



Changing climate, changing communities

Xynthia arrived in the early morning of 28 February 2010. It brought wind, water, destruction and death. The hurricane hit the French Atlantic coast, Portugal, Galicia and the Basque country in Spain, central France and parts of Germany. It left a trail of devastation that led the French government to label the affected area as a national disaster.

Xynthia took 65 lives in France, almost 1 million households were disconnected from the electricity network and the agricultural areas flooded by sea water will be unable to grow crops for many years to come. The overall damage was calculated at more than 3 billion Euro. Weather forecasters predicted Xynthia, but within just six hours it had unleashed untold power. The tragedy was exacerbated because people did not believe it would hit their homes, because the flooding was underestimated and because local authorities had given planning permission for houses in areas vulnerable to flooding.

Not a month passed in 2010 without an extreme weather event, the fluvial flood in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany in May and August, wild fires in Russia and flooding in Pakistan in August. Climate change is now being acknowledged by the international scientific community. One of the challenges is that concrete accurate data is not regularly available. However, according to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2010,

current national mitigation pledges following the Copenhagen Accord point to an increase of +3 - 3.5 °C in the average surface temperature compared to pre-industrial times. As a result an additional 1-2 billion people are expected to be exposed to water stress, with more than two million affected by flooding each year to mention but a few expected impacts.

Speaking at the world's first congress on cities and climate adaptation, Resilient Cities 2010 in Bonn, Germany, Yvo de Boer, former Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change said, "Perhaps more than anywhere else, cities offer the opportunity to develop adaptation and mitigation win-win initiatives. In the absence of decisive global policies on climate change, cities need to serve as centres of policy ingenuity to drive real action."

With their high concentration of the population, dense physical structure and dependency on ageing infrastructure, cities are vulnerable to the impacts ...

Issue N° 38, 2011

Contents

Focus on adaptation	1
ICLEI Member News	5

ICLEI Themes and Services

Biodiversity	6
Water	7
Outlook for 2011	8
Sustainable Procurement	10
Mobility	11
Climate & Air	12
Urban Governance & Sustainability Management	14
Events	15

Regional Director for ICLEI Europe, Gino Van Begin looks back on the monumental year of 2010 and forward to an exciting 2011. Read more on pages 8-9.





Sandy Taylor, Head of Climate Change and Sustainability, Birmingham City Council, Member of the EU Adaptation Steering Group and Chairman of the EUROCITIES Air Quality Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Working Group.

What's the most recent extreme weather event you can remember?

Last summer there was severe flooding due to intense rain for a few hours and the city's old drainage system could not deal with all the water. Usually, we expect heavy rain-fall in springtime, now heavy rain can fall in June and July. Within a few hours, an amount equal to the average of a month can lead to the flooding of small rivers, and the drainage system cannot cope with water run-off anymore.

What are the main adaptation activities ongoing in Birmingham?

Flood attenuation was installed beside the city's library and has water storage of 180 m³ and a 20 percent increase for climate change. We established new heat management facilities in two schools to increase comfort during heat waves. This includes glazing and proper insulation. However, due to the UK's public expenditure reductions there may be a decrease in funding for adaptation in our schools. We also rebuilt some special care villages for the elderly, with the orientation of the buildings addressed and green roofs built as part of heat adaptive design criteria improvements.

How do you rate the city councillors' political commitment?

The Council is a strong political driver. A new climate change action

plan was agreed upon in 2010, and Birmingham has a target of a 60 percent CO₂ emission reduction by 2026. The agreement followed a two year dialogue, in which the Vice Mayor took a leading role. The formation of a Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability drives the city forward towards this commitment. The Committee has a monitoring process in their political meetings, and a Scrutiny Committee oversees the performance of targets and priorities including climate change, pushing members to observe the implementation of the action plan.

Do cities receive enough support from the national and EU levels?

What local authorities really need is greater confidence of communication to interpret knowledge correctly for the debate with civil society. The EC needs to provide communication packages that help facilitate the debate between citizens and local governments and present data more clearly. If Member States and the EC considered climate adaptation as a major concern at a local level, it would be easier for us to make a case for long term commitment at city level. No city is an island, but fits into a wider eco-structure. The EU has a huge role to play in helping Member States and cities see the effects of climate change in their own country and other Member States, and to help cities discuss how to approach adaptation appropriately.

... of climate change. They face the challenge of adapting to changing climate conditions in order to maintain good infrastructure systems. ICLEI member city **Bologna** (Italy) leads the way in addressing this issue and has adopted building codes addressing climate change adaptation, such as introducing building regulations requiring rainwater storage on new construction sites to tackle run-off and water shortages.



Members of the Maldives' Cabinet staged an underwater meeting in 2009 to highlight the threat of global warming

Other examples include heat alert systems in **Budapest** (Hungary), urban greening programmes in London (UK) and **Lyon** (France), and climate oriented spatial planning in **Almada** (Portugal) and **Freiburg** (Germany). While local and regional implementation of adaptation is key, they must be supported at national, European and international levels. The latter has found new orientation as a result of the UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancún, Mexico. States recognised the important role of local and subnational adaptation planning as part of overall national responses to climate.

