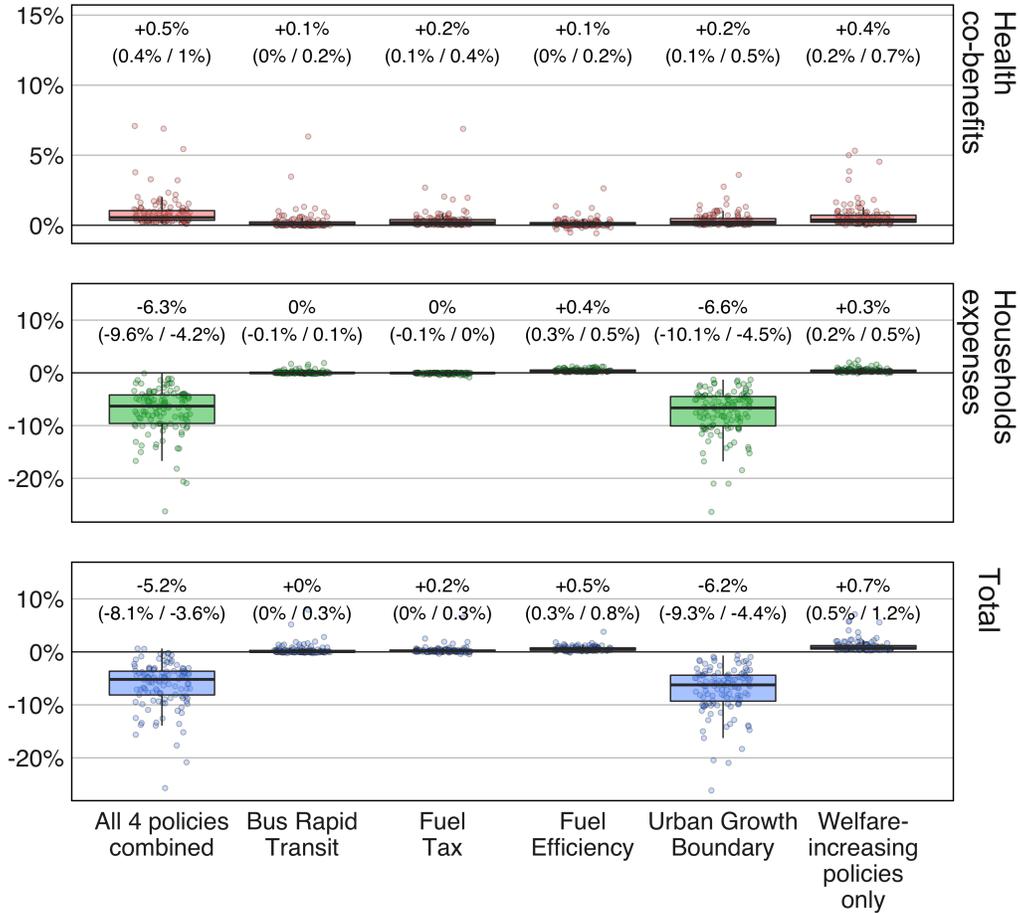


Figure S21. Decomposition of welfare variations between variations in households expenses and income, and variations in monetized health co-benefits. The number above the box plots represent the median, and in brackets, the 25th and the 75th quartiles.[robustness check]

