



EUROPEAN CIRCULAR

Newsletter for
ICLEI members, partners and friends

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ICLEI members are a driving force for local sustainability

The challenges that we, cities and citizens, face today are huge. Local governments are taking up these challenges and are engaging in a vast array of activities to improve urban living and make this world a better and more sustainable place. In this edition, we present some examples of how members are working hand-in-hand with ICLEI to make the vision of local sustainability a reality.



ICLEI members – an international network of peers

Our members are part of a worldwide network of local government representatives that are tackling similar environmental management and sustainability problems. The European network is strong, ambitious and advanced. Its members meet at workshops, seminars, and conferences, and share experiences using mailing lists, newsletters and case studies.

With the support of ICLEI, cities have explored new forms of flexible co-operation, in order to work together more closely in the pursuit of shared objectives. Cities with different typology, size, expertise and administrative structures have implemented peer review initiatives, in order to improve social, environmental and economic aspects of their urban areas.

Two ICLEI members, **Bologna (Italy)** and **Oslo (Norway)**, have conducted a peer review for the sustainability process 'Bologna Ambiente Comune'. "The possibility to exchange experiences

'face to face' is very valuable and supports finding alternative ways of solving own city's problems – not by replicating other cities, but by creatively adapting experience elsewhere to own circumstances", commented Giovanni Fini, Head of the Environmental Quality Unit in Bologna.

ICLEI members – working in campaigns, programmes and projects

ICLEI Members have the opportunity to play key roles in the design, piloting and implementation of projects, programmes and campaigns, such as the Procura⁺ Campaign.

The potential of regional strategies and tools for successfully implementing sustainable procurement is significant, for example, when looking at the **Basque Country (Spain)**. The regional goal of greening 40 per cent of public procurement by 2010 and the agreement by the Basque Government to implement sustainable procurement has been accompanied by the development of a standard Green Public Procurement (GPP) manual, regional training seminars and direct support

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to procurement practitioners in greening their tenders. ICLEI Member **UDALSAREA 21 – the Basque Network of Municipalities for Sustainability** – is well placed to mobilise its 138 member municipalities to implement sustainable procurement actions.

Integrating sustainable procurement strategies with climate mitigation action is what **Finnish capital city, Helsinki**, has embarked upon this year. The newest participant of the Procura⁺ Campaign, and a long-time Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign participant has set itself ambitious targets for reducing CO₂ emissions locally by purchasing of lighting, vehicles and information and communication technology products, to name but a few.

ICLEI members – profiting from a variety of resources

ICLEI produces a diverse range of websites, publications and tools to help promote sustainable urban development. Members play a key role in developing these and receive free or discounted access to all.



The **Network of Communities for Sustainability of the Navarra Region** in Spain (NLESN) has published a Spanish version of the Aalborg Commitments Implementation Guide. The guide was authored by ICLEI, in co-operation with a number of partners in the framework of an EU co-funded research project, and will now be distributed to the 149 municipalities belonging to the network. “Our membership in ICLEI provided us with a real win-win situation”, says Adolfo Navascués Navascués, president of the NLESN. “We could satisfy the demand for such a guidance document by our network members in a very short time and at a very low cost. At the same time, Navarra Region is receiving recognition, while ICLEI can offer a Spanish print publication to all Spanish ICLEI members.”

The **City of Copenhagen (Denmark)** has initiated the Cities Climate Catalogue, working with ICLEI on this online collection of local climate action from around the world. The information will be used in December 2009 to compile a substantial argument for national governments in the international post-2012 climate negotiations. All ICLEI members and communities around the globe are called on to join this action.

ICLEI members – advocacy for local government positions

ICLEI is a leading advocate for change. Local governments are represented before national and international governments, agencies and organisations, in order to increase the understanding and support for local environmental protection and sustainable development. In previous editions of the European Circular, we reported on our advocacy actions within the Local Government Climate Roadmap, however, efforts have also been made recently in the water arena.

While concerns about impacts of climate change on water resources and management systems are growing, ICLEI assists its members in bringing their concerns and needs to the attention of higher levels of government. This has been realised, for example, through ICLEI’s collaboration in the drafting and



Water feature in Barcelona’s famous Parc Güell

promotion of the Istanbul Water Consensus. The Consensus includes a call for national governments and international institutions to support cities and towns in establishing an integrated management approach and to be prepared for the likely impacts of climate change.

“Making our national governments aware of the needs and requirements for providing our citizens with optimum water and sanitation services, is key for us cities. Being a member of ICLEI helps us to make our voices heard better in the national government arena - which is even more crucial now when a changing climate turns our water into an increasingly precious resource”, said Imma Mayol, Vice-Mayor, **City of Barcelona (Spain)**.

