



Greening urban transport with the right mobility mix

In Europe, cities are expected to be home to 80 percent of the total population by 2020, according to the European Environment Agency. In taking steps to mitigate the effects of climate change, many cities look to their transport systems to make a difference. Transport accounts for approximately 20-30 percent of all urban greenhouse gas emissions and affects citizens on a daily basis.

They experience noise pollution, waste time in traffic jams and suffer from stress that ultimately reduces their quality of life. Urban mobility solutions have the potential to provide climate relief and help ease these problems. The cities that are seen as successful cases for sustainable urban transport and mobility have several features in common: a long-term vision, integrated and steady planning over longer periods, permanent improvement of infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport, high quality services, regional integration, consistent information and communication and consequent regulation and enforcement.

Sustainable urban mobility plans act as a roadmap for reducing and preventing environmental and health pressures in the urban environment. They should

identify specific targets and methods. Progress needs to be measured and public participation should be acknowledged as an essential component of the process. By adopting and implementing such a plan at city level, local governments can demonstrate their commitment to achieving a good mobility mix.

In order to provide realistic alternatives to traditional choices, investment in infrastructure for walking, cycling, car-sharing and public transport is essential. Attempts at generating a good modal split are vital. **Aalborg** (Denmark) is creating a cycle "motorway" to link the university with the city centre. In doing so, cycling is promoted and safety issues are addressed. The City of **Ghent** (Belgium) is encouraging citizens to make short journeys on foot and is improving the quality of its footpaths to facilitate this.

Bremen (Germany) kicked off its car-sharing project in 1990, beginning with an association of 30 environmentally minded people. The scheme has since progressed to a market-based company with more than 5,800 clients in 2010. The Bremen experience was successfully transferred to Ghent and Brussels in Belgium, demonstrating how cities can learn from peer to peer sharing. In ...

Issue N° 37, 2/3 - 2010

Contents

Focus on Mobility	1
ICLEI Member News	5

ICLEI Themes and Services

Water	7
6th Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference	8
Sustainable Procurement	10
Climate & Air	11
Urban Governance & Sustainability Management	14
Events	15



An ICLEI Initiative

Local Renewables Conference, Freiburg, 14 - 15 October 2010

Find more information about this and other events on the back page.

ICLEI member city **Vitoria-Gasteiz** (Spain), there has been a spectacular 45 percent increase in the number of urban public transport passengers since the city made radical changes in the structure of the public transport network. The jump came in response to the more frequent, higher quality service, promoted through an extensive citizen engagement campaign.

The integration of various modes of transport is also necessary on a regional scale. ICLEI European Secretariat host city **Freiburg** (Germany) has tackled

this well, with its public transport tickets also useable on Deutsche Bahn trains and privately operated routes within the transit area. It is not an isolated example. Simplicity for the commuter means revenue for the operators and so this model is explored in many European countries. There is still some work to do here, particularly in countries where national legislative framework conditions pose a barrier.

Currently, there are a number of sustainable solutions under debate. Following the advent of alternative

fuels, clean vehicles are now a hot topic. Hybrid vehicles have long been a feature of public and private fleets and now the all-electric vehicle is being embraced by cities across Europe, such as **Amsterdam** (Netherlands), **London** (United Kingdom) and **Dublin** (Ireland). Amsterdam hopes to have 200,000 battery powered cars on its streets within 30 years, while London plans to start an electric vehicle revolution with 100,000 e-vehicles deployed as soon as possible.

Mobility pioneer **Stockholm** (Sweden), is set to roll-out its pilot programme



Achim Fiack is the Project Manager of Climate and Energy strategies, as well as strategies for e-mobility in the corporate development of Deutsche Bahn AG (DB).

What does DB have to gain from becoming an integrated urban mobility provider?

DB's goal is to offer customers door to door mobility, in the most environmentally-friendly way possible. The integration of bike and car options, in the form of car-sharing, creates easier access to the railway system for our customers, and ensures there are further mobility options connecting to and from the train stations.

How does DB integrate its mobility concept with those of municipalities where car-sharing and electric bicycle services are on offer?

Within all our mobility packages DB aims to offer connections between public and rail transport. This is realised by either offering special deals to subscribed users of the public transport system, or by integrating certain standard package prices, as has been done with bike/pedelec pilot schemes in Stuttgart

and Berlin (Germany).

How would you describe DB's vision of an interconnected mobility system?

Our vision is to offer an unlimited range of CO₂ free mobility by combining the "new" e-mobility by car with the "old" e-mobility by rail.



In addition to Pedelecs, DB is also starting to integrate e-cars into their service offers. What do you expect from that move?

The high acquisition cost and the low level of convenience for daily use when compared to ordinary cars means that e-cars cannot fully satisfy customer needs. The aim is therefore to enhance the trends mentioned

above, to help make a breakthrough for a new climate-friendly mobility culture. E-cars fit DB's mobility and climate concept better than regular cars, as they too are powered by electricity and enable CO₂ free travel. Moreover, DB can use the floor spaces close to the railway stations to recharge e-vehicles, with its own green electricity from its sub-company DB Energy.

How do you envisage the role of e-mobility in urban transport by 2025?

Rail connected e-mobility, such as interurban trains, metros and trams, will play a major part in urban transport of the future – especially in mega-cities in Asia or South America. With increasing urban growth, the population density will have reached such a high level in cities that individual car travel will no longer be a solution, for reasons which include transport security, the limits of infrastructure and the lack of parking space. We also see the usage of e-cars in urban areas as an addition to public transport in the form of shared group services.

with a fleet of 6,000 e-vehicles. But is plugging the car into the grid the answer it appears to be?

