

Aerial view of Copenhagen, Denmark



Newsletter | March 2016

Urban-LEDS Newsletter #7 - March 2016

The Urban-LEDS newsletter celebrates the project's European Cities !

The Urban-LEDS project promotes low-emission urban development strategies in emerging economy countries. Jointly implemented by **ICLEI** and **UN-Habitat** and funded by the **European Union**, it helps cities to pursue low-carbon, sustainable development.

This special edition of the Urban-LEDS newsletter focuses on the European project cities and their recent achievements in terms of low emission development. The Urban-LEDS European project cities have been selected across the wider European region for the rich diversity of their experiences on local climate action to support the 29 Urban-LEDS cities in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa on their way to implement Low Emission Development Strategies.

Through this South-South-North knowledge exchange, cities are sharing their experiences, supporting peer exchange and capacity development. European cities benefit from the project by learning from one another and from innovative approaches applied by the project Model and Satellite Cities.

This newsletter samples highlights from all European staff exchanges and groundbreaking European achievements. We hope you enjoy this special edition of the newsletter!

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Warsaw inspires Indonesian delegation with low carbon public transport

Delegates Naufal Isnaeni and Hariyadi Sukamto of the municipalities of Bogor and Balikpapan from Indonesia visited Poland from 15 – 22 November 2015 as part of the Urban-LEDS project to learn from Warsaw’s experience in low emission strategies.

The city’s green growth vision includes sustainable transport development as a key component. Warsaw’s extensive bus fleet includes 18 buses operating on liquefied natural gas, 10 new electric buses, and a further 15 are fitted with photovoltaic panels – a combined innovative approach clearly exploring different options. The carbon-neutral electric buses were found to be just as durable as diesel buses while being more fuel efficient and less noisy, representing a preferable option for replication in the two delegates’ home cities. An additional interesting consideration is the reduction of air pollution from transport, which is much needed in densely populated cities.



Low emission public bus in Warsaw, Poland

A visit to the automotive industry PIMOT revealed the city’s carbon-efficient biodiesel and electric vehicle technology. The Indonesian cities could explore used cooking oil as a potential fuel, however, the intervention of the local government was necessary to ensure a stable supply.

Warsaw’s dedicated department for public bicycle hire ensures that the scheme is efficiently and effectively managed. Since its introduction in 2012, citizens have made over 6 million bicycle trips! With

some adaptation to the Indonesian context, the public bicycle scheme was deemed to be potentially replicable in Bogor. After visiting Warsaw’s Public Transport Authority, the two visitors were inspired to consider developing a public transport authority to support the operation of the government-owned bus operator in Bogor, Indonesia.

Bologna showcases local innovative LEDS to Steve Tshwete and Recife on staff exchange

A staff exchange program organized by the Urban-LEDS project has already had a significant positive impact on policymaking in Steve Tshwete Municipality (South Africa).

Michael Nkosi, Assistant Director of Local Economic Development in Steve Tshwete, along with Carlos Ribeiro, Executive Secretary of Environment, Recife (Brazil), visited Bologna (Italy) in December 2015 to learn from the city’s experience of transitioning to renewable energy. Steve Tshwete is currently shifting away from coal powered energy generation, which motivated its participation in the exchange program.

The delegates studied Bologna’s Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and 2007 Energy Plan, gaining a comprehensive insight into the city’s energy strategies and how these are integrated. Further, the delegates explored how the city has managed public-private partnerships (PPPs) and how innovative technology can improve energy efficiency. This is done for example by stimulating the green economy



Otto Agosto Square in Bologna, © krss.

through the involvement of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). Their visit also enabled them to attend the final conference of the **Cost Adapt** project, which focuses on climate risk and climate change adaptation.

Towards the end of the programme the delegates visited Kilowatt, a community farming and community development centre project that showcases the European style of cooperative food production alternatives, food security initiatives and citizen involvement. The knowledge gained as part of the visit has already contributed to the municipality's Local Economic Development strategy.