ICLEI members – supporting conferences and training

ICLEI organises the exchange of experience and helps to build the knowledge and capacity of local government officials through training and consulting, as well as events and networking.

Peer-to-peer exchanges at events, such as the regular Climate Conferences, are used to share state-of-the-art responses to current challenges. The **Province of Rovigo (Italy)**, a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign, played host to the 2008 European Climate Conference. Here the focus was on the roll-out of renewable energy in small and medium-sized communities, addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The **City of Stockholm (Sweden)**, one of the most advanced and ambitious in climate protection, has been very supportive of the CCP Campaign and hosted the European Climate Conference in 2006. It was then that climate change adaptation was added to the range of ICLEI themes, with the conference proving to be an excellent launch platform. Building on this today is the 'Working Group on Adaptation', where information is shared to support learning and capacity development.



Stockholm City Hall

ICLEI members – receiving national and international recognition for work

ICLEI members earn national and international recognition for their work at conferences and events, as well as through inclusion in project reports, case studies, newsletters and other publications.

All eight finalists for the EU Green Capital Awards 2010/2011 were ICLEI members – with **Hamburg (Germany) and Stockholm (Sweden)** emerging as the overall winners. Many members highlight the benefits from exchanging with other member cities for identifying appropriate solutions for recognised sustainability challenges.

Reflecting on this, Werner Spec, Lord Mayor of **Ludwigsburg (Germany)** commented, “Being an ICLEI member, we in Ludwigsburg benefit in further developing our city development concept. We intensely exchange experiences with other members in a variety of issues - ranging from sustainability management to energy supply. This allows us to learn from other cities, but also to support others with our experiences in sustainable city development. From this partnership we were able to develop the framework conditions that led us to receive the German Sustainability Award, ZeitZeichen 2008.”

ICLEI's support in establishing strong sustainable management and governance conditions proved to be a good basis both for success stories in local sustainability and increased competitiveness. **Växjö (Sweden)** managed to decouple economic growth from consumption of natural resources

A joint vision and political commitment

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability was founded in 1990 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York by a group of local governments. They strongly believed that they needed to work together on projects and campaigns, to learn from and give support to one another; they wanted to form a strong political voice for local and global sustainability in particular with regard to the propositions of the UN Rio Summit. In essence, they wanted to make the world a better place and conserve it for future generations.

To date, ICLEI has grown into an independent network of more than 1,000 cities, towns, counties and their associations, in 67 countries worldwide, representing over 400 million people, all of them working towards this joint vision.

and to gain recognition as the greenest city in Europe. “ICLEI helped us to become the Greenest City in Europe! But I am convinced, with ICLEI you could become even greener!” enthused Bo Frank, Lord Mayor of Växjö.



Växjö Cathedral

There are numerous examples of strong strides towards urban sustainability being taken in ICLEI member cities and towns across Europe. There are many challenges ahead, which ICLEI and its members must tackle, but it is also clear that these are challenges that will be faced together.

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.iclei-europe.org> or contact: barbara.schnitzer@iclei.org.

European Secretariat becomes more sustainable with EMASplus

The ICLEI European Secretariat is practising what it preaches by becoming a fully certified EMASplus enterprise.



ICLEI Europe has already developed an excellent reputation as a supporter of environmental and sustainability management systems for local governments, but decided it was time to be systematic about its own actions and launch a full environmental and quality management system in the European Secretariat office.

Following a number of other institutions, ICLEI joined the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Environment programme, EMAS Konvoi, and set about identifying the areas where it needed to improve, and also areas where solid sustainability practices were already in place. EMAS is the European Union's Eco-management and Audit scheme and is a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. EMASplus takes this further, being an ethical and integrated management system, which also puts into operation the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility and Quality Management along the ISO9001 standard. Since the initial evaluation many small, but important, changes have been made.

There has been a gradual replacement of older computer monitors with ergonomically and environmentally improved LCD displays, while lighting systems are now 99 percent within energy efficiency category A. The majority of office materials were already environmentally friendly, but paper used for faxes has now been switched to the environmentally friendly Blue Angel label.



Baden-Württemberg Environment Minister, Tanja Gönner, reviews the European Secretariat's Sustainability Report

ICLEI is also committed to ensuring that the workplace is a healthy environment. Recently, more comfortable writing desks, office chairs, foot and wrist rests have been bought, while workplaces have been organised according to ergonomic guidelines. Staff are also committed to protecting the environment and play their part by using public transport and bicycles for the commute to work and the train, where possible, for business travel - reducing CO₂ emissions in the process.

