

ANALYTICS

Data helps C40 meet climate goals

Qlik Cloud® enables C40 to share climate analysis
and insights with 840,000 people worldwide



CUSTOMER STORY

“We use Qlik throughout pretty much everything that C40 does, but primarily to track emissions progress across our cities and to enforce our leadership standards.”

Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40

An inclusive and collaborative approach

The phrase ‘think local, act global’ has long been associated with the environmental movement to encourage positive actions at community level. C40 takes the concept a step further. It is a global network comprising 96 mayors of the world’s leading cities, all united by a common goal to confront the climate crisis.

C40 cities are committed to using an inclusive, science-based and collaborative approach to halve emissions by 2030, limit global warming and build stronger, fairer and more equitable communities. The network provides an opportunity to share research, successes and best practices. It also aims to inform and inspire other cities looking for ways to play their part.

Decisions based on science

Analytics is a central element of the work that C40 carries out. From tracking emissions, temperatures and air quality to monitoring transport, waste management and food systems, C40 bases its analysis, recommendations and actions on data.

“Whatever we do must be based on science,” says Mark Watts, Executive Director at C40. “We need to use data that is dependable so city officials can work on it to make suggestions and influence the actions their governments are taking.”

It was data that C40 originally acquired, collated and processed from multiple systems operated by member cities worldwide using manual techniques.

Solution Overview

Customer Name

C40

Industry

Public Sector

Geography

UK

Function

IT

Business Value Driver

Reimagined Processes

Challenges

- Acquire data from multiple disparate sources
- Manage and interpret high volumes of data
- Deploy data to deliver science-based insights

Solution

C40 chose Qlik Cloud and is using advanced functionalities including AI and machine learning.

Results

- Large datasets now processed quickly and easily
- Analysis and insights can be shared between cities
- Data used by 840,000 people across 17,000 municipalities

“We get our data from many different sources,” says Angel Monjarás, Data Visualization Developer at C40. “It is sourced from cities that volunteer data and also from publicly available information, climate databases and other NGOs. Our job is to blend all those different sources and make sense out of the information.”

The manual nature of the work meant this was a laborious task that was vulnerable to inaccuracy. It also meant that C40 staff struggled to cope with large volumes of data, which limited the available results.

An integrated and responsive platform

C40 knew there had to be a better way. It discovered Qlik Cloud. As an end-to-end, cloud-based data integration and analytics platform, it gave C40 the functionality it needed with the flexibility to make it accessible to users worldwide.

“We selected Qlik because of its ease of use, rapid deployment and the company’s commitment to what we do,” says Monjarás. “Qlik is very responsive to our needs and, as we are always on a budget, the support it provides to non-profit organizations means we can keep costs under control.”

Using Qlik, C40 has set up a range of dashboards covering key areas – greenhouse gas emissions, public policy and local initiatives. It also uses Qlik Cloud’s AI and machine learning capabilities to extract key insights from larger data volumes.

“We’re applying machine learning to climate datasets, which are often massive,” Monjarás adds. “We combine it with Qlik’s AI tools to analyze climate trends and emissions data to see if we can find patterns that can help us and the cities we serve do something about it.”

Impressive results with hours saved

C40 now uses Qlik across the world, with around 260 users and 10 developers in total. The analysis it provides is used internally and shared between the participating cities, with a range of dashboards also available publicly via a Knowledge Hub used by 840,000 people across 17,000 municipalities.

“Our 15-minute city initiatives explorer is brand new,” says Monjarás. “It shows people how climate affects – or may affect – their cities and what actions they can take to remediate or mitigate against those risks.”

Qlik Cloud’s AI capabilities mean users don’t need to be data science specialists or coding experts in order to access the data and produce meaningful analysis.

“It saves a lot of time,” Monjarás adds. “All we need to know is what we’re looking for and that the data is there. It can save hours of work.”

It’s a platform that is already delivering impressive results. Both C40 staff and external users are spotting trends and using them to inform actions.

Watts describes how Qlik highlighted that the second-largest source of emissions in Accra, Ghana, was methane emissions from waste. “We could identify where the illegal dumps were that were driving those emissions,” he says.

“Within six months of the mayor having that data, he closed those sites down. A couple of years later, the city now has got a really strong waste management policy, which is improving people’s health and cutting emissions.”

Exploring new opportunities and possibilities

The C40 Knowledge Hub is rapidly gaining popularity and a Qlik Sense app indicates which articles are most popular, who is accessing them and what feedback they are receiving. C40’s Knowledge Hub team can then use this information to refine and focus on the main areas of interest.

“The next steps are to encourage more citizen developers in C40, so more people can work with Qlik, make their own analyses and make them available to the rest of the organization,” he says. “We have a very strong data analysis and data literacy program.”

Qlik is now established as the data tool of choice for C40. “We use Qlik throughout pretty much everything that C40 does,” adds Watts. “But primarily it’s used to track emissions progress across our cities and enforce our leadership standards.”

Monjarás is now looking to the future and is excited by the new possibilities available to him and his team. In particular, he is keen to further explore the potential of AI and its ability to organize and present data, and the opportunities offered by Qlik Cloud.

“All our new developments are on the cloud and we hope to have all our internal applications on the cloud before the end of the year,” he explains. “Qlik’s machine learning tools mean the more data we get, the more we can apply it to our models and the more we can potentially learn from it. Qlik supports us by making everything easy to use.”

The keys to success



96 major cities use data to meet climate goals



840k users across 17,000 municipalities

“We’re applying machine learning to climate datasets, which are often massive. We combine it with Qlik’s AI tools to analyze climate trends and emissions data to see if we can find patterns that can help us and the cities we serve.”

Angel Monjarás, Data Visualization Developer, C40



About Qlik

Qlik’s vision is a data-literate world, where everyone can use data and analytics to improve decision-making and solve their most challenging problems. A private company, Qlik offers real-time data integration and analytics solutions, powered by Qlik Cloud, to close the gaps between data, insights and action. By transforming data into Active Intelligence, businesses can drive better decisions, improve revenue and profitability, and optimize customer relationships. Qlik serves more than 38,000 active customers in over 100 countries.

qlik.com