

Urban-LEDS Project Newsletter # 1, November 2013

Focus on low emission development in cities

In the Spotlight

International climate negotiations include unique “Cities and Subnationals dialogue”

21 November 2013 has been announced as the “**Cities Day of the High Level Segment**” of the **19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19)** at the Warsaw Climate Change Conference in Poland.

What does this mean and why is it relevant? There is growing recognition of the relevance of local climate action, building on the COP 14 outcomes (in Cancun, Mexico) in 2010 where local governments were recognised as “**governmental stakeholders**”. The Cities Day will bundle a number of interesting events by a variety of partners, including a historical **COP Presidency Cities and Subnational Dialogue** that will be conducted as a **Ministerial-Mayoral Dialogue**.

Further, **Warsaw** – and Urban-LEDS project city - will be recognized as a milestone in the history of the global climate advocacy of local and subnational governments, as it embedded the Cities Day in the UN Climate Conference. With the city focus on the agenda **improved national-local dialogue** can take place and cities can be empowered to plan, act, report and evaluate.

The Ministerial-Mayoral Dialogues, in which UN-Habitat’s Deputy Executive Director Dr. Aisa Kacyira will be one of the panellists, will be kicking-off a process in Warsaw to be concluded in Paris 2015. It can be considered as the direct and immediate implementation of the **Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change** adopted in September 2013, in particular its para.8 and 10. The Nantes Declaration represents the kick-off of the 2nd Phase of the **Local Government Climate Roadmap**, a three year process aimed at gaining recognition, engaging and empowering cities and local governments.

ICLEI engages here in its capacity as **focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency**, and as facilitator of the Roadmap process. More information is available on: www.iclei.org/cop19cities and www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap

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Global Project News

Overview of Urban-LEDS project cities

In the Urban-LEDS project a **network of cities committed to Low Emissions Urban Development** was created to support local decision-makers and municipal technical staff in sharing experiences and addressing concerns with their peers and with experts in national, regional and international fora.

The **Urban-LEDS International City Network** supports peer learning, sharing, capacity development, and building a strong local government group that is jointly and actively addressing low emission development. Participating Cities benefit from access to useful resources, tools, and experts, in addition to opportunities such as workshops, networking seminars, and study visits.

The Urban-LEDS City Network will include:

- **8 Model Cities** which are busy developing their low-emission development strategies (Urban-LEDS),
- **21 Satellite Cities** that are observing, learning and sharing own experiences
- **8 Cities from the wider European Region** are being selected for their advanced and/or interesting efforts in climate change mitigation and interest in sharing and guiding their peers (6 selected to date).

City selection process

In 2013, a competitive call for interest was launched in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa to select Model and Satellite Cities.

About 50 cities responded, with many fulfilling all criteria. The selection criteria included:

- urban & population growth rate
- regional connectivity
- political and institutional context
- degree of commitment to low carbon development
- synergies with other existing projects and initiatives

Urban-LEDS project countries



1st City exchange hosted by Nelson Mandela Bay!



Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in South Africa, plays host to the **1st Urban-LEDS International Networking Seminar** for the project Cities from 27 to 29 November 2013.

This exchange is essential to support peer-learning, gaining a common understanding of relevant issues, sharing news on local low emission developments, and connecting to experts. Participants will include **political leaders and senior municipal technical representatives** will participate and connect to one another, and explore interesting local projects – also to see if they can take new ideas home for inclusion in their own new strategies under development.

Who is supporting this low emission urban development process?

A host of people are engaged in assisting the Urban-LEDS project cities. Building on **UN-Habitat's** commitment to support cities in developing countries, and drawing on **ICLEI** extensive experience in offering technical climate support to local governments around the globe, the **Urban-LEDS project supports local governments to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate local climate actions**. It further enables cities to better understand the global climate negotiations and engages them in relevant advocacy processes to support the agreement on ambitious climate change mitigation goals.

ICLEI Regional Offices are implementing the project in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa - supported by the **ICLEI World Secretariat** which deals with project coordination, setting up systems and procedures, coordinating global advocacy and connecting to important platforms and initiatives. Further ICLEI Europe is helping to connect European cities to the project, guiding their process of sharing and peer-exchange.

However, as this is a major task, it also requires the involvement of many experts on numerous different topics. A **"Pool of Experts"** is being established to bring together people with know-how and expertise on a vast array of themes – from urban and land-use planning to mobility, waste, financing and vertically integrated Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (V-NAMAs), to mention but a few important topics.

'Friends of Cities' Group created to explore national-local dialogue

The **"Friends of Cities" Group of Parties (Nations)** at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created in July 2013. ICLEI in its capacity as **Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency focal point at the UNFCCC** and in its role as the global Roadmap facilitator, is engaging with interested Parties.

The aim of Friends of Cities is to support local-national dialogue on **improving support and establish enabling frameworks for local climate action**, including ways to finance city-level action and build municipal capacity.