The external EMASplus Audit was passed in November 2008 and ICLEI was certified in March 2009. The European Secretariat now commits to EMAS regulations by ensuring the continuous improvement of the organisation's ecological, economical and social performance. A sustainability management team, comprised of four staff members, meets every two

months to examine the requirements of the environmental audit and put plans in place to implement the necessary changes.

A sustainability newsletter is circulated on a regular basis to document efforts, encourage staff awareness and continue to forge ahead with the improvement of both services and sustainability performance. An annual review of the process and the publication of an updated report will document ICLEI's permanent commitment to a sustainable future.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the ICLEI European Secretariat Sustainability Report, visit: <http://www.iclei-europe.org>.

New European ICLEI Members

ICLEI welcomes its newest European members:

Albertslund, Denmark
Cascais, Portugal
Loures, Portugal
Odorheiu Secuisec, Romania

Veronique Van Hoof
(Associate Membership - Individual)
VODO - Flemish Platform for Sustainable Development
(Associate Membership - NGO)

ICLEI Bonn Center opens in style

The 15th ICLEI office was opened this March in Bonn (Germany), where a host of officials, including Bonn Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann, watched ICLEI President David Cadman raise the flag for the first time.

Bonn, former capital of Germany, is now the seat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and as such, is one of Europe's most strategic cities. President of ICLEI, David Cadman, says the office "strengthens global advocacy by local governments where actions on climate, ecomobility, and business relations are combined to influence the world's agenda".

The ICLEI Bonn Center is a branch office of the ICLEI World Secretariat, which sits in the city of Toronto, Canada. From Bonn, ICLEI will co-ordinate its global programs on Climate, EcoMobility and Business Relations.



ICLEI President, Cllr. David Cadman

For more information, contact: bonn.center@iclei.org.

New Staff at the European Secretariat

Joining the Information Services team as a Project Assistant is **Gloria Spezzano**. With a background in International Relations, she has completed internships with Helvetas, UNRISD and ICLEI. She will support the Communication & Dissemination activities of the CIVITAS Initiative.

Contact: gloria.spezzano@iclei.org.

Hamburg and Stockholm crowned European Green Capitals for 2010 & 2011

ICLEI Members Hamburg (Germany) and Stockholm (Sweden) have received the accolade of being Europe's Green Capitals for the years 2010 and 2011.

The cities applying for the European Commission's European Green Capital Award must show evidence of measures already taken to create a greener city. Among the indicators were reductions of CO₂ emissions, improvement of air quality, improvements of waste water management and noise reduction. The cities also had to map out their plans for the environmental steps ahead and come up with creative ideas for raising public awareness about the improved urban environment as inspiring role models. Hamburg and Stockholm impressed the jury with their extensive track-records in municipal environmental protection and plans to take this even further.

The other candidates shortlisted for the award were Amsterdam, Bristol, Copenhagen, Freiburg im Breisgau, Münster and Oslo - all ICLEI members. Regional Director for Europe, Gino Van Begin, congratulated the winners and shortlisted cities. "All eight finalist cities are environmental front runners. I express my congratulations to each of them. I am particularly impressed with the way both Hamburg and Stockholm set several ambitious targets in a range of sustainable development areas, in particular to combat climate change in a comprehensive and innovative 'local' way." Applications for the 2012 award will open in September 2009 and we encourage even more ICLEI members to apply!



Harbour city Hamburg

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

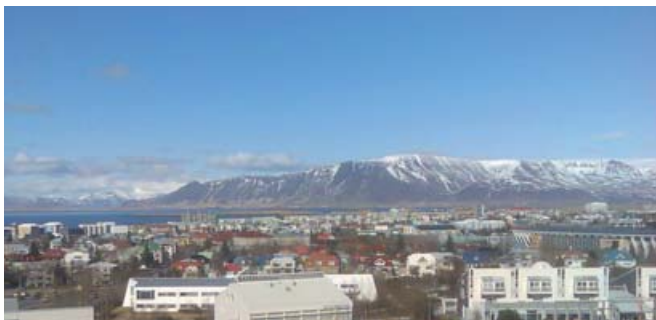
Cities and nations commit to reducing their carbon footprint by consuming sustainably

In Iceland's captivating capital Reykjavik, public authority delegates from 41 nations at the seventh EcoProcura Conference pledged to use their vast economic purchasing power to help fight climate change, by strongly boosting the market for climate friendly products and services. They also called on national governments to put the issue firmly on agenda in the decisive round of global climate negotiations that are to take place in Copenhagen (Denmark) later this year.

