



## Urban-LEDS Newsletter #6 - January 2016

### Welcome to this special COP21 edition the 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 Union**, it helps cities to pursue low-carbon, sustainable development.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of how the Urban-LEDS project was involved during the United Nations climate negotiations (COP21) in Paris, France in December 2015. This includes city participation in sessions at the Cities & Regions - TAP2015 Pavilion on climate finance, spatial planning, 100% renewable energy, carbon neutrality, as well as TAP project presentations. This newsletter also covers some of the official COP21 side events featuring Urban-LEDS cities and insights to ICLEI's crucial advocacy role in representing local and municipal authorities during the negotiations.

We hope you enjoy this first newsletter of 2016 and we wish you a happy new year !



Cities & Regions  
Pavilion - TAP2015



PARIS2015  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP21-CMP11

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## Landmark COP21 Agreement Reached in Paris

**The unanimously approved Paris Agreement strives to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with the intent to pursue a 1.5-degree target. Through this Agreement, local and subnational governments are recognized as essential actors in fast tracking transformative action in the urban world.**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability welcomes the landmark commitments of 185 nations to curb the trajectory of current and future global greenhouse gas emissions. While these agreed national contributions are a strong basis for action, they do not yet keep global warming below the 2-degree Celsius threshold. National governments must therefore resolve to achieve stronger climate commitments.

The Paris Agreement answers ICLEI's call for nations to review, every five years, their commitments to keep greenhouse gas emissions trajectories well below 2 degrees Celsius. This process of accountability will safeguard, in particular, the most vulnerable populations and small island nations that suffer from the impacts of climate change they have not caused. ICLEI supports that least developed and developing countries must be entitled to peak their emissions within the context of shared but differentiated responsibility.

Through this Agreement, nations have yet to provide an ambitious response to end a fossil-dependent era, despite the unstoppable transformation into an urban development model based on 100% renewables. ICLEI expects that nations urgently signal to industry and the private sector that the fossil fuel-dependent era is ending.

As the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC for 25 years and the facilitator of the Local Government Climate Roadmap since 2007, ICLEI has successfully advanced the recognition of local and subnational action and asks for further support for their contributions to implementing the Agreement.



*Park Won-soon, Mayor of Seoul and President of ICLEI speaks at the High-Level Action Day on Dec 5*

Secretary General of ICLEI, Gino Van Begin stated, "The Paris agreement affirms engagement with all levels of government, and this inclusiveness will strengthen the power of the global coalition that will build a climate-safe and resilient future for communities across the world."

Technical and financial support committed through the Paris Agreement will capacitate local and subnational governments to act boldly, swiftly and purposefully on climate. Immediate allocation of necessary resources to transformative local and subnational plans will accelerate implementation of pre-2020 action. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) can be a supporting mechanism to this end.

Nations must now urgently unlock the necessary USD 100 billion per year to support implementation of national commitments in developing countries and



*From left to right: Clover Moore, Mayor, Sydney; Marcio Araujo de Lacerda, Mayor, Belo Horizonte; Jennifer Layke, World Resources Institute (WRI); Johannes Van der Merwe, Councillor of Cape Town; Kassim Reed, Mayor, Atlanta; and Bima Arya, Mayor of Bogor, an Urban-LEDS city in Indonesia at the LPAA Buildings Day on Dec 3 © USD*

earmark USD 35 billion for adaptation. Nations must also still build a robust framework for loss-and-damage that prioritizes the needs of vulnerable cities and regions. ICLEI looks toward the Warsaw International Mechanism to fill this gap with provision of public and private financing mechanisms.

ICLEI will continue to mobilize political commitments to address climate change in cities across the world, support transformative action plans that integrate climate into all dimensions of urban sustainability and seek necessary financing for projects that will complement and fast track the Paris Agreement.