KwaDukuza's Chief Planner received in Helsinki

KwaDukuza Municipality in South Africa has been working closely together with ICLEI as a Model City of the Urban-LEDS project. To reinforce the projects implemented locally, Chimene Pereira, the Chief Planner for the municipality, visited Helsinki, Finland – one of the European project cities – with the aim to study the city's urban low emission development strategy.

Mr. Pereira worked alongside Mr. Petteri Huuska, Environment Planning Officer for the City of Helsinki for a week in October 2015 to share knowledge and closely examine how Helsinki approaches low emission development.



Solar panels on the Viikki Environment House in Helsinki, Finland

One of Mr Pereira's objectives was to learn from the Helsinki experience with green buildings and energy use strategies. Viikki Environment House, the most energy-efficient office building in Finland, provided an inspiring high-tech example of how clever design can effectively reduce energy demand and thus carbon emissions, for example by generating energy for own use from wind turbines on the rooftop, which facilitates a simple yet effective practice like off-grid mobile phone charging. The visit provoked reflection on how the built environment can serve as a vehicle to implement and monitor climate change mitigation activities.

A further topic for study was the relationship between urban planning and environmental planning, specifically how Helsinki integrates sustainability planning into urban planning. It was found that Helsinki's administrative structure follows a holistic approach, for example with the environmental unit distributing to those departments addressing flora and fauna, events, transport, housing and other priorities. Aspects of Helsinki's planning model could be replicated in KwaDukuza, for example by establishing a dedicated unit within the Economic Development and Planning directorate to solely address sustainability questions (this is not the case as part of the current administration).

Details on programmes in Helsinki are available here: <http://www.hel.fi/www/Helsinki/en/housing/environmental/programmes>

Indian cities to fast-forward low carbon development through Zagreb exchange

Delegates from the Indian Urban-LEDS model cities of Rajkot and Thane will visit Zagreb (Croatia) from 7-11 March 2016, where they will work alongside their Croatian peers to discover new ways to drive low-carbon development.

Rajkot Municipality, to be represented by Deputy Commissioner Nandani Chetan Kirit, has implemented sustainable change during the course of the Urban-LEDS project and has been declared a 'Solar City' by the Government of India. The city



of Thane won two awards last year for its recent advancements in the areas of renewable energy, water and waste. Thane Municipal Corporation has proposed Commissioner Sanjeev Jaiswal, the city's administrative head, to participate in the staff exchange. The local governments wish to gather knowledge and expertise from Zagreb to maintain their momentum and continue to progress in their low-carbon energy goals beyond the formal end of the Urban-LEDS project.



Zagreb, Croatia

In Zagreb, the delegates will meet municipal staff experienced in implementing the kind of strategies their Indian peers would like to replicate in their home cities. The programme hosts plan a series of meetings and presentations tailored to the delegation's areas of particular interest in Zagreb's Office for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development.

The first theme will be Energy Management and Stakeholder Involvement with further input within this framework on the topics of intercity and international cooperation. This topic will encompass city engineers' technical expertise with a presentation on Interoperable Smart City services through the **Open Platform for Urban Ecosystems (i-SCOPE)** and a demonstration on Information Systems for Energy Management.

The second main theme will focus on energy efficiency, covering sustainable urban mobility and sustainable building. The context of European cooperation will come into play with input on the European project **Ele.C.Tra**, the city's benefits from participating in European Mobility Week, an overview of green corridors in Central Europe and the European project on energy saving in public

buildings, **EURONET50/50MAX**. This will be followed by study visits to the Vladimir Prelog Science School and a guided tour of the Zagreb Wastewater treatment plant.

Following the theoretical input and networking of the first part of the exchange, the second part of the programme will be practical learning, with the delegates participating in a training event as part of the **Mayors in Action** project. The two-day Central Training for Supporting program from 10-11 March will include a study visit focusing on the implementation of energy efficiency measures and encouraging sustainable development in building, transport and street lighting. The event will introduce the delegates to international experts in the field and provide step-by-step training in planning, implementing and reporting on sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).

