



# European Circular

Newsletter for  
ICLEI members, partners and friends

Issue No 29, Summer 2007

## The power of local action

### Renewable energy as the basis of a decentralised and secure energy supply

From the 13 - 15th June 2007, the City of Freiburg together with ICLEI, organised the conference 'Local Renewables 2007 - Powerful local action for secure and sustainable energy in Europe'. The Lord Mayor of ICLEI European Secretariat host city Freiburg, Dr. Dieter Salomon, invited local decision-makers and politicians, representatives from utilities, businesses and the research and development community from Europe and beyond, to jointly work on solutions for future urban development and a sustainable energy supply.



Conference delegates visit a solar installation in Freiburg

Experts, together with the 227 delegates, agreed that measures to curb the dramatic impact of climate change must be carried out immediately and that local governments play a crucial role in this.

Along with energy saving and improved energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy, geothermal, small hydropower and biomass will play a central role. Numerous examples - from over 60 initiatives in Europe and abroad - showed that renewable energy sources are not only ready for use, but also constitute an indispensable part of a secure and sustainable energy supply. At the same time, their use provides an incentive for local innovation and job creation, supporting local economic development.

In a comprehensive and far-reaching presentation, the State Secretary of the German Federal Environment Ministry, Michael Müller, gave an account of the current status of climate change. He particularly welcomed initiatives from ICLEI to tackle climate protection at a community level. The patron of Local Renewables 2007 was German Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, in his capacity as president of the EU Environmental Council. The conference was financially supported by, among others, the European Commission programme "Intelligent Energy Europe" and the German Federal state of Baden-Württemberg.

A major outcome of the conference was the 'Freiburg Outreach - local renewables empower the energy revolution'. It presents eight arguments to encourage local community leaders to use *local renewables*:

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Focus on Climate &amp; Air</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>ICLEI News</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>ICLEI Themes and Services</b>	
Urban Governance	Page 5
Sustainability Management	Page 8
Sustainable Procurement	Page 10
Water	Page 13
International Training Centre	Page 13
<b>Book &amp; DVD reviews</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>New Resources</b>	<b>Page 16</b>

1. Renewable energy sources are available and ready for use;
2. Using local resources, to produce energy locally, establishes a foundation for a decentralised secure energy supply, making communities more resilient;
3. Financial benefits of applying local renewables initiatives include saving money and generating an income.
4. Implementing renewable energy creates jobs and stimulates the local economy.



5. Local Renewables give impulse to urban development and encourage technical and social innovation.
6. Moving away from fossil fuels will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and support climate protection.
7. Local action is critical in achieving targets - national and international - on sustainable energy.
8. The local community is key to reaching and involving various stakeholders and is a driving force for innovation and change towards sustainable energy.

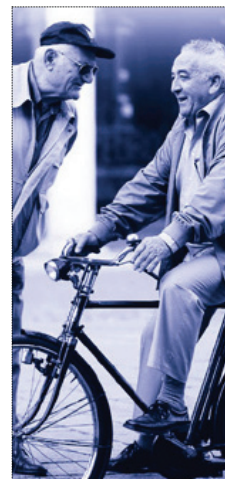
For further information on the conference (incl. the Freiburg Outreach, abstracts and presentations): [www.local-renewables2007.org](http://www.local-renewables2007.org). To learn more about the Local Renewables project: Contact Maryke van Staden at [maryke.van.staden@iclei-europe.org](mailto:maryke.van.staden@iclei-europe.org).

## **BYPAD: quality standard for cycling policy in 100+ European cities, towns and regions**

**BYPAD (Bicycle policy audit) is an instrument for the evaluation of local and regional cycling policy and improvement of its quality. BYPAD was created and is continuously further developed and applied since 1999 with support from the European Commission. Meanwhile more than 100 cities, towns and regions in 20 European countries are evaluating and improving their cycling policy through BYPAD, supervised by 34 certified auditors in these countries.**

BYPAD, based on the total quality management method, focuses not only on the planning of cycling policy (user needs, leadership and co-ordination, policy on paper, means and personnel) and actions in the field (infrastructure & safety, information & education, promotion and partnerships, complementary actions), but also on how cycling policy is monitored. The cities, towns and regions that implement BYPAD receive a BYPAD certificate, which indicates the progress they are making in cycling policy.

In addition, BYPAD fosters the exchange of knowledge and experience between these cities, towns and regions, e.g. through regional workshops, international seminars and direct exchange via the BYPAD website [www.bypad.org](http://www.bypad.org).



At the Velo-City 2007 conference, which took place in Munich, Germany, in mid-June 2007, ICLEI members who were granted the BYPAD certificate were Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium and the City of Zürich, Switzerland. Congratulations!