As we celebrate this Agreement we also want to acknowledge the numerous **Urban-LEDS cities that have proudly represented local and subnational governments during key events of the COP21, at high-level segments, official side events as well as in the Cities & Regions - TAP2015 Pavilion.** The urban-LEDS delegation at COP21 included the representatives at the mayoral level from Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Shimla (India), Bogor (Indonesia), Steve Tshwete (South Africa), Helsinki (Finland), Copenhagen (Denmark), Warsaw (Poland), Bologna (Italy) and at staff level; Balikpapan (Indonesia), Fortaleza, Sorocaba and Curitiba (Brazil).

For more information on the significance of the COP21 process and outcome for local and subnational governments, including our [Layman's guide to the Paris Agreement](#), COP21 briefing sheets and blog articles, please visit our webpage [ICLEI at COP21](#).



*Family photo at the Climate Summit for Local Leaders at the Paris City Hall.*

## Urban-LEDS Side Event at COP21

On 7 December the Urban-LEDS project, implemented by ICLEI and UN-Habitat and financed by the European Union, held an official side event in the EU Pavilion in the presence of the heads of the organizations and a panel of mayors involved in the project.

Joan Clos, Director of UN-Habitat, opened the session by reminding the audience of the challenge and importance of supporting fast-growing cities, especially in emerging economies in their transition towards Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), where it also means disrupting the established status quo. Clos thanked both the European Union and ICLEI for the support they were able to provide to the 37 Urban-LEDS cities and insisted on the role of Urban-LEDS in providing practical project implementation and capacity building examples.



*Park Won Soon, Mayor of Seoul and President of ICLEI speaks at the Climate Summit for Local Leaders*

**Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI**, echoed Clos' statement and reiterated the importance of finding solutions in cities, where rapid urbanization is a cause of high GHG emissions but also an opportunity to birth and implement ambitious solutions. These rapidly urbanizing cities must continue to develop but in a different way. Urban-LEDS is empowering them on this pathway.

Finally, **Peter Craig McQuaide, speaking on behalf of DG DEVCO**, reminded the audience that the European Union is an example of growth decoupled from GHG emissions. From this perspective, the EU is committed to spending at least 20% of its current budget (2014-2020) towards climate related actions, including cooperation projects with developing countries. McQuaide praised the presentations for showing how the EU-funded Urban-LEDS project was able to bring about change that would otherwise not have been possible.

**Maryke van Staden, Director of the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting** (carbonn® Center) presented the Urban-LEDS project, including the Solutions Gateway and Pools of Experts online platforms, as access points for information and expertise on low emission development solutions. Van Staden highlighted the GreenClimateCities methodology, which is a step-by-step process to analyze, act and accelerate local climate action. This methodology, developed specifically for local government, embodies the essence of the Urban-LEDS project: it seeks to institutionalize processes of change within local governments' systems and capacity. As testimony of the leadership from the Urban-LEDS cities, she also saluted the numerous TAP projects submitted by Urban LEADS cities and their achievement under the Compact of Mayors. Currently 22 of the 37 cities of Urban-LEDS are committed to the Compact of Mayors.

Cities took the stage to present their achievements under the Urban-LEDS project. **Mayor Bima Arya of Bogor** described the leadership and ambition of Bogor, despite extremely rapid rates of urbanization, a dense concentration of activity within the city center and a staggering number of new motorized vehicles on the street of Bogor (800 motorcycles and 200 cars every week). Despite these challenges and with the support of Urban-LEDS, he was able to integrated LEADS in the city's 5 Year Mid-Term Development Plan and the city's budget, and to implement measures such as weekly car-free days or streetlights LED retrofits.

**Mayor Masina of Steve Tshwete** presented the

latest project that he was able to implement with the support of Urban-LEDS: the roll out of passive insulated cookers and the installation of a solar PV system on the roof of a community center, thereby benefitting local schools and kindergartens.

**Vice-Mayor of Shimla, Tikender Panwar** stressed the importance of developing a GHG inventory for the city of Shimla, which was made possible by the project and will be able to show how progressive, clean and attractive the city of Shimla is.

**Maria Aparecida Pedrosa, Secretary of Environment for the city of Recife**, also praised the importance of capacity building as provided under Urban-LEDS to help the city develop their first GHG inventory in 2012. Thanks to the training provided by the Urban-LEDS project, the city staff was able to update the GHG inventory in 2013. The latter showed an encouraging decrease of GHG emissions of 2.5%.