The financial crisis has hit Reykjavik hard but the city is now forging ahead, using sustainable purchasing as a sound basis for a sound future, proving to be an excellent host city for EcoProcura 2009 and its focus. Over 220 representatives from local governments, national governments and other public sector bodies spent three inspiring and intensive days discussing how sustainable public purchasing practices can make a substantial contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It was all the more fitting when the host nation seized the opportunity to allow delegates to witness the official signing of a new Icelandic sustainable procurement National Action Plan by the Ministers of the Environment and Finance.



Ministers Halldórsdóttir and Sigfússon, Iceland, signing the Action Plan



Reykjavik's impressive natural setting

Home to 313,000 people, this island nation thrives on an abundance of natural renewable energy sources due to its volcanic construction. Iceland's renewed commitment to more responsible purchasing practices will make it easier for its public authorities and businesses to tap into the opportunities offered from increased savings, not only of greenhouse gas emissions, but also from savings in local energy bills from reduced consumption.

Delegates were called to “think globally and act locally”, which, according to Iceland's Environment Minister, Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, “is the mantra that will lead us to a more sustainable society”. With over 2 trillion Euros spent on goods and services by public authorities in the European Union alone, the economic potential to push for sustainably innovative technologies and product solutions by local governments and all public bodies is enormous. However, as ICLEI's President and Councillor for the City of Vancouver, David Cadman, stressed - cities are what they consume - and only with effective local action from cities across the globe will the impacts from global warming be reduced.



Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Pekka Sauri, at EcoProcura 2009

Changing the way procurement is practised by public bodies poses a challenge, particularly because the bottom line for any city is to save money – one of the key issues debated extensively in Reykjavik. As our national and local governments strive for smarter consumption and leaner production, some of the pioneers in the field of sustainable development, such as the City of Vienna (Austria), can prove that carrying out environmentally friendly purchasing makes sound financial sense. Vienna can proudly boast about the 43 million Euros the City has saved (over four years) as a result of implementing a rigorous sustainable procurement policy.

All presentations can be found on the conference website at: <http://www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009>. For more information, please contact: simon.clement@iclei.org.

Five great reasons to come to the 2009 ICLEI World Congress

Connecting Leaders – Advancing Local Action for Sustainability -

14 -18 June 2009 – Edmonton, Canada



ICLEI members are leading the path towards sustainability: come share your actions as a sustainable leader by joining us at the World Congress 2009! This is THE chance to stand out and prove your part in this global group of progressive cities that are laying the foundations for a sustainable future! If you have not registered yet, here are five good reason to do so immediately and ensure that you will be one of the connecting leaders in Edmonton!

1) Critical, Cross-cutting Issues

Climate change, the economic crisis, and much more have combined to form a complex challenge to local governments around the world, making your work towards sustainability more challenging than ever. Come to Edmonton to discuss and share how these difficulties can be overcome. The programme will touch upon many areas of urban environmental sustainability, from long-standing ICLEI programmes on Climate, Procurement and Water, to newer projects in Mitigation, Mobility, and Social Sustainability.

2) Connecting and Exchanging

In the presence of the most advanced cities in the field of sustainability and outstanding world-wide experts, discover how cities can become carbon-neutral, climate-resilient and eco-efficient. Policy makers, city planners, councillors and mayors will come together with experts from business, academia and NGOs to exchange information, discuss best practice case studies and effective strategies and to find practical and innovative local solutions for a sustainable future.

3) First class expertise

Many renowned international speakers and experts have already confirmed their participation! ICLEI Founder, Jeb Brugmann, will present key facts and messages from his book “Welcome to the Urban Revolution”. The Co-Creator of the concept of the Ecological Footprint and Executive Director of the Global Footprint Network, Mathis Wackernagel and Chris Luebke, Director and Leader of ARUP’s Global Foresight and Innovation Initiative will explain why we must act faster and more radically. The head of UN Environment Programme’s communications department, Satinder Bindra, will discuss how ICLEI and UNEP can work together towards carbon neutral cities.

4) Interactive platforms for learning and sharing



In addition to plenaries, discussion groups and strategy round-tables, the congress offers many interactive elements that will boost the learning and sharing process. Mobile workshops will bring you to several of Edmonton’s sustainable development projects, providing a stimulating and contextual networking and socialising opportunity with local leaders in Edmonton.

Young councillors, mayors, party activists and leaders of youth groups involved in local politics will come together and discuss the creation of a global network of Young Municipal Leaders facilitated by ICLEI.

The Connecting Leaders Café and Exhibition will offer ICLEI members and partners the possibility to showcase their work through posters or booths (for more information about exhibition conditions, visit www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009/exhibition). The Exhibition area will be a key meeting and networking spot, bringing together local governments, their partners and businesses, which offer sustainable products and services.

