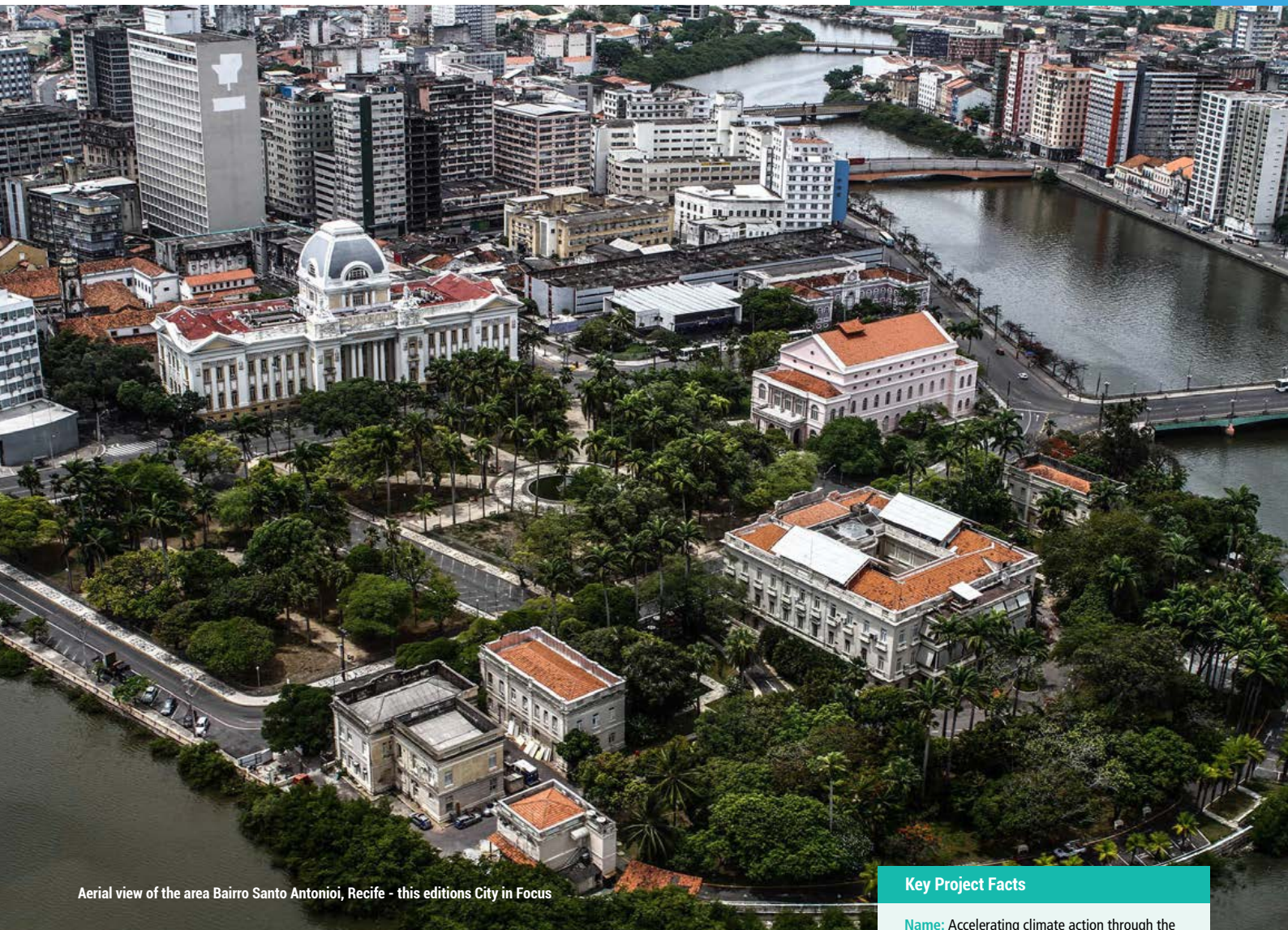


Urban-LEDS II

Newsletter

February 2021



Aerial view of the area Bairro Santo Antonio, Recife - this editions City in Focus

Highlights from this issue...

