

KEY NOTE VON GERNOT WAGNER

Titel

Cities cut carbon

Foto

New York City, 2021; photo by Jordan Graham

Personal announcement

Gernot Wagner, Climate Economist, Columbia Business School

Curriculum Vitae

Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School. His research, writing, and teaching focus on climate risks and climate policy. He writes a monthly column for *Project Syndicate* translated into a dozen languages and has written four books, most recently *Geoengineering: the Gamble* (Polity, 2021) and *Stadt, Land, Klima* ("City, Country, Climate"), published, in German, by Brandstätter Verlag (2021). Born in Amstetten, Austria, he lives in New York City with his gynecologist spouse and their two young children. gwagner.com

Abstract

Cities cut carbon. Their density, efficiency, and general *joie de vivre* means living carfree in the middle of everything cuts CO₂ by about half compared to the same household living in the suburbs. Efficient city living is, thus, both a model for tourism, and the efficiency and priorities of tourists are, in part, a model for how to organize our daily lives. There is, of course, life beyond cities, and that's the point: real cities enable nature to thrive, and vice versa. The trick: make cities even more attractive destinations for both tourists and as a place especially for young families to call home. Cities, thus, can go quite a bit farther, and go they must. In short: Cities, cut carbon!