Without a doubt, electric vehicles can go a long way towards solving the climate impact of vehicles, by alleviating noise pollution and particulate matter levels in the air in our cities. E-vehicles are small and easy to drive, promising to be the ideal runaround for the city dweller. However, there are a number of issues that must be examined. The first and most fundamental is the source of the fuel. Fueling a car with fossil fuel



The role of e-vehicles is one of the most hotly debated issues in the transport sector

generated electricity is no different to putting petrol in its tank. Electricity generated by nuclear fuel cannot be considered to have a neutral effect on the environment either.

If e-vehicles are to achieve their sustainable potential, then the energy powering them must come from renewable sources. As Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF), observed, “The electric car is not a good stopgap if the electricity

“The electric car is not a good stopgap if the electricity it consumes is not produced in a sustainable way.”

Jack Short, ITF

vehicles available at 1,000 locations across the city. Modelled on the Velib bike rental scheme, it aims to give

it consumes is not produced in a sustainable way.”

With the share of electricity generated from renewable energy in most European countries still relatively modest, the green credentials of e-vehicles must be further investigated. From an economic perspective, while many manufacturers such as Daimler, Toyota, Mitsubishi and Volkswagen are ready to bring electric vehicles onto the market, high retail prices are likely to prove a hard sell to private customers. As such, integrating them into private and municipal fleets may prove, at least in the short term, to be a more realistic prospect. Some municipalities have already established public private partnerships to encourage the introduction of electric fleets.

Paris (France) is finalising steps to roll-out its Autolib scheme. Together with Veolia Transport Urbain, a public transport operator, and a consortium of Avis car rental, the Paris transit authority RATP, the French national railroad company SNCF and a car parking operator, Paris will make 3,000 electric

citizens a taste of the electric experience and stimulate demand. Autolib is expected to come online in 2011. All in all, e-vehicles have potential, but cannot be the sole solution. A well-rounded approach to mobility, as discussed above, is essential if a city is going to make tangible progress in counteracting the effects of climate change.

Taking the points above into account, it is clear that innovation and new technologies alone will not green the transport sector. Simply switching to biofuels, e-vehicles or introducing city bike schemes is not enough, as with so



A good mobility mix is a vital part of any city's urban mobility strategy



Feedback from citizens of all ages helped shape the new public transport network in ICLEI member city Vitoria - Gasteiz

Image: Quintas

Image: istockphoto/kozmoat198

many stakeholders and actors involved, both environmental and societal variables must be combined in order to make a change. Policy, infrastructural and behavioural shifts must also play a role and the right mix is vital. ICLEI has been exploring many sustainable urban mobility issues through its involvement in the Care-North project and CIVITAS Initiative. Both projects examine the mobility problem and its solutions at city level. Many of these forerunners will gather together with experts at

the Local Renewables Freiburg 2010 Conference in **Freiburg** (Germany), to discuss these challenges and more. Taking place from 14-15 October 2010, the conference aims to both ask and answer several questions. These include; biofuels or e-mobility or both? E-mobility for urban areas and changes of infrastructure - what is needed to make it happen? And changing fuels or changing patterns – what is needed for real sustainable urban mobility? With so many questions on the table, it's

clear that solving the mobility challenge will take patience, innovation and dedication. As technology advances so too must the mind-frame of both local leaders and the citizens they represent. ICLEI aims to enable these people to make sustainable, forward thinking choices that make cities mobile, fluid and healthy places to live.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/mobility> or contact: ailish.odonoghue@iclei.org.



Michael Glotz-Richter is Senior Project Manager for Sustainable Mobility for the German city-state of Bremen. He is responsible for the development of Bremen's Car-Sharing Action Plan.

How did Bremen get the political backing needed to implement its car-sharing scheme?

In 2009, we prepared a Car-Sharing Action Plan, which was discussed and adopted in the committees of our local Parliament. Strong political support has been there - partly thanks to the result of surveys suggesting a considerable relief to the parking situation in the city provided by car-sharing - and has played a crucial role in the success of the initiative.

What are some of the impacts of the scheme?

Bremen discovered quite early that the impacts on the urban environment are very positive - especially in helping us to tackle the problem of the number of cars parked in our streets. Car-sharing is part of our parking management strategies to improve urban life quality and Bremen's 5,800 car-sharing users have taken more than 1,000 private and company cars off our streets.

Can car-sharing schemes have an impact on the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector?

Not yet, but certainly in the near future. One of the main environmental impacts in Bremen is the fact that the car-sharing vehicles are modern and emit much less than the cars they replaced. The range of vehicles available allows users to choose the most appropriate car for each journey. Alternative fuels will only have a chance in car-sharing when such vehicles are already competitive on the market. That said, car-sharing has the potential to play an important role in the promotion of electric vehicles. Electric vehicles with a limited range may be appropriate for some, but not all journeys.

Do you believe that city schemes and public private partnerships can change the urban mobility culture?

Definitely! The collaboration in the field of car-sharing in Bremen is a good example. The operator must meet certain environmental and service quality standards, and of course it has to work on the market, but there are definite benefits for the



city. Along with urban quality of life issues, the city also saves as a car-sharing customer itself. The success of car-sharing in cities is a big step towards a new mobility culture - away from car ownership and towards a wide range of transport options.

What's next for Bremen?

Sustainable transport strategies are like a jigsaw puzzle - the more bits and pieces you put together, the clearer the picture will be. This includes increasing the cycle share in the modal split from 25 today to 30 percent by 2020, the extension of our tram network and improvements in the regional rail system. We expect car-sharing to continue to play an important role.