5) The City of Edmonton - an Inspiring Host

Edmonton, capital city of Alberta, bustles with arts, theatre and cultural events and has a solid track record of sustainable practices. An environmental leader in many areas, Edmonton has successfully engaged its citizens in contributing to EcoVision Edmonton®, Edmonton City Council's vision for an environmentally sustainable city. Additionally, Edmonton was recently been recognised as one of 'Canada's Greenest Cities of Tomorrow', by Green Living magazine (Spring 2009).



In conjunction with and leading up to the ICLEI Congress, a Community Program supporting community-based initiatives, events and activities is taking place to raise awareness and engage Edmontonians in making their city more sustainable.

Located just three hours east of the scenic Rocky Mountains, Edmonton and surrounding area have much to offer to visitors and travellers. Use the opportunity to discover the natural wonders of Edmonton and Alberta, including day trips, the Canadian Rocky Mountains, and all manner of outdoor adventures.

Join us by registering today at <http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009/registration>. For more information about fees, programme and logistics visit: <http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009> or email world.congress@iclei.org.

WATER

Istanbul Water Consensus gaining momentum

ICLEI members Berlin (Germany), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Koprivnica (Croatia), Barcelona and Alcoi (Spain) are among the first European cities to sign the Istanbul Water Consensus.

The Istanbul Water Consensus is a global initiative that was launched by Istanbul's Mayor Kadir Topbaş on World Water Day 2008 and was endorsed by the participants of the Local and Regional Authorities' Days at the Fifth World Water Forum this year. Following a wide consultation process, ICLEI collaborated with the City of Istanbul (Turkey), UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and the World Water Council to finalise and promote the Consensus.

The Istanbul Water Consensus aims to increase political commitment for local responses to global pressures, such as rapid urbanisation, climate change and demographic shifts. It is also hoped that the initiative will give a refreshed impetus to local governments' efforts contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Consensus document is composed of two parts:

- 1 - local and regional governments' declaration and a call for action addressed at the national level and international institutions; and
- 2 - a list of commitments which can be signed by a Mayor or other high-level politician acting on her or



Image courtesy of IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

European signatories to the Istanbul Water Consensus

Austria:	Vienna
Croatia:	Koprivnica
France:	Cergy-Pontoise, Houdan, Lyon, Maxéville, Marseille, Paris, Sceaux, Strasbourg
Germany:	Berlin
Greece:	Thessaloniki
Italy:	Piacenza
Netherlands:	Rotterdam
Portugal:	Coimbra
Spain:	Alcoi, Barcelona
Switzerland:	Lausanne
Turkey:	Istanbul, Merkez, Konya, Sakarya, Belediye (as of 23 April 2009)

his behalf.

By signing the Consensus, a local government pledges “to apply an integrated and participatory approach to sustainable water and sanitation management”. It is expected that signatory cities will report back on their actions and achievements at the next World Water Forum in 2012.

A copy of the English version of the Istanbul Water Consensus together with a form for signing up can be found in this edition of the European Circular. Further language versions such as Spanish and French can be downloaded from the ICLEI website at: <http://www.iclei.org/water/consensus>.

For more information, contact: water@iclei.org.

URBAN GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

Establishing cyclical sustainability management and structures for (ex)change in Germany

Projekt21 and Aalborg Commitments

Different local governments have different priorities in sustainability management and governance: Small towns like Neuerburg may orientate themselves along concise and well-manageable sets of objectives and indicators, such as provided by ICLEI’s ‘Projekt21’, while larger cities, ICLEI members Freiburg or Ludwigsburg for example, prefer to use more complex systems, such as the ‘Aalborg Commitments’ as their framework. Yet the way forward is the same: to establish a cyclical, integrated management system of five steps: Baseline Review, Target Setting, Council Approval, Implementation and Monitoring, and Evaluation to take stock of progress and introduce the next cycle of sustainable development.

Success awarded

Success proves these local governments are on the right track: Neuerburg has been designated “Energy town of December 2008”; Ludwigsburg was awarded the German Prize for Sustainability “Zeitzeiche(N)”; Freiburg was among the eight finalists for the European Green Capital Award, to name but a few.

National annual conventions

ICLEI’s Governance and Management team has not only been involved in supporting these cities and towns in their introduction of locally adapted management systems. At the ‘Netzwerk21’ congresses in 2007 and 2008, annual conventions of German local governments and civil society organisations active in Local Agenda 21 and other local sustainability processes, ICLEI’s presentations of the ‘Sustainability Cycle’ received much recognition and generated a high level of interest.