The training will equip the delegates with the skills to return home and continue the progress their cities have achieved to date as part of the Urban-LEDS project. The Mayors in Action training event from 10-11 March is open for registrations and further information is available [here](#).

Bologna hosts GRIP workshop to explore future energy scenarios

During March 16 – 17, 2016 the Bologna City Council will host a “future energy scenarios” workshop for Urban-LEDS cities in Europe, engaging staff and key stakeholders active in the energy system of the cities.

The City of Bologna is one of the experienced European cities engaged in the Urban-LEDS project. The purpose of the workshop is to produce a set of robust quantified energy future scenarios for the cities, to help form and set in place the local strategies to achieve more ambitious targets. The **Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Process (GRIP)** helps define scenarios to test the robustness of proposed policy packages.

This workshop offers an opportunity to communicate and build momentum regarding the recently





Bologna, Italy

approved SEAP of the City of Bologna. Local and regional stakeholders can learn what the current thinking is on how a low carbon energy future may be realized.

The GRIP scenario tool, developed by Dr. Sebastian Carney, has been used in over 20 cities in 15 different countries. It supports a process to build sustainable energy scenarios with the engagement of stakeholders, in a consensus driven way. The use of GRIP encourages stakeholders to think in an energy systems perspective rather than in a silo way, and to cooperate towards the achievement of an overarching long-term target. This is an opportunity to bring together stakeholders from the different sectors (Energy, Residential, Public Administration, Industry, Transport, etc.), and to help them understand how their sector can influence the entire system.

Warsaw's leading sustainable energy policies are an inspiration for LED

The Polish capital of Warsaw, an Urban-LEDS European project city, became an official member of ICLEI in December 2015, signaling its ongoing commitment to developing a more sustainable future.

The city is widely recognized for moving away from coal-based energy to a diverse mix of sustainable energy sources. Warsaw's development on the renewable energy path will also accelerate with

the adoption on 10 December 2015 of the "Low Carbon Economy Action Plan for Warsaw". This new document aims to help implement Warsaw's climate and energy package as defined in the **Warsaw Sustainable Energy Action Plan**, submitted under the Covenant of Mayors.

This package includes CO₂ emission reductions of 20 percent by 2020, increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 20 percent by 2020 and improving energy efficiency in the city. The "Low Carbon Economy Action Plan for Warsaw" also addresses air quality improvements. The Action Plan identifies investments and actions needed to achieve these objectives. These investments will exceed €2 billion and will go towards developing a low-emission transportation system, modern energy infrastructure (including district heating and renewable energy), thermal retrofitting of public and private buildings and awareness-raising.

Last year, Warsaw joined the UNEP-led **District Energy in Cities** initiative and SE4ALL **Building Efficiency Accelerator**, with ICLEI a founding partner of both these initiatives – our role is to support local governments in scaling up their local climate and energy action.



Warsaw, Poland, © Maciej Margas

The city's extensive district energy system (DES) provides heating for 70 percent of its 1.7 million inhabitants (and 78 percent of the city's heating demand). Its streetlights are powered by energy generated from treated sewage. More examples and the city's integrated energy planning for buildings and DES, can be found in an Urban-LEDS [article](#). Recent developments also include a newly adopted action plan and the launch of a biomass digester at the Siekierki combined heat and power generation (CHP) plant. Siekierki, operated by PGNiG Termika (a Polish energy producer), is Europe's second largest



and Poland's largest cogeneration plant. This new biomass digester represented an investment of €28 million, provided as a grant from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. It will combust 300,000 tons of biomass per year and reduce annual CO2 emission reductions by 227,000 tons.