Birmingham's green credentials get a boost with short-term plans

A campaign to get local authorities to cut carbon emissions by ten percent this year has won the backing of ICLEI member city Birmingham (United Kingdom). The 10:10 campaign already has the support of 125 councils in the United Kingdom, and aims for a rapid short-term cut in carbon emissions, kick-starting the move away from fossil fuels.



Birmingham has carried out electric vehicle trials as part of its emissions reduction plan

This new commitment serves to reinforce the Birmingham Declaration, a seven-point plan recently adopted by the city to cut carbon emissions and help to achieve its target of a 60 percent reduction in CO₂ by 2026, when compared to 1990 levels. The Declaration includes commitments to generate 50 percent of the council's electricity from renewable sources by 2015, while at the same time reducing energy consumption by 25 percent.

Birmingham saved 120,745 tonnes of CO₂ in the 2009-10 financial year. A large slice of the savings were achieved in relatively simple ways such as installing energy efficient lighting, upgrading boilers and encouraging the users of buildings to switch off appliances and lights when not in use.

For more information, visit:
<http://birminghamnewsroom.com>.

Rotterdam rewarded for innovation in urban freight transport management

ICLEI member Rotterdam (Netherlands) has been selected as a winner of the SUGAR AWARD 2010, for sustainable public policy and practice in city logistics. Rotterdam was honoured, along with the Municipality of Parma (Italy) at an awards ceremony in ICLEI member city Bologna (Italy) earlier this year.



Rotterdam's strategy on freight delivery was commended when the city won the SUGAR AWARD 2010

The city triumphed in the 'Metropolitan areas and large cities' category and received the award from Emilia-Romagna's Regional Minister for Transport, Alfredo Peri. Rotterdam's innovation stood out for the development of its urban distribution centre, as well as for its PIEK concept, which allows transport companies to use silent vehicles to make deliveries early in the morning or late at night.

The SUGAR AWARD is supported by the European Union funded SUGAR project, and is one of several initiatives aiming for more efficient urban freight transport management through the promotion of discussion and transfer of policy experience and knowledge and good practices between Europe's cities and regions.

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

Cycling City Aalborg makes strides for commuters

ICLEI member and CIVITAS city Aalborg (Denmark) will become a Cycling City over the next three years, with accessibility, public awareness and safety making up the pillars of the city's action plan. The Cycling City Aalborg project comes under the theme 'high class cycling commuter routes'.



The race is on for Aalborg as the ICLEI member city becomes a Cycling City

The project focuses on commuting cyclists, and supports schemes that facilitate accessibility, road safety and articulation. The transformation of Aalborg into a Cycling City began in February 2009, when the Cycling Action Plan was approved by the City Council. The Plan outlines a prioritised list of cycling infrastructure projects until 2020.

Participation in the CIVITAS Initiative has been an important element in this strategy, with innovative ideas, such as the Cycle Motorway, counting among the direct results. Aalborg has already supplied 185 bikes at 20 stations since the city introduced a bike scheme in July 2009. The scheme aims to encourage citizens to use the bicycles on short trips within the city, and to attract users that have not previously used a bike as their preferred means of transportation.

For more information, visit:
<http://civitas.eu/news>.

Barcelona gives guidance on greening events

Two guides on greening events published by ICLEI member city Barcelona (Spain) are now available. The city explains its own experiences, refers to other good practice cases and gives advice in the form of checklists, which event organisers can easily use.



Barcelona's Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Imma Mayol Beltran

The first, *More Sustainable Congresses*, centres on the fact that the organisation of congresses is an inherent feature of today's knowledge society. Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Imma Mayol Beltran, and President of Turisme de Barcelona, Joan Gaspart, both agree that, "the challenge set by this guide is for these congresses, as processes that consume resources and generate environmental impacts, to integrate sustainability in their organisation." The second publication, *Hoteles Más Sostenibles*, is available in Spanish and Catalan.

Barcelona has an excellent record in sustainable development and is currently one of the finalists for the next European Green Capital Award. The city is also the vice-chair of the Procura+ campaign and one of the pioneers in the field of sustainable procurement in Europe.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.bcn.es/agenda21/ajuntamentsostenible/english>.

Applications for ICLEI membership:

- Freguesia de Agualva, Portugal
- Coudekerque-Branche, France
- Sivry-Rance, Belgium
- Örebro, Sweden
- Şişli, Turkey
- Las Rozas de Madrid, Spain
- Knowsley Council, UK
- Tbilisi, Georgia
- Agualva, Portugal
- Rivas-Vaciamadrid, Spain
- Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
- Cluses, France

and TCO Development, Sweden (Associate Membership).

Imprint

Connections is produced by the ICLEI European Secretariat - Local Governments for Sustainability.

Copies are available on request.

Editors:
Ciara Leonard (responsible),
Ailish O'Donoghue.

Layout: Stephan Köhler.
Images: Cover - Enrico Franzke,
backpage - Newlight/dreamstime.com.

Comments and questions are welcome – please write to

Ailish O'Donoghue at:
information.services@iclei.org or
Leopoldring 3
79098 Freiburg
Germany
Tel: +49-761/36 89 2-0
<http://www.iclei-europe.org>

© 2010 ICLEI European Secretariat GmbH, Freiburg, Germany.
All rights reserved.

Printed on 100% recycled and totally chlorine free (TCF) paper fulfilling the criteria of the *Blauer Engel* and *Nordic Swan*.