Feature story: Successful virtual peer to peer learning for climate action

City in focus: Recife, Brazil: An example of the fight against climate change

Urban champion: The Mayor of Envigado, Colombia

Project synergies: UN-Habitat's Cities Investment Forum

Key Project Facts

Name: Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS II)

Start Date: 1/4/2017

End Date: 31/03/2021

Duration: 48 months

Total Budget: 8,000,000 €

Funding mechanism: European Union (DCI-ENV/2017/384-555)

Consortium: UN-Habitat HQ and regional offices in Lao PDR, Rwanda and Colombia, ICLEI World Secretariat and 5 ICLEI regional offices active in Europe, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Rwanda and South Africa

Urban LEDS wraps up 2020 with meaningful contributions to local climate action in three virtual international events

Despite the challenges that followed the spread of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the Urban LEDS II project has made substantial progress and has led crucial engagements with local and regional governments throughout 2020. This article highlights three recent virtual events that the Urban-LEDS project manage meaningful contributions to, despite the challenges:



Mannheim2020: 9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns, 30th September – 2nd October, 2020

The Urban-LEDS II project and ICLEI Europe brought together representatives from regional and local governments on October 2nd at the **Mannheim2020 conference**. The session titled 'Beyond Climate Emergency: From ambition to action' consisted of a round of pitches of exemplary local sustainability projects, including sustainable mobility (low-emission bus fleet in Warsaw), urban resilience (LIFE-IP Urban Klima 2050 strategy of the Basque Country), platform for co-creating new green products and services (Green Hub Denmark), and climate change adaptation in seaside cities (Safe Harbour Cork).

Daring Cities 2020, 7- 28 October, 2020



Hosted by ICLEI World Secretariat and the Federal City of Bonn, the 3-week Daring Cities forum included a session organized by ICLEI Europe and UN-Habitat titled '*Fair and Sustainable Energy for All with Integrated Low Emission Development Planning*' in partnership with UN-Habitat's **Urban Pathways** project. The event focused on regulation and governance, lack of mandates to push for sustainable planning and the importance of co-benefits while considering the synergies between energy planning and transport. On October 27th, a jury of financial experts provided guidance to 8 preselected TAP (Transformative Actions Program) and Urban-LEDS project proposals at 'Test your Pitch', a climate finance session. In this pitching session funders and project developers met, discussed and tested ideas. This facilitated process allowed the sharing of both implicit and explicit knowledge, which is essential for improved project preparation, bankability and access to finance.

Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4AFRICA) Online Congress, 3-12 November, 2020



The 2020 theme for LoCS4Africa Congress – Financing for Change – aimed at responding to the growing acknowledgement that to tackle climate change, city-scale finance must be mobilized. On the congress margins, the South African and Rwandan National Project Advisory Groups (NPAGs) of the Urban-LEDS II project met under the project's Regional Exchange offering. Presentations from the South Africa's Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries and the Rwandan Environmental Management Authority presented on their respective climate change commitments, their Nationally Determined Contributions, and the roles of cities.

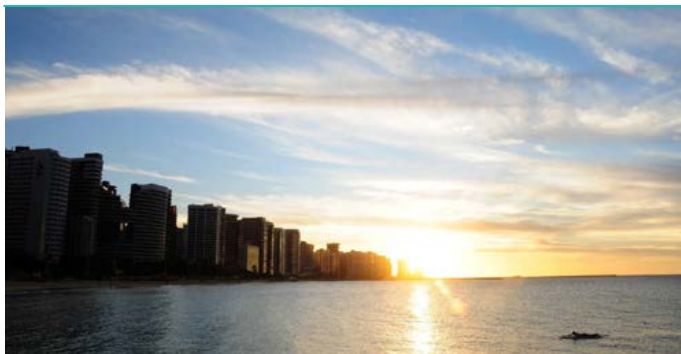
Urban-LEDS is proud to have kept up the momentum and supported project cities and beyond in contextualizing their efforts and continuing the dialogue through these innovative events through 2020. The much anticipated Urban-LEDS international networking seminar event will take place in May 2021 and will be an opportunity to draw meaningful conclusions and chalk out strategies to keep up the momentum.