For further information on the project: [www.bypad.org](http://www.bypad.org) or contact: Jeroen Bastiaens – Vectris (co-ordinator), Belgium, [jeroen.bastiaens@vectris.be](mailto:jeroen.bastiaens@vectris.be) or Tim Asperges – Hasselt University, Belgium, [tim.asperges@uhasselt.be](mailto:tim.asperges@uhasselt.be)

## Cities for Climate Protection Campaign News

### Call for climate protection action

ICLEI members and other cities and towns in all of Europe are invited to join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. Use this opportunity to link up to a growing network of 160 committed communities, share information on what you have done in the areas of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the energy, building, transport, waste and land use planning sectors. Exchange expertise and ideas with peers, and learn from other communities that are active in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.

For more information, contact ICLEI's Climate & Air Team: [ccp@iclei-europe.org](mailto:ccp@iclei-europe.org)

### Newest CCP participants

- Municipality of Bourgas, Bulgaria
- City of Karlsruhe, Germany
- Kiev City Council, Ukraine
- Municipality of Nurmijärvi, Finland
- Province of Rovigo, Italy
- City of Tilburg, The Netherlands
- Woking Borough Council, UK



## Climate protection and renewable energy: Large and small communities face the challenge

From the 2-4 April 2008, European municipalities will meet in ICLEI Member City Rovigo, to present their most effective approaches to climate protection and adaptation, sustainable energy use and renewable energy sources for the future.

Small and medium local authorities will be at the centre of the attention, with topics of particular interest being the mainstreaming of sustainable energy at local level, community awareness raising and how to influence citizens' lifestyle and behaviour, as well as adaptation to climate change.

All interested and committed European communities are invited to join us!

For more information, contact [rovigo2008@iclei.org](mailto:rovigo2008@iclei.org)

## Siena, carbon free by 2015

### First Italian "Green Energy City"

2007 marks a turning point for the energy policy in the Province of Siena (Italy). On 14 June, while the Deputy Mayor for Energy and Agenda 21, Pietro Del Zanna, was attending "Local Renewables 2007" in Freiburg (see above), the Deputy Mayor for Environment, Claudio Galletti was announcing an ambitious project in Siena to absorb greenhouse gases, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. With effective implementation in the near future, Siena now aims to change its energy supply structure towards a much larger share of renewable resources.



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Concretely, the Province of Siena, already committed to Managing Urban Europe 25, an EU-funded project to improve existing environmental management systems, plans to use the knowledge gained within the project as an effective and concrete way to curb the climate and energy crisis.

For more information, contact: [cristina.garzilla@iclei-europe.org](mailto:cristina.garzilla@iclei-europe.org)

## ICLEI strengthens co-operation with REC

Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for ICLEI in Europe, and Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), signed a



Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Europe Regional Director, with members of the REC at Sevilla 2007

memorandum of understanding between the two international organisations during the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns held in Sevilla, Spain in March 2007. The memorandum of understanding will further intensify co-operation between the REC and ICLEI and expand opportunities to learn from each other and ensure more effective when concerted action is necessary.

## Meeting urban decision makers at Global City

900 urban decision makers from 46 countries came to Lyon for Global City 2007 to discuss strategies for placing local government at the centre of the efforts to achieve sustainable urban management, ICLEI, an official conference partner, was there to engage in the discussion. As climate was at the heart of the agenda, Global City proved a good opportunity to present the new Biofuel Cities European Partnership, which was done by bringing together good practice examples of biofuel applications, of which leaders in the field are ICLEI members: Stockholm, Graz and Lille. On the exhibition floor, ICLEI was also present and hosted workshops, allowing urban decision-makers to share experiences and engage in open and frank discussions.

For more information on Global City: [www.globalcityforum.com](http://www.globalcityforum.com). For more information on the Biofuel Cities European Partnership: [www.biofuel-cities.eu](http://www.biofuel-cities.eu)

## Re-election congratulations



Our congratulations go to **Emilio D'Alessio**, Deputy Mayor of ICLEI member city Ancona, Italy and member of the ICLEI Executive Committee, who has been re-elected as President of the Italian Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinating Committee. Italian Local Agenda 21 Association is an association of more than 350 regional bodies and supporting members participating "in order to improve environmental management and exploit sustainable development as a means of progressing towards a fairer future".

## Member updates

Energy-efficient **Freiburg**, Germany, was recently the focus of a BBC news report, which brought the activities of the city to a whole new audience. The city is preparing to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> consumption, by putting its citizens on a CO<sub>2</sub> diet in order to slash the city's emissions by half.

With a focus on the need to reduce the ecological footprint of citizens, **Almada**, Portugal, held its fourth annual Green Week. This year's event recognised the need to involve future generations in the effort by holding a Children's Parliament.

