



Enhancing public procurement – towards sustainability?

Dublin City Council has good reason to be proud of its fire brigade. In addition to keeping citizens safe, Kilbarrack fire station on the city's north side has put sustainability into action through its procurement. The station has been retrofitted with a new heat management system and sustainably sourced doors and windows. A rainwater harvesting system that provides water for the fire engine was also installed.

A pilot project to use blended biodiesel for vehicles made from used cooking oil is also underway, and tenders for emergency equipment include criteria for reducing packaging. These changes have allowed the station to save over 633,307 kWh of energy (a reduction of 90 percent), and 140 tonnes of CO₂ in two years.

Dublin (Ireland) is just one of the many ICLEI members implementing green or sustainable public procurement (GPP/SPP). Public spending on goods, works and services makes up almost 20

percent of the European Union's GDP. Local governments are responsible for a large part of this spend, and are increasingly aware of the need to include environmental and social criteria in their procurement.

National governments and the EU have also recognised the importance of leveraging public contracts to achieve sustainability objectives – as reflected in policies including the Europe 2020 Strategy. Reducing energy consumption for IT equipment, lighting and buildings, choosing lower-emission vehicles...

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... and purchasing recycled paper are becoming common practice. SPP can also promote the employment of disabled and disadvantaged workers, or ensure sustainable supply chains for textiles, construction materials and food.

To date, this has largely been undertaken on a voluntary basis by local, regional and national governments. Support for GPP has been provided at EU level through the development of common procurement criteria addressing the main environmental impacts of a range of products and services. Mandatory requirements apply in certain sectors, such as office IT equipment, vehicles and new buildings.

The revision process for the EU Public Procurement Directives, announced at the start of this year, offers the opportunity to look at the legal framework for SPP. Legal uncertainty is often identified as a factor preventing broader take-up, particularly at the local government level. Key questions that need to be addressed concern the extent to which production processes and methods can be specified, how to ensure that SPP requirements are not discriminatory, and how to deal with issues of monitoring and verification.

“Public procurement is needed to stimulate progress towards the Europe 2020 goals – in terms of social, environmental and innovation targets.”

Henk Kool,
Committee of the Regions
(Rapporteur on EU public procurement policy)

The European Commission began the revision process by publishing a Green Paper and launching a public consultation, to which it received some 650 responses. A conference held in June addressed many of the ...



The City of Barcelona (Spain) has set high standards in its street cleaning and waste collection contract – to reduce emissions and noise while improving the quality of the service. Of the current fleet 35% run on biodiesel, 35% on gas and 30% are electric or hybrid vehicles.

Image: Ben Mabbett / Flickr



Péter Szuppinger, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Are GPP actions on the increase in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries?

At the more strategic level, GPP actions are increasing in the region, with several GPP National Action Plans being adopted. However, these policies mostly focus on central governmental purchasing and have little influence on other procurers, like municipalities.

In the “greenest” older Member States, GPP started as a voluntary activity and reached success as a typical bottom-up process with several successful green procurement procedures occurring first at the local level. Unfortunately, we still lack these in our region. In the CEE countries GPP began as a top-down process, inspired mainly by EU policies, and it still needs some time to reach local level. Central governments can and should provide as much support as possible.

In times of economic crisis, what are the most convincing arguments for GPP?

Resource efficiency is becoming a key guiding principle and GPP is one of its priorities. Saving energy, using renewables, fostering reuse and recycling, avoiding harmful chemicals, etc., are all factors that can help us in this process. Life-cycle costing could show us how to save money and resources in the long term. GPP as a whole could provide a sizeable impetus to the green economy, thus also helping economic recovery.

Describe some of the short- and long- term challenges for GPP?

Putting the National Action Plans into practice - this is quite a big challenge in the CEE countries, particularly in the short-term. If these plans stay in the drawer, GPP won't get the stimulus needed to reach local level and large scale implementation. Communication and training play a key role in this. All stakeholders should be involved as early as possible; suppliers and industry players are also crucial. It's important to identify win-win situations - which are definitely possible if we think in terms of green technologies.



Image: Steward Morris / Flickr

The Greater London Authority group, (UK) with an annual procurement spend of over £8 billion (€9.18 billion) in 2010/11, is implementing responsible procurement across its constituent bodies and to date has trained over 200 procurement staff.

... points raised, with speakers from the European Parliament and civil society groups emphasising the importance of SPP. Speaking at the event Malcolm Harbour, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee said, “Best value for money is absolutely critical for buyers – but this should be looked at over the long-term to allow for investment in new solutions.” Draft legislation is expected from the Commission by the end of 2011.

ICLEI’s response to the Green Paper focuses on areas that have been identified as key to implementing SPP at local level, such as life-cycle costing, verifying suppliers’ environmental claims and applying appropriate criteria. The Sustainable Procurement team has been working to address these issues in partnership with cities and regions over the past fifteen years – through initiatives such as the Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign.

What is ICLEI doing on SPP?