**Giovanna Sanche, International Relations Coordinator of the city of Sorocaba**, explained that Urban-LEDS significantly helped the city in its transition to low emission development by having helped the administration identify concrete actions such as the implementation of a BRT system, legislation on green buildings or the expansion of bike lanes. Sorocaba now seeks funding to implement these actions, notably through the TAP projects.

To conclude the evening, **Leszek Drogosz, Director of the Department of Infrastructure of Warsaw**, shared a few impressions on the Global Exchange program under Urban-LEDS. Through this program, model and satellite cities were able to go on a European Study tour hosted by the European Urban-LEDS cities. The entire Urban-LEDS network also convened in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and Bogor to share experiences and best practices. Drogosz noted that the cities quickly became true friends, which enabled them to share their visions, ideas and challenges, proving that despite their different backgrounds cities have a lot of the same goals and can find support and inspiration in this friendly cooperation.



Family photo at the Urban-LEDS official COP21 side event

## ICLEI And UCLG Co-host Compact Of Mayors Side Event

Since the official launch of the Compact of Mayors in September 2014 and over the course of its first year of activity, important milestones have been achieved. In total, 428 cities and towns have committed to the Compact of Mayors in Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, North and South America. Of these 428 committed cities, 43 are fully compliant with the Compact of Mayors – meaning they have reported according to the robust reporting framework on both climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments, inventories and actions. These figures were announced to a packed room on Monday December 7th 2015 at an official COP21 Side Event on the Compact of Mayors, co-organized by ICLEI and UCLG.

This side event, moderated by **Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI**, provided an opportunity for dialogue to explore options for enhanced engagement of local and sub-national governments in raising the level of ambition and accelerating climate action at all levels, based on the outcomes of COP21. Yunus Arian, Head of Global Advocacy at ICLEI further stressed the important role of cities and local governments regarding climate change by providing an overview of the efforts undertaken by local and subnational governments since 1993.

The Compact of Mayors Management Committee, including the Compact of Mayors Secretariat at Bloomberg Philanthropies, C40, ICLEI and UCLG took the stage to present the nature of the Compact of Mayors and its compliance requirements in terms of target setting, GHG inventory, risk assessment as well as climate mitigation and adaptation planning. Several tools to support cities to successfully achieve compliance with the Compact were presented, such

as the free online GHG inventory tool “ClearPath”, and the “Climate Risk and Adaptation Framework and Taxonomy (CRAFT)”.

Following these statements, several committed and compliant cities – representing a diversity of regions and sizes - shared their motivation for joining the Compact and the benefits of joining this ambition-raising global initiative.



Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan, Catbalogan (Philippines) © IISD

- Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan of Catbalogan, the Philippines, urged regional cooperation, underscoring rapid urbanization and high vulnerability of cities, requiring a comprehensive response to tackle climate change.
- Mayor Cownie of des Moines, US noted the usefulness of ClearPath which can enable cities to compare their work, set targets, make reductions and commit to the Compact.
- Mayor Nxumalo of Durban, South Africa stressed how the Compact of Mayors provides the necessary framework to address mitigation and adaptation jointly.
- Mayor Ferguson of Bristol, UK also highlighted how the Compact can enable cooperation and comparison between cities across the world.

For more city insights we invite you to read the full coverage of [the Compact of Mayors side event](#), realized by the IISD Reporting Services. We also invite you to view [the video](#) of the side event realized by the IISD.



From left to right: Gino van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI, Tikender Panwar, Deputy Mayor of Shimla (India), George Ferguson, Mayor of Bristol (UK), Aaron Wood, Councillor for Melbourne (Australia) and Ronan Dantec, UCLG spokesperson and French Senator © IISD

## Historic partnership between the Compact of Mayors and the Covenant of Mayors

**On December 4th 2015 during COP21, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg and the European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Pierre Moscovici announced that the Compact of Mayors and Covenant of Mayors will formally become partners. This historic partnership between the two initiatives will promote and support voluntary local and subnational climate action.**

The **Compact of Mayors** is a global coalition of 439 mayors committed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress transparently. Committed cities and towns represent 377,898,853 inhabitants. Of these, 43 cities have already achieved full compliance with the Compact's requirements - meaning they have reported according to the robust reporting framework on both climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments, inventories and action.