Bangladesh: New greening plan to revitalise Rajshahi as climate-responsive sustainable city

This plan will help promote inclusive governance, improve the city's existing open spaces, and develop potential new green spaces in a scientific and eco-friendly manner. [Read the full story here](#)



Tree species identification survey underway in Rajshahi, Bangladesh



Praia de Iracema Fortaleza

Brazil: Fortaleza and Recife launch Local Action Plans with ambitious climate goals

Fortaleza and Recife improved their climate compliance and took another step towards building a resilient, low-carbon, inclusive and innovative city. [Read the full story here](#)

Colombia: LEDS Lab ends current cycle in Brazil and Colombia

The LEDS Lab initiative is a laboratory for developing and refining bankable climate projects. The steps followed by the cities that participated in the project, from an idea until the implementation of projects, were synthesized in a Guide to Developing Bankable Climate Action Projects [Read the full story here](#)



Envigado, Colombia



Participants in the virtual Indian Project Advisory Group meeting

India: Second Project Advisory Group meeting focuses on vertical integration

The second National Project Advisory Group (NPAG) virtual meeting, on the 18th of September 2020, was attended by key stakeholders from different institutions working towards low-emission development and climate resilience. [Read the full story here](#)

Indonesia: Urban-LEDS cities build capacity on climate finance

Cities participated in a series of webinars on climate finance, strengthening expertise in green budget tagging and external climate financing mechanisms to support low-emission development and climate resilience. [Read the full story here](#)



Pelatihan Peningkatan Kapasitas Penandaan Anggaran Hijau dan Pengembangan Proposal Pendanaan Perubahan Iklim bagi Pemerintah Daerah di Indonesia
16, 17, 23, 24 September 2020
09.00 - 12.00 WIB

Webinar 1 Rabu, 16 September 2020 Pengenalan Penandaan Anggaran Hijau	Webinar 2 Kamis, 17 September 2020 Pelatihan Teknis Penandaan Anggaran Hijau	Webinar 3 Rabu, 23 September 2020 Skema Pendanaan Perubahan Iklim	Webinar 4 Kamis, 24 September 2020 Pelatihan Penulisan Proposal Pendanaan Perubahan Iklim
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The climate finance webinar was run with GGGI and WWF

Lao PDR: Cities conduct workshops on climate risks and vulnerabilities

Consultation workshops were completed for the development of the LEDES action plans and climate risk and vulnerability assessment of the project's two satellite cities – Outhoumphone and Bachieng Chaleunsouk.

[Read the full story here](#)

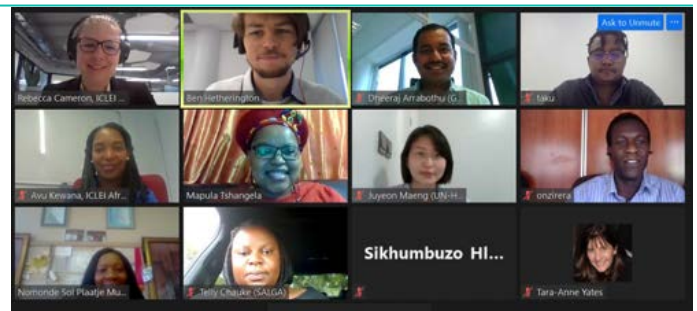


Breakout groups discussion on pilot project identification

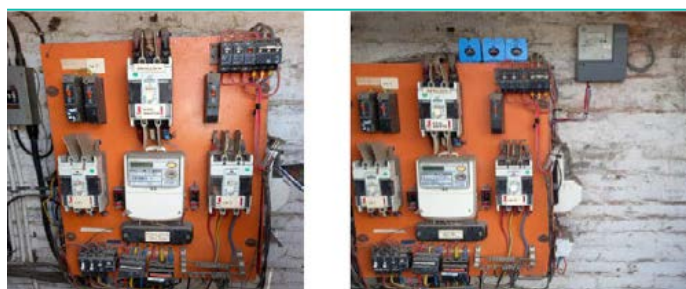
Rwanda: Virtual engagements demonstrate cities commitments to climate action

Urban-LEDS project sharing has continued via online meetings in Rwanda and South Africa, including a regional exchange between the National Project Advisory Groups in each country.

