



Urban-LEDS Newsletter #4 - July 2015

Welcome to the fourth Urban-LEDS newsletter!

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 Commission, it helps cities to pursue low-carbon, sustainable development.

This newsletter gives a small roundup of exciting developments since the last edition in February, stretching from the advocacy realm to the 2nd Urban-LEDS International Networking Seminar in Bogor, Indonesia. A variety of people and actors are involved in this project helping these 29 emerging economy cities to be(come) healthy and sustainable places to live, work and thrive for everyone.

Enjoy your read!



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80 cities already commit to Compact of Mayors

Cities addressing climate change are committing to the Compact of Mayors pledging to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, tracking their progress and preparing for the impacts of climate. An impressive fourteen of these eighty cities, that pledged to deliver on this commitment within the next three years, are Urban-LEDS project cities: Bogor & Balikpapan (Indonesia); KwaDukuza & Nelson Mandela Bay (South Africa); Fortaleza, Recife, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro & Curitiba (Brazil); Rajkot, Gwalior, Shimla, (India) and Almada (Portugal) and Copenhagen (Denmark) from Europe.

In New York in September 2014, leading city networks ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, UCLG and C40 launched the Compact of Mayors – a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress publicly. The Compact is an agreement by city networks – and then by their members – to fight climate change in a manner that is consistent with and complimentary to national efforts. It is actively supported by the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg, and UN-Habitat.

As of the last week of June 2015, the Compact proudly presents 80 cities and their mayors as leaders that have committed to report and share their achievements. The Compact of Mayors defines clear compliance requirements using a reporting framework



that will help harmonize collection of data on climate commitments, GHG inventories, climate hazards and climate actions. The **carbonn® Climate Registry (cCR)** is one of two official reporting platforms for this initiative, the other being the CDP. The cCR is also the designated central repository where data aggregation

will take place to support key messaging to national governments and international agencies. Cities that commit to the Compact of Mayors are developing climate action plans (mitigation and adaptation), setting clear climate commitments and targets, and reporting on climate hazards and vulnerabilities.

Of the 80 committed cities, 54 are already reporting



on the cCR. This represents a 68 percent share of the total, accounting for 120,388,410 inhabitants. Auckland (New Zealand), Bandung (Indonesia) and Lagos (Nigeria) are the most recent additions to the group of committed cities reporting through its central repository, the cCR. The number is steadily increasing, and is expected to expand faster since the launch of the Compact's profile on social networks such as **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

The Compact of Mayors was presented at the UNFCCC Climate Talks and the Resilient Cities 2015 Congress in Bonn in June this year, drawing widespread interest from small and large cities alike. ICLEI has reached out to its members encouraging them to be a part of this leadership initiative for local governments at the global level.

Cities begin to TAP potential for COP21

In May 2015, ICLEI and partners launched the Transformative Actions Program (TAP), inviting local governments from around the world to submit their ambitious, cross-cutting and inclusive climate plans and projects in a major drive to highlight local action and improve access to funding.

Municipalities, cities and regions from all continents have expressed their interest in and support for the



program. ICLEI is currently in discussions with local governments from countries including Sweden, France, Spain, China and Korea. The wide range of partners on the TAP project have engaged in outreach campaigns, joining together in a concerted effort to mobilize and spotlight transformative action in the build-up to the [Paris Climate Conference \(COP21\)](#) in December this year.



In the last month, the TAP has received a positive response from cities and policy-makers alike at major stakeholder events such as the the 5th GIB Sustainable Infrastructure Summit (a networking event for cities and investors) and the Resilient Cities 2015 Congress. Most recently, the TAP was presented at the latest Bonn Climate Talks at the UNFCCC to support a more global recognition of local governments in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Global negotiations are progressing, and will culminate in an agreement at the COP21. The shape of this agreement is already clear: it will offer a framework for national governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local and regional governments must support this negotiation process but must also continue to act, regardless of the outcome.

The TAP will help local and regional governments to show national governments what they can do. Recognition of local action at a national level is increasing, but more is required. By highlighting transformative local actions in [the TAP Pavilion](#), ICLEI and partners will drive national governments at COP21 to tackle climate change at all levels, supporting and empowering local and regional governments to make major contributions.

The TAP application process continues. The deadline for the next round of applications is 15 July. Late applications will be accepted until 15 August.

To apply and to learn more about the TAP, please [visit the TAP website](#).

If you are interested in TAP and would like to learn more about the program, you can also sign up to one of our webinars: [20 July - 21 July](#)

Urban-LEDS cities show at World Summit how it's done

On 2 July 2015, the World Summit Climate & Territories, held in Lyon, France, closed after two days of thematic workshops and plenary assemblies on a strong message: cities, regions, and their citizens are collectively engaged in making low-carbon resilient communities around the world.