30 participants from across Europe support the **Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign**, promoting the mainstreaming of sustainable public procurement. The campaign provides support in the form of criteria, milestones for SPP implementation and regular exchanges both online and at annual workshops. Available at: <http://www.procuraplus.org>

A tool for assessing the life-cycle costs and CO₂ emissions of products was developed under the **SMART-SPP project** and tested by several public authorities. The tool is available in four languages at: <http://www.smart-spp.eu>

ICLEI co-ordinates the **SCI-Network**, bringing public authorities and experts together in working groups looking at sustainable and innovative construction procurement. Reports,

case studies and guidance available at: <http://www.sci-network.eu>

The **LANDMARK project** helps local authorities to ensure fair and decent working conditions in global supply chains for products purchased by them, particularly in the textiles, food, construction and electronics sectors. Available at: <http://www.landmark-project.eu>

The **Sustainable Timber Action project** focuses on how procurers can address both sustainable forest management and fair trade in timber procurement. Available at: <http://www.sustainable-timber.eu>

ICLEI operates the **GPP Helpdesk** on behalf of the European Commission, responding to queries and producing a monthly update on policy and practice. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>

“Public procurement legislation currently has the wrong emphasis and is too focused on the cheapest bid, which is not always the best one.”

Heide Rühle,
Member of the European Parliament
(Rapporteur on EU public procurement policy)

While progress has been made, barriers still exist to the broader take-up of SPP. These include limited political motivation, the perception that green or socially responsible goods and services cost more, and a lack of knowledge and capacity to implement SPP effectively. To overcome these obstacles, a mix of voluntary and mandatory measures may be needed, with EU, national and local policies reinforcing each other. Support for innovation in procurement is also key.

If all IT purchases in Europe followed the example of Copenhagen City Council (Denmark) and Swedish Administrative Development Agency, energy consumption would be cut by around 30 terawatt hours – roughly the equivalent of four nuclear reactors.

Looking beyond Europe, the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 will focus on the theme of the green economy, and how this can contribute to sustainable development. The role of public procurement has been recognised, however, there are still questions about whether GPP/SPP practices can restrict trade. Similar issues arise under the EU Treaty, which aims to create a single market for goods, services and works.

In many ways, this gives Europe an advantage in considering how best to implement procurement practices that balance economic, environmental and social goals. Compliance with EU procurement rules means that the principles of transparency and non-discrimination are put into practice. These are key tools in building the green economy, as they encourage governments and businesses to verify the effectiveness of their actions, instead of buying into greenwash or settling for known solutions.

With the right legislative framework and ongoing commitment from all levels of government, sustainable procurement can become standard practice across Europe.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.sustainable-procurement.org>
or contact: procurement@iclei.org



Karoline Linnert, Mayor and Senator for Finance, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

When did Bremen start implementing SPP?

Following a decision against exploitative child labour in 2008, the Bremen State Parliament amended the Procurement Act in late 2009, which now states that public authorities must work towards ensuring that the International Labour Organisation Core Conventions are respected in the production of all goods purchased by them.

Purchasers have a central role in implementing this – and knowledge of fair product alternatives, labels and certificates, internal user needs and dealing with suppliers is critical to success. Joint training programmes with NGOs and ICLEI have been important in supporting this process.

What examples would you identify of successful SPP implementation?

Our focus has been primarily on applying social standards for products where there is a high risk of exploitation, such as uniforms, toys for daycare centres, natural stones, coffee and flowers. For example, we were able to purchase uniforms for all cleaners made from environmentally-

friendly cotton produced under fair working conditions – not an easy task. We were supported by NGOs in this area to identify potential suppliers and finally found one in the Netherlands.

Can you comment on any specific challenges you've encountered?

For the purchase of uniforms, it was difficult to find suppliers who could demonstrate that their supply chains in Asia and North Africa met the required conditions. There is a need to look behind labels and examine the whole supply chain for products. The impact of these actions is clear – it sends a signal to the market, which will respond with appropriate products. In sectors such as IT equipment, action is still needed.

What are the next steps for Bremen?

We are continuing with the learning process, with an emphasis on active management and changing behaviour. We will adjust our purchasing in a systematic way to meet environmental and social objectives while delivering good value for taxpayers' money. In the context of the LANDMARK project, Bremen will be piloting the further use of social criteria in upcoming purchases.

Eight ICLEI members enter race for Green Capital 2014

Nineteen cities from 14 countries across the continent will vie to become the European Green Capital 2014, among them eight ICLEI members: Bristol and Newcastle (United Kingdom), Brussels (Belgium), Bursa (Turkey), Copenhagen (Denmark), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Tampere (Finland) and Zaragoza (Spain).

All Green Capitals selected to date are ICLEI members. The first was Stockholm (Sweden) in 2010, followed by Hamburg (Germany) in 2011. The Spanish city of Vitoria-Gasteiz will inherit the title in 2012 and, in 2013 the crown will be passed to Nantes (France).



ICLEI member the City of Hamburg is the current European Green Capital

The applications will be evaluated by an expert panel. This will include qualitative evaluations and a peer review of each application based on 12 indicator areas. Three to four cities will be shortlisted for the 2014 title.

The shortlisted cities will then present their action plans and communication strategies to a jury, which includes Regional Director for ICLEI Europe, Gino Van Begin. The final decision will be announced at an award ceremony in June 2012 in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

For more information, visit:
<http://europeangreencapital.ie>

Newcastle introduces eco buses in city fleet

The British city of Newcastle continues to see further investment in sustainable travel with a local bus operator launching a £7.2million fleet of 26 hybrid electric buses.

The investment follows the receipt of £2.2 million from the UK's Government's Green Bus Fund, to which a further £5 million was added by the bus operator. The award from the Green Bus Fund was the second most successful bid outside London.