The **Covenant of Mayors** is an initiative of the European Union, which brings together 6,656 European cities and towns voluntarily committed to implement EU climate and energy objectives in their towns, cities and regions. The Covenant signatories represent 211 million inhabitants.

The partnership between the two initiatives signals a renewed effort to demonstrate the global impact of local and subnational action and embodies the proposal that they are key contributors to a global solution. The

objective of this partnership is to support cities and local governments in achieving emission reductions and adapting to inevitable climate change impacts. To do so, it recognizes the importance of city networks to support participating cities and local governments.

The Compact- Covenant partnership will work with local and subnational governments around the world to ensure robust climate adaptation and mitigation agendas with particular attention to the sectors traditionally falling under their mandates, such as transportation and buildings. In practice, the partnership will enable the two initiatives to streamline the reporting systems which allow local governments to measure their work.

Michael R. Bloomberg and Pierre Moscovici spoke for the Compact of Mayors and Covenant of Mayors respectively, and both applauded the newly established partnership. "The Compact of Mayors reflects the strong commitment of cities to reduce carbon emissions and the crucial role they play in confronting climate change. Collaboration between cities is fueling their progress, and that's why we're joining forces with the Covenant of Mayors," said Bloomberg. "By combining the resources of two growing coalitions, this partnership will help demonstrate the impact of city climate action at a critical moment – and help pave the way for bolder action by cities and by national governments around the world." Moscovici highlighted the "long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary city action to combat climate change" of the partnership and ensured that cities have played a "tremendous role" in the lead-up to the COP21 outcome. We look forward to the next steps of the Compact-Covenant partnerships and supporting local and subnational governments engage in the momentum started in Paris.

For more information about the globalization of the Covenant of Mayors, read [the ICLEI Talk of the Cities blog](#).



*From left to right: George Ferguson, Mayor of Bristol (UK), Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Secretary General Special Envoy and Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner*

## TAP Times at the Cities & Regions - TAP2015 Pavilion

"TAP Time" sessions at the Cities & Regions Pavilion showcased the most promising projects submitted under the TAP and explored options to finance them and accelerate climate change mitigation or adaptation. The following is an overview of the Brazil and South Asia TAP Times. To discover all TAP projects submitted by Urban-LEDS cities, visit the [TAP website](#).

# TAP

## Transformative Actions Program

### Brazil

**The Brazil "TAP Time" session on Thursday, 3 December featured presentations from Mayor Marcio Lacerda of Belo Horizonte, Mayor Antonio Luiz Carvalho of Itu accompanied by Rodrigo Ventre, Executive Director of EPPO, Helio Machado Pessoa Project Coordinator of Recife, and Águeda Muniz, Secretary of Urbanism and Environment Department of Fortaleza.**

The projects were linked by their aim to improve the lives of residents through integrated and participatory approaches which combine "hard" infrastructure solutions with "soft" educational components. The projects from both Belo Horizonte and Itu build on pioneering work started over 15 years ago. The project from Recife and Fortaleza have in a common a focus on inclusivity and ecosystem-based approaches.

**Belo Horizonte, an Urban-LEDS city**, presented their municipal plan to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) through action in three sectors: transportation, energy, and sanitation. For transport, the city is expanding the bus rapid transit system established 20 years ago to cover 400,000 km by 2020. For energy, Belo Horizonte is increasing its share of renewable energy. It already boasts 300 square meters of solar panels per 1000 inhabitants, which are used for heating water and powering the City's stadium, amongst other things. Resource efficiency is also featured in the plan – in 2015, the city reduced the administration's water consumption by 30% compared with the previous year. Other actions include installing LED lights, planting trees, and partnering with the private sector through a sustainable building certification program.



