**Curitiba**

Describe how Curitiba is aiming to be a sustainable city.

How successful has it been?

Curitiba is in Southern Brazil. It has a population of 1.8million people.

Its planners aimed to improve the environment but maintain the historic

sector, control urban sprawl, reduce pollution and traffic in the city centre, limit waste and improve the quality of life for its residents.

Strategies Curitiba’s planners have used for achieving **sustainability**:

1. **Reducing car use**

* The Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system has four elements – direct line buses that operate from key pick-up points, speedy buses that operate on five main routes into the city, inter-district buses which join up districts without crossing the city and feeder buses that pick people up from residential areas. There are buses every 60 seconds!
* There are special pre-pay boarding stations and high speed bus stops called tubes that reduce boarding times and bus-only lanes to speed up journeys.
* The same cheap fare is paid for all journeys, which benefits poorer residents who tend to live on the outskirts of the city
* There are also 200km of bike paths.

Curitiba has the lowest levels of air pollution in Brazil and car use is 25% lower than the national average. It also means less fossil fuels are being used.

1. **Recycling Schemes**

* 70% of rubbish is recycled.
* Residents in poorer areas are given food and bus tickets for bringing their recycling into local collection points.

This means that fewer resources are used and less waste has to go into landfill¸so more resources are available for future generations.

1. **Open space and conserved natural environments**

* There are over 1000 parks and natural areas, many of them created in areas of high flood risk so no serious damage would be done if it flooded.
* Residents have planted over 1 million trees along the city’s streets
* A flock of sheep are used to graze the parkland
* Builders are given tax breaks if their building projects include green spaces.
* A new botantical garden has been located on the site of an abandoned quarry.

99% of Curitiba’s residents said they were happy with their town in a survey! There is also a public housing programme (COHAB) that will provide 50 000 homes for the urban poor. Supplying meals in the schools has also encouraged the poorest to attend classes. As a consequence, juvenile delinquency and begging was put to a halt.