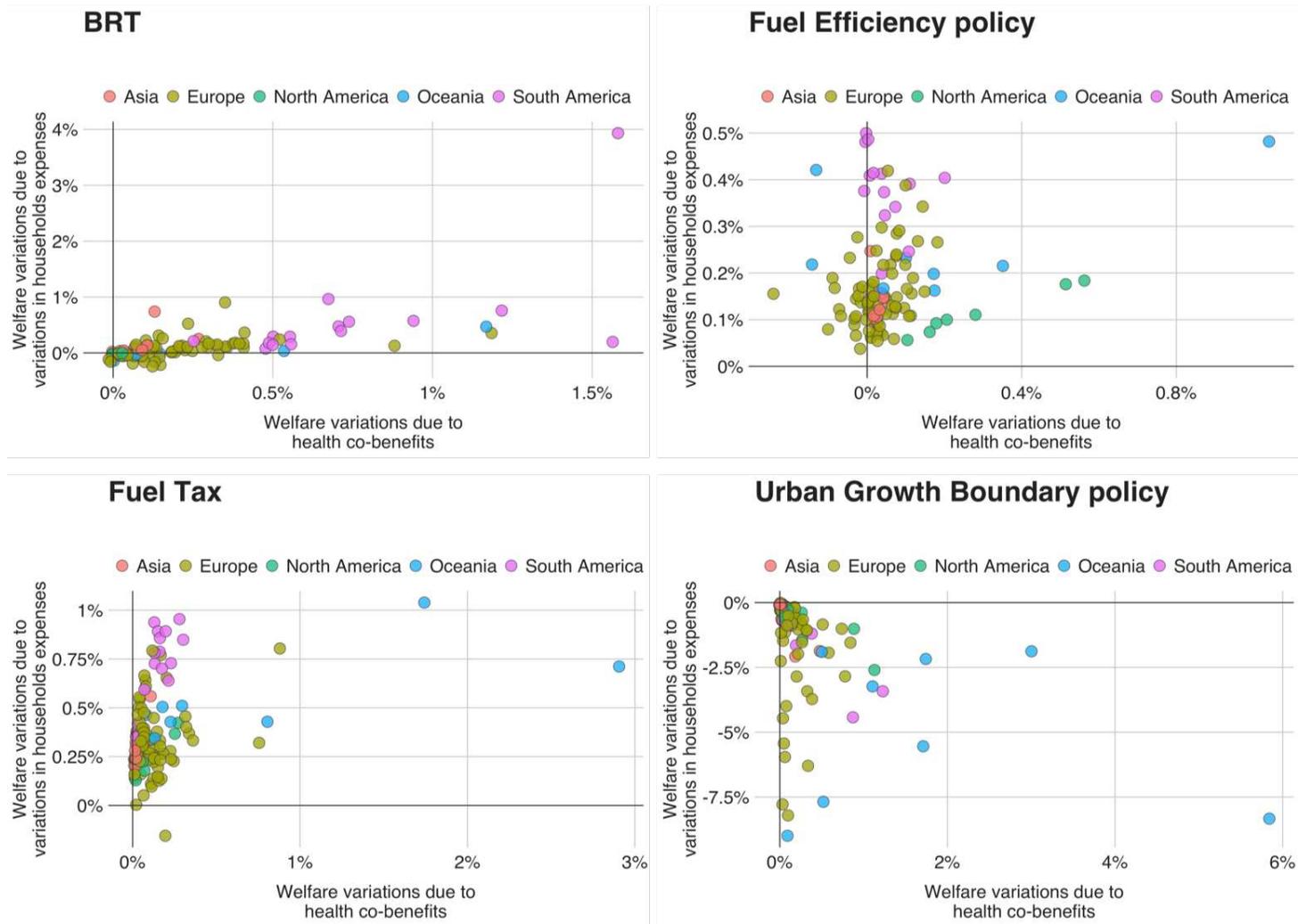


Figure S22. Decomposition of welfare variations: variations in households expenses and income as a function of variations in monetized health co-benefits.[robustness check]