An innovative poster campaign was launched by **Heidelberg**, Germany, to raise awareness of climate change among citizens. This measure will help them meet the city's goal of a 20% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the city by 2015.

**Stockholm**, Sweden, wins a World Clean Energy award in the category, 'Construction' for its project Hammarby Sjöstad- The Sustainable City, which is a source for inspiration to many other urban development projects and is a centrally located new district on the waterfront of the Swedish capital. It will offer 10,000 apartments for 25,000 residents when completed in 2016. The City of Stockholm has consistently imposed tough environmental requirements on buildings, infrastructural solutions and the traffic environment.



## ICLEI European Secretariat staff news

The European Secretariat is pleased to welcome a number of new staff members on board:

**Marta Anglada** joined the Sustainable Procurement Team in January, as a Project Assistant. Marta studied Environmental Sciences and Engineering in Spain and Finland and has previously worked in the area of wastewater treatment. Marta is working on a range of projects, including the Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign. Contact: [marta.anglada@iclei-europe.org](mailto:marta.anglada@iclei-europe.org).

**Hartmut Fuenfgeld** joins to work on the development of ICLEI's Resilient Communities & Cities initiative and supports ICLEI's work on biodiversity conservation. Hartmut holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Heidelberg. Contact: [hartmut.fuenfgeld@iclei.org](mailto:hartmut.fuenfgeld@iclei.org)

**Ciara Leonard** joins the Information Services Team as a Project Assistant, primarily responsible for editorial and dissemination work. Ciara, who has a background in Sustainable Resource Management, has studied in Ireland and Germany. Contact: [ciara.leonard@iclei-europe.org](mailto:ciara.leonard@iclei-europe.org)

Joining the International Training Centre's Water Team is **Ralph Phillip**. Ralph studied Geography and Water Management and has worked as a water resources planner in the UK. At ICLEI, he will be involved in the LOGO Water and Switch water projects. Contact: [ralph.phillip@iclei.org](mailto:ralph.phillip@iclei.org)

**Phillip Tepper** joined the Sustainable Procurement team as a Project Officer in February 2007. With a background in Environmental Sciences, at ICLEI, Phillip works on studies regarding Green Public Procurement (GPP). Contact: [philipp.tepper@iclei-europe.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei-europe.org).

## URBAN GOVERNANCE

### From model to reality

#### Sevilla 2007 confirms local government significance for sustainable development

Local governments are most relevant actors to implement sustainability strategies. They are essential partners of the European Commission and national governments in supporting their environmental and sustainability targets. At the same time, many local governments across Europe have begun their own initiatives in the development and dissemination of innovative approaches towards public participation, environmental protection, and resource management, while integrating social, economical and ecological development.



This commitment has been confirmed by the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, Sevilla 2007 –Taking the Commitments to the streets, which ran from 21-24 March 2007. Not only was the conference the biggest ever of its kind. It has also been the first that was accomplished solely by the financial engagement of the host city and local and national partners, without any financial support of the European Commission. It was actively supported by the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign (ESCTC).



Delegates register for Sevilla 2007

About half of the 1,500+ participants came from Spain - impressive considering that until recently, there were only a handful of active local environmental policies in Spain. Southern Europe, in general, was well represented with more than 400 delegates from Italy, France, Portugal and Greece. Diverse examples from these countries demonstrate that many local governments in the South are determined to systematically act on the Aalborg Commitments. They are initiating broad participatory processes and working along the guidelines of the Aalborg Commitments.

### **Sevilla 2007 showcased current dynamics of local government activities:**

**Leadership:** European local leaders and decision-makers increasingly show commitment and make effective use of their roles in moving communities towards sustainability. Urban sustainability and environmental protection have become important political themes, independent of party politics.

- **Public Awareness:** Increasingly, sustainability issues are rated higher on the local agenda, both by citizens and the local administration.
- **Implementation:** In moving from awareness to action, a multitude of local governments have successfully developed and implemented policies for urban sustainability.
- **Active Involvement:** Local Agenda 21 approaches that incorporate diverse stakeholders have become the precondition for successfully defining and implementing local policies. While “developing a vision” was the main goal of the first generation of agenda process, increasingly, joint implementation has become a key purpose to encourage early co-operation of stakeholders.
- **Management cycles:** Following the process proposed in the Aalborg Commitments, cities and towns build on planning and policy making on management cycles including the following steps: Baseline Review, Target Setting, Political Commitment, Implementation and Monitoring, as well as Evaluation and Reporting.
- **Partnerships:** An increasing number of local governments are joining European-wide projects for pioneering and advancing innovative policies.
- **European impulses:** Ideas, support systems, directives, and funding from the European level have instigated activities on the local level and continue to provide an important catalyst for action.
- **Research and action:** Local governments are increasingly partnering in research projects to make use of results for their practical application.
- **Support mechanisms:** Despite the variety and extensiveness of local approaches throughout Europe, available support mechanisms substantially increase the efficiency of local action.

