

## The commitment of food retail with sustainable mobility in the framework of the Paris Agreement



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The [Paris Agreement](#) sets out a global framework for action to reduce emissions, protect planet's natural resources and thus curb global warming. This requires the commitment of governments, but also of business and civil society. One of the questions on the fifth anniversary of this historic agreement is **how to engage citizens in a more sustainable society**. Beyond the awareness campaigns, which are always useful and necessary, it is interesting to study **how the business models adopted from different economic sectors have an impact on the footprint that citizens leave on our planet**.



I would like to share a **successful case study** that talks about **supermarkets and sustainable mobility in Spain**. A recent [report](#)\* concludes that 89.7% of supermarket customers go to the shops on foot or by bicycle, i.e. they perform their daily acts of shopping food with zero emissions in terms of travel. We can call it "healthy mobility". It is estimated that,

compared to a model in which one hundred percent of customers travel in a private car, there are emission reductions of between 62% of PM2.5 (suspended particles of less than 2.5 microns) and 90% of CO (carbon monoxide), among others. The reduction in emissions therefore has an impact on the improvement of urban air quality. **The contribution of food distribution and retail based on proximity is therefore essential to the development of sustainable food systems.**

Furthermore, the location and size of the supermarket format also conditions the way in which workers go to work. Here again, sustainable (and healthy) mobility, whether on foot or by public transport (over 73 per cent) beats the private car, with the consequent advantages, not only environmental, but also economic, for these workers.

This is possible because the food retail model extended in Spain has a high capillarity, with a high level of proximity stores in urban areas without neglecting supply in rural

areas avoiding so-called food deserts., that offers to the consumers a complete range of products next to their homes, capable of covering their food and hygiene needs in a single act of purchase.

Returning to the Paris Agreement, its ultimate aim is to improve the lives of citizens by making our planet more habitable for us, and above all for future generations, by safeguarding natural resources. The European Union's commitment is strong, as demonstrated by the content of the recently adopted [Recovery Plan](#). To achieve this great challenge, we must first aim at other challenges, such as reducing pollution in cities or increasing air quality. If this is important for civil society, **business must be involved given its capacity to act as a lever for change towards sustainability**. The [Green Deal roadmap](#), which reflects the Recovery Plan, represents the way forward, but to succeed, **business needs support in addressing the investment needed and in incorporating technologies for these purposes**, thereby facilitating employment growth and desired economic development.

\* [http://www.asedas.org/documentacion\\_asedas/supermercados-y-proximidad-comercial-en-la-movilidad-sostenible/](http://www.asedas.org/documentacion_asedas/supermercados-y-proximidad-comercial-en-la-movilidad-sostenible/)

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