



Urban-LEDS Newsletter # 2 - March 2014

This newsletter is about cities and how they bravely move towards a path that is low-emission, low-carbon and sustainable. It is about a project, the Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries (Urban-LEDS), jointly implemented by ICLEI and UN-Habitat and funded by the European Commission, that is helping cities in emerging economies to transition to low emission development. It is about the people behind the project—the community members, the leaders, the city staff, the project partners, and stakeholders, and how they tackle the challenges to make the project a success.

This newsletter will tell those stories – and much more! This will be your guide to the latest happenings, stories, technologies, on low emission development.

Thank you very much and enjoy reading!

Cities connect at the first LEDS peer-exchange

Local political leaders and technical municipal staff of 17 (out of the 37) Urban-LEDS project cities from 6 countries came together in South Africa at the end of 2013 to connect, exchange and explore the dimensions of urban low emission development. The result: highly motivated people keen to accelerate climate change mitigation and sustainable development in their cities.

Networking and peer exchange are essential elements when addressing capacity development on local climate action. Every city and its local government has its own unique context, which impacts on the planning of a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). Yet, local leaders and municipal staff can and definitely want to learn from one another, enjoying

peer exchanges – gaining an understanding of one another’s challenges, approaches and solutions. Further, it is useful to get an update on existing guidance and knowledge, which ICLEI and UN-Habitat offer to cities. The first Urban-LEDS International Networking Seminar was hosted by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, South Africa, in November 2013.

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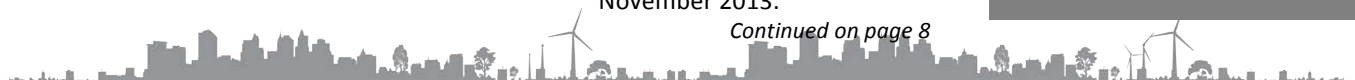
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Mayor of Recife pushes Climate Change Bill

Just recently Geraldo Julio, Mayor of Urban-LEDS city Recife, Brazil, has sent a Bill of Law on Climate Change and Sustainability for approval by the City Council. This has the potential to significantly contribute to the city's long-term development plan regarding a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS).

Mayor Julio Gerardo of Recife, Brazil



Mayor Geraldo Julio aims for Recife to become a model city, also at the regional level in addressing climate change and sustainable development. He has now further prepared the basis for this accomplishment.

A first step towards reaching this goal was signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICLEI in April last year, making Recife one of two Brazilian Model Cities of the Urban-LEDS project. He reiterated the significance of this step by stating that: "Thanks to the agreement signed with ICLEI, Recife will be the first city in the North and Northeast regions of Brazil to measure greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city and to set incremental goals to reduce these pollutants by 2020".

Later that year, at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) –UN Climate Conference - in November in Warsaw, the Mayor called local governments the "closest level to citizens" and reminded that cities host the majority of people worldwide, emphasizing the importance of their role in the global discussion on climate change.

That Mayor Geraldo Julio takes this role serious is clearly demonstrated by the fact that, after his return from COP19, he prepared a Bill of Law on Climate Change and Sustainability which was sent to the City Council for approval in February 2014.

The Climate Change Bill requires the municipality to

conduct a community-wide GHG inventory using 2012 as the baseline year. It further requires the Local Government to set targets for 2020. The Mayor highlighted that this Bill follows the need to maintain GHG emissions below a threshold that represents a dangerous interference with the climate system, as according to the UNFCCC. With this action Recife is one step closer to realizing its long-term development plan regarding a Low Emission Development Strategy and the further reduction of GHGs until 2020 -engaging as a role model for local climate mitigation action, also beyond the Urban-LEDS project.



Bologna and Helsinki join the Urban-LEDS project

ICLEI members Bologna (Italy) and Helsinki (Finland) have been selected to join the group of European cities to take part in the Urban-LEDS International City Network. Bologna has a long history of mainstreaming environmental criteria into its development plans, having most recently developed a series of procedures and indicators to ensure it achieves sustainability. Helsinki, meanwhile, has championed decentralised district energy networks to minimise fuel waste, as one of many interesting actions addressing greenhouse gas emission reduction.



Helsinki, Finland

Chosen because of their commitment to sustainability and environmental principles, they join the other European project cities: Almada (Portugal), Copenhagen (Denmark), Hannover (Germany), Gaziantep (Turkey), Warsaw (Poland), and Zagreb (Croatia). The Urban-LEDS project, which supports peer-

to-peer learning and exchange between cities in the Global North and South, aims to develop capacity and promote new ideas on low emission urban development.