Stadium in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) © [Stadion Belo Horizonte Halbfinale WM 2014](#) by F. Emert / CC BY

Belo Horizonte is also improving its resilience to disasters such as landslides and worsening climate change impacts. Actions include a study on vulnerability and climate risk, which is being used to inform a climate adaptation and resilience plan, currently under development. Thanks to these crosscutting adaptation and mitigation efforts, Belo Horizonte is among the first cities to become Compact of Mayors compliant!

The City of Itu, Brazil, is building on its pioneering waste management program, begun in 2000. The entire city is covered by waste collection, which includes partial coverage of selective waste collection, ecological recycling of construction debris, and underground waste collection systems. Itu's waste management is exceptional for a Brazilian city – its recycling unit, for example, collects 10% more waste than the national average.

For the next phase, Itu plans to construct a waste treatment center. In the short term, the 30 year 80 million euro project includes plans for a mechanized sorting and recycling center and further facilities for managing waste from civil construction. For Itu, the goal is to have the least amount of waste sent to landfills, which contribute to GHG emissions. To support this goal, the city also offers a variety of environmental education programs to encourage behavior change toward more sustainable lifestyles.

**Recife, also an Urban-LEDS city**, is working to be a more inclusive, resilient city, putting humans at the center of urban development through participatory approaches that target the urban poor. A low lying city, Recife residents are vulnerable to flooding and landslides – especially those living in the City's 547 informal settlements. Recife is proposing to reduce these risks and overcome the division between informal and formal areas through urban development interventions in 30% of the city.

These interventions may include the provision of

decentralized solid waste management, permeable pavement, rain gardens, sewage collection linked to treatment plants, green city streets and degraded areas, and LED lighting.



*Aerial view of Recife (Brazil)*

All of these actions would improve the quality of life for Recife residents, but support is needed for implementation. For example, the City is ready to pilot participatory urban transformation projects in poor areas, applying best practices that can be replicated and expanded within the city. If fully funded, the project would benefit half of the total population of the city.

**The City of Fortaleza, another Urban-LEDS city**, is looking to expand green areas in the city to 15 meters per person as part of its environmental policy launched in 2013. This policy focuses on the integration of the natural and built environment with components focused on environmental education, sustainability, biodiversity, water, and pollution control, among others. The end goal is improved quality of life for its citizens.

The city has already begun to implement its afforestation project – with the support of donations, the participation of the private sector which has “adopted” parts of the city, and the support of civil society to green city sidewalks. Now, additional funds are needed to move the project forward. These would be used to research and pilot a planting and maintenance plan, to build capacity for continued implementation, and to deliver a complementary environmental education plan.

The session showed how Brazilian cities continue to be pioneers in the area of inclusive and sustainable urban development. It also illustrated how support for further capacity building, awareness raising, and implementation could help these cities go further, faster, toward their goals.

## South Asia

**On December 10, the South Asia TAP time kicked-off with a scientific overview of the **Second Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities ARC3.2** findings for South Asia, presented by Soumayya Ali Ibrahim, International Program Manager, Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN).**

According to UCCRN's recent climate modeling data findings, the majority of Indian cities already experience extreme weather changes. Ibrahim urged, “action at the local level is needed to build capacity for climate change responses”. Without effectively operationalizing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, heat waves and flash floods, will continue to worsen in both frequency and intensity.

This call to action was answered, with two ambitious projects seeking funding and technical expertise to positively impact the Indian cities of **Gwalior, an Urban -LEDS city** and Kochi.

To combat Gwalior's climate change induced heat waves, water and vector-borne diseases, Emani Kumar, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General, presented the **Urban-LEDS city of Gwalior's** TAP project, an ambitious and integrated Low Emissions Oriented Solid Waste Management Immediate Plan. According to the Deputy Secretary General, “the project intends to transform the society within the local context, to benefit the entire city including the poor”.

The project will address both mitigation and adaptation, while reducing greenhouse gases and improving urban health. It is currently supported by the national government of India's “Clean India” project, with a 13% grant.