Councillor Nick Forbes said, "As the UK's most sustainable city, we are at the forefront of promoting and delivering the low-carbon agenda and we recognise that the benefits of hybrid engine technology extend beyond those than can be measured purely in terms of fuel efficiency and reduced emissions."



Newcastle is cementing its reputation for sustainable development with a hybrid bus fleet

The city council plans to support these services by introducing an environmental zone and air quality management area in a central location and stepping up enforcement measures to improve reliability.

The bus operator, Stagecoach, says the buses will reduce the carbon emissions on these two routes alone by 30 per cent. The fleet of new Euro5 eco buses went into service in summer 2011.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk>

Living Life families embrace sustainability in Gothenburg

The Living Life project run by the City of Gothenburg (Sweden) has come to a close after a year. The project aimed to make families more aware of the value of living sustainably and of the best ways to do so.

The ICLEI member city presented eleven families with seven challenges concerning sustainability, focusing on food, waste, consumption, energy, chemicals, travelling and recreation activities.



Eleven families were shown how to shop for sustainable food products

The challenges included finding 30 ways to reduce food waste, comparing different types of lighting, keeping a travel diary on the modes of transport they used and tracking their progress by comparing the current situation with their travel before the challenge.

For each challenge the families received personal coaching from municipal experts. The results were followed up with simple measurements, such as each person's carbon and waste profiles before and after the project. An evaluation of the project will take place towards the end of 2011.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.goteborg.se>

Vitoria-Gasteiz is best in Dubai

The Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan of ICLEI member Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain) has been rated “Best” at the 8th Dubai International Awards for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment. The award aims to identify effective sustainable urban policies and actions to improve living conditions in towns and cities.

It is further recognition of the 2012 European Green Capital’s ambitious commitment to sustainable mobility and public space policies. The Plan will be included in the UN Habitat, “Best Practices Database in Improving the Living Environment,” as well a national catalogue of best practice.



In 2011 there was a 50 percent increase in the number of daily trips by bus and tram in the city

The Plan’s main objective is to develop a practical outline of city mobility to minimise problems caused by high use of motorised modes of transport, especially the private car. Vitoria-Gasteiz is also a member of the CIVITAS Initiative, which focuses on sustainable urban mobility.

Within CIVITAS, the city has introduced a number of measures, including new Park and Ride facilities, a bicycle mobility plan, parking policies and eco-driving training.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.unhabitat.org>

Freiburg lights up cycle path with LED technology

ICLEI member city Freiburg has installed the first solar-powered LED street lighting system in Germany. The lights are located on a paved cycle path and pedestrian intersection and automatically go on at dusk.

Up to 10,000 cyclists use the path daily and there have been several accidents in the past as it was difficult to see whether cyclists, pedestrians or drivers had the right of way. The lights alert car drivers that they should reduce their speed as the illuminated path can be seen from quite a distance.



Cyclists and drivers alike benefit from the increased safety offered by the LED lighting

There is now also a crosswalk for pedestrians who have precedence over the traffic on the cycle path, a unique situation in Freiburg. The €45,000 project took three weeks to install.

Freiburg has a long-standing reputation as a leader in innovative environmental practices, with its Badenova football stadium being the first in the country to install photovoltaic solar panels on the roof.

The city has also just developed a Sustainability Management Unit, which aims to pool past experiences and develop the skills necessary to face environmental challenges.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.fwtm.freiburg.de>

Applications for ICLEI membership:

- Regensburg, Germany
- Águeda, Portugal
- Kartal, Turkey
- Vignola, Italy



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Making a splash for European Year of Water in 2012

The European Commission has labelled 2012 as the, “Year of Water”. The flagship output of what is shaping up to be a landmark year for water management in Europe will be the planned *Blueprint to safeguard Europe’s waters*.

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond, the Blueprint will include options to support the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, increase the efficient use of water and prepare for the impacts of emerging challenges such as climate change.

Water in the urban environment is expected to be the focal point of the Blueprint’s recommendations. The rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, the improvement of water efficiency in buildings and the reduction of the use of non-renewable energy in the water sector are among the issues likely to be examined.

The European Environment Agency’s *State of the Environment Report 2010* acknowledges that Member States are struggling to achieve current European water management objectives, creating a stimulus for action. For many European cities, following the Blueprint’s recommendations will require a substantial shift from conventional water management practices to an approach

where water is fully integrated into city development, as showcased, for example, in ICLEI member city Berlin (Germany).

Faced with unique urban challenges for much of its modern history, taking an integrated approach to water management has long been a priority for Berlin. Unconventional solutions such as recharging aquifers and lakes with wastewater, prioritising water demand management measures and retaining and recycling stormwater are some of the techniques employed in the city to create a closed water cycle that satisfies the needs of the population with minimal environmental impact.

The result is one of the most sustainable urban water management systems in Europe in the heart of one of its biggest cities.

For more information on the Blueprint, visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint>

For more information on Berlin’s activities, visit: <http://www.switchtraining.eu/switch-resources> and read the case study - *Making urban water management more sustainable: Achievements in Berlin* (Salian & Anton, 2011)

Integrated Urban Water Management: the Chancellery building in Berlin, Germany

Improving water performance of European buildings

As part of a study on policy options for improving the water performance of buildings, DG environment is encouraging relevant stakeholders to supply input based on their experiences. Abstraction for public water supply is the main area of water consumption in cities and most of this is used in residential dwellings.