All of these modern sustainable energy solutions make Warsaw a leading city for energy policy. This is why it was selected to be a European Urban-LEDS project city – to share experiences. Recently the local government welcomed a delegation of city officials from Bogor and Balikpapan (Indonesia) as part of the Urban-LEDS staff exchange. During their visit, the Indonesian delegates learnt about Warsaw's low-carbon public transport system. For more information, read [our article on the staff exchange](#).

Almada achieves landmark climate actions under ambitious Local Strategy for Climate Change

The city of Almada, Portugal is one of the 18 municipalities within the Lisbon metropolitan region and one of the country's frontrunners for sustainable development. As such it was selected as a European Urban-LEDS network city, to share its expertise and experiences with other local governments engaging in low emission development. Almada has made recent significant strides in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, with particularly notable mitigation successes in the areas of low carbon emissions and energy efficiency.

In 2007, Almada adopted a Local Strategy for Climate Change, building upon the City's Mitigation Action Plan of 2002. The Strategy goes by the principles of: "Almada + Sustainable + Solidarity + Eco-efficient" - the motto of the city's local development strategy. This strategy prioritizes a prosperous and low carbon economy with efficient use of natural resources, sustainable and smart urban mobility and the improvement of urban livelihood. This strategy also relies on enhanced integrated governance including local associations and citizens in the planning process.

As part of this strategy, Almada has established a groundbreaking new fund called the "Almada

Less Carbon Climate Fund" to reduce Almada's carbon footprint by financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. This fund is a voluntary financial scheme, whereby the carbon emissions resulting from the City Council's regular activities are evaluated from an economic standpoint, and such costs are then internalized with a compensation system. This has enabled various municipal departments to improve their performance without tapping into their own budgets. The Fund is also used to complement national and European funding and has contributed to successfully finance the implementation of Almada's Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

Landmark activities since the strategy was introduced have included the city's subscription to the Aalborg Charter and the Aalborg Commitments, as well as its active participation in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign. Almada is an ICLEI and Energy-Cities member, is a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, the Compact of Mayors, the Global Cities Covenant on Climate also known as the Mexico City Pact.

Improved adaptation is a priority for the local government. Almada submitted a project exploring financing options under the Transformative Actions Program (TAP). This program, developed by ICLEI and supported by a wide range of partners, collects and presents ambitious, cross-cutting, multi-sectorial, inclusive and innovative mitigation and/or adaptation actions led by local and subnational governments. The TAP platform is used to profile selected TAP projects, and at the climate COP meetings of the UNFCCC selected TAP projects are presented, to accelerate connections with potential funders partners. One of the projects selected for presentation during the historic COP21 negotiation's was Almada's 'MultiAdapt' project, which will create four vegetable gardens designed to absorb the water runoff in the flood plain during storms.

This cross-cutting project capitalizes on the multiple benefits of urban green infrastructure. It enhances climate change adaptation and resilience as well as reducing disaster risk, as the gardens absorb flood runoff, and the additional green space mitigates the urban heat island effect. The added green space will improve the urban water cycle and boost community interaction and social resilience. Furthermore, it contributes to food security and offers a low-carbon



alternative for local consumers, aside from the other tangible and intangible social, economic and health benefits of urban green space.

For more information on all the leading activities carried out by Almada, please consult:

- The Almada [Urban LEDS City Poster](#),
- The [TAP project summary](#),
- The city's Compact of Mayors [profile](#) in the [carbonn® Climate Registry](#).

Bologna and Helsinki become ICLEI GreenClimateCities Europe Ambassadors

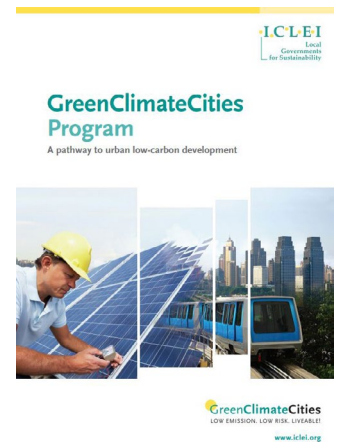
The European Urban-LEDS cities of Helsinki and Bologna become Ambassadors of ICLEI's **GreenClimateCities Europe program**.