Capitals of Biodiversity to travel to COP10

The winners of the European Capitals of Biodiversity competition will be announced in France, Hungary, Spain and Slovakia in the coming weeks.



Image: Zygaena spec R. Nebauer

The project, co-funded by LIFE+ and coordinated by Deutsche Umwelthilfe, has been looking for the local governments with the best biodiversity management practices and plans throughout these four European countries, as well as in Germany, where the competition is still open.

Interested cities have also been offered a training workshop on several aspects of biodiversity, from ways to get citizens involved to the hottest topic - the link between biodiversity and climate change. Though each country has different award schemes, all winning cities will have the opportunity to travel to Nagoya (Japan) for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They will also attend the City Biodiversity Summit, taking place in parallel with COP10 and coorganised by ICLEI.

Cities that have not entered this year still have the chance to become their national Capital of Biodiversity by applying for the 2011 edition.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu>.

Life, water and the city of the future

Although integration is broadly accepted as the ideal for the future, fragmentation in the water sector remains the rule in the present. To turn integration into a reality, a broader vision of the urban water cycle that captures all the different flows, functions and uses in a comprehensive way is needed.

To support cities and utilities in their efforts to manage water more sustainably, ICLEI is currently developing a set of training materials which will be available free of charge from the beginning of 2011. These materials will be useful for local governments and other local water stakeholders interested in training workshops on Integrated Urban Water Management and more sustainable solutions to water supply, stormwater and wastewater management.

For more information or to order a copy of the completed materials, contact ICLEI at: water@iclei.org.

The training materials are a result of ICLEI's participation in the five year project 'SWITCH – Managing Water for the City of the Future' led by UNESCO-IHE. The project is part-funded by Directorate General Research of the European Commission and will end in January 2011.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.switchurbanwater.eu>.

Sharing ideas on how to use water more efficiently

Close to 40 people gathered at the EU Liaison Office of the Region of Istria on 7 June to explore burning issues, current approaches and new alliances for using water more efficiently at local level.



They may look a bit unusual, but if you knew these people better they could probably teach you a thing or two about urban living. In their city integration has become the key that allows water, man and technology to exist in harmony. Visit the city of the future: <http://www.switchtraining.eu>

Image: Loet van Moll for ICLEI

The event was the fifth meeting in the Breakfast at Sustainability's series and included presentations from Juan Manuel Revuelta Pérez, Director General of the Delegation of the Valencian Community in Brussels and Chairman of the European Regions Research & Innovation Network; and Durk Krol, European Federation of National Associations of Water & Waste Water Services.



Juan Manuel Revuelta Pérez, Andrea Nam and Durk Krol, spoke at the 5th Breakfast at Sustainability's

Andrea Nam from the European Commission's DG ENV gave a presentation on their policies and programmes that respond to drought and water scarcity, as discussions focused on local governments' potential to manage water more sustainably.

For more information, contact:
peter.defranceschi@iclei.org.

Cities Adapt - Local Water Strategies in a Changing Climate

**Munich, Germany,
13 September 2010**

A special event bringing together elected politicians and senior decision-makers in local governments will be held this year in conjunction with the International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Refuse and Recycling, when 4,000 participants interested in water issues will gather in Munich (Germany).

ICLEI, together with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Climate Alliance has jointly organised the one-day event, which will provide a platform for looking into the major challenges that climate change causes for the local water sector and for exchanging views and practical solutions on how to deal with them.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ccre.org/> and click Fields of Activity or contact: barbara.anton@iclei.org.

European cities and towns shaping greener futures at the 6th European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference

The coastal town of Dunkerque (France), warmly welcomed more than 1,800 participants from over 50 different countries to the largest European event dedicated to sustainable development.

Organised by the Metropolitan Council of Dunkerque and ICLEI, the 6th Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference Dunkerque 2010 brought together the expertise of the partners of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign and numerous other partner organisations in a joint effort to reach out to local governments across Europe, and to present the most innovative solutions to reaching sustainability. Aside from



Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, said "We need you, our cities for a healthy, wealthy Europe"

representatives of local governments, over 250 elected leaders took part in the event, as well as high-level representatives from the private sector, technical experts and representatives from European institutions, international organisations, research institutions and NGOs.

A political message for the recognition of the role of local governments

In an ever changing economic, political and strategic background, 2010 is a landmark year for the recognition of

local autonomy and territorial cohesion. The EU Lisbon Treaty enters into force, but there are still many uncertainties on how economic growth and sustainability can or will be managed. Speaking at the final plenary ICLEI's Regional Director for Europe, Gino Van Begin said, "We can and must aspire to create a system of governance that integrates local and regional governments more actively, that gives these local and regional governments the chance to influence and be more coherently included in EU policies and resources."



Michel Delebarre, Mayor of Dunkerque, Chair of Commission COTER, Committee of the Regions, and Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Regional Director for Europe and Deputy Secretary General, at the final plenary

After three days of debate, analysis, discussion and presentations, the participants of Dunkerque 2010 adopted two political declarations that aim to shape the role of local governments in years to come.

These two political declarations, **The Dunkerque 2010 Local Sustainability Declaration** and **The Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action** (see boxes on page 9), were prepared in advance and commented on by participants during the interactive debate before being discussed further in the mayor's session. Both declarations were approved by acclamation during the closing plenary on 21 May and were



presented to high-level representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Spanish EU Presidency and the European Commission.

Following the conference, the two declarations were sent to specially chosen representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament, the



Stephan Hugo Winters, State Secretary of Hamburg, Germany signing the Aalborg Commitments

EU Presidency and several national governments, accompanied by an official letter with specific requests to each of these institutions to use these declarations in their respective work and policy making.

The Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action has also been distributed to all national delegations and international organisation representatives that attended the Climate Change Talks in Bonn, (Germany) from 31 May to 11 June 2010. They also received an official letter asking them to include or maintain specific references to local governments



in the text of the international post 2012 climate agreement currently under discussion. This political message will serve as a support document and will be carried over to subsequent Climate Change Talks and other meetings until COP16 in Mexico.

A high - level programme leading to concrete commitments

The Dunkerque 2010 programme featured a range of high level speakers. Mayors and high-level business representatives had an unprecedented chance for face-to-face discussion to enhance co-operation towards their

mutual interest: eco-efficient cities and sustainable communities. In addition to being inspired by the many innovative ideas, initiatives and projects presented in Dunkerque, participants had the opportunity to make a concrete commitment by signing the Aalborg Commitment during the Signatory Ceremony on 20 May.

Participants enjoyed informative presentations and the opportunity to have their say about the future of European cities and to tackle various sustainability questions during an interactive debate. The Agora also provided a structured space for

participants to discuss their sustainable initiatives in an informal setting.



The two political declarations were approved by participants during the closing plenary

It was clear that Dunkerque 2010 was a resounding success with the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign partners, the French Local government networks and, of course, host city Dunkerque working together to make the event another memorable and productive milestone in the history of European local sustainability.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.dunkerque2010.org>
 or contact:
secretariat@dunkerque2010.org.

The Dunkerque 2010 Local Sustainability Declaration

states that we must make the transition to a sustainable, green and inclusive economy, as current models are resource and energy intensive and cannot stand up to a changing economic climate. It demands that we prioritise investments and manage resources in a more efficient and greener way to enhance citizens' quality of life. European cities and towns must ensure that all citizens can fully take part in a low-carbon lifestyle. By accepting the declaration, participants made it clear that change can only be made with the support of national and international governments and institutions.

The Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action

insists that local governments send strong messages to national governments so that the disappointment of COP15 and the Copenhagen Accord are not repeated. Reduction targets must be more ambitious if we are to come to a meaningful post 2012 climate agreement. This declaration also recognises that if we are to reach a low-carbon, climate resilient and green economy in Europe, local and regional governments must be a fully integrated party both in the negotiations and in the implementation of solutions. It also provides a strong input element in the LG Action project.

The Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference Series

ICLEI has just opened the race to host the 7th Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference. For more information, see page 15.

SCI-Network - Launch of online working groups

The Sustainable Construction and Innovation (SCI) Network has just entered its pilot phase, with the launch of six online working groups.



The network brings public authorities and experts from across Europe together to focus on the procurement actions of sustainable and innovative construction projects. The working group topics are:

- sustainable renovation of existing buildings - offices, residential buildings and schools,
- new technical solutions for energy efficient buildings,
- procuring innovation - procedures and methods,
- developing a business case for sustainable construction - life-cycle/whole-life costing, financing
- contracting sustainable buildings - innovative solutions and
- environmental standards - applications in construction procurement.

Each group has a co-ordinator and a number of participating public authorities and expert organisations. The discussions and solutions reached will be based on the specific needs of the public authorities. Existing good practices and innovative technologies and products relevant to each of the topics will be identified, and practical recommendations shared. The groups

are just getting started, so there is still time to get involved. Those interested can send their details, including the name of Working Group they would like to participate in to the address below.

For more information, contact:

Abby Semple at sci-network@iclei.org.

Greening consumption - are public purchasers mediators of change?

Analysing the impact that green or sustainable public procurement could potentially have on the consumption behaviour of individuals, particularly when it comes to food, is a topic that ICLEI is currently researching in a European research project on policies to promote sustainable consumption patterns (EUPOPP).



The public procurement part of the research will also cover living in social housing, but to a much lesser degree. The research is being combined with a series of multi-stakeholder roundtables across Europe, bringing global experts together to discuss a range of questions related to sustainable food consumption and procurement.

These include examining how public bodies can function as multipliers towards private households and what examples exist where public demand has changed the range of products on offer for private consumption? The

EUPOPP research work is well timed as more evidence is emerging regarding the negative impacts of unsustainable agricultural patterns on the global environment.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.eupopp.net> or contact: amalia.ochoa@iclei.org.

Cities lead the way in sustainable food procurement

Purchasing sustainable food for public food and catering services, offered by cities and public bodies, can have far reaching effects. A number of Procura+ Campaign participants have adopted goals or developed strategies impacting on the kind of food served and menus used in canteens, nurseries and senior citizens' residences.



In ICLEI member city **Helsinki** (Finland), the city council decided to introduce one day a week of vegetarian only meals in school cafeterias. While there have always been vegetarian options available daily in Helsinki, introducing a regular vegetarian day aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the city further, while raising awareness about climate change and healthier diets by sending a clear message to citizens in favour of sustainability.

Two years ago, the City of Lille (France), decided to begin to serve organic food in canteens, as well as supplying organic and/or fair trade products at events, and in vending machines. The initiative is being carried out by a range of departments in the city council and other stakeholders, such as the school food agency, the environment department, the procurement office, the health department and students from the local university. The ICLEI member city has reached a number of milestones, such as adapting menus to seasonality and making an inventory of local production capacities in order to tailor tendering processes to local capacities.