Reports have highlighted the enormous potential for water savings in the EU, and one focus point for this is the domestic use of water in buildings – in some regions up to 30 percent of the water consumed in buildings could be saved. The study is led by BIO Intelligence Service in cooperation with ICLEI and the Building Research Establishment.

To participate, contact: [@biois.com](https://twitter.com/water-performance-of-buildings)

ICLEI EUROPEAN CONVENTION 2011



Local level vital in creating a smart, inclusive and sustainable Europe

Political leaders from cities and towns across Europe united to deliver the ICLEI European Convention 2011 Declaration on 14 September, responding to the Europe 2020 Strategy and calling for greater support and recognition of their contribution in creating an economically smart, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable Europe.

The Declaration was drafted and passed by local government representatives at the ICLEI European Convention, which took place in Brussels (Belgium) from 12 – 14 September 2011. The host, Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister for the Environment, Energy, Urban Regeneration, Brussels-Capital Region, handed over the Declaration to Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of the Environment, Poland, current holder of the EU Presidency and Michel Delebarre, Chair, Commission for Territorial Cohesion, Committee of the Regions, on the final day of the event.



Evelyne Huytebroeck, Brussels-Capital Region, and ICLEI's Gino Van Begin

Huytebroeck said, the voice of cities needs to be stronger than ever and the “ambitious Declaration proves cities can work together and share and exchange experiences in the run-up to events like Rio+20”. The Convention was the ideal occasion to present the Declaration, as it gathered more than 300 influential participants, from representatives of the

business community to ICLEI members and other local government decision-makers. Over three days they engaged in discussion on a range of themes, shared knowledge and gained insight from experts and pioneer cities developing innovative solutions.

The Declaration reiterates that European cities and towns are fundamental to progressive governance at regional, national and European level, pointing out that 85 percent of the EU's GDP is generated in cities and the fact that they have a long track record in developing and implementing sustainable, innovative local policies. Something that was demonstrated time and time again during both the plenaries and sessions on topics such as water, biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainable mobility and digital democracy.

While discussing the Declaration in the Mayors Session, local political leaders expressed disappointment that local governments have had little involvement in the development of the National Reform Programmes, the first step in the national implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Alexandra van Huffelen, Deputy Mayor of Rotterdam and host of the Mayors Session said, “The EU should put more emphasis on the local dimension in its visions and plans. I call for more stringent policies in limiting emission levels at source. If these limits are not met, financial support for specific measures at city level must be made available to cope with the consequences”.

The Declaration states that in order to meet the Europe 2020 objectives on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy, Member States and European institutions must enhance the role of local governments in various ways.

These include regulatory, financial and monitoring structures for the local implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Acknowledging that Europe is not alone in the efforts to remedy our changing climate and struggling environment, the global aspect is also reflected in order to build on the results of the 16th edition of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16). Local and regional governments must be allowed to act as key governmental stakeholders during COP17 climate negotiations in Durban and in the framework of the sustainable development agenda of the Rio+20 conference in 2012.



Mr H.E. Sonam Tobden Rabgye, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan

While the Europe 2020 Strategy was the overarching topic of the Convention, several other issues captured the attention of participants and speakers alike. These excluded the question



The Conference Ambassadors: Pekka Sauri, Jyrki Myllyvirta, F



of whether gross domestic product (GDP) is really the best way to measure a country's growth, a topic which has continued to gain momentum following the impressive approach of Bhutan.



Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik

Mr H.E. Sonam Tobden Rabgye, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to Belgium and the European Union explained the four pillars of Bhutan's gross national happiness index (GNH), something taken up by Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik who said we need to look beyond GDP as a yardstick for measuring development, "It is important to acknowledge the many aspects that combine to determine a person's quality of life".

The Commissioner made clear that we cannot find a way out of this crisis by running directly into another and that business as usual is not an option. "Only so much can be done at EU level.



Per Bødker Anderson and David Cadman

Strong local activity is essential. There is a lot of opportunity for innovative, bottom-up actions at local level. The majority of Europeans live in cities – places where certain environmental problems are concentrated and where EU environment policy is put into practice. We will not succeed without involving local and regional authorities in reshaping policies."

Four conference ambassadors mingled and networked with participants throughout the three days to get an impression of the specific issues that participants felt were most relevant to them. Jyrki Myllyvirta, Deputy Mayor of the City of Lahti (Finland), said he could see that, "Cities and regions are willing to go ahead on their own", and that while they need partnerships at national and EU level there cannot be a top down approach. The ambassadors also remarked on the success of the sessions at the Convention, with Per Bødker Anderson, Mayor of the City of Kolding (Denmark) stating that, "Participants were ready and willing to exchange information and experiences now and in the future in order to incorporate the lessons learned from other cities into their daily work".

ICLEI President and Councillor for the City of Vancouver (Canada) David Cadman complimented European local governments, remarking that he was impressed with their thinking and willingness to share experiences. However he said that it is not enough to just exchange every three years at events like the Convention, as, "we need to continuously learn from each other".

One of the topics discussed was the UN Rio+20 Conference, which takes place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012.

ICLEI believes that if Rio+20 is to be considered a worthwhile multi-lateral and multi-governmental conference justifying the enormous financial and human resources invested in it, heads of state or government must take both personal and joint decisions on concrete actions.

This is something many participants of the ICLEI European Convention put into practice every day. They are now better equipped than ever, with the knowledge, tools and contacts gained to ensure that sustainability is top of the agenda in cities and towns across the continent.