Addressing over 800 Summit participants, representatives of Urban-LEDS cities Shimla (India), Fortaleza (Brazil), KwaDukuza (S. Africa) and Copenhagen (Denmark) shared their low carbon actions and commitments.

The Summit, organized by the Region Rhône-Alpes under the patronage of French President Francois Hollande was attended by over 800 representatives of non-party stakeholders from all major groups. Together they have cemented their message for COP21 in Paris at the end of the year: cities and regions around the world are ready and on track to meet the challenges of climate change and commit our societies to a low-carbon resilient path that will keep global temperatures under a 2°C increase.

The Summit has also shown that cities, local governments, business and civil society are now asking nation states to take responsibility and to act appropriately. "It's time for national governments to step up, listen to their citizens, and give them what they want", said David Cadman, Special Representative of the ICLEI Presidency in the closing plenary on non-party stakeholders' commitments.



Vice Mayor Tikender Singh Panwar presented the Compact of Mayors to which Shimla has already committed

Highlights of the plenary on non-party stakeholders' commitments included presentations from ICLEI Secretary General Gino Van Begin, together with President Mohamed Ibrahim of the Timbuktu Region, on the outcomes of the Adaptation Workshop, co-organized by ICLEI, Green Cross, and the International Chamber of Commerce. Member cities of ICLEI also made significant contributions:

- **Vice Mayor Tikender Singh Panwar of Shimla, India** presented the **Compact of Mayors**. Shimla has committed to the Compact, along with Vancouver, Bristol, and Copenhagen. Through the Compact, ICLEI is working with partners UCLG and C40 to help cities reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track and report.
- **Mayor George Ferguson of Bristol, UK** – the European Green Capital 2015 – presented the latest data from the carbonn Climate Registry, which currently supports 12 global initiatives and commitments from over 500 cities, who together have committed to approximately 1 billion tons of CO2 emission reductions. Mayor Ferguson invited cities to bridge the gap between ambition and action by using the cCR for data-supported advocacy.
- **Mayor Morten Kabell of Copenhagen, Denmark** announced the commitment of the city to become the world's first carbon neutral capital of the world.
- **Vice Mayor Raymond Louie of Vancouver, Canada** presented the ambition of the City of Vancouver to become carbon neutral progress publicly.

Highlights of the Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) 2nd International Networking Seminar

From 05- 07 May 2015, Urban-LEDS project cities from Indonesia, Brazil, India, South Africa and Europe, gathered in the host Bogor City, Indonesia for the 2nd Urban-LEDS International Networking Seminar (INS). High-ranking national and subnational government officials and technical experts spanning seven countries, along with ICLEI and UN-Habitat staff, engaged in South-South-North learning and exchange to accelerate the transition of low emission development at the local level.

The 2nd Urban-LEDS International Networking Seminar (INS) welcomed over 60 participants – including senior local government representatives of 37 Urban-LEDS project cities in Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa, and Europe – to meet, learn and exchange with each other among ICLEI and UN-Habitat staff. Of these cities, 14 Urban-LEDS Cities constitute more than 20% of cities that expressed their intent to comply with the **Compact of Mayors** as leaders in support of transparent approaches to reducing city-level emissions.



Following the 1st International Networking Seminar held in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa in 2013, and the Urban-LEDS European Study Tour in the host cities of Almada, Portugal, Copenhagen, Denmark and Hannover, Germany in 2014, the 2nd Urban-LEDS INS event marked the third unique opportunity in the Urban-LEDS cities' journeys to reconvene and share achievements, map priorities and identify solutions, tools and strategies to scale up low emissions development.

Key issues explored throughout the three-day event ranged from effective strategic planning and stakeholder engagement; embedding measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) climate action processes into Low Emission Development (LED) and showing leadership through the Compact of Mayors; access to finance through programs such as the **Transformative Actions Program (TAP)**; and how Urban-LEDS cities may contribute to raising the global climate ambition in the run up to the COP 21/CMP11 in Paris, France and



beyond. Adding to the highlights, the Mayor of Bogor City, Bima Arya, announced preparations to convene a national event to mobilize cities for the Compact of Mayors, and participation in the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference, June 2015 in Bonn, Germany.