Impact of the combined four policies

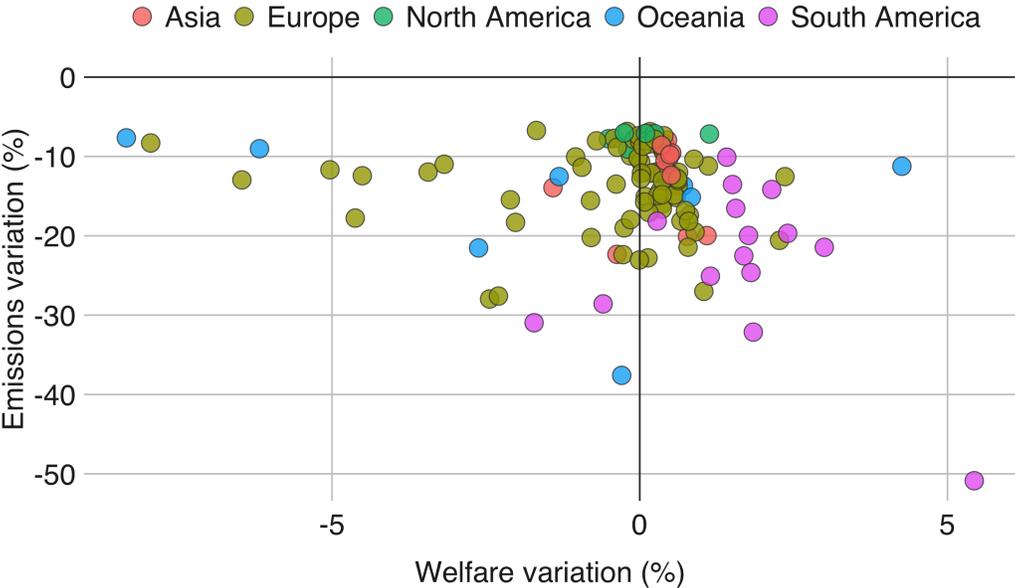
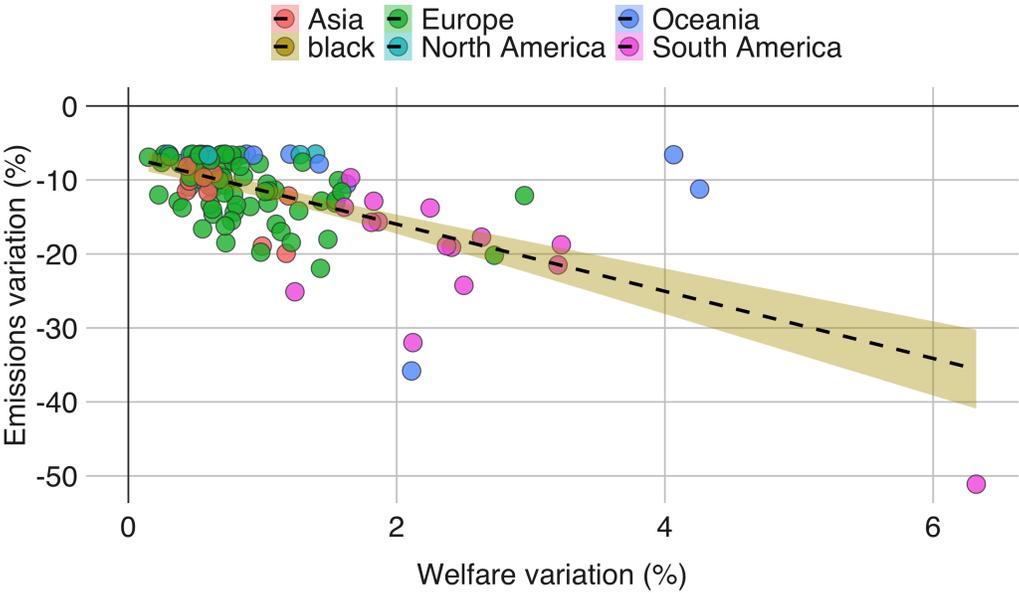


Figure S23. Emission and welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario. [robustness check]