ICLEI’s Sustainability Cycle

European Commission co-funded training hub

In order to support further local and regional governments and help them respond to challenges such as climate adaptation in adequate ways, ICLEI will now establish a German training hub for Integrated Sustainability Management, and connect with further training nodes to be established under the LIFE+ project, CHAMP. Building on the experience of the 'Managing Urban Europe-25'- project, a European network of certified trainers and auditors for Sustainability Management Systems will be established and made accessible for local governments.

German language e-newsletter

In order to keep German-speaking local and regional governments, as well as a wider community of individuals and organisations, updated about these processes, ICLEI will also distribute a German e-newsletter with support from the Environmental Ministry of the German Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate. The first issue of this quarterly e-news will appear in May 2009.

Find out more:

- German Aalborg Commitments Implementation Guide: <http://www.localsustainability.eu>,
 - German handbook on Projekt21: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/projekt21>
 - Good-practice brochure, "Gute Gründe für Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement": <http://www.mue25.net>
- To receive the German e-newsletter on local sustainability, please contact: andrea.philipp@iclei.org.

Regions count! Co-operative initiatives for sustainable development

There is growing recognition of the importance of regional value chains and co-operation of cities and their hinterlands for sustainable development. ICLEI, with its members, has put a focus on initiatives to support EU regional policies to strengthen regional sustainable development. These embed policy and advocacy, experience exchange and the development of regional governance and management capacities for implementing sustainable development.

Convention for a Sustainable Urban and Rural Europe

In order to follow and support the European debate on the potential of and conditions for urban-rural linkages and regional activities, the Convention for a Sustainable Urban and Rural Europe (CURE) was established in 2008. It is supported by the ICLEI European Secretariat, amongst others.

As an open network of urban and rural actors it aims to be an agent for regional affairs, offering recommendation on policy frameworks and measures, which will assist a sustainable approach to the future of urban and rural areas in Europe.



EU seminar series on urban-rural linkages

How can regional co-operation and inter-linkages make a difference for territorial competitiveness, sustainable development and social cohesion?

This question is at the core of a series of seminars on urban-rural linkages organised by the EU Directorate General for Regional Policy in 2008/09. A number of good practice examples presented stimulated lively discussions, among them ICLEI members Amsterdam and their "Proeftuin"



Stefan Kuhn facilitates a Rural-Urban Seminar

Food Strategy and Lille with its metropolitan public transport

system. Particularly local initiatives, such as Local Agenda 21 and the experiences gained in the LEADER programme, aroused interest in their potential to foster co-operation between local and regional actors.

Baltic aspires to become the world's first eco-region



Amongst the case studies presented at the seminars on urban-rural linkages were the co-ordinated climate protection activities between the county of Kronoberg (Sweden) and municipalities in its territory, such as ICLEI member Växjö. With a master plan of activities and measures to further increase energy-efficiency and the use of local renewable resources, Kronoberg and Växjö strive to tighten these linkages and implement their regional climate strategy.

Thus, the municipal sustainability coordinators of Växjö and their regional counterparts in the Kronoberg County Board have joined the 'Baltic Eco Region' project, an activity under the European Union's Baltic Sea Region Programme, co-ordinated by the German Environment Ministry. It aims to develop the Baltic Sea Region into the world's first eco-region that marries economic growth, environmental integrity and social justice. 'Baltic Eco Region' will develop regional sustainability agendas covering all fields of the 'Aalborg Commitments', implemented by tested governance and management structures for regional co-operation.

For more information, visit the following websites:

- Convention for a Sustainable Urban & Rural Europe: <http://www.cureforsustainability.eu/>
- DG Regio seminars on urban - rural linkages:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/urban_rural/2008/programme_en.htm, and
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/urban_rural/programme_en.htm

or contact: andrea.philipp@iclei.org.

Efficiency gains in land use reduction



As the final report of the German "SpielRaum" research project reveals, the trading of land use certificates is a promising economic instrument to confine land consumption and support inner-city development. However, better acceptance and capacity building in local governments are key requirements to make the instrument ready for application. The findings from the certificate trading scenarios with diverse local governments, can be read in the inlay to this European Circular (in German).

For more information, visit: www.spielraum.isi.fhg.de or contact: spielraum@isi.fraunhofer.de.

Participate in the first European Week for Waste Reduction!



The first official European Week for Waste Reduction (EWW) will take place on 21- 29 November 2009. It will be a key event for promoting sustainable waste reduction actions and highlighting the impact of our consumption on the environment and on climate change.