The **GreenClimateCities** (GCC) program is a comprehensive climate change program for local governments that offers a flexible methodology to guide and support the process of development and implementation of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban LEDS) or climate change mitigation. It can also be used to enhance resilience and adapt to climate change. The GCC program helps prepare local communities to address the challenges and opportunities of urban and economic sustainable growth, enhancing their green economy and green infrastructure.



A unique element of the GCC is that this program also has a specific Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework to support demonstration of institutional commitment and capacity and of the resulting benefits, both in terms of mitigation and sustainable development. This MRV process can easily connect to the national frameworks, to support overall monitoring and achievement of quality results.

The **GreenClimateCities** (GCC) program is designed to support both start-up and ambitious local climate action, according to the needs and requirements of local governments. The clear, flexible methodology covers three phases: **Analyze, Act** and **Accelerate**. In the framework of the Urban-LEDS project the GCC process methodology was trialled by cities in emerging economies.



The **GCC Europe Program** is based on the global GCC methodology and approach, but was custom-made for the European context as a comprehensive program developed for Local Governments (LGs) in Europe for integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.

GCC Europe builds on more than 2 decades of experience and achievements of the former Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP). However, it clearly moves beyond the CCP. By bringing together mitigation and adaptation, GCC Europe fosters a holistic and integrated approach that reconciles commitments and actions while addressing resilience and sustainable development. At each step GCC Europe offers local and subnational governments access to useful guidance and tools, outlining how low emission options as well as adaptation strategies can be identified and integrated into urban development policies, plans and processes.



GCC Europe helps LGs create a “bigger picture” of quality of life for their communities and supports them as they:

- Analyze where they stand and where they want to go,
- Act effectively to get there, and
- Accelerate the impacts of their actions and commitments through integrated solutions.

GCC Europe Ambassador Cities commit to test the program, provide feedback, and represent GCC Europe in their country and globally - facilitating links and providing support to other local governments wishing to use this methodology for integrated planning. The aim is to create a community and network of peers working on integrated climate, policy, people, urban development and investment.

Huuska Petteri, Environmental Planner for the City of Helsinki, explained Helsinki’s motivations for joining the GCC Europe Program as Ambassador City. “We wish to gain peer support and engage in information exchange on how mitigation and adaptation measures can be integrated into city activities efficiently.” As a further benefit, Helsinki could also “offer to other Finnish municipalities our experiences of using the tools for our pioneer practices. One of our newest activities is a climate network of all administrations’ experts and interested staff, currently including 100 persons already, who are developing important projects and sharing information inside the city. GCC tools can be used in this network.”

The official launch of GCC Europe’s activities will take place during the **8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns**, on 27-29 April 2016, in Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain, with a dedicated session featuring both Bologna and Helsinki in their role as Ambassador Cities.



8TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS

BASQUE COUNTRY | BILBAO | 27 - 29 APRIL 2016

Upcoming activities include capacity-building, exchange and peer-to-peer opportunities, access to multi-disciplinary expertise and to a selection of tools, methodologies and good practices, addressing both technical and institutional aspects.

From low carbon to carbon neutrality, from reactive to proactive adaptation, GCC Europe supports local governments in scaling up their efforts, aligning with global standards, reporting to global platforms, and improving their performance as they progress towards resilience and sustainable development.

For more information contact: gcc-europe@iclei.org

UN-Habitat’s Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning launched

The historic COP21 in Paris, France, was packed with numerous highlights, including the launch of UN-Habitat’s Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning.

This publication was the result of a collaborative effort of practitioners, academia and city networks, aimed at providing a simple overview of local climate action planning. “The new UN-Habitat Guide is all about orienting cities towards concrete, comprehensive climate action. The Principles are designed as an instrument for cities to tangibly address climate change and provide effective city-level climate action planning tools”, according to Raf Tuts, Coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat at the launch session.