The European cities will share their experiences with municipalities from the emerging economies of Brazil, India, Indonesia and South

Africa in a series of study tours, networking events, webinars and exchanges. In return, they hope to draw inspiration from the innovative approaches to sustainable urban development applied by these cities over the course of the project.

Bogor City “Walkability Campaign”

Bogor, known as one of the most traffic-congested cities in Indonesia, put ecomobile transportation as its number one low emission development priority.

The first bike lane as well as the second stage of a pedestrian lane in Bogor City, Indonesia were successfully launched on 22 December 2013 as part of the “Walkability Campaign” – a project of the Bogor Pedestrian Coalition cooperating with the GIZ ‘Sustainable Urban Transport Improvement Project’ (SUTIP) and with support of ICLEI Southeast Asia.

The overall planning of the pedestrian lane consists of nine stages covering around 25 kilometers of main roads in the city. The Walkability Campaign is strongly supported by the City’s Mayor and aims at promoting ecomobile forms of transport, especially for short distance trips within the city, to decrease GHG emissions and support the urban LEDS of the City of Bogor.



Exploring the Green Building Concept

Recognizing the significant contribution of buildings to a city's energy efficiency level Bogor City, Indonesia plans the citizen's House of Representative based on the recently adopted sustainable building concept.

In view to the support of its low emission development strategy on buildings, Bogor City together with ICLEI South East Asia (SEAS) held a technical workshop on the building plans for a sustainable House of Representative building on February 19, 2014. Marko Kusumawijaya, Director of Center for Urban Studies and Andesh Hermintomo from Jong Arsitek shared their expert advice on how

to implement the sustainable building concept. As a result of this meeting ICLEI is developing a Detailed Engineering Design (DED) to be in-line with the sustainability concept, a sustainable building guidebook and a Mayoral Decree on Sustainable Building Standardization.



GPC Stakeholder Consultations conclude

The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC) provides requirements and guidance for cities on preparing and publicly reporting GHG emission inventories. It has been tested by 35 cities to provide feedback.



The GPC pilot version 1.0 was released on May 14, 2012 and has been tested in 35 cities around the world. Seven Stakeholder Consultation Workshops were held to gather their experiences. Jakarta, Indonesia, hosted the closing Workshop on January 10, 2014 collecting input on the practicability of the pilot version from cities in the South East Asia region. 13 Cities attended the event, along with representatives

from development agencies, academics, as well as national government such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Secretariat for National Action Plan on GHG.

The collected experiences from all Consultation Workshops will form the basis for improving the further development of the Protocol to be released before COP20 in Lima.



KwaDukuza’s vision for low-carbon green urban economy

In an innovative future scenario planning process, KwaDukuza Municipality, South Africa invited key stakeholders from the city, neighbouring municipalities and the province to create a low-carbon development vision for the wider area’s future growth and development.



KwaDukuza’s brainstorming session participants

More than 35 people from the Municipality, District and Provincial Government, business, NGOs and the local community spent an intensive day-and-a-half brainstorming an effective vision statement for the Municipality’s future sustainable growth trajectory. Deputy Mayor of KwaDukuza, Ms Dolly Govender, stated at the outset that: “We will make sure that the outcomes of this workshop will be mainstreamed into council and development planning”.

The effective integration of local businesses in any urban Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) was outlined by Trenley Tilbrook, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of iLembe Chamber of Commerce: “I would like to commend KwaDukuza Municipality (KDM) for being progressive

and proactive in taking the initiative to develop a low carbon emission development outlook. This can however only be implemented effectively in partnership with business. As the Chamber, representing business in the area, we are looking forward to partnering with KDM in this regard.”

Low-emission development actively contributes to reducing local air pollution and optimizing energy use. It also offers great potential for creating jobs and investment opportunities in the medium to long-term. Scenario planner and process facilitator Shahid Solomon succinctly captured the essence of the approach: “Low-carbon is not a nice-to-have, it is no longer a green consciousness issue. We’re too deep in the transition; it has now become a business

issue. If we don’t anticipate it, we might get priced out the game.”

Questions that were explored included: How will KwaDukuza look and feel to its inhabitants in the radically different world of 2030? Would there be public transport? Will the air be clean? Will planning promote green industry and create green jobs for local people?