## Background

The Sevilla 2007 conference was co-organised by the City of Sevilla and ICLEI, on behalf of the ESCTC. ESCTC supports local governments in their work towards achieving local sustainability.

The Aalborg Commitments are a set of policy commitments that have been recognised by the European Council in the new European Sustainable Development Strategy as the focus of local sustainability. “The Spirit of Sevilla” reaffirms the Aalborg Commitments and promotes advanced implementation of local sustainable development strategies in order to achieve local sustainability in Europe.

**For further information on Sevilla 2007 – the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns:** [www.sevilla2007.org](http://www.sevilla2007.org) or on the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign: [www.sustainable-cities.eu](http://www.sustainable-cities.eu), E-mail: [sevilla2007@iclei-europe.org](mailto:sevilla2007@iclei-europe.org)

### 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns

Interested in hosting the next ECSCT conference?

The bidding process for the host search for the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns will be starting soon.

Bidding documents will be made available through the <http://sustainable-cities.eu> and on the ICLEI website: [www.iclei-europe.org](http://www.iclei-europe.org)

## Local Action 21 Roundtable in Seville

**The Local Action 21 Roundtable is a group of national institutions such as ministries, municipal associations or agencies from all interested European countries who have an official and/or important role in promoting and supporting Local Agenda 21 and local sustainability. The aim of the Roundtable is to exchange, debate, further develop and co-operate on strategies and services to support local authorities in implementing Local Agenda 21 and innovative sustainability management. This 3rd session of the Roundtable was organised in Seville on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, as a side event of the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns and facilitated by ICLEI.**

Participants from across Europe presented and discussed priorities and strategies to promote and support local sustainability in Europe. This Roundtable session focused on the state of affairs of the Aalborg Commitments and on important European policies and strategies for local governments. With this in mind, Stefan Kuhn, Director of the ICLEI Urban Governance Team presented the Sustainability Cycle, a 5-step cycle to link the Aalborg Commitments to other existing tools and to support local governments to effectively implement EU legislation and standards.



Interesting discussions at Sevilla Roundtable

The group also discussed the role of the national level in support of participatory processes based on “Local Agenda 21 with Excellence”, through an Austrian example of a joint national and sub-national quality management programme on Local Agenda 21 processes.

In addition, the Roundtable was informed and commented on agenda+, the new ICLEI pioneers network for mainstreamed sustainability governance and cyclic sustainability management (see next article in this Circular). Participants supported the agenda+ network as an appropriate way of bringing together “advanced” cities across Europe and developed suggestions in this regard.

For more information, contact: [cristina.garzilla@iclei-europe.org](mailto:cristina.garzilla@iclei-europe.org)

## A new network for advanced local governments launched: agenda+

**Local Governments with advanced experiences in sustainability management and governance processes are often used as 'good practice' examples, and are invited to meetings and conferences in order to present their innovative approaches. But how can these cities themselves advance further? Who can they share their experiences with? Who can they ask for advice?**

ICLEI's new **agenda+** network aims to bring together local governments from across Europe which have advanced Local Agenda 21 processes and established environmental management systems, and who now want to move towards an integrated, cyclical sustainability management and governance approach.

**agenda+** cities are identified individually, and access to the network will be given according to a set of selection criteria, such as:

- Documented experiences with governance processes for sustainability, e.g. Local Agenda 21, local sustainability strategy, etc;
- Documented experiences with environmental management systems, e.g. EMAS, *eco*BUDGET, etc;
- Sufficient organisational capacity to manage local sustainability, e.g. co-ordination unit, sustainability centre, etc.

Organised as a long-term, European programme, the **agenda+** network is funded by participating local governments, national partners and European funding raised by ICLEI. Interested local governments fulfilling the selection criteria can become **agenda+** cities by paying an annual participant fee for at least three years. In return, **agenda+** cities can participate in the annual agenda+ fora meetings, and receive a range of further ICLEI services for their local sustainability process.

For more information, contact: [stefan.kuhn@iclei-europe.org](mailto:stefan.kuhn@iclei-europe.org)

## SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

### Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities



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**The recent Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion, which took place in May under the German EU Presidency adopted the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. With this charter, the 27 ministers responsible for urban development in the EU Member States have, for the first time, agreed on common principles and strategies for urban development policy.**

The Charter furthers the EU Territorial Agenda by emphasising the importance of systematic and structured exchange and knowledge in the field of sustainable urban development and calls for facilitation of interests and pooling of both knowledge and financial resources to effectively use scarce public resources.