Mouans-Sartoux in France has taken a creative approach to overcoming the difficulties of obtaining organically grown local food - they grow their own. An agricultural area owned and run by the municipality has been set up to produce organic vegetables for school and nursery meals. The 30 tonnes of vegetables consumed yearly by schools and nurseries in Mouans-Sartoux will be produced and supplied by the municipality. This approach also has financial benefits, reducing additional costs normally incurred by organic products.

For more information, contact:
franziska.singer@iclei.org.

ICLEI's climate and energy guidance to European cities and towns expanded

Global leaders are not yet picking up the pace when it comes to climate protection. It seems that a comprehensive international post-2012 climate agreement will not see the light of day at the upcoming climate Conference of the Parties (COP) in Cancún (Mexico), with the potential agreement delayed until 2011.

However, with the clock ticking, urgent action is needed. To respond to this call, ICLEI Europe is expanding its range of services to actively assist local governments with their climate and energy actions.



As a Supporting Structure to the Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI Europe provides cities and towns with practical guidance throughout the whole Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAPs) process. This includes **Methodologies:** a 5-milestone approach for local climate and energy action, and the International Local Government Greenhouse Gas

Emissions Analysis Protocol. **Tools:** greenhouse gas inventory and lifecycle costing tools and guidance on: how to conduct a SWOT analysis, planning and implementing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAPs), monitoring and evaluating results.

ICLEI's dynamic approach is designed to respond to your needs and to explore how we can put together a tailor-made package for your local government.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.climate-protection.eu> or contact: maryke.van.staden@iclei.org.

Advocacy process picking up pace - from Dunkerque to Cancún

Climate commitments of close to 3,000 cities and towns are listed in the City Climate Catalogue – created by the City of Copenhagen (Denmark) and ICLEI as an advocacy tool for the Local Government Climate Roadmap.

The collection is being updated in anticipation of COP16 in Cancún, Mexico – to show national governments that cities and towns are responsible, ambitious and leading the way in climate protection.

To update your community data, visit: <http://www.climate-catalogue.org>, or contact: ccp-europe@iclei.org.

Local Government Climate Roadmap

**Strong,
Comprehensive
and Global Post-2012
Climate Agreement**

South Africa 2011
UNFCCC COP 17

Cancún 2010
UNFCCC COP 16

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

The European call for input continues - climate and energy

All cities, towns, and local government (LG) associations in Europe are encouraged to provide their input for energy/climate positioning towards COP16, through the Intelligent Energy Europe-funded project LG Action. Your input is essential to allow us to conduct advocacy on your behalf at European and international level.



We need to know what is blocking or supporting your community's local climate and energy action? Where do you need assistance? Has your community already achieved any of the 5 steps:

- conducted a GHG inventory
- set target(s)
- developed an Action Plan
- implemented the Action Plan
- monitored and evaluated results

How can you share your input? Join the hundreds of local governments and LG associations that have already responded by using the available text space in the City Climate Catalogue, or completing the online questionnaire – available in English, French, Danish, German, Hungarian, Italian and Polish.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.lg-action.eu> and
<http://www.climate-catalogue.org>
 or contact: lg-action@iclei.org.

New “climate and energy” tools, guides and case studies available:

The European CCP Campaign Greenhouse Gas Inventory tool and guide is available at

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/ccp>.



Two new Local Renewables / CCP case studies are available on the website mentioned above:

- Milan's approach to improving the district heating system with renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Växjö and the involvement of citizens and stakeholders in reaching its ambitious fossil fuel free target.

A new report on integrated bio-energy planning, including a series of interesting bio-energy case studies has been compiled as part of the MAKE-IT-BE project.

To download the report, visit:
<http://www.makeitbe.eu>.

For more information, contact:

maryke.van.staden@iclei.org.

BOOK REVIEW: Transport for suburbia - beyond the automobile age

At a time when many consider new technologies and innovation to be the solution to achieving sustainable transportation, this book suggests working with the tools already available: planning, policies and good public administration.

These tools should help to find integrated solutions to the environmental impacts caused by motorised transportation. An effective, affordable and convenient public transport network should be the vital aim of local authorities in presenting a serious alternative to the private car. Minimising the inconveniences related to public transport will also make the transport network more popular.

This is backed up using case studies from Australia and Canada and drawing on comparisons with Swiss regions. The book counters the laissez faire attitude toward public transport solutions that local authorities of English-speaking countries often have where “urban form, rather than transport policy, determines transport outcomes.”

P. Mees, Earthscan, 2009,
 ISBN 978-1844077403

Online resources

Call to European cities and towns to submit local climate and energy positioning through LG Action, at: <http://www.lg-action.eu>.

ICLEI Europe's new climate and energy support package, at: <http://www.climate-protection.eu>.

Procura⁺ Manual now available in Russian

The Manual is also available in English, German, Catalan, Greek, Croatian, French and Italian.

For more information, visit: <http://www.procuraplus.org/ru>, or contact: yuriykerbunov@mail.ru.

UN Green Meeting Guide now available in Spanish

In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, ICLEI published a Green Meeting Guide in June 2009. The Guide is now available in Spanish.

For more information contact: francesca.schraffl@iclei.org.

Cities make ties at LAKs project meeting

The difficulties of finding sources of community data for the production of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories were high on the agenda of the Local Accountability for Kyoto goals (LAKs) project meeting held in Bydgoszcz (Poland), in May 2010. An official twinning ceremony between Bydgoszcz and Reggio Emilia was one of the highlights of the event.