As a result of this workshop KwaDukuza Municipality has drafted a low-carbon vision statement and identified the needs to reach that vision. This strategic work will be integrated into a strategic framework and the Municipality’s upcoming City Development Strategy process.



Project Advisory Group in India paves the way for private sector cooperation

Tangible action proposals at the first Project Advisory Group meeting, is taking the Urban-LEDS project in India forward; discussions with leading private players in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency kicked off.

The Project Advisory Group (PAG) gave strategic directions to take forward the Urban LEDS project through concrete projects, potentially involving private sector companies, at their first meeting held in New Delhi on 5 February 2014. Participating were numerous representatives from organisations like KfW (German Development bank), GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), UN-Habitat, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), the European Commission and Schneider Electric India Pvt. Ltd.. They acknowledged the potential of the Urban-LEDS project of creating a valuable platform for building and developing a sustainable environment as well as raising awareness among the population for the need of urban low emission

developments.

To enable a strategically important long lasting impact it was stressed that educating children on the benefits of sustainable development is crucial, i.e. by inclusion of related topics in school curricula. Furthermore, initiating exchange and learning programmes between Indian and European cities should be explored. Especially in the field of Renewable Energy (RE) supply and Energy Efficiency (EE) this would be worthwhile since European cities' climate policies can serve as blueprints for the Indian context. Focus would be the reduction of energy consumption in the building sector, which is a major energy guzzler in a city.

Another key for the uptake of renewable energy practices in a city is to reach out to the private sector, exploring suitable business

models which enhance public-private partnerships. Also, it is important to educate the community which can be done through leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities to raise awareness on energy conservation and energy efficiency.

ICLEI South Asia has initiated discussions with some leading private players to pool their knowledge in RE and EE for putting into practice these recommendations by the experts of the PAG.

Essential for successes though is the identification of bottlenecks restricting the long term uptake and up-scaling of local level pilot actions and to implement a centralized plan to tap the international climate finance schemes, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, under the proposed framework.



Project Advisory Group meeting participants



Cities and climate in focus

With the international climate negotiations continuing, the role of cities is increasingly flagged as critical for success. The Urban-LEDS project facilitated the involvement of two speakers in a high-level panel on 'Cities and Sub-nationals dialogue' as part of an unprecedented COP event - the 'Cities Day' - focusing on experiences in local climate action.



“With the Warsaw outcomes, nations confirm that local action is the key and one of the biggest leverage to ensure the transformation of our societies into low-emission and climate resilient development”, said Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI. As facilitator of the Local Government Climate Roadmap - an advocacy process aiming at recognizing, engaging and empowering local governments in the global climate regime since 2007, ICLEI brings city representatives to these international negotiations to share local perspectives. UN-Habitat, a joint implementer of this project, actively supports this process.

The decisions reached at COP19 include:

(1) facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices between cities and subnational authorities in identifying and implementing opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and

(2) convening a specific forum as part of the UN Bonn Climate Conference in June 2014.

Highlighting that local governments are the closest level to citizens, Geraldo Julio, Mayor of Recife, an Urban-LEDS Model City in Brazil, emphasized that cities must be included in the global discussion on climate change as this is where most people live, produce waste and use vehicles. He stressed the power of local governments to engage people in more sustainable lifestyles.

Mayor Julio aims for Recife to also become a model city at the regional level by addressing climate change and sustainable development.

From India, Mr. R.A. Rajeev, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, spoke about the effective engagement of Indian cities in the Urban-LEDS project and reiterated India's ongoing efforts to improve the use of

renewable energy and energy efficiency. The multi-governance approach involving local and sub-national levels of government is an important element in low emission development of a country. United Nation's Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, emphasized: “Cities are central in tackling climate change. They are proving grounds for our efforts in ensuring a low carbon future that benefits people and the planet”.

The Warsaw Outcomes are recognized as the direct and immediate responses of national governments to the proposals of local and subnational governments as formulated in the Nantes Declaration of World Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change presented in September 2013.

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Cities connect at the first LEDS peer-exchange

It brought together city representatives from Europe, India, Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa. This event combined capacity development, exploring cooperation between different levels of government (vertical integration and multi-governance) as well as neighboring communities (horizontal cooperation efforts). The seminar was an important step in bringing together the project cities, as well as various stakeholders from different sectors, motivating local political commitment and stakeholder engagement. The Mayor of Rajkot, India, Ms. Boliya Raghubhai, stressed an important element to the representatives from the six countries: "(...) necessary political and collective will by National, State and Local Governments is

required to make serious headway towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change".

