

# Los Angeles

## Location and Size:

Los Angeles is located in southern California in the USA. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the USA, home to 24 million people and in the 1970s was the fastest growing city in the USA. The average population density is 3000/km<sup>2</sup>. It is also home to Hollywood, with Universal, Warner Brothers and Paramount Pictures operating there.

## Reasons for the growth:

- The arrival of the railway in 1976 stimulated rapid growth with 0.5 million arriving here within 40 years
- Discovery of oil and opening of manufacturing plants
- Aircraft industries located test flights and production sites here due to the good weather all year round
- Development of the film industry Hollywood in the 1920-30s

## Problems created:

1. **Suburban sprawl** - arrival of transport links such as railways and motorways means that people can live away from the city, but still commute there to work. This creates problems of congestion and the development of rural land
2. **Increasing reliance on cars** - 10 million car owners create an environmental hazard known as smog. The location of LA in a basin means that pollution becomes trapped above the city. Only 4% of people use public transport costing each driver \$1000 a year.
3. **Waste** - 24 million people produce around 50,000 tonnes of waste per day
4. **Housing** - the increase in rural to urban migration means that there is a server lack of housing and therefore pressure on them
5. **Circular City** - industries have moved out the centre of the city due to cheaper premises and wages, with the centre being filled by TNC headquarters.

## How can Los Angeles become more sustainable?

The Progressive Los Angeles Network (PLAN) proposes an agenda for sustainable living which focuses on the issues of transport, food, economic development and housing. This contains a 21 point agenda which contains proposals towards a more sustainable Los Angeles. Some of these:

- Providing community benefits such as childcare and affordable housing
- Promoting clean fuel vehicles and green energy
- Ensuring developers built more affordable housing in all residential developments
- Improving public transport
- Promote smarter growth where people can live in the same areas