Mayor Bima declared, “The City of Bogor is committed to reducing GHG emissions”, and shared his commitment to transform the city into a hub of low emission public transportation options, including a Bus Rapid Transit System, and new bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The Urban-LEDS Delegation also held a high level dialogue with Rachmat Witoelar, Presidential Special Envoy for Climate Change, (Former) Executive Chair of the National Council on Climate Change (DNPI), for the Republic of Indonesia. The core discussions focused on the engagement of local governments to ensure a sustainable Indonesian urban development strategy towards 2019 and 2045, and active engagement in the Indonesian Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) process, and strengthening advocacy towards Paris.

Additional INS highlights included the presence



of Vice-Mayor of Bogor, Usmar Hariman, Zaenal Arifin, Deputy Director of Urban Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, Republic of Indonesia, and Farhan Helmy, Chairman, Project Advisory Group, of Urban-LEDS Indonesia, who spoke on the importance of vertically integrating local-level LEDS into national level.

Speakers such as Robert Kehew, Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat, and Emani Kumar, ICLEI World Secretariat Deputy Secretary General and Regional Director of the ICLEI South Asia Secretariat, provided valuable input and insights into the manifold benefits and processes to successfully mainstream low emission development into statutory plans and paths to access

finance by the Urban-LEDS cities at the local, regional, national and international level.

All eight model cities presented their annual achievements, from Bogor, Indonesia’s approach to identifying low emission development priorities in transport, to KwaDukuza, South Africa, with its strategy to embed LED into economic development. The Mayor of Rajkot, Rakshaben Raghubhai Boliya, who recently announced a commitment join the UNEP-led **District Energy in Cities Initiative**, a Sustainable Energy for All District Energy Accelerator, spoke to the value of city-to-city learning, which has supported Rajkot, India’s activities to develop and mainstream Urban-LEDS in the planning process.

Urban-LEDS leadership continued with Satellite Cities’ ambitious LED activities ranging from UMhlatuze, South Africa’s approach to stimulating local renewable energy projects with the private sector, in Brazil Sorocaba’s development of a city LED Action Plan and Climate Policy and in Indonesia, Bontang’s steps towards low carbon MRV solutions.

Throughout the INS participants explored Urban-



LEDS resources and tools to support their LEDS such as the **GreenClimateCities (GCC)** methodology, the **Solutions Gateway**, the **Pool of Experts** and the **carbonn Climate Registry** in interactive ways. Discussions surrounding guidance and tools were enhanced by interactive peer exchange, where participants deepened their knowledge of partner cities’ inspiring success LED stories, through activities such as the “Market Place” and “World Cafe”, and LED site visits support one another’s capacity development to tackle implementation challenges and low-emission development needs.

As Carlos Maricio da Fonseca Guerra, the Executive Secretary, Secretariat of Environment and Sustainability of Recife stated, “Implementing Urban-LEDS allows us

to produce robust results which positively impact our local communities- and to highlight these successes- no matter how large or how small”.

The Urban-LEDS project, jointly implemented by ICLEI and UN-Habitat and funded by the European Commission, began in 2012, when 37 Cities were selected, including Bogor, Balikpapan, Bogor Regency, Tangerang Selatan, Bontang and Tarkon (Indonesia); Steve Tshwete, KwaDukuza, uMhlathuze, Nelson Mandela Bay, Sol Plaatje Municipality, Saldanha Bay Municipality, Mogale City Local Municipality (South Africa); Fortaleza, Recife, Betim, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, Sorocaba, Recife (Brazil); Rajkot, Thane, Panaji, Gwalior, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Shimla, Nagpur, Coimbatore (India) and Almada (Portugal), Helsinki (Finland), Bologna (Italy), Zagreb (Croatia), Hannover (Germany), Copenhagen (Denmark), Gaziantep (Turkey) and Warsaw (Poland) from Europe.

Urban-LEDS cities' projects profiled to potential funders

Nine projects, promoted by 6 Urban-LEDS cities, were chosen to be presented to potential funders at the Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) Summit 2015, in Basel, 27-28 May. These projects were selected from a group of 150 project proposals submitted. Concurrently, the Transformative Actions Program was presented in a mobilization of efforts towards the global climate negotiations later this year.

The **Global Infrastructure Basel Summit** is a forum for sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure projects to connect with potential funders. Projects from six Urban-LEDS cities were presented to potential funders by posters (from Bontang (Indonesia); Nelson Mandela Bay and uMhlathuze (S. Africa)) or by participating representatives from the other three cities:

Bogor (Indonesia), Fortaleza (Brazil) and Panaji (India).