Highlights that are being addressed in the Urban-LEDS project were presented, including:

- Exploring urban planning for low emission development. UN-Habitat leads a task group on this, identifying city needs for technical expert support.
- Exploring how to feed city level (bottom-up) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory data to solidify national inventories and connect urban low emission development strategies (LEDS) and climate action plans to those of other governance levels. City reporting in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) is being explored in this context, addressing Measurable,

Verifiable, Reportable (MRV) approach for local climate action.

- Building capacity on how to develop vertically integrated Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (V-NAMAs),
- Enabling Local Governments - as the main implementers on the ground - to tap into financing mechanisms available for emerging economies and developing countries.

Building on the success of this first international city exchange, a study tour in Europe is organized in April 2014 – especially aimed at building capacity of technical staff of the Model Cities. A second International City Networking Seminar will be held towards the end of the project in Asia.

First Stakeholder Consultation meeting in Thane inspires concrete Urban LEDS actions

At the first Stakeholder Consultation meeting on 13 February 2014 in Thane, India, various stakeholders suggested ideas and agreed on pilot projects to make Thane a progressive Urban LEDS city.



After introducing the Urban-LEDS project to stakeholders at Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) last month, the dialogue and stakeholder inputs led to the agreement of the implementation of a number of Urban-LEDS pilot projects pushing the Urban LEDS project in Thane forward.

Topics ranged from improving urban infrastructure to resource and energy efficiency which made a prioritization of sectors necessary. These priority sectors were identified by looking at the draft GHG emissions inventory prepared by ICLEI South Asia which led to selecting the following pilot projects which will be taken up by the TMC with support from ICLEI South Asia as part of the Urban LEDS project in near future:

- Replacement of conventional street lights with Energy Efficient Light Emitting Diode

(LED) street lights

- SME industrial clustering, energy audits and identification of potential energy savings
- A driver training programme on fuel efficient use and road safety
- Development of the green building policy for TMC which will be developed into the "Greenie" Housing scheme

Building upon the success of this meeting, similar Stakeholder Consultation meetings will be conducted on a regular basis.



Cities and climate in focus

This Declaration outlines the global climate advocacy strategy of local governments in the 2013-2015 period, as well as the welcoming a “Friends of Cities” group at the UNFCCC level and the organization of Ministerial-Mayoral dialogues. It identifies specific windows for sustainable urban development in global climate finance mechanisms, and ways for ensuring the vertical

integration of local climate action at the national level. Pascal Canfin, Minister for Development of France again cautioned: “Without cities and local authorities on board, no agreement will be possible in Paris 2015”.

These developments clearly show the importance of local level climate actions to accelerate and support global mitigation and

adaptation. The Urban-LEDS project addresses climate change mitigation in cities in emerging economies jointly implemented by ICLEI and UN-Habitat

A webinar recording on the outcomes of COP 19 in Warsaw is available for local and subnational governments [here](#).

The project in brief

The Urban-LEDS project responds to the fact that cities emit a large proportion of the world’s greenhouse gases and can take steps to reduce emissions.

Cities in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa are outlining their Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS) and exploring implementation of a range of activities. In each country, two Model Cities are assisted in formulating and adopting their Urban-LEDS, and share their experiences with Satellite Cities, which observe, learn and share their own experiences. Experienced European Cities support the process, sharing their own experiences and know-how.

Project Basics

Title: Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries (Urban-LEDS)

Objective: To enhance the transition to low emission urban development in emerging economy countries

Duration: 01/03/2012 – 31 August 2015 (42 months)

Total Budget: 6,700,000 € / Funding mechanism: European Union (EuropeAid/DCI-ENV/2011/269-952)

Implementing partners: UN-Habitat and ICLEI

Implementing Partners

UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), is the United Nations’ agency for sustainable urban development. Through its World Urban Campaign and technical support it promotes efficient and realistic planning at national, regional and local levels as the most effective way to develop our cities to meet increasing demand for urban shelter and services. Website: www.unhabitat.org

ICLEI

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the world’s leading association of more than 1000 metropolises, cities, urban regions and towns representing over 660 million people in 86 countries. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim of achieving healthy and happy communities. Website: www.iclei.org

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