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only



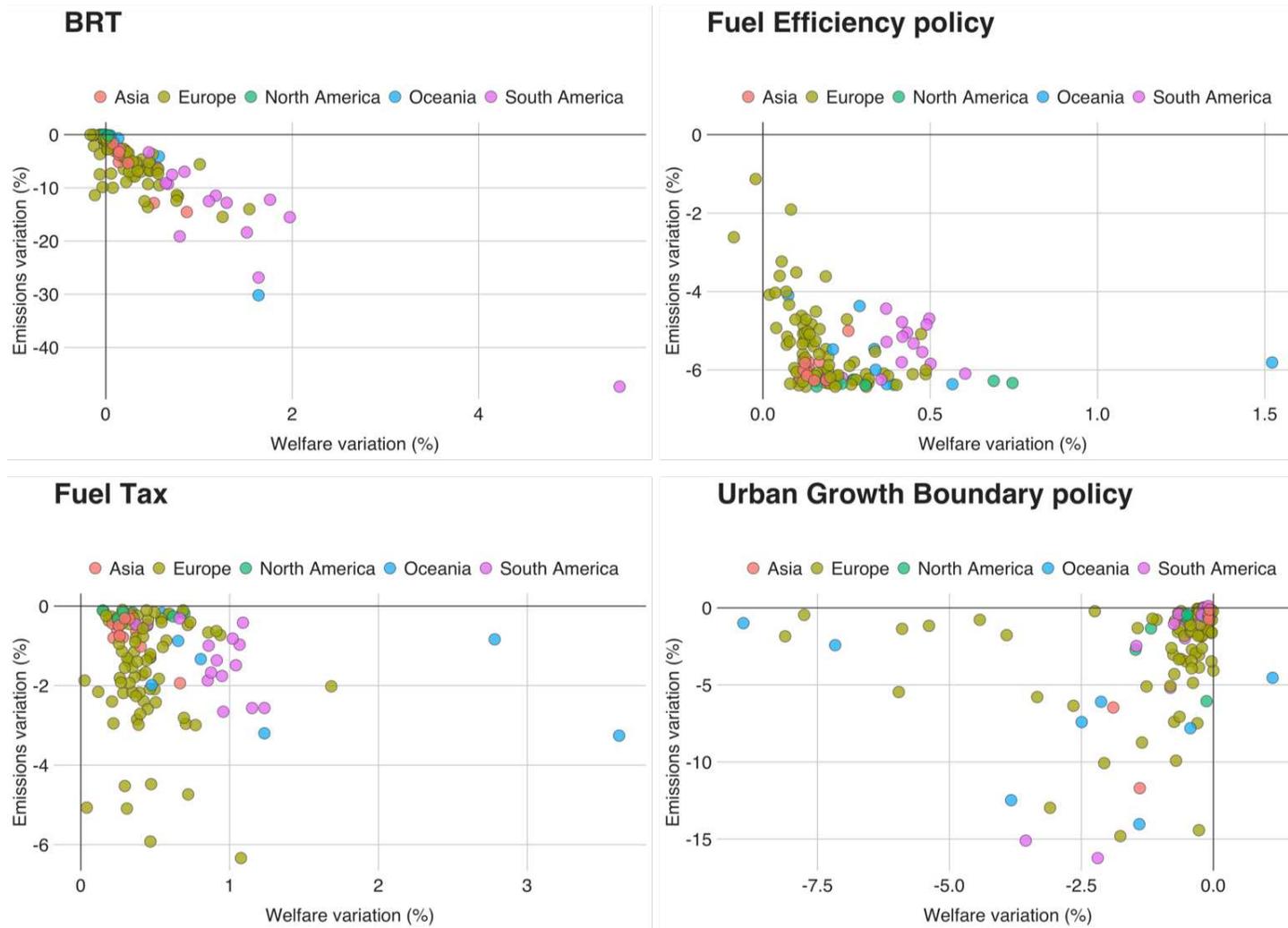


Figure S25. Emission and welfare variations in each city, in 2035, compared to the business as usual scenario, for each policy considered separately. [robustness check]

Number of welfare-increasing policies

● 2 ● 3 ○ NA

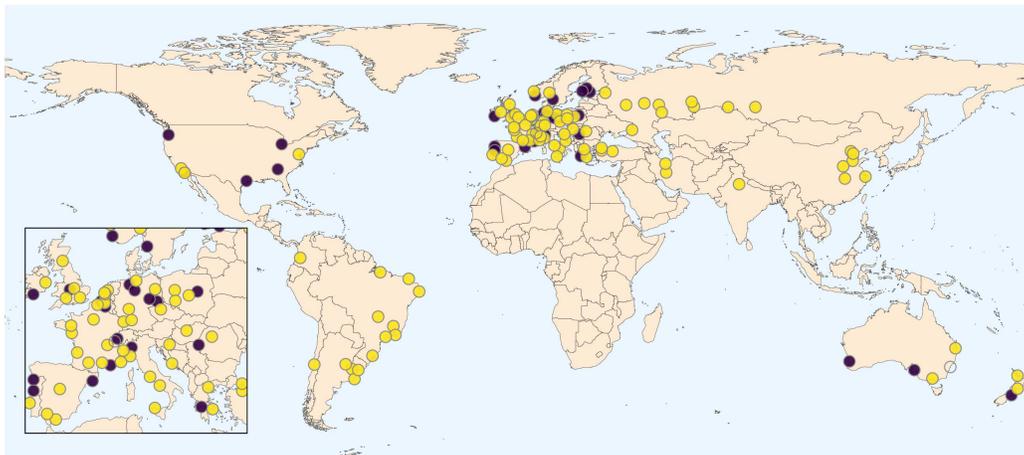


Figure S26. Number of policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate. [robustness check]