For more information, visit:
<http://convention2011.iclei-europe.org>
or contact: convention.europe@iclei.org



THANK YOU

ICLEI wishes to thank the main supporters of the Convention 2011: Brussels Capital Region, the Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Metropolitan Council of Dunkerque and the ICLEI members and partners that welcomed participants to their offices and arranged meetings across Brussels.

German cities get stakeholders on board to strategise on green economy

More than 120 stakeholders from various government departments, the business community and local organisations met at the Berlin Energy Forum in June to kick-start the German capital city's plan to update its climate protection and energy programme.

ICLEI facilitated the event and helped to evaluate achievements thus far, outline priorities and motivate those involved to remain committed in the coming months. The aim was to foster exchange among participants, thereby triggering new ideas and a broader understanding of climate and energy issues in the city. Participants had the chance to discuss current policy, while key messages and concrete proposals could be presented in "bricks", an aptly named collection of boxes, which participants could use to build their ideas into a coherent basis for future planning.

Discussions focused on the themes of mobility, adaptation to climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency. It was clear that participants were in agreement regarding the need for all departments, as well as the City of Berlin and the federal state of Brandenburg to cooperate closely in order to meet the challenges ahead. The drafting stage of the new programme is now underway.

Further south, the City of Nordhausen (Germany) is developing its new climate strategy. To facilitate the process the city is using their well-established integrated management system. ICLEI is getting involved by organising a series of workshops that involve relevant stakeholders and encourage broad public participation.

The first workshop took place in the summer and reflected on the ICLEI member's existing climate programme, identified concerns and interests of the various groups on the new programme and how they felt they could contribute to it. Three more workshops will take place later this year, with each characterised by an interactive set-up, targeted content and the use of various participatory methods.

Good practice examples from other communities will also be presented to demonstrate effective ways of developing and implementing a successful climate strategy. ICLEI's support will ensure that Nordhausen's strategy is steered by an integrated management system that is favourable to public consensus, while specifically adapted to meet the needs of stakeholders.

For more information, visit:
<http://bit.ly/berlinconference> or
contact: holger.robrecht@iclei.org

Promoting best environmental management practices in public administration

Despite widespread agreement on the many benefits of efficient environmental and sustainability management in the public sector, currently just 464 public administration bodies are registered with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Given that there are approximately 90,000 public administration bodies for local governments alone in the European Union, there is plenty of room for improvement.



ICLEI is supporting the European Commission in drafting an innovative and wide-ranging reference document for the public administration sector that aims to help raise this figure. The document will outline the scope and boundaries of the sector, as well as provide a description of techniques and best practice on environmental performance. Commonly used indicators and benchmarks of excellence for the sector will also be included.

The background paper will be completed by January 2012. Following this, stakeholder consultation and the official launch of the EMAS Reference Document will take place. The project follows a mandate provided by EMAS III, which is working to consolidate all relevant guidance information.

For more information, contact:
cristina.garzilla@iclei.org



Participants built a "wall of action" with their messages and proposals

Get connected and exchange sustainability management experience

Is your organisation dealing with sustainability issues, do you cooperate with cities and regions to foster a more sustainable future in your country and at the same time are you interested in international knowledge exchange? Then become a member of the newly launched European Partnership for Integrated Sustainability Management.

This European initiative focuses on providing a common platform for capacity building services on Integrated Management System for EU local and regional authorities - something that has been missing up to now. The partnership promotes mutual learning and the exchange of experiences between member organisations, provides training material, supports training programmes and helps to mainstream the integrated approach to local sustainable development at EU level and in the Member States.

For more information, contact:
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Making sustainable urban transport a reality with CIVITAS

The Europe 2020 Strategy has pushed urban transport towards the top of the EU's political agenda, underlining the importance of a modernised and sustainable European transport system for the development of the Union.

Co-funded by the European Commission, CIVITAS cities are taking concrete steps forward to meet targets set out in the Strategy. As discussed at the CIVITAS Forum Conference from 17 - 19 October, more than 68 million citizens in 31 countries are benefiting



from the innovative sustainable urban transport solutions being tested by CIVITAS cities.

The City of Gent (Belgium) recently launched a pilot project to promote car-sharing for the 350 employees of one administrative office and citizens living nearby. Through this project, the city plans to study financial and social advantages of this kind of car-sharing system, with the goal to further expand it.

The Italian city of Bologna is also making great strides and recently celebrated the introduction of five new pedibuses. This original system allows children to safely walk to school in groups accompanied by adults, while learning about road safety behaviour.

Inspired by the successful experiences of other European cities, the Czech city of Brno opened an Integrated Mobility Centre during European Mobility Week 2011. The centre, which is the first of its kind in the region, offers citizens up-to-date information about modes of public transport, as well as cycling and parking.

Cities are continuing to learn from each other through a series of workshops entitled, Effective solutions for green urban transport – Learning from CIVITAS cities. The next will take place during the Transport Research Arena 2012 in Athens (Greece) in April 2012.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.civitas.eu> or contact:
secretariat@civitas.eu

Blazing a trail in efficient freight transportation

Implementing efficient and sustainable delivery and service policies (DSPs) can help to dramatically reduce energy use and costs in freight transportation. The Municipality of Borlänge (Sweden) has done exactly this by developing a model for coordinated food distribution.