The Guiding Principles cover the fundamental components of city climate action planning for low emission and resilient development for cities in the Global South and North. It can be paired with more detailed ‘how to’ manuals, step-wise methodologies or solutions to compliment local and subnational planning, such as the Urban-LEDS [Solutions Gateway](#).

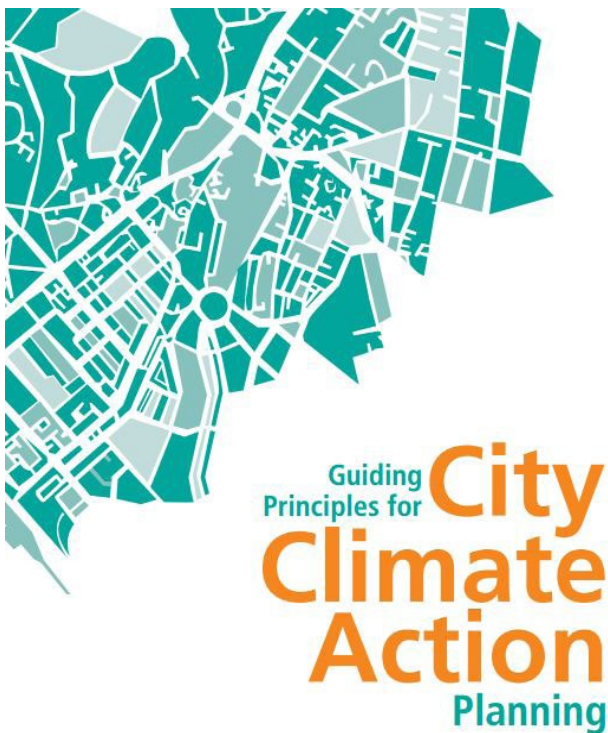
Indeed, the Urban-LEDS cities have engaged over the course of the project in robust multi-stakeholder planning and decision-making processes for ambitious, inclusive and integrated cities. They have



also demonstrated, as in Guiding Principles, that sound urban planning should be relevant, address local development priorities and needs, cost-effective, evidence-based, transparent and vertically integrated.

ICLEI is proud to be an endorsing partner of Guiding Principles. Park Won Soon, ICLEI President and Mayor of Seoul, Republic of Korea stated, "Local governments have a key role to play here- by planning, guiding, and managing emissions reduction in their communities... if we dream together, the dream becomes a reality. If we walk together, it becomes our path. The Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning will show us the directions that we need to take to protect our planet, Earth".

To learn more about this publication, click [here](#).



Version 1.0

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Do not miss the last Urban-LEDS Newsletter on March 31st 2016 !

After four years of activity in Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and across the European project cities, the Urban-LEDS partners, UN-Habitat and ICLEI, together with the European Union will be concluding the project at the end of March 2016.

On this occasion the Urban-LEDS project will be releasing its final public report covering all of the cities' achievements in the last four years.

Do not miss the latest Urban-LEDS newsletter next month and until then we invite you to (re-)discover all of the city profiles, the city posters and the other great project resources already available on our Urban-LEDS website: www.urban-leds.org

And do not forget ICLEI's [full coverage](#) of the COP21 Outcomes and Paris Climate Package for Local and Subnational Governments including [debrief webinar](#) !

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 Details

- 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 March 2012 – 31 March 2016 (48 months)
- Total Budget:** 6,700,000 €
- Funding mechanism:** European Union (EuropeAid/DCI- ENV/2011/269-952)

Implementing partners

UN-Habitat
The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), is the United Nations' agency for sustainable urban development.
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 in 86 countries. We impact 20% of the global urban population.
www.iclei.org

Get in touch

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This project is funded by the European Commission. The views expressed in this document can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