It outlines an implementation-oriented planning process for the city as a whole, focusing on the co-ordination of spatial, sectoral and temporal aspects of urban policies as a prerequisite for implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

Crucial importance is given to strengthening the competitiveness of European cities by:

- creating and ensuring high-quality public spaces;
- modernising infrastructure networks and improving energy efficiency;
- proactive innovation and educational policies.

The Leipzig Charter will effectively impact on local governments urban development policies by means of its interconnection to EU funding programmes for territorial and infrastructure development.

### **Local government perspective**

Although mentioned by the Leipzig Charter, the interface to the Aalborg Process with Aalborg Charter and Commitments is still weak. The ‘integrated urban development approach’ is not yet clearly defined. Experience shows that this might lead to an omission of implementation success factors a cyclical approach, such as approved targets, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

In a high-level Roundtable Session on ‘Regions and cities as motors for environmental sustainability’ at the EU Green Week, on 13th June 2007, Holger Robrecht, ICLEI Director for Sustainability Management, together with Annika Claesson of the Union of Baltic Cities made the following recommendations for the EU Cohesion Policy:

- EU Cohesion policy guidelines should offer a concrete method for integrated urban development, which should follow a complete management cycle;
- the projects supported by the Cohesion Policy should request integrated management at the local and regional level;
- the EU should support networks for local and regional authorities to deliver training and awareness raising on integrated management on a continuous basis;
- the Aalborg Commitments should be recognised as a process of integrated urban development as suggested by the Cohesion Policy, including the Aalborg Commitments review process for reporting on the state of sustainability of European cities.

For more information: [http://www.eu2007.de/en/Meetings\\_Calendar/Dates/May/0524-AN.html](http://www.eu2007.de/en/Meetings_Calendar/Dates/May/0524-AN.html)  
The Aalborg Commitments (page 7): [www.aalborgplus10.dk](http://www.aalborgplus10.dk)

## **Strong Serbian dedication to local sustainability**

ICLEI Director for Sustainability Management, Holger Robrecht was present in Becej, Serbia in June for the ‘Roadmap for Local Sustainability in Southeastern Europe: Regional Conference on Local Initiatives in South Eastern Europe’. Local government representatives from six countries of this region came together to reaffirm their commitment to furthering the process towards local sustainability. Those present made the following commitments:

- to implement and further develop Local Environmental Action Plans;
- to mobilise resources and search for other national and international forms of support to satisfy needs in the fields of capacity building and governance reforms;
- to focus on networking and achieving sustainable development, based on reconciliation of environmental protection and social justice with economic development.

For more information: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=3578&0=> or, contact: [holger.robrecht@iclei-europe.org](mailto:holger.robrecht@iclei-europe.org)

## EMAS certification for Latvian local governments

Seven out of 12 Latvian local governments that started the process have arrived at EMAS certificate. This is a result of the EU-co-financed project EMAS4NewMemberStates.

The municipalities started work on tackling a number of environmental problems, such as: air, water and soil pollution, waste, uncontrolled resource consumption, urban decay, etc. They experienced a significant increase in efficiency of their environmental performance.

The achievement is in particular impressive, as environmental management systems are not yet widely used by municipalities of new member states.

For information, manual and training material: [www.emas4newstates.lv/?object\\_id=361](http://www.emas4newstates.lv/?object_id=361)



## Sustainable Procurement

### Benefits of Green Public Procurement (GPP)

On behalf of the European Commission, the Ökoinstitut and ICLEI are currently working on a project, assessing the costs and benefits of GPP for local authorities. The study will show the costs and benefits of 11 high priority product groups (e.g. buses, cleaning products, electricity, food and paper), taking into account the whole lifecycle costs of the products and services.

#### GPP Case Studies

Public railcars with particle filters:  
*'Taubusbahn', Germany*

Energy efficient floorlamps:  
*'City of Zurich', Switzerland*

Low emission buses:  
*'Region of Göteborg', Sweden*

Sustainable bus shelters:  
*'City of Barcelona', Spain*

Public Lighting Service:  
*'City of Lille', France*

Five case studies have been written that explain how public authorities can trigger the market for recent or new Eco-Technologies by using, among others, green criteria and negotiated procedures in the tendering process.

Each case study describes in detail the process of 'greening' the tender and the effects on the market, as well as the lessons learned, together with an outlook on the future development of this eco-technology.

For more information, contact: [procurement@iclei-europe.org](mailto:procurement@iclei-europe.org)

### Results of the European Biofuels Survey 2007

As part of the European Commission Biofuels Cities project, which provides a stakeholder platform for the application of biofuels, a European-wide survey was sent out in April with the aim of evaluating the needs and expectations of possible users of the Biofuel Cities European Partnership.