[Read the full story here](#)



Urban-LEDS II Regional Exchange, 11 November 2020



Building metering in action in KwaDukuza, South Africa

South Africa: Cities demonstrate value of energy metering for low emissions development

In all 7 municipalities, a pilot programme is underway to install meters in municipal buildings and streetlight areas, train municipal officials on data collection and scale-up project proposal writing support. [Read the full story here](#)

Project synergies: UN-Habitat's Cities Investment Facility

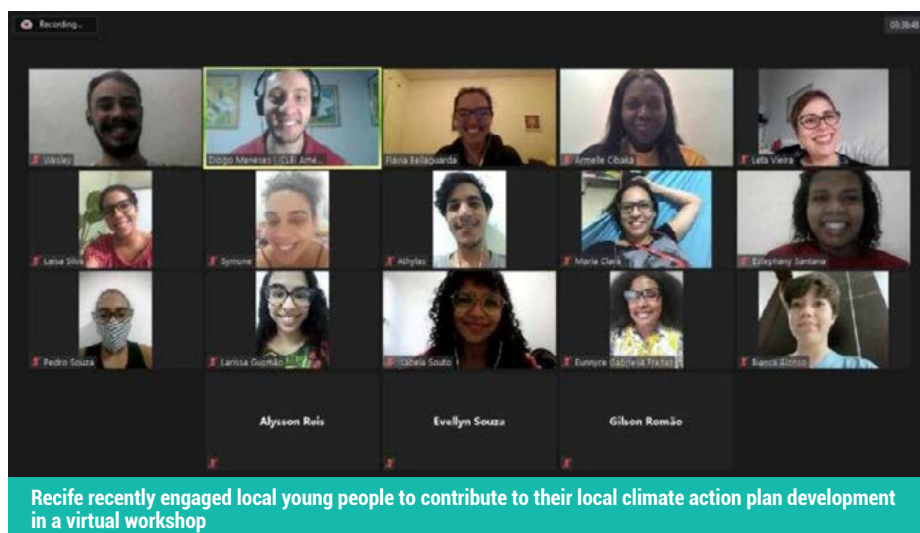
The CIF is a multi-stakeholder initiative centered around unlocking greater capital flows to urban impact projects, by supporting their processes of identification, design, (pre)feasibility, and financing. It complements existing investment facilities by supporting financial structuring for investment at origination and early stage design. It convenes and prepares a global pipeline of SDG-compliant bankable

infrastructure projects, and is thus able to attract the interests of multiple local and international investors. The Cities Investment Portal is an online platform [available here](#), which already has a number of submitted projects for investors to browse. We believe the more exposure city projects can attract, the better, so this new facility will work with the Urban-LEDS team to add additional support to cities identified projects to

check their eligibility to be added to the CIF pipeline at the next available opportunity. For more information here: <https://www.citiesinvestment.org/>



City in focus: The intervention of Urban-LEDS in Recife, Brazil: An example of the fight against climate change



Partner in the Urban-LEDS project, the city works to create measures aiming the expansion of low-emission development strategies.

The city of Recife, in Brazil's Northeastern region, is a seashore state capital, with its entire population living in urban areas. Its geographic and demographic characteristics result in the city being one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in the coming years because of sea level rise and increasing number of landslides.

Recife has been the model city of Urban-LEDS since the first phase of the project period, where the city has increased its installed capacity to create and expand several measures to make low-emission development as strategic as possible. With the support of ICLEI, Recife was the first Brazilian city to declare a climate emergency.

The initiatives that the city is implementing are aimed at decreasing emissions and increasing climate resilience involving energy efficiency ("Ilumina Recife"), the regeneration and expansion of urban parks ("Parque Rio Capibaribe"), and solar energy capture in public spaces. Besides, Recife is one of the four cities in South America involved in the LEDS Lab project, focusing on providing technical support and training so that participating municipalities can develop financeable climate projects.