*Soumayya Ali Ibrahim, UCCRN*

In an echo of UCCRN's findings, the Mayor of Kochi was unable to attend the COP21 to present the City's TAP because of Kochi's heavy floods. Julien Allaire, Executive Manager of CODATU, therefore took to the stage on the city's behalf, and presented the city's TAP projects – the "Implementation of NMT Master Plan for Kochi with Pilots at CUSAT and Kalamassery" and "New low-floor, hybrid or electrical buses and mini-buses to complement or replace the existing fleet of public and private buses in Greater Kochi".

Kochi is located in the southern state of Kerala, India, and is the smallest city to build a metro. According to Allaire, "Kochi is really moving to give more access to public transportation to encourage walking and cycling, and increase access to transportation, especially for women and children, to enhance the quality of life for a livable city."

New and improved low-carbon infrastructure in Kochi will extend roughly 25 kilometers and connect to metro stations "by providing first and last mile connectivity", according to Mr. Allaire. If financed, the project will open in 2017.

Both South Asia TAP projects echoed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, technical assistance, and innovative finance needed to close the gap for ambitious place-based planning for low-carbon action. For more on the Urban-LEDS city of Gwalior and City of Kochi's TAP projects click [here](#).

## Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat address climate finance barriers

**Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat hosted a session at the Cities & Regions Pavilion on 9 December. Entitled "Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Urban Projects" and facilitated by Robert Kehew, Unit Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, UN-Habitat, Kenya. The session looked at both the demand and supply sides of urban climate investment.**

While there is a general consensus on the need to invest in sustainable, resilient cities and an acknowledgement of the opportunity that this investment represents, much of the finance is not reaching the local level. This means that, as Amy Kenyon, Program Officer, Metropolitan Opportunity Unit, Ford Foundation, USA noted, local governments

are still investing in business-as-usual projects with a short-term vision, like highways that bifurcate neighborhoods and are used mainly for transporting goods.

What are the barriers to the delivery of climate finance to cities? Sean Kidney, CEO of Climate Bonds Initiative stated that the world is "awash in capital" and that projects must be designed with small amounts of public funding, used only to leverage private investment. However, local governments must in turn design convincing, bankable projects and increase their creditworthiness to encourage large institutions to invest. As Kehew commented, it is necessary to "take need and turn it into demand". Kenyon suggested that there are structural and capacity roadblocks, with cities lacking the personnel to develop and deliver large scale infrastructure projects. Coordination between different levels of government may also be lacking.

Panellists suggested a variety of options for overcoming these barriers. Henry de Cazotte, Deputy Head of Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France pointed out that, through the French development agency (AFD), France has shown that it is possible to take direct risks on behalf of municipalities, with loans to, for example, Dakar and Johannesburg for infrastructure projects. Raising local bonds is also a possibility, while panellists agreed that public private partnerships (PPPs) will play an ever larger role. Kidney argued that cities can overcome a lack of creditworthiness by bundling municipal projects and raising capital, as has been done successfully in Sweden – all countries should have such a cooperative bond raising facility for municipalities!

Thierry Déau, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Meridiam presented his company, whose business model is built exclusively on the equity



*Henry de Cazotte, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France*

financing of projects sponsored by public authorities for the benefit of the community. Déau explained that it was now part of the duty of investors to focus on sustainability, as climate change will affect the value of all future investments. Deau highlighted the importance of benchmarking for investors and regulators, in order to demonstrate that investments in sustainability projects produce better and more stable returns. On a similar note, Laurent Widmer, Program Manager, Infrastructure Financing Division, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs mentioned the role of standards, labels and awards such as the European Energy Award: an assessment tool and guideline for cities on integrating energy considerations into city planning. These help local governments integrate and prioritize, while increasing the visibility of leading cities to donors and financial institutions.

A number of panellists highlighted the need for intermediaries between cities and finance. These intermediaries, Kenyon said, must have no financial interest in the projects; they must also build long-term capacity and understand technical solutions. De Cazotte pointed to the Compact of Mayors as an example of international cooperation and wondered whether it would be possible for major cities united in such initiatives to create a financial institution to fund smaller cities with lower credit ratings.