The Mayor of Reggio Emilia and President of Bydgoszcz during the twinning ceremony

The LAKs partners - the cities of Girona, Bydgoszcz, Reggio Emilia and Padova - discussed the initial results from their GHG inventories for two segments: Government Operations and Community. One of the key challenges they reported on was that sources of community energy consumption data are often considered competitively sensitive by energy utilities. Based on the GHG inventories conducted - testing country versions of the new generic European GHG Inventory rolled out in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign - each city completed a draft inventory summary report for Council decision-makers.

These are currently being reviewed by a team of experts, including Ian Shearer and Maryke van Staden of the ICLEI Climate and Air team. Future steps for the cities are to continue the development of local action plans, based on the GHG inventory results

and other issues identified during the city reviews and audits. All cities and towns interested in starting with local climate action are invited to make use of the GHG inventory toolkit - available for download on www.iclei-europe.org/ccp. The country specific inventories for Italy, Poland and Spain will be released in due course.

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

Local renewable energy production discussed in Wolpertshausen

Experts and citizens gathered in Wolpertshausen (Germany), earlier this year to examine the factors that both contribute to and potentially hinder the promotion of local renewable energy generation. Brought together by the RE Regions project, the focus was on the German situation, though the conclusions are relevant for other communities across Europe.

On the agenda were possibilities for legal frameworks, adapting to the new requirements for supplying the grid, biodiversity, local acceptance and demand for such technology and the energy saving potential of energy-efficient renovation of older buildings. Communities face a number of challenges when choosing to generate renewable energy locally. However, changes are being made to make this



decision easier, and communities have more freedom to shape contracts with partners, though finding the right partners can still be difficult.

Supplying excess generated energy to the grid is also becoming easier, though as Dr. Peter Pichl of the German Federal Environment Agency observed, "Many energy supply companies have not yet realised that accepting this energy can actually reduce their costs instead of being more cost-intensive". The experts were on hand to show how biodiversity loss because of the impact of energy crop cultivation can be reduced, for example by planting flowering strips around such crops.

From the fields to the streets, the impacts of and potential for local renewable energy generation were placed under the microscope. The RE Regions project, which works closely with the regions of Lüchow-Dannenberg and Schwäbisch Hall and the municipalities of Morbach and Wolpertshausen, will be hosting similar events in the near future. The project is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ee-regionen.de> or contact: ailish.odonoghue@iclei.org.

Read the event report here. [In German]



Evaluate your sustainability processes with our support

The Informed Cities initiative offers European local authorities the opportunity to take a critical look at their sustainability processes and results. Nowadays we all implement sustainable development but the question is how do we implement it correctly?



Image: Flickr/Andercristo

Based on ICLEI's long-term cooperation with local governments, two research-based tools for sustainable urban management have been identified to help cities find the answer to this question. The tools selected - Urban Ecosystem Europe and Local Evaluation 21 - are based on existing data that local authorities have collected. They are easy to use and provide relevant information on local sustainability, taking into account both governance processes and quantitative indicators.

Both also give local authorities the chance to benchmark their activities against those undertaken by other local governments. Participating local authorities receive dedicated, individual support in the implementation of tools. The support is available free of charge and in a number of EU languages. It also includes hands-on guidance and advice and the opportunity to participate in one of 12 dedicated implementation workshops, to be held throughout Europe.

To register and secure a place at one of the workshops, contact the address

below. More details concerning the workshops' schedule and programme will be available online soon.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities> or contact: informed-cities@iclei.org.

Next agenda+ meeting of advanced cities in Brussels

Advancing in sustainable policies and measures sounds like a good idea, but there could be some difficulties when it comes to actually making it happen.



The agenda+ Network is an ideal framework for advanced local authorities to encourage cooperation, to explain the practicalities and challenges of setting up and implementing sustainable initiatives and to explore the opportunities that can come with it.

The third session of the agenda+ meeting will take place in Brussels, Belgium from 5-6 October 2010, during the Open Days – 8th European Week of Cities and Regions, and will be facilitated by ICLEI. There are a number of benefits that local authorities can enjoy.

Participants of ambitious cities in Europe will present and discuss priorities and strategies to promote and support local sustainability. They will also share experiences with others and have the chance to influence the political debates among EU institutions and Member States.

For more information, visit:

<http://agendaplus.iclei-europe.org> or contact: agendaplus@iclei.org.

Learn how to better manage your local sustainability

Has your city signed up to the Aalborg Commitments, Covenant of Mayors or another local sustainability scheme and is now struggling to meet its commitments? Maybe you're simply wondering how to streamline your sustainability efforts in order to better respond to the new challenges?



Participants enjoying a discussion at a recent ICLEI sustainability management training

The experience of many European cities and regions proves that it is only through the establishment of integrated, cyclical management that local sustainable development can be implemented efficiently and successfully.

Through projects like Baltic Eco-Region, CHAMP, or Sustainable Now, ICLEI is working with cities and regions, tailoring sustainability management to their specific needs - such as climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, mobility and energy. For cities interested in implementing or advancing their integrated management system, ICLEI offers a wide range of training and consultancy services in a number of European languages.

For more information, contact:

sustainability.management@iclei.org.

Host the 7th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference

ICLEI is offering cities the chance to join the European Sustainable Cities and Town Campaign legacy and host the seventh conference in the series. Cities in Europe, preferably members of ESCT Campaign partner organisations, are invited to express their interest in hosting and funding this unique event, which is planned for 2013.

The conference will build on the success and tradition of European local governments to meet, exchange and concretely commit to advancing sustainability in Europe. It follows a series of milestone conferences charting local sustainability achievements in Europe. The previous conference, Dunkerque 2010, was attended by more than 1,800 delegates from 54 countries. Further information is available upon request for interested hosts.