Since 2013 in Brazil, Urban-LEDS project supports cities to develop their "climate compliance," a set of laws and

studies that assist the municipality' climate governance. The main studies that the city develops in that process is an inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (most related to Mitigation); and a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (mostly related to Adaptation). Both help the city to build a meaningful Climate Action Plan (CAP), with the objective and target to reduce emissions. Recife has already consolidated its risk analysis and its GHG Emissions Inventory. With the review of their new Climate Action Plan the project is soon coming to an end. The first plan was made in 2016, during Urban-LEDS I.

The review kicked off in March 2020 and was launched in December 2020. The CAP's main objective is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, in alignment with the Paris Agreement. Recife' Secretariat of Environment and Sustainability, Pelópidas Silveira Institute (ICPS), the GECLIMA (Executive Group on Sustainability and Climate Change), and other secretariats and members of civil society are involved in this process.

One of the meetings to include civil society' perspective was prepared by ICLEI South America and supported by local movements including the city's youth voices. This meeting has mobilized participants aged between 15 and 30 years old for a discussion about the question: "What is the most important highlight for a Climate Action Plan for your city?." During the discussions young people defined proposals that could guide the actions to be added in the final document of the study, that will be validated and adapted after the review by ICLEI and the focal points of the cities.

Recife recognizes the importance of managing robust data to design and further implement effective climate action through its Climate Action Plan, as done by Fortaleza, Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre.

[Read online here](#)



View of the Boa Viagem neighbourhood in Recife

Urban champion: Braulio Alonso Espinosa Márquez, Mayor of Envigado, Colombia

Each newsletter, we hand over the mic to local government staff in Urban-LEDS cities, so they can tell you their story of promoting low-emission development in their municipalities



Alcade Braulio Espinosa, Envigado © Reproduction Envigado city hall (2) (1)

Braulio Espinosa Márquez was born in the Municipality of Envigado, studied systems engineering at the Institución Universitaria de Envigado, where he began as a student leader, and later pursued a career in law and a specialization in public management. He was councilman of Envigado for two terms and president of that corporation. His governmental approach is based on the union of all political sectors, education and trust.

Committed to sustainability, the Municipality of Envigado has worked on processes related to climate change for the last ten years, focusing on: solid waste management, restoration of regulatory ecosystems, recovery and conservation of hydrographic basins, declaration of protected areas,


management of urban air quality and improvement of the environmental management of the Municipality. All these initiatives allowed the Municipality, in association with the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, to formulate the Plan for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in 2017. In order to comply with mitigation actions, it has prioritized the areas of mobility, waste management, changing of LED lights, sustainable farming practices, urban ecozones and protected areas. The ecozones seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and improve the conditions and indicators of climate change adaptation, through a process of civic and environmental culture, education and awareness that is transversal to the articulated programming of low-cost and high-impact interventions.


The technical and financial resources provided by the Urban-LEDS II project allowed the development of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2018 and the beginning of the prioritization of mitigation measures to establish reduction goals. Additionally, Envigado was selected to be part of one of the pilot cities of the LEDES Lab, an ICLEI South America initiative that aims at developing a bankable strategy of alternative energy and energy efficiency for public facilities. From the vision of Mayor Braulio Espinosa and in general, for the city of Envigado, the possibility of sharing experiences of climate change is essential, since it recognizes the need to generate sustainability measures in the territory that are able to add to the national and global goals.


Being part of the LEDES Lab initiative has improved the Municipality's capacity in energy efficiency and alternative energy in public facilities, an innovative component for the municipality, since it is included for the first time in the 2020-2023 Development Plan led by the stewardship of Mayor Braulio Espinosa. During the LEDES Lab process, a methodological proposal for Energy Efficiency in public facilities was built and the pilot project is being implemented in the Secretariat of Environment and Agricultural Development, which can be replicated in other public facilities.

During the last ten years of structuring the climate change program in conjunction with academia and government institutions, the Municipality of Envigado has implemented important actions in the conservation of protected areas and the future is bright for further successful implementation of the climate action plan under the leadership of the Mayor.

For more information on the Urban-LEDS project;

 www.urban-leds.org

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 @ICLEI, @UN-HABITAT



The Urban-LEDS project is funded by the European Union.