Many national governments have been invited to join, with **Indonesia**, France, Mexico, and Poland having joined, and many other nations showing serious interest. Watch this space for exiting news coming soon



Cities entering the Earth Hour City Challenge

Eight of the cities engaged in the Urban-LEDS project have entered the **Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) 2013-2014**. Here they are reporting their climate change commitments (mitigation and/or adaptation), inventory results of the community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and climate actions. This data are added to the international city platform which is also the official reporting platform used for the competition, namely the **carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)**.



Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (South Africa), Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Shimla, Nagpur, Panaji and Coimbatore (India), as well as Bogor (Indonesia) completed their reporting in order to enter the EHCC.

In the next phase, an international jury comprised of climate experts will evaluate the submissions and nominate **one Earth Hour capital per participating country**, and also select **one global Earth Hour Capital**. This will be announced in March 2014



More details on: <http://citiesclimateregistry.org> and www.earthhour.org/citychallenge

Connecting to Chinese cities

Part of the aims of the Urban-LEDS project is to also **explore a link to Chinese cities**, and gain an understanding of their low carbon development approaches and processes.

As part of this activity, Maryke van Staden, ICLEI's Low-carbon Cities Program Manager and Urban-LEDS Project Coordinator, addressed the **Shenyang Energy Consumption and Carbon Emission Management Summit** held in the City of Shenyang on 15 August 2013.

Her focus was on sharing global developments relevant to city low-carbon development, including good practice examples. She also presented the **Global Protocol on Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC)**, moving towards a global standard for cities. The GPC is currently being reviewed by cities around the globe, in a process led by the three partners: the World Resources Institute (WRI), C40 and ICLEI.



Organized by the Shenyang Development and Reform Commission and Shenyang Quality and Technical Supervision Bureau, the meeting brought together local city leaders, businesses and experts from across China, the United Kingdom, France and Germany. Home of over **eight million people**, the Shenyang Municipality is the heart and industrial base of northeastern China. While its industrial sector contributed 670 billion RMB (Renminbi Yuan) to the municipality's GDP in 2012, Shenyang also has high levels of energy consumption and carbon emission.

Shenyang has a **"four-step program" towards resource-efficient and low-carbon development**, showing encouraging progress. It is also developing a city carbon trading scheme, engaging local industry to report emissions which are fed into a database and emission management system.

For more information on the Global Protocol please visit: <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/city-accounting>

Regional and Country Project News

Brazil

Recife hosts National Seminar

Addressing country exchange and training, ICLEI South America Secretariat, in partnership with the city of Recife, organized the **National Seminar: Low Carbon Development and the Sustainable Brazilian Cities** on 3 September 2013.

This event brought together **representatives from the eight Brazilian project cities**, providing an introduction to the topic of climate change and low emission urban development in the global, national, state and local contexts.

It was followed by **training seminars** on how to conduct a GHG inventory and presenting the EHCC to Brazilian cities. For more details, please follow this video link (only available in Portuguese): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhmNUtsTfRE>



India

Exploring solutions in India

On 5 September 2013, the **first Urban-LEDS project national workshop in India** took place in Delhi. Mr. Shouvik Datta, from the Delegation of the European Union to India; confirmed that a **two-way exchange** between Indian and European cities is a great example of fully using the opportunity provided through the Urban-LEDS project.

After sharing updates on what the cities are engaged in, emphasis was placed on **identifying appropriate technologies**. The cities are identifying their Urban-LEDS priorities, and exploring solutions that are relevant to their contexts, with the support of ICLEI South East Asia Secretariat. In the Urban-LEDS project a **“Solutions Gateway”** is under development to offer guidance on a range of generic solutions – on many different themes - which the cities can consider when planning their low emission development strategies and action plans.

Indonesia

Greenhouse gas inventory training

A 2-day training session on using ICLEI’s Harmonized Emissions Analysis Tool *plus* (HEAT+) was held in Jakarta. Representatives of the Urban-LEDS and PAKLIM project cities joined, as well as National Government officials.



HEAT+ is a multilingual online emissions inventory tool which helps local governments account for GHG emissions, Common Air Pollutants (CAP) and other Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). It is offered to all Urban-LEDS project cities for their use, with country (and relevant language) versions made available.

More details can be found on <http://heat.iclei.org>

South Africa

Bringing together the National Project Advisory Group

A National Project Advisory Group (PAG) is created in each target country to gather key national partners. **Invited institutions** include relevant national ministries, universities, partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private and financial sectors representatives, as well as 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.

The project website will be updated with all the PAGs.



Europe

European cities connecting

Eight experienced European cities are being selected to take part in the Urban-LEDS project, based on their advanced efforts in climate change mitigation and interest in sharing and guiding others. Starting their engagement in this phase are the following 6 cities, with 2 additional cities still in the selection phase:

- Almada (Portugal)
- Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Gaziantep (Turkey)
- Hannover (Germany)
- Warsaw (Poland)
- Zagreb (Croatia)

Welcome to our European Urban-LEDS project cities! We look forward with sharing with and learning from you!

<http://www.urban-leds.org>

About the Urban-LEDS project

The project “Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries” (Urban-LEDS) is funded by the European Commission, and implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). Its objective is to enhance the transition to low emission urban development in emerging economy countries by offering selected local governments a comprehensive methodological framework to integrate low-carbon strategies into all sectors of urban planning and development.