The municipality shared its experience with participants of the latest TRAILBLAZER Delivery and Servicing Plans Workshop held in Borlänge in October. Methods used to deliver food to public education buildings have been in place in Borlänge since 1999. These have stimulated the local economy and serve as an example of a successful cooperation with local producers.

Ten municipalities in Sweden have already adopted the model, and another 40 are following suit. ICLEI is a partner in the TRAILBLAZER project, which aims to encourage the use of DSPs and promote best practice by transferring knowledge from experienced local authorities and private sector companies to cities and businesses.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.trailblazer.eu>

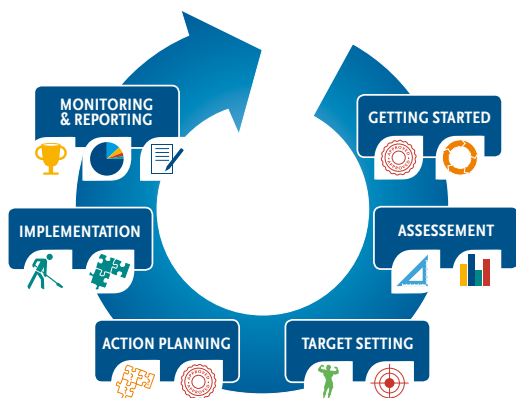
Mobility is about more than buses and trams

Tools for success in the fight against climate change

Local action can move the world, particularly when addressing the detrimental effects of climate change. To support cities, towns and organisations involved in local climate and energy actions, the ICLEI European Secretariat created the **Toolbox of Methodologies on Climate and Energy** to make the most useful resources available online.

The database has grown exponentially since it was developed. However, to ensure it offers the best examples of good practices it is vital that local authorities continue to contribute to it. Does your city have an exemplary Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)? Have you produced a video about a renewable energy project? Do you wish to share your local government's approach to citizen engagement in local climate and energy action?

Now is the time to pool guiding methodologies and resources in any language. The Toolbox covers a wide range of topics by addressing multiple sectors such as energy, buildings, transport, water and waste. In addition to typical local government activities, it also includes those relevant to SEAPs like awareness-raising, financing and guidance and finally the SEAP development process, from setting targets to monitoring.



Add your resources, rate material, support the exchange of good practices and move the world. The Toolbox forms part of the support package developed by ICLEI as a component of the Energy for Mayors project to guide and support Covenant of Mayors supporters and coordinators.

There have also been developments in other sectors with cities and regions investing increasingly more time in exploring low carbon solutions and making use of the tools available to support them. As part of the INTERREG IVC Regions for Sustainable Change project, a tool was created to help assess the Prioritisation of Actions for a Low Carbon Economy (PACE).

PACE is now available online to assist the development of low carbon strategies and action plans for Regions in Europe. Thus far it has been tested in three regions, Cornwall (UK), Marche (Italy) and finally Burgenland (Austria), where ICLEI acted in a support role.

For each proposed measure, the PACE tool uses historic or projected cost emissions and employment data collected from other projects in the same region, country, or from European or global sources. It allows users to scale-up or down similar measures to assess the costs and benefits from actions that work towards developing a low carbon economy.

The tool gives users access to information on the employment opportunities of subsidies or support offered by the regional authority and the carbon savings the measure would yield. Measures include the production of new renewable electricity generation technologies, such as wind power in Burgenland, wave power in Cornwall and electricity from waste industrial heat in Marche.

These are all key aspects in making the transition to a green economy, with

the use of local resources for local renewable energy production one of the most important elements in such a regional strategy.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.energyformayors.eu/toolbox> and <http://www.rscproject.org>

Resources

Covenant capaCITY project online

Climate and energy training platform for local governments available at: <http://www.covenant-capacity.eu>

LG Action Final Public Report

Results of the Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate project. Available at: <http://www.lg-action.eu/results>

Support package for Covenant of Mayors

Brief needs analysis of Covenant Coordinators & Supporters and Basic guidelines for Covenant Coordinators and Supporters available at: <http://www.energyformayors.eu>

Guidance on sustainable building and energy

Results and case studies available at: <http://www.concerto-sesac.eu>

Support for local and regional bioenergy chains

MAKE-IT-BE Final Report available at: <http://www.makeitbe.eu>

Sign up for mailing lists

Updates on climate and energy trainings at: covenant-net@lists.iclei.org

Updates on European climate and energy policy at: lg-action-net@lists.iclei.org

Lessons on how to become a self-sufficient community

“We have to convince our citizens that renewable energy is crucial for our future. Any doubts that exist have to be taken seriously and conflicts that arise must be resolved through mutual agreements.” These were the words of Minister for Scientific Affairs of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany, Theresia Bauer, as she opened the **Changing the Energy System to Renewable Energy Self-Sufficiency – An inter- and transdisciplinary approach conference**.

Minister Bauer opened the two-day event on 15 September 2011 in Freiburg (Germany), by emphasising the importance of sustainability in transforming energy systems, explaining that the introduction of renewable energies is not just a question of financing and developing new technology, but also one that involves ensuring acceptance among the general public.



Using the metaphor of the organisation of a community-planned village fair, the communal decision-making process for energy system transformation was explained in the session on citizens and energy conservation. The financial returns of such fairs were compared with the return that can be generated from changing the local energy system.

Resistance to such projects, which usually comes from a small, yet vocal, number of citizens, can be channelled constructively by ensuring that environmental, economic, technical and social factors are equally built into the transformation. Moreover the integration of stakeholders into the planning process is crucial to success.