Kehew also invited panellists to discuss the Transformative Actions Program (TAP), launched in 2015 to increase the visibility of ambitious climate actions in cities and regions. The first phase of the TAP collected over 120 projects from around the world. De Cazotte suggested that to improve the TAP, a platform is required to bring institutions into contact with cities (the strong mobilization of the demand-side is good, but more structured discussion with the supply-side will only strengthen it), while Kenyon stated that financial institutions must be involved at an early stage

to avoid “locking in” the need for a specific form of finance.

Ultimately panellists were divided on the most important barriers to increased climate finance. **Tikender Panwar, Deputy Mayor, City of Shimla, an Urban-LEDS city from India**, insisted that there is a huge demand for climate finance at the local level and a small supply, and suggested that “crony capitalism” was an obstacle to delivery. Other panellists reiterated that cities needed more time and skills to develop viable projects and that leadership would play a vital role.

## Copenhagen: Making Sustainability Convenient

**Copenhagen, a European Urban-LEDS city, convened a panel as part of its event entitled “Copenhagen Carbon Neutral by 2025” at the Cities & Regions Pavilion – TAP2015 on 5 December 2015. The panel – facilitated by Christina Anderskov, International Strategist and Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Copenhagen – discussed Copenhagen’s progress toward carbon neutrality and the secrets of its success.**

Copenhagen is striving to be the first carbon neutral city in the world, and is well on the way toward this goal, with a 31% absolute reduction and a 40% per capita drop in greenhouse gas emissions since 2005. In 2014, the London School of Economics named Copenhagen a green growth leader, recognizing its achievements in lowering its carbon footprint despite the increase in its income and population.

Neel Strøbæk, Ramboll Group Market Director, Planning & Urban Design, stated: “if you are traveling around in the world, you’ll see lots of great carbon neutral plans, but not a lot of implementation. This is where Copenhagen has had the advantage of holding onto the vision and getting it done.” Fleming Voetmann, Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Danfoss, agreed that implementation is where Copenhagen stands out, and attributed this to strong collaboration within the city.

Johanna Partin, Director of Carbon Neutral Cities Network, discussed a new report published by Carbon Neutral Cities Network, which compares



*Tikender Panwar, Deputy Mayor of Shimla (India)*

the success of various cities in working towards a carbon neutral goal. The report looks at how the city has conducted its planning, the progress made, and how it is documenting its process. Partin noted that Copenhagen has done an especially good job of quantifying the benefits and co-benefits of its climate actions; in fact, it is one of the leading cities in this task.

Throughout the session, panellists emphasized the importance of collaboration and inclusion. Jørgen Abildgaard, Executive Climate Director at the City of Copenhagen, believes sharing challenges and successes is vital for learning. Abildgaard commented: "We want to have a positive economy and we want to reduce energy consumption. Our challenge is engaging citizens."

To do this, the city holds multiple public events and emphasizes storytelling. For example, Copenhagen is well known for its cycling, with more than 60% of all trips made with public transport, by bike or by walking. This is not because of citizens' concerns about climate change but because these methods are most convenient. This type of story has been effective in engaging the public.

Copenhagen also has an innovative approach to facilitate the business relationships necessary to accelerate climate actions. The Copenhagen Climate Partners is a new platform developed by the city – a network of businesses, organizations, and academia committed to collectively addressing the climate change issue. Abildgaard explained that private investment is vital for Copenhagen's progress, commenting that "a one euro investment yields 100 times the benefit to the community".

Voetmann stressed the importance of focusing on energy efficiency first. This low hanging fruit is easily overlooked because renewable energy can be more visible and attractive for an elected official to talk about. As for innovations, many carbon neutral cities are looking to use solid waste as a resource.

Can Copenhagen's success be replicated elsewhere, in bigger cities? Voetmann believes so. As an old city, Copenhagen has faced significant challenges in the transition toward carbon neutrality. Newer, bigger cities have advantages in this respect. However, it is vital to implement low-carbon strategies from the outset. "Why build beautiful high rises," he concluded, "with old technology?" By focusing on partnerships, inclusion and convenience, other cities can do what Copenhagen has done. Cities like Copenhagen are leading the way; now others must follow.