For more information, contact:
emilie.doran@iclei.org.

ICLEI marks 20th anniversary with Incheon Congress

**ICLEI's 20th Anniversary Congress
Incheon (Republic of Korea),
5-7 October 2010.**

Eco-efficiency, green economy, resilience and happiness. These themes will form the core of presentations and debates during Future of Cities. Participants will be challenged to conceptualise these themes in new ways, to dig deeper for creative and pragmatic solutions and face the urban implications of climate change with a renewed sense of empowerment.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.iclei.org/incheon2010>.

Mayors unite at Resilient Cities 2010

Resilient Cities 2010 concluded on 30 May after three days of intense discussion, learning and exchange about urban adaptation to climate change.



Former Secretary of the UNFCCC Yvo de Boer, speaking at Resilient Cities 2010

More than 500 delegates converged on Bonn (Germany), for an ambitious three-day programme offering four plenaries and 48 sessions. The World Mayors Council on Climate Change hosted the first Mayors Adaptation Forum in conjunction with Resilient Cities, drawing municipal leaders from every continent. The final plenary ended with the delivery of the first Bonn Declaration of Mayors.

Yvo de Boer, former Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change encapsulated the main issues saying, "Ultimately, it is cities that will directly face and directly deal with climate change impacts. We know from past experience that the poor in all countries suffer most from the impacts of climate change. Local authorities are hard placed to provide [help] without a national and international policy framework. National governments should not be allowed to get away with this."

For more information, visit:
<http://www.iclei.org/bonn2010> and
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/adaptation>.

ICLEI Europe Membership Convention 2011

Three years after the last event in Zaragoza (Spain), ICLEI members will have the opportunity to gather together next year at the Membership Convention 2011.

With the previous convention focusing on climate change, this upcoming event will bring together ICLEI Europe's most advanced cities in the field of implemented local sustainability policies. It will also help identify the progress made in terms of European local sustainability in recent years. The Membership Convention 2011 will have a clear perspective towards the Rio+20 Earth Summit taking place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), in 2012.

More information coming soon.

2010

Other upcoming events

FAIR Procura 2010
24 September 2010
Dortmund Westfalenhalle, Germany

Climate Summit of Mayors,
21 November 2010,
Mexico City, Mexico

UN Climate Change Conference,
COP16,
29 November - 10 December 2010,
Cancún, Mexico

Resilient Cities 2011,
3 - 5 June 2011,
Bonn, Germany

For more information on these and other events, visit:
<http://www.iclei.org>.

2011

BREAKFAST AT SUSTAINABILITY'S

Culture and Sustainable Energy: Today and tomorrow

15 September 2010
Brussels, Belgium

The event will take place in the Brussels Office of Tallinn, the European Capital of Culture 2011. Breakfasts at Sustainability's are small informal meetings hosted by Brussels Representations of regional & local governments. Topics covered are related to sustainable community development and are essential to public authorities, ranging from climate change issues to waste management, land use, water, clean transport, green energy and more.

On 15 September, climate change and energy security will be put under the microscope. Both areas require urgent local climate and energy action - by people using technology and changing their behaviour and switching to clean fuels. Our European cities and towns, with their beautiful historic town centres, existing and new building stock and multiple roads, face several transport and energy challenges.

Many of these can be solved by improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy. Speakers include a representative of the city of Hamburg, who will examine the topic of renewable technologies. Join our energy and city experts and discuss the real meaning of a sustainable energy culture.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.iclei-europe.org>
and click Events or contact:
brussels-office@iclei.org.



An ICLEI Initiative

Changing fuels or changing patterns? The role of renewables in sustainable urban mobility

14 - 15 October 2010
Freiburg, Germany

As the move towards e-vehicles begins to gather pace, cities around the world must ask and answer a number of key urban mobility questions: Biofuels or e-mobility, or both? What role can renewables play in public transport, car-sharing and biking? Changing fuels or changing patterns – what is needed for real sustainable urban mobility? The Local Renewables Freiburg 2010 Conference is the perfect time and place to stop scratching the surface of these issues and truly examine and probe a sector that is constantly in flux.

Around 300 participants from local governments, energy service providers, business representatives and experts on sustainable energy and urban mobility are expected at Local Renewables Freiburg 2010 to discuss, exchange and get ideas for local policy and local action, framework conditions, infrastructure and technological developments.

This year's collaboration with the Solar Summit 2010 will be the ideal occasion to find out more about the latest advances and future developments in renewable energy carriers and their contribution to the field of sustainable mobility of the future.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.local-renewables-conference.org/freiburg2010>
or contact: LR2010@iclei.org.



Procura+ Seminar: Innovation through Procurement

11 - 12 November 2010
Helsinki, Finland

The Seminar aims to encourage the exchange of ideas, concepts, opinions and experiences on how sustainable procurement can contribute to innovation in the areas of sustainable construction, small and medium sized enterprises and supplier engagement. Bringing together procurers, policy makers, multipliers and other experts and interested parties, the Procura+ Seminar 2010 will focus on Innovation through Procurement.

The programme will feature a mix of interactive plenary and break-out sessions, where successful strategies and practical tools for public administrations will be presented. In addition to the Seminar, a Procura+ Participants Meeting will be held on the morning of the second day, to update participants on the latest Campaign news, and discuss future initiatives and strategies. Both participants and non-participants of the Campaign are invited to participate in the Meeting and the Seminar. Participation is free of charge, but prior registration is essential to guarantee a place.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.procuraplus.org/helsinki>
or contact: franziska.singer@iclei.org.