Impact of welfare-increasing policies

Global variation with respect to BAU scenario



Figure S27. Impacts, in each city, of the only policies which increase welfare. The box plot represents the median, the 25th and the 75th percentile of each indicator. The emission decrease is typically between 16.0% and 21.4% (interquartile range, median is 17.2%), and the welfare increase between 0.53% and 1.18% (interquartile range, median is 0.73%).[robustness check]

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only

CO2 transport emission variation (%)

- more than -30%
- between -30% and -20%
- between -20% and -10%
- less than -10%

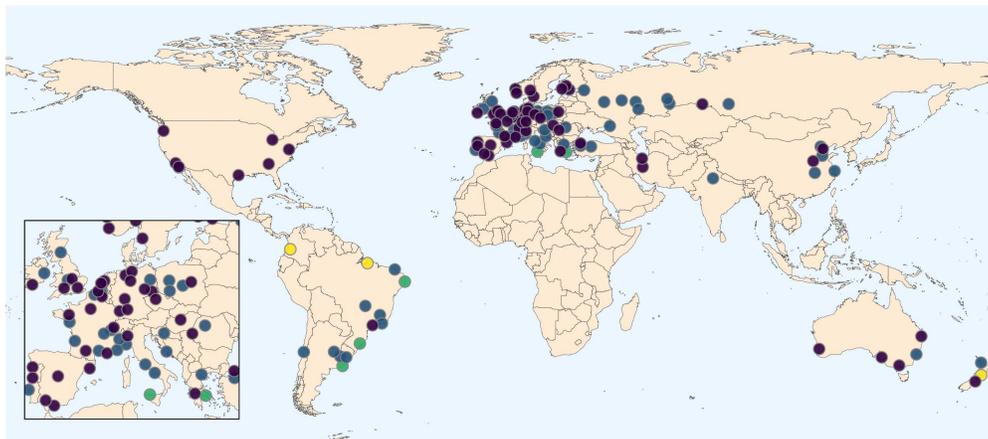


Figure S28. Impact on emissions of the policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate. [robustness check]

Impact of welfare-increasing policies only

Welfare variation (%)

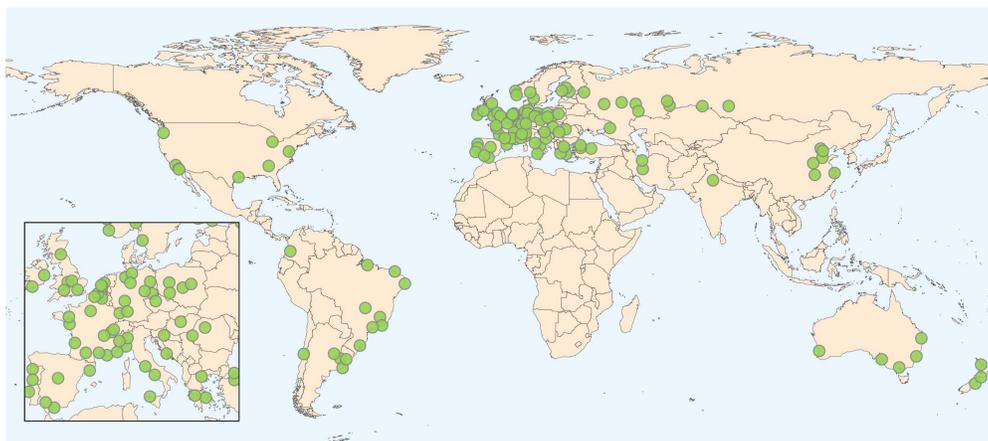


Figure S29. Impact on welfare of the policies which increase welfare, among the four policies that we simulate. [robustness check]