Climate Issue: Transport Emissions

To address the climate crisis, private vehicle usage must decrease.

- Cities across the United States are seeking to increase public transit ridership
- This goal often clashes with long-held cultural preferences for private vehicle use
- The perceived convenience of driving is strongly tied to the availability of parking
- Reducing the availability of parking can shift transport behaviors toward a more sustainable model.

Solution: Reduce Residential Parking

- Currently, many cities require housing developments to construct a certain number of parking spots per residential unit
- This encourages residents to rely on private cars for transportation
- Reducing the availability of residential parking can encourage instead the use of public transportation.

San Francisco: Putting a Cap on Parking

- San Francisco recently introduced a parking cap of one space for every two or four residential units in neighborhoods with plentiful public transit
- The data shows that these reductions in residential parking dramatically increase public transit use
- Reduced car usage has social, economic and environmental benefits
- It is important for these policy changes to be accompanied by efforts to increase public transit accessibility.

Data from San Francisco:

- 81% of households that own a vehicle in buildings with onsite parking
- 38% of households that own a vehicle in buildings without onsite parking

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- Science shows that private car usage is directly linked to parking availability
- To encourage the use of public transportation, cities can reduce residential parking
- San Francisco did this by introducing parking caps on residential developments
- Reducing residential parking can lead to long-term change in transportation behavior.

WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

- REPEAL local statutes that require parking quotas per residential unit for housing developments
- INTRODUCE maximum permissible parking quotas
- INVEST in infrastructure to ensure that public transit is equitably distributed and accessible throughout different neighborhoods
- PRIORITIZE equity as you reduce residential parking. It is critical that these changes do not further disadvantage neighborhoods without easy access to public transit.