The survey was distributed by e-mail to over 4,000 organisations, such as public authorities, businesses and organisations working in the field of biofuels. In total, there were 462 responses. Initial findings show that:

- 46% of their organisations have a sustainable travel policy
- ca. one third of the respondent organisations is a member of a transport or biofuels association.

- obstacles in biofuel activities are insufficient financial support (25%) and insufficient support from national/federal government (25%). 20% of the answers concerns a lack of knowledge (insufficient information 11% and insufficient expertise 9%).
- services most useful to organisations would be key fact sheets, case studies and practical examples and an online library of scientific and policy documents.

For more information: [www.biofuel-cities.eu](http://www.biofuel-cities.eu) or contact: [secretariat@biofuel-cities.eu](mailto:secretariat@biofuel-cities.eu)

## Responsible purchasing in textiles/clothing and construction sectors

**Two sounding board meetings were recently held in Brussels. The European RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement – project aims to increase the inclusion of social and ethical requirements in public and private sector purchasing activities by encouraging an exchange of experiences between public and private sector procurers and suppliers.**

The first meeting dealt with how to best include socially responsible procurement (SRP) considerations in the European textiles and clothing sector, while the second meeting transferred the focus to SRP for building construction projects. The use of procurement policies and practices to promote the (local) social economy was also discussed within the broader issue of whether these issues should fall under the responsibility of purchasers or not.

The results from these well-attended meetings will be used as a basis for the development of two sector specific guides on SRP tailored for use by European public purchasers and for the promotion of corporate social responsibility practices.



For more information: [www.respiro-project.eu](http://www.respiro-project.eu). or contact: [amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org](mailto:amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org)

## Promoting Responsible Procurement in Lille!

### RESPIRO Conference, 3-4 December

From the 3-4 December 2007, ICLEI member city Lille, France, will host the RESPIRO Conference on “Socially Responsible Procurement”. The Conference will provide a high-profile European platform to disseminate the latest policies and guidance and European good practice experience – from both public and private sectors – on socially responsible procurement, with a particular focus on two sectors: construction, and textiles and clothing.

The event will take place as part of the European RESPIRO project, and is generously supported by the City of Lille and the European Commission. It will be organised by ICLEI in cooperation with EURO CITIES.

Lille became one of the first French cities to implement Local Agenda 21 and since 2000 has undertaken 180 projects and more than 500 activities in the field of sustainable development. In 2004 Lille joined ICLEI’s European Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign on Sustainable Procurement and since April 2007 has been the Chair of the Campaign.

To register or for more information on the Conference, please visit: [www.respiro-project.eu/conference](http://www.respiro-project.eu/conference). Or contact Marta Anglada, email: [respiro@iclei-europe.org](mailto:respiro@iclei-europe.org)

## Procura<sup>+</sup> participants meeting in Cremona

**This year's Procura<sup>+</sup> meeting was held on May 10, 2007, in Cremona, Italy, in the frame of the Italian GPPnet Forum – the largest nation-wide conference on sustainable procurement.**

26 public authorities, including the Procura<sup>+</sup> chair Lille and the two vice-chairs, the Province of Cremona and the city of Barcelona attended the meeting. The Regional Environmental Centre (REC) was present to discuss sustainable procurement activities in Eastern European countries.

Following the presentation of the newest publications and tools developed, the participants were introduced to the new Procura<sup>+</sup> strategy. Using Italy as an example, the idea is to set up national networks on sustainable procurement in each country, with ICLEI providing the European dimension and linkage to the European Commission.

For information, contact Peter Defranceschi: [peter.defranceschi@iclei-europe.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei-europe.org)

## Promoting sustainable timber in Italy

The project 'Promoting Best Practice Internationally on Sustainable Timber Procurement Policies' aimed to increase awareness, and promote the uptake, of responsible procurement practices for timber and wood-based products by government bodies in Italy.

Concretely, the project involved taking a snapshot of sustainable purchasing practices, collecting good practice cases to transfer and promote experiences and raise awareness of the issues through a one-day seminar (held in January this year in Padova, Italy).

### Snapshot of sustainable purchasing practices



A questionnaire was sent out in October last year to obtain an insight into the sustainable procurement practices of Italian public (and also semi-public) bodies. According to the results, almost all organisations (95%) that have a GPP policy include some form of specific requirement in tendering processes (either green or sustainability requirements) for wood and/or paper products. One can conclude that wood and/or paper products represent a common priority product group for GPP among Italian public and semi-public bodies.