*Copenhagen, Denmark*

## Cities explore pathway towards 100% Renewable Energy

**Curitiba was among the 12 cities that participated in a dialogue workshop on the transformative role of local governments towards a 100% Renewable Energy (RE) future, held on December 7 at the Cities & Regions Pavilion – TAP2015, during COP21 in Paris, France. This closed-door session brought together cities and regions from all over the world, including Aspen, Australian Capital Territory, Byron Shire, Cape Town, Curitiba, Jeju province, Kaoshiung, Malmö, Medellín, Paris, Tshwane, and Vancouver. Local governments like Malmö, Jeju and Vancouver have already made commitments to reach 100%RE. All cities present shared on the challenges and successes they have encountered so far. Both committed and aspiring cities agreed that sharing and peer-learning among cities is very helpful for moving forward.**

**Curitiba, an Urban-LEDS city in Brazil,** is proud of their world-renowned public transportation system and transit oriented development, as well as to be working on 100% biodiesel buses. Curitiba wishes to increase public awareness about renewable energy. As the population is used to "cheap" hydro-electricity, making the business case for other renewables is a challenge. Curitiba is in the process of developing renewable energy targets but they are not yet ready to report them. This dialogue workshop took place back-to-back with an open session where political leaders from the cities of Paris, Vancouver, Tshwane, Malmö and Jeju Province



Bus stations in Curitiba (Brazil) © *Tube stations* by Cristina Valencia / CC BY

took the stage to share with the audience on their strategy for a transition towards renewables. “What does it take? Will, Partnership, Pilots, Vision, Leadership” said Milan Obradovic, Deputy Mayor of the City of Malmö, Sweden.

Célia Blauel, Deputy Mayor of the City of Paris indicated “We need to change the scale, to plan for the 100% RE to come from the Metropolitan Area which is yet to be built”. Paris has the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050 and is now exploring new energy targets. “We are doing this for the planet, but also because it is good for our citizens: lower energy prices, jobs, and better air quality.” she said.

The political leaders in this open session also pointed out to some common ingredients for success in triggering a commitment towards 100% renewable energy (RE). Different policy instruments and infrastructure measures were identified as important pieces of the puzzle, covering a wide range of sectors. While the policy package may include 100%RE targets, building codes and other regulations, incentives or subsidies such as the feed-in tariff, the infrastructure measures may cover building retrofit, district energy, smart grids, electric vehicles, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), generation of biogas from waste, and use of other sources of renewable energy such as geothermal and heat from waste water, among many other examples. Kgositso Ramokgopa, Mayor of the City of Tshwane, South Africa, indicated that the City's RE Strategy includes self-generation as a way to reach energy accessibility and affordability, and that demonstration projects play a key role, although more favorable national regulatory frameworks are needed. IRENA's representative recognized the role which local governments can play in the deployment of renewable energy.

The dialogue workshop and open session, co-hosted by ICLEI, World Future Council and Renewable Cities, were offered in the context of the 100% Renewable Cities and Regions network and ended with an invitation for interested cities to connect and explore joining this community of practice to enable them to further exchange with other leading cities and experts to thus accelerate the transition towards a 100% renewable energy future. “We know it is possible [to reach a 100%RE target] and we are happy to see other cities, provinces and regions around the world, joining us in setting a very ambitious pace in going renewable” said Mayor Gregor Robertson of the City of Vancouver. Anna Leidreiter, Campaign Coordinator of the multis-takeholder **Global 100% RE Campaign**, said “Seeing the amount of cities taking action here at COP is the most encouraging signal we can send to the world.” This can only be the beginning!

For more visit: [www.iclei.org/lowcarboncity/100re](http://www.iclei.org/lowcarboncity/100re)

#### 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 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:** 01/03/2012 – 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.

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

##### Get in touch



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##### 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.

[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

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