URBAN LEDS
URBAN LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability | UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Urban-LEDS project in Brazil

2 Model and 6 Satellite Cities have committed to Low Emissions Urban Development

The project Urban-LEDS ('Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries'), funded by the European Commission, is being implemented by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) in partnership with UN-Habitat. The responsible ICLEI Office dealing with Brazil is the ICLEI South America Secretariat (ICLEI SAMS).

Current activities

Creating a rich environment for exchange and cooperation, the eight Brazilian cities selected for the Urban-LEDS project linked to the project at different stages, with diverse levels of experience and priorities. A common challenge in the national context is that very few local governments currently measure their community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While building long-term participatory structures and a policy framework, the Urban-LEDS cities in Brazil are currently supporting one another in multi-sectoral processes to gather quality data for harmonized baseline GHG inventories. These steps will pave the way towards eventual development of multi-sectorial, city-level low emissions development strategies in the Model Cities, and possible replication and scaling up in the Satellite Cities and elsewhere. ICLEI SAMS has been guiding this process, and working to outline further steps for those cities which have developed their inventories, and will set up monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

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Global relevant processes

There are a number of global developments which impact on local governments and cities around the globe.

- Moving towards a standard - **Global Protocol for Community-Scale GHG Emissions (GPC)**
- Offering a global climate reporting platform for cities – **carbon*n* Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)**
- Developing an **MRV (Measurable, Reportable, Verifiable) process for local climate strategies**
- Advocacy to explore improved national-local dialogue and framework conditions supporting local climate action - **Local Government Climate Roadmap** and **Friends of Cities group** at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Outlining guidance and informing stakeholders about **vertically integrated NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions)**.

National processes relevant to Brazilian municipalities

Brazil is a signatory to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Even though it is an urban and urbanizing country, its last official GHG inventory shows an emission profile focusing on land use change and agriculture sectors. In 2009, the country adopted a voluntary commitment to reduce projected emissions by 36.1% to 38.9% below the business-as-usual level by 2020 – largely based on policies to reduce deforestation.

In contrast, a more recent (2012) estimate of Brazil's patterns of GHG emissions [1] shows a great decrease in land use change related emissions accompanied by a significant increase in emissions in the energy sector. To meet its goals the country will need to tackle this challenge over the next several years. In 2009 Brazil approved the National Policy on Climate Change (Law 12.187). It is currently revising the National Plan on Climate Change, including several sectoral aspects relevant to cities. Local and subnational counterparts hold seats in the Brazilian Climate Change Forum. Over the past years, the National Government has approved policies for Waste Management and Mobility, two key urban emitting sectors. In May 2012, it opened a window for cities under its National Climate Change Fund, and is currently preparing a National Program for Sustainable Cities.

Throughout 2013 ICLEI SAMS has participated in discussions and debates organized by the Climate Change National Forum and the Climate Change Observatory on the review of sectorial plans and the launch of the National Estimation System of GHG emissions.

National Project Advisory Group

A National Project Advisory Group (PAG) is being created to gather key national partners. Invited institutions include relevant national ministries, universities, partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private and financial sectors representatives and regional and national branches of international organizations.

The role of the PAG is to bring together relevant stakeholders as an expert group that provides practical and strategic advice to the Country Project team, for the effective implementation of the Urban-LEDS project. Further, the intention is also to explore and optimize synergies with existing other initiatives, and to identify additional opportunities that through partnership can accelerate the urban low-emission growth paradigm.

[1] Sistema de Estimativa de Emissão de Gases de Efeito Estufa – SEEG. Available at http://seeg.observatoriodoclima.eco.br