### Good practice in Italy

An impressive initiative is the Cities Friends of the Forest Campaign, run by Greenpeace, which has 124 local governments from Italy engaged in the issue so far. An innovative approach (using LCA) has been developed in the Marche Region to foster the development of greener products and production methods for the regional furniture industry. The methodology was developed using a participatory multi-stakeholder approach involving private and public sector input as well as that of research institutions.

In terms of the practical guidance, the following are available in Italian: a manual published by Greenpeace for public purchasers on how to purchase sustainable timber products as well as the web portal of the Central Point of Expertise (CPET).

For more information on the results of the survey, good practice cases and further recommendations, or to download the project report: [www.iclei-europe.org/?timber](http://www.iclei-europe.org/?timber) or contact: [amalia.choa@iclei-europe.org](mailto:amalia.choa@iclei-europe.org)

## **Baia Mare embeds integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Local Agenda 21 framework**

**ICLEI member, the Municipality of Baia Mare, Romania and its long-term vision in local water resources management are highlighted in a case study of a recently published report on “Local governance and IWRM in the Danube Basin”.**

Baia Mare’s concept is based on the understanding that the core of an IWRM strategy should be to manage water resources according to the principles of sustainable development to ensure economic efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability. Thus, the development of integrated city planning under the Local Agenda 21 approach touches on many of the aspects of IWRM, such as the participation of local stakeholders, integration of water, energy and transport policies and basin-level thinking. The Baia Mare experience also underlines the need for visionary and pro-active leaders in local government.

The Danube River Basin is the second largest river basin in Europe and covers more countries than any other basin in the world. Local governments in this region are working in a great diversity of geographical, social, economic, political and institutional circumstances.

Apart from Germany and Austria, the countries in the basin still have a relatively short history of decentralisation. In these countries, local governments are confronted with a long list of tough challenges, such as rapidly shifting responsibilities, inadequate institutional and human resources, and a lack of data and information. At the same time, their responsibilities are growing from delivering water supply and wastewater management to having a more active involvement in other parts of the broader water cycle and components of IWRM.



The report has been produced under the framework of the project LoGo Water that is co-ordinated by the ICLEI European Secretariat and financed by Directorate-General Research of the European Commission.

All reports are downloadable from: [www.iclei-europe.org/logowater](http://www.iclei-europe.org/logowater). For further information, contact: [logowater@iclei-europe.org](mailto:logowater@iclei-europe.org)

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## **ICLEI International Training Centre**

### **Local and Regional Authorities for Biodiversity 2010**

**ICLEI’s International Training Centre, together with the Countdown 2010 Secretariat (Brussels, Belgium) and the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC, Tilburg, the Netherlands) has recently embarked on a project that focuses on raising awareness and building capacity for biodiversity conservation and management at the local and regional level.**

The project, Local and Regional Authorities for Biodiversity 2010 (LARA 2010), is funded by the Dutch Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and co-ordinated by Countdown 2010. It brings together Countdown 2010 and ECNC’s expertise in biodiversity conservation with ICLEI’s membership and its experience in systematically supporting local government action for sustainable development.

The International Training Centre's part in the project aims at developing guidance sheets on biodiversity, specifically geared towards local and regional level action, as well as setting up capacity building concept and structure for local decision-makers. Five European regions will serve as models for action on biodiversity conservation and share their respective experiences.

Through this activity as well as through its pilot project Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB), ICLEI also expands its support to local governments for implementing the Aalborg Commitments. Biodiversity conservation is part of the third Aalborg Commitment, and local governments increasingly value local biodiversity as a natural, cultural and economic asset.

For more information, contact: [hartmut.fuenfgeld@iclei.org](mailto:hartmut.fuenfgeld@iclei.org)). A project website will be created soon.

## Summer SUVOT events for sustainable tourism



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SUVOT aims to promote a more sustainable form of tourism by focusing on the innovative model of vocational tourism, analysing the attitudes of tourists and the tourism destinations according to different categories and segments.

Nine famous tourist destinations in Italy, Greece, Lithuania Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom are participating in the project and this summer will promote the project through a series of special events that invite visitors and locals alike to rediscover the true character of these locations.

For more information on the programme, the SUVOT project and the Network of Cities for Sustainable Tourism:

[www.iclei-europe.org/suvot](http://www.iclei-europe.org/suvot)

### **Opportunities for European ICLEI members to host international events.**

The European Secretariat together with the International Training Centre have invited all European ICLEI members to express interest in hosting an ICLEI event during the period from late 2007 to 2009. Events include:

- Eco Procura 2008 (Bidding process in Europe)
- Sustainable Cities & Towns in Eastern European Countries / 2008
- National workshops for implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy
- National Conferences on Local Renewables
- Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Working Group Meetings
- Biofuel cities - A European Partnership. Workshops and Study Visits
- Second International Symposium on Greening events

12 events are listed in a document, which has been sent to all ICLEI liaisons. If you are interested, please contact [training\\_centre@iclei.org](mailto:training_centre@iclei.org)

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## New Books & DVDs

### In English

#### **Cut Carbon, Grow Profits**

In a new book, published by Middlesex University Press, leading international companies and local governments reveal how they are taking action in preparation for the low-carbon economy.