The EWW is looking for organisers from a variety of sectors, including public authorities, associative networks, schools, universities, businesses, etc, to promote the event and coordinate the registration and validation of actions from a variety of stakeholders.

For more information, contact: ewwr@acrplus.org.

Climate Roadmap also focuses on Emerging Markets

As part of the international process to mobilise local governments around the globe to support the call for a comprehensive global post-2012 climate change agreement, ICLEI is co-ordinating a new project, “Local Governments’ mobilisation and backing for the development and implementation of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate change agreement”. It will be co-ordinated together with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ICLEI Regional Offices and UCLG Sections.

The project, supported by EuropeAid and the Norwegian Government, focuses on seven countries: China and India as two of the largest emerging markets, as well as Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and South Africa. One of the project’s primary aims is to mobilise local governments to become more active in climate protection, and to include their viewpoint in the international Local Government Climate Roadmap.

For more information, visit: <http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap>, or contact: irene.vergara@iclei.org.

Woking hosts first Sustainable NOW study visit

Sustainable energy and integrated management solutions are combined in the project ‘European Sustainable Energy Communities – effective Integrated Local Energy Action today’ (Sustainable NOW). In February, Woking (United Kingdom), an ambitious participant in ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign, shared its experiences in climate protection and community sustainable energy with 15 project partners from Germany, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, and Bulgaria.

From the inspiring presentation on Woking’s Climate Change Strategy, by Chief Executive Ray Morgan, with its focus on taking small steps and persevering, to the financial approach used by the Council’s Energy Services Company, Thamesway Ltd, shared by its Managing Director John Thorp, the group gained many new ideas on the way forward in their own communities. A tour visiting many different examples – including a low energy renovation of a typical UK house and the Woking Town Centre Combined Heat and Power station – helped to provide a solid foundation to analyse lessons learnt from the Woking case, and helped to identify issues the other cities could consider for their own Sustainable Local Energy Action Plans.

Sustainable NOW is supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe funding programme.

For more information, visit: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/sustainable-now>.



Visiting Brockhill Retirement Village in Woking, which has been fitted with photo-voltaic panels.

Burgas signs Covenant of Mayors

In February 2009 the Mayor of Burgas (Bulgaria), Dimitar Nikolov, signed the Covenant of Mayors at a ceremony in Brussels (Belgium), joining 160 other pioneering cities committed to going beyond the 20-20-20 EU targets. Mr. Nikolov addressed the importance of the Sustainable NOW project, in particular the development of a Sustainable Local Energy Action Plan for Burgas to provide a platform for achieving the CO₂ emissions reduction aim by 2020.

For more information, contact: maryke.van.staden@iclei.org.

Add your climate targets to the Cities Climate Catalogue



All communities with climate protection targets and achievements (CO₂ or other greenhouse gas emissions reduction, renewable energy, energy savings) are invited to share these in the City Climate Catalogue. The collection of information will be used in December 2009 to compile a substantial argument for national governments in the international post-2012 climate negotiations. Help us build a strong argument - enter your targets!

For more information: <http://www.iclei.org/climate-commitments> or contact: maryke.van.staden@iclei.org.

ICLEI contributes to the Renewables Global Status Report 2008

Renewable energy (RE) plays an important role in communities that are focusing on climate protection (both climate change mitigation and adaptation), securing their energy supply, improving air quality and sustainable development. Developments in communities are also reflected in the Renewables Global Status Report 2008 released this April by REN21. ICLEI contributed to the section on local governments, building on experiences of ICLEI's Local Renewables Initiative and the Local Government Climate Roadmap.

The 2009 report is expected to have a more extensive focus on local governments, with a database under development to collect corporate and community RE targets and policies.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ren21.net>.

Seminar on local governments' joint efforts towards a new climate agreement



Solar information panel in a Japanese building

On 3rd March in Tokyo (Japan), the ICLEI Japan Office organised a seminar titled, "Toward Climate Agreement after 2013 – Local Governments' Climate Protection Activities in Europe and Japan". The seminar was co-hosted by LORC, Ryukoku University and was chaired by Mr. Hironori Hamanaka, former Vice Minister for Environment and current Board member of ICLEI Japan.

Gino Van Begin, Deputy Secretary General and Regional Director for Europe of ICLEI, made a presentation about European local climate actions and called for joint local efforts towards COP15. "In order to work globally towards a new climate agreement, not only efforts within each local government are needed but also more support, resources and co-ordination on the part of national governments," he stated.