Over the course of the two days, the Minister's opening words were reiterated by several speakers, who focused not only on the importance of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, but also on the valuable contribution of practitioners in the research process.

Jürgen Hauber, Conference Chair and member of the Renewable Energy Regions project, which organised the conference, said that the event marked, “the first time the transformation of the energy system has been discussed in such a multifaceted way by the scientific community.” The best papers presented at the RESS-Conference will be published in the online journal *Sustainability* at the beginning of 2012.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.ee-regionen.de>

Inspirational cities showcase CO₂ cutting policies

With a combined population of around 835,000 people, the cities involved in the Local Accountability for Kyoto goals (LAKs) project currently emit an average of just over 8 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) per year, per head of population.

As part of their Mitigation and Adaptation Plan, each LAKs partner has established emissions reductions or increased renewable energy use

targets. The cities involved: Reggio Emilia and Padova (Italy), Girona (Spain), and Bydgoszcz (Poland) presented the tools they developed with the support of ICLEI and ARPA, the regional environmental protection agency of Emilia Romagna, at the LAKs final conference.

The event, entitled Cities for climate – Local policies to reduce CO₂, took place in October 2011. The combined target of these four pioneer cities is approximately 6,5 tCO₂e/year/head by 2020. Antonio Lumicisi from the Italian Ministry for the Environment told the more than 100 participants that while Italy was still lagging behind with the achievement of their Kyoto goals, the LAKs project, “demonstrated that cities have the competence to lead on actions in the non-Emissions Trading Scheme sectors.”

The LAKs process will help other cities to join the European Commission's successful Covenant of Mayors campaign and report on their emissions and sustainable energy action plans.

The LAKs partners then stressed the challenging nature of developing and getting council approval for a credible Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. It was agreed by all that the process requires the commitment of a strong team of people with a mix of technical competence, communication skills and creativity.

For more information, contact:
ian.shearer@iclei.org or visit:
<http://www.municipio.re.it/laks>

Driving sustainable innovation through public procurement in your region

Public bodies across Europe today face the dual challenge of shrinking budgets and ever stricter CO₂ reduction targets. Many authorities now recognise that to meet these challenges we need to change how and what we purchase – we need the market to provide us with innovative solutions, which can help to cut lifetime costs while lowering CO₂ emissions and offering high performance.

Launched at the beginning of 2010 for piloting real-life procurement actions by the SMART SPP partners, the cities of Barcelona (Spain), Kolding (Denmark), Cascais (Portugal), the London Borough of Bromley and the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (UK) - the SMART SPP guidance has been revised and is now available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Danish.

To help public authorities who wish to procure the best the market has to offer SMART SPP has developed a guide to procuring innovation, including different ways to engage with the market, and a tool to calculate the life-cycle costs and CO₂ emissions of products (LCC-CO₂

tool) so that procurers can assess the true costs of a product throughout its lifetime and its related CO₂ emissions.

The new guidance was officially launched at the final project conference held earlier in the year in Brussels. Delegates had the opportunity to explore the role and potential of sustainable procurement as a driver of energy efficient innovation in the EU. As strong advocates for achieving clearer wording on what is possible when spending public money in a more sustainable manner, the main message from the Parliament and Commission is that the public sector is an important driving force for greening the market.

Download the tools at:

<http://www.smart-spp.eu/guidance>

To share experiences in using the guidance, contact:

philipp.tepper@iclei.org

Anchoring green procurement principles in German training academies

Following a series of training sessions on green public procurement (GPP) held over a one and half year period in Germany, ICLEI and the Öko-Institut (Germany) have embarked on a new project which takes a multi-faceted approach to help spread the uptake of GPP among German public authorities.

The project, called Creating Landmarks, will provide a customised and user oriented GPP training concept for teachers and curriculum leaders from public administration training institutions in the form of a train-the-trainer approach. Lecturers and trainers from academies across Germany will be trained on the most relevant aspects of GPP and will receive training material so that the knowledge is passed on to their target group - public sector employees.



Image: shironosov / iStock

Learning how to use a whole life-cycle approach for calculating the real costs of products and services before procurement decisions are made will be one of the central components of the training. This will be done using a newly developed web-based tool to analyse the costs and related CO₂ emissions of energy-consuming goods and services. The tool is currently in development and will be based on one developed through the SMART SPP project. Training sessions are now available on demand following the kick-off conference in Wiesbaden (Germany).

For more information, contact:

franziska.singer@iclei.org

Latest news on green procurement

The latest policy developments from the EU, guidance, practical examples and studies carried out are available on a monthly basis through the European Commission's GPP News-Alerts.

To subscribe visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/alert_en.htm



Image: Barbara Helgason / dreamstime.com

European Capitals of Biodiversity 2011 crowned at Breakfast at Sustainability's

The winning cities in the European Capitals of Biodiversity competition have been announced in the four participating countries: ICLEI member city Montpellier in France, Puebla de Sanabria in Spain, Kremnica in Slovakia and Szentes in Hungary.

The cities were awarded at the tenth ICLEI Breakfast at Sustainability's event in November, entitled Capitals of Biodiversity – European municipalities lead the way in local biodiversity protection. The event was hosted by the Liaison Office of the Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino region in Brussels (Belgium).

European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik, attended the event and discussed the possibilities of linking policy with local implementation before presenting the winners with their awards.