The Mayor of Bogor, Mr. Bima Arya, for example presented a Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system project, which builds on the experience of the city with previous BRT corridors. Mr. Sanjit Rodrigues, Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Panaji, presented two projects: an integrated solid waste management system – relying on recycling and composting and 100% coverage of door-to-door separate waste collection, which will enable the city to become landfill free – and a project to implement an energy-efficient street lighting system, which will include LED lighting and an energy management system. Mr. Alexandrino Diógenes, International and Federative Affairs Department of the Fortaleza City Hall, presented three projects: a coastal tram system, recycling attitudes – a program for the exchange of waste for public transport tickets in schools – and a coast 100% fit for bathing.

Ms. Stephany Uy-Tan, the Mayor of the City of Catbalogan, Philippines – an ICLEI member city – presented a project dealing with urban planning and adaptation: the Sky City Mega project.

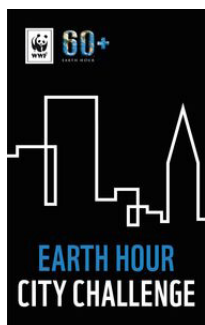
In a plenary session on climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainable infrastructure, Mr. Rodrigues illustrated the challenges faced by small cities, such as Panaji (100,000 inhabitants, and 250,000 visitors due to tourism): access to finance as there is a lack of scale that could make projects attractive to private finance. “People do not believe that we have achieved 100% coverage of door-to-door waste collection. I invite potential funders to come and visit us, and see for yourself”. Mr. Rodrigues’ inspiring presentation also referred to the challenges in developing the necessary feasibility studies to support project financing and implementation.

In the session “Closing the Financing Gap in Urban Resilient Infrastructure”, Mr. Yunus Arikan, ICLEI’s Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, presented the Transformative Actions Program (TAP). This is a partnership initiative with organizations such as GIB, developed with a view towards and beyond the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris later this year. It builds on, and recognizes, the GIB’s experience developed over the past 5 years, on the financing of sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure. One of the four program pillars is the TAP Project Pipeline which supports 100 selected frontrunner cities and regions by presenting them to potential funders at the annual UNFCCC Conference of Parties every year. Responding to the question on how to close the finance gap, Mr. Arikan replied “This is not a question of technology, it is not a

question of finance, it is a question of governance and how we develop our cities.” To learn more about the projects presented visit the [GIB project finder](#).

Earth Hour City Challenge 2015-2016 launched!

Since 1 July 2015, the WWF and ICLEI invite local governments from over 20 countries to demonstrate their climate leadership and ambition, reporting their inspiring climate commitments, performance and actions through the Earth Hour City Challenge's official reporting platform, the carbonn Climate Registry (cCR).



This year's theme is “Bridging the Gap”. Is your city ready to step up to the Challenge?

For the fifth consecutive year, the WWF will launch the **Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC)**. Last year, 166 EHCC cities participated from

17 countries. Ultimately, the international EHCC jury named Seoul, Republic of South Korea, the global winner with its ambitious, “One Less Nuclear Power Plant” initiative, key commitments to CO2 reduction, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and impressive range of 88 climate actions.

In addition, of 14 Urban-LEDS cities, six were nominated as national EHCC finalists for ambitious low carbon development and climate commitments: Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Rajkot and Thane (India), Balikpapan (Indonesia), and Nelson Mandela Bay (South Africa). The **20 countries eligible** in this year's challenge include all four emerging economy Urban-LEDS project countries (Brazil, Indonesia, India and South Africa), plus Finland from Europe.

The Urban-LEDS Model City of Thane, India, and the Satellite City of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, took home the title of EHCC national capitals for their LED actions to increase renewable energy, such as the mandatory use of solar hot water heating.

In addition, the Urban-LEDS city of Balikpapan, Indonesia was rewarded with the title “Most Lovable Sustainable City 2015” for having achieved the greatest citizen engagement in the EHCC's social media campaign WeLoveCities 2015 campaign.

The theme for this year's EHCC is “Bridging the Gap”,

which refers to the gap between the aggregated global climate commitments and the additional commitments and actions necessary to keep global warming below the 2 °C mark. The 2015-16 Challenge invites cities to:

- demonstrate accountability through ambitious climate commitments and transparent reporting of climate data.
- report inspiring, big win climate actions, in terms of GHG reductions as well as the co-benefits they provide in relation to food, water and energy security challenges.

The EHCC international jury is looking for inspiring cases of local climate leadership, with consideration for each city's specific local context (e.g. national/regional support for urban sustainability, available resources, local challenges such as urban poverty, and city size). For more information, go to: carbonn.org/join/



City of Seoul receiving the EHCC Award as the global winner 2014-2015

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 (UrbanLEDS) 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 Basis

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

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), is the United Nations' agency for sustainable urban development.

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