Mr. Masa Ohara, Director for Environmental Policy Division of Tokyo Metropolitan Government, presented Tokyo's climate protection activities, particularly its cap-and-trade scheme and solar energy program. Mr. Ohara said, "Local governments are responsible to protect citizens' life and property, and climate protection

actions certainly help fulfill this responsibility. It is important for every local government to share experiences and work together."

The seminar impressed upon participants that, to achieve a new climate agreement, local governments play a critical role and need to work together and appeal to national governments and the UN.

For more information, contact: gino.van.begin@iclei.org.

Managing the Interface. From Knowledge to Action in Global Change and Sustainability Science

'Action- and problem-oriented sustainability science' is a difficult term to break down. 'Managing the Interface' takes up this challenge and attempts to answer the question, "How can scientific endeavour be aligned so as to support the steps from knowledge to action?". It is not new that actors in research and implementation projects come together to solve problems resulting from global change. But the main question of "how?" to do this has not been addressed satisfactorily, yet. Peter Moll and Ute Zander provide a challenging toolkit that carefully analyses the current knowledge-to-action transfer systems and the underlying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and resources available working in an ever more complex and uncertain environment.

The book is a laudation for participatory approaches and practical tools, being aware of both the need for facilitators who manage the interface between science and practice and the fact that even the best tool does not lead to implementation on its own. The authors solve this by presenting approaches to suitable funding schemes and new institutional set-ups of research and implementation projects.

The book's design is appealing and the text flows well. Case studies with good practice examples from around the world give an extra to the action-interested reader.

Peter Moll, Ute Zander: *Managing the Interface. From Knowledge to Action in Global Change and Sustainability Science*. oekom: Munich. ISBN 3-86581-052-7

Buying Social Justice – Equality, Government Procurement, & Legal Change

Governments spend huge amounts of money buying goods and services from the private sector. How far should their spending power be affected by social policy? Arguments against the practice are often made by economists - on the grounds of inefficiency - and lawyers - on the grounds of free competition and international economic law. *Buying Social Justice* analyses how governments in developed and developing countries use their contracting power in order to advance social equality and reduce discrimination, and argues that this approach is an entirely legitimate and efficient means of achieving social justice.

The book looks at the different experiences of a range of countries, including the USA, the UK, and South Africa. It also examines the impact of international and regional regulation of the international economy, and questions the extent to which the issue of procurement policy be regulated at the national, European or international levels. The role of EC and WTO law in mediating the tensions between the economic function of procurement and the social uses of procurement is discussed, and the outcomes of controversies concerning the legitimacy of the integration of social values into procurement are analysed. *Buying Social Justice* argues that European and international legal regulation of procurement has become an important means of accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative in both the social and economic uses of procurement.

Christopher McCrudden: *Buying Social Justice: Equality, Government Procurement, & Legal Change*. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-923243-7



NEW RESOURCES FROM ICLEI

Online resources

Stay informed on ICLEI and member activities, by subscribing to our monthly e-Newsletter, ICLEI in Europe. Visit: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=1574>,

ICLEI Regional Director for Europe, Gino Van Begin, explains the Local Government Climate Roadmap in a new video. Hear also what climate experts and local government representatives had to say when interviewed at COP 14 in Poznan last December. Visit: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=9653>.

The latest edition of the Sustainable Procurement Update is now available. Discover what is happening in the Procura⁺ Campaign and the latest Sustainable Procurement activities in Europe. Visit: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/procurement/update>.

Publications

The seventh issue of the Biofuel Cities Quarterly has been released and focuses on emissions. It is available for download on: <http://www.biofuel-cities.eu>, where you can also find previous editions and other news on biofuels for transport.

Sustainable NOW - European Sustainable Energy Cities focuses on strengthening the role of local and provincial governments by means of strong local and regional partners as well as EU-wide networks to implement ambitious climate and energy targets. Utilising local resources and improving community resilience from a climate protection and energy security perspective are underlying aspects. The introductory leaflet is available under: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/sustainable-now>.

A guidance document on public procurement of information technology and CSR, particularly in regard to working conditions of suppliers in developing countries has just been published. The publication focuses on German public authorities (in German) and can be downloaded from: <http://www.weed-online.org/themen/2353772.html>. An English version is planned.

Members - send us your news!

If you want to profile your community's work for local sustainability by contributing an article to the European Circular or to the www.iclei.org and www.iclei-europe.org websites, feel free to contact the Information Services Team at the ICLEI European Secretariat. The team will help you with presenting your work and edit your articles – contact them today at: information.services@iclei-europe.org

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The ICLEI mission

ICLEI's mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions. ICLEI's general mandate is to build an active and committed municipal membership of local spheres of government (local and regional governments and authorities) as well as international, regional, national and sub-national local government associations.