Each winning city has excelled in protecting and nurturing biodiversity. Montpellier introduced a multiannual action plan 2010-2014 for biodiversity, while the municipality of Puebla de Sanabria has developed excellent planning regulations that ensure it grows in both a systematic and sustainable way.

Slovak winner, Kremnica, gained fame at the Envirofilm international environmental film festival, while Szentes, the Hungarian champion has achieved impressive results in water management and preserving native land species. ICLEI member Dunkerque (France) also won a special prize for the Metropolitan Council with the best biodiversity approach.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu>



Cities and towns are moving forward with the sustainable energy agenda, pushing the boundaries to improve the value chain in their communities

Empowering cities at Local Renewables Freiburg 2011

The links between green buildings and the future of urban development were up for discussion during the Local Renewables Freiburg 2011 Conference in October. A wide range of issues have an impact on these elements, with the conference making it clear that exchange between policy developers, technology experts and financing schemes is vital in shaping the way forward.

Meinhard Hansen, Head of Freiburg's Chamber of Architects, spoke about passive house construction, which is also an option for renovating existing building stock, while innovative building projects were presented by cities such as Copenhagen (Denmark), Aberdeen (Scotland), and Heidelberg (Germany). Insights from business, such as Siemens Building Automation and Badanova Wärme PLUS on models and technologies, and from the Fraunhofer ISE on cutting-edge solar energy related research, gave an interesting perspective on options that can be applied in cities and towns to help integrate local renewables.

The financing session brought together energy and building experts with policy-makers and financiers and facilitated both exchange and intense debate. There was a consensus that the political framework and investment mechanisms should be fully utilised to support local action.

Head of the Renewable Energy Unit at the European Commission's Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, William Gillett, called for intensified local action to support the energy efficiency targets, where Europe is not yet on track. "Signing a piece of paper in Brussels does not solve a problem, we've got to do something concretely."

This is where local action comes in. Appropriate financing mechanisms exist and bottom up support can put pressure on politicians to take action. Buildings offer ideal scope for improved efficiency – from using appropriate design concepts to materials on the building envelope and inside the structure. ICLEI continues to explore these options, guiding local governments on the path to sustainability.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.local-renewables-conference.org/freiburg2011>

Learning lessons on event greening with updated guide

The *How to organise sustainable meetings & events in Brussels* guide has been updated with even more useful addresses of sustainable providers. Download the guide at <http://www.iclei-europe.org> or request a print copy at brussels-office@iclei.org

Cities interested in developing their own guide are also invited to contact: brussels-office@iclei.org

CARE North final event

March 2012
Bremen, Germany

03

At a time when the North Sea Region is working to deal with the effects of climate change, the traditional understanding of transport is leading to a continued increase in CO₂ emissions, undermining other climate protection efforts.



The Carbon Responsible Transport Strategies for the North Sea Area (CARE-North) project has developed innovative carbon reduction strategies for urban and regional transport to maintain and improve accessibility in a more carbon-responsible way, particularly in the context of climate change and declining oil supplies.

All the cities involved in CARE-North have developed and implemented lighthouse projects, which has allowed for an analysis of the drivers and barriers to their potential replication in cities across Europe. The final CARE-North conference will present the outcomes of the project and discuss comprehensive and practical approaches.

International experts will link the topic to the EU perspective, as well as to the Rio+20 process. The conference is free of charge and will take place in ICLEI member city Bremen (Germany), where site visits will showcase post-fossil fuel transport strategies among others.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.care-north.eu> or contact: events.europe@iclei.org

ICLEI World Congress 2012

14 - 18 June 2012 (tbc)
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

06

The ICLEI World Congress takes place every three years and provides mayors, local officials, representatives from international agencies, national governments, donors and other partners with the opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange, knowledge-sharing, capacity building and on-site visits.



The 2012 event will be the first ICLEI World Congress in Latin America, with Belo Horizonte the ideal host having consistently demonstrated both its leadership and commitment to sustainability and international cooperation.

The event will take place just days before the Rio+20 Conference in neighboring Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), marking two decades since the adoption of Agenda 21 and thus the movement of local governments taking up the charge of sustainability.

The Congress programme will enable local governments to contribute to the debates and outcomes of Rio+20, especially in relation to the themes of creating a Green Urban Economy and Frameworks for Sustainable Development. There will also be opportunities to showcase the work of ICLEI Members on advancing sustainability, covering all of their work contributing to meeting ICLEI's eight strategic goals.

For more information, contact:

world.congress@iclei.org

EcoProcura 2012

19 - 21 September 2012
Malmö, Sweden

09

The eighth conference in the EcoProcura series will take place in the Swedish city of Malmö and will focus on how public procurement can stimulate the broad uptake of new technology and become a driver for the green economy and social responsibility.



The conference follows the 2009 event held in Reykjavik (Iceland), which saw public authority delegates pledge to use their vast economic purchasing power to help fight climate change, by boosting the market for climate-friendly products and services.

EcoProcura is the only conference series to provide a platform to promote exchange and dialogue amongst purchasers from all levels of governments, as well as suppliers, policy-makers and multipliers on strategies and the latest practical solutions for implementing sustainable procurement.

In Malmö, both European and international cities will showcase their success stories, allowing more than 250 participants from countries across the globe to interact and share their visions, knowledge and lessons learned.

For more information, contact:

events.europe@iclei.org