*Cut Carbon, Grow Profits* editors Kenny Tang and Ruth Yeoh have convinced major corporations across a variety of sectors to share their business strategies on managing climate change and sustainability. Business leaders from well-known companies, as well as ICLEI and the London Climate Change Agency have contributed to the book.

*Cut Carbon, Grow Profits* shows how forward-thinking businesses are creating sustainable shareholder value, cutting costs, increasing revenues, developing new low-carbon products and services, engaging employees and creating powerful brands through incorporating strategic aspects of carbon thinking into their business strategies.

Edited by K. Tang & R. Yeoh, (ISBN: 978 1 904750 15 4/ 1 904750 15 X). *Cut Carbon, Grow Profits - Business Strategies for Managing Climate Change and Sustainability*, Middlesex University Press, 2007

#### **The Challenge of Public-Private Partnerships**

Public-private partnerships (PPP), the latest step in the area of private actors doing government services, are being developed across the world. Being a rather new and ambiguous concept, the editors have made an effort in trying to define whether PPP is a completely new governance tool, or just a new moniker for the concept of contracting. For the more practically orientated, the question if, and where, PPPs are suitable is addressed.

While the editors are hardly convinced that PPPs are the way to go, they do see possibilities, but stress that it is too early to make a final judgement. A more relevant question is whether PPP is better or worse than its alternatives, in terms of economy, accountability, citizen safety and the like. This publication is interesting for private as well as public actors not previously exposed to PPPs, as an introduction.

Edited by G. Hodge & C. Greve, (ISBN 1 84376 509 8). *The Challenge of Public-Private Partnerships*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, United Kingdom 2005

### In German

#### **Lokale Agenda 21 zwischen Wunsch und Wirklichkeit. Nachhaltige Entwicklung, ihre Aufnahme in Recht und Praxis.**

Mal was Neues: Aus Sicht der Rechtswissenschaften untersucht Frank Nolte in seiner Dissertation den Stand der Lokalen Agenda 21 und die Bemühungen der Städte und Gemeinden um Nachhaltigkeit. Dabei findet er heraus, dass die Kommunen rechtlich zwar prinzipiell beträchtliche Handlungsmöglichkeiten für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung haben, diese jedoch nicht wirklich nutzen und sich stattdessen auf ökologisch-moralische Appelle und Kleinprojekte beschränken. Organisatorisch untersucht Nolte die Tücken der Bürgerbeteiligung sowie die Verwirrung um modernes Projektmanagement, Verwaltungsreform und Neues Steuerungsmodell.

Frank Nolte, *Lokale Agenda 21 zwischen Wunsch und Wirklichkeit. Nachhaltige Entwicklung, ihre Aufnahme in Recht und Praxis*. Schriften zum Umweltrecht, Band 148, Berlin 2006



## New resources from ICLEI

### Online resources

ICLEI has established a platform from which local governments can easily access the wealth of resources available to them in developing, implementing and monitoring policies in support of local sustainable development.. Check <http://www.localsustainability.eu> for more information.

Involved in Biofuels? Then the Biofuel Cities project (page 10) is for you, regardless if you are an end-user, supplier or framework actor. Check [www.biofuel-cities.eu](http://www.biofuel-cities.eu) for a multitude of information on biofuels activities in Europe and further afield.

DEEP energy efficient procurement toolkit can be downloaded from the project website: [www.iclei-europe.org/deep](http://www.iclei-europe.org/deep). We would be happy to send you a hard copy of the Toolkit – contact ICLEI if you would like one. For information on the DEEP project, please visit: [www.iclei-europe.org/deep](http://www.iclei-europe.org/deep) or contact Simon Clement, email: [simon.clement@iclei-europe.org](mailto:simon.clement@iclei-europe.org)

### Publications

The updated Procura<sup>+</sup> Manual is now **available in English, German, French, Italian, Greek and Catalan**. To download the manual and for more information on ICLEI's sustainable procurement Campaign, Procura<sup>+</sup>, visit [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org) or contact Mark Hidson, Director of Sustainable Procurement and Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign Manager, email: [mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org](mailto:mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org). Hard copies can also be obtained by contacting ICLEI.

## 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](http://www.iclei.org) and [www.iclei-europe.org](http://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](mailto: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.