Urban-LEDS project – Cities in Brazil

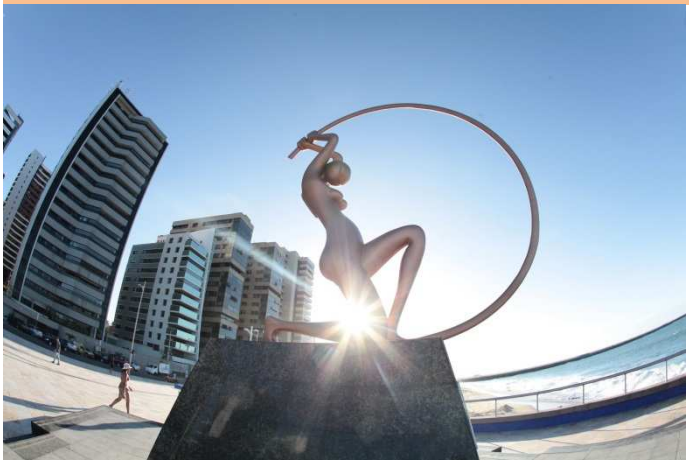
In each project target country, two Model Cities have been selected and are assisted in formulating and adopting their Urban Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDS). They also share their experiences with five Satellite Cities, which observe, learn and share their own experiences.

City selection criteria included: urban and population growth rate, regional connectivity, political and institutional context, degree of commitment to low carbon development, and synergies with other existing projects and initiatives.

Relevant specifically to Latin America and Brazil, a joint work program is also under development with the URBELAC initiative (Urban European and Latin American and Caribbean cities) to optimize synergies and cooperation.

Below is a list of the Model and Satellite Cities with a summary of key data and their main priorities identified that are relevant to their low emission development.

The Model Cities



Fortaleza

Population: 2,500,186
Area: 314.93 km²
Main economic activities: tourism, services, trade and transformation industry

City priorities and expectations:
The state capital of Ceará, it has the 5th largest city in Brazil and has the highest population density of the Brazilian capitals. Climate change has been identified as a priority and urgent issue, and Fortaleza seeks to incorporate low carbon measures in the city´s development plans. The Municipal Administration believes the Urban-LEDS project will provide effective stimulus towards new consumption patterns for a green and sustainable economy.

Recife

Population: 1,537,704
Area: 218.50 km²
Main economic activities: trade, services, transformation industry, tourism, technological campus.

City priorities and expectations:
Considered a vulnerability hotspot, the city earmarks high importance to the creation of policies that incorporate sustainability, harmonizing economic efficiency, social and productivity inclusion with the protection and recovery of environmental resources; making use of cutting edge technologies to service better quality of life.

The Satellite Cities

Belo Horizonte

Population: 2.375.151
Area: 332 km^2
Main economic activities: services and corporate tourism

City priorities and expectations: Since 2006 the city has been progressing with concerted climate action. Recently a City Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – PREGEE – was developed. The aim is now to continue learning and improving local climate actions.

Betim

Population: 388.873
Area: 346 km^2
Main economic activities: industry, trade and services

City priorities and expectations: Having industry as the main economic activity, the focus is on promoting sustainability programs, projects and policies, contributing to local quality of life and emphasizing experiences in the promotion and use of renewable energy.

Curitiba

Population: 1.751.907
Area: 435,036 km^2
Main economic activities: services, trade, industry and construction

City priorities and expectations: The current priority is to implement a strategy for integrated sustainable development locally and regionally, including sanitation, incentives to sustainable construction, to rational consumption of energy and the use of renewable energy.

Porto Alegre

Population: 1.409.351
Area: 496,682 km^2
Main economic activities: services, trade, tourism and primary sector

City priorities and expectations: A pioneer in discussions and implementation of environmental and participation policies, Porto Alegre is setting goals to reduce GHGs, integrated in a broad process of planning that is being developed for the present and future of the city.

Rio de Janeiro

Population: 6.323.037
Area: 1.224,56 km^2
Main economic activities: services, tourism, and trade

City priorities and expectations: With its climate change policy, Rio de Janeiro has its main instrument to realize the goal of being a worldwide reference city in the areas of maintaining a sustainable transport matrix, an eco-efficient economy, and education for a low-carbon society.

Sorocaba

Population: 598.795
Area: 449 km^2
Main economic activities: industry, services and trade

City priorities and expectations: Increasingly seeking to encourage local policies to tackle the negative impacts of climate change at the local level, Sorocaba is prioritizing among others: green spaces, environmental education, sewage treatment, cycling routes and conservation areas.

To learn more visit: http://www.urban-leds.org