Extreme weather events regularly highlight deficient adaptive capacity within urban systems and management. Climate change can be considered an opportunity for good governance and management, requiring strong political leadership and commitment. In times of uncertainty and austerity, like with Xynthia, good public management

ensures that public and governmental institutions fulfil their obligations to promote citizens' well-being and to sustainably manage the resources available.

In preparation for the 2013 Strategy on Climate Adaptation, the EC published a white paper to help climate adaptation in Europe 2009 – 2012 with a focus on four pillars of action that should be delivered in close cooperation with EU, national, regional and local authorities: building a solid knowledge base on the impact and consequences of climate change for the EU; integrating adaptation into EU key policy areas; employing a combination of policy instruments to ensure effective delivery of adaptation and stepping up international cooperation on adaptation.

To facilitate cooperation between the various levels of government (EU, national, regional and local) the EC has

ICLEI's Sustainability Management Cycle

It is crucial that local governments integrate processes through a cyclical approach for managing adaptation to climate change. The Sustainability Cycle guides local governments through five steps which, repeated periodically, help cities to gradually advance their level of sustainability, while at the same time making sure sustainability stays on the local agenda.

The steps are:

- Baseline review
- Target setting
- Political commitment
- Implementation and monitoring
- Evaluation and reporting



Since 1998 floods in Europe have caused some 700 deaths, the displacement of about half a million people and at least €25 billion in insured economic losses (The European Flood Alert System)

initiated an EU Adaptation Steering Group. ICLEI has a representative in the group and aims to ensure a clear, targeted and integrated framework for cities' climate adaptation. The framework should support the development of sustainable cities and regions through building, instruments, such as integrated management and strategic environmental assessment,

“Cities, though equipped with powerful tools, can only succeed in adapting to climate change impacts by cooperating with their neighbours and actors at national and European level.”

Birgit Georgi,
Project manager urban issues,
European Environment Agency

as well as funding mechanisms, such as ERDF and the cohesion fund, in existing EU-wide strategies and policy processes.

ICLEI's response to member's demands to address climate change adaptation focuses on instruments and tools, knowledge and experience, partnership and networking, advocacy, and exchange. The Integrated Management System (IMS) presents a methodology for local governments adaptation planning and implementation in a coherent and inclusive way.

The IMS was jointly developed with the Managing Urban Europe Initiative to manage change and uncertainties and is currently being applied in various projects. The Initiative is co-financed by

the EC and coordinated by the Union of Baltic Cities.

The Initiative also develops training capacities in several EU countries for European local governments to apply the IMS for climate change response management. ICLEI coauthored the UNEP supported TEEB study on *The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity*, which

offers an insight into the costs of inactivity, and economic instruments to value ecosystem services for adaptation. Other relevant mechanisms

supporting climate adaptation in cities are the UN World Disaster Reduction Campaign, Making cities resilient: My city is getting ready and the Mayor Adaptation Forum.

The inevitable impacts of climate change will continue to affect the global population regardless of our mitigation actions today. However, the severity and frequency of extreme weather events can be reduced by sound adaptation strategies. Cities are the implementing laboratories for measures and strategies, and play a crucial role in mainstreaming adaptation. However, they are just one cog in a larger wheel that needs to be put in motion to adapt to climate change. The roles of national and supra-national levels of government are pivotal, as they are in a

position to offer a framework, guidance and funding to cities and regions. The involvement of national governments helps to ensure that regions with different levels of development and typologies will engage in adaptation. A strategic, integrated perspective on policies and action plans within a

public authority and between different levels of government is likely to deliver strategies for adaptation that are both cost-effective and exploit available synergies. Extreme weather events like Xynthia will still occur, but may no longer have devastating consequences that make for sensational headlines.

For more information and the full versions of the interviews, visit:
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/topics/climate-change-adaptation>
 or contact: holger.robrecht@iclei.org.



Jos Delbeke, Director General DG Climate Action, European Commission and Chairman of the EU Adaptation Steering Group

What role do you think European cities play in climate adaptation?

They play a vital role. Apart from preparing for extreme weather events, which have huge impacts on densely populated cities, we need to start preparing for the more predictable medium and long term impacts of climate change. Take energy as an example: summers are getting warmer and the demand for energy from air-conditioning is increasing. This will make our mitigation policies of greenhouse gas emissions even more important. It will be up to city planners to look for alternatives, for city governments to invest in green technologies, to implement new building codes and to look for good practices to follow.

What are the key ingredients of a good local adaptation process?

The most important ingredient is planning. The first step is understanding what climate change means for you, then consider what your risks and vulnerabilities are. Then you can decide what the best adaptation measures are. There is no "one fits all" answer. The DG for Climate Action is developing an Adaptation Clearinghouse that

will offer guidance and information to support the development of adaptation strategies. It will also link planners to the latest climate change impact information, and have a library of good practices and examples of adaptation measures.

As municipal budgets decrease, why should local governments adapt to climate change?

The key argument is the one made by the Stern Review - the benefits of strong, early action on climate change considerably outweigh the cost of waiting for the impacts of climate change to occur. This is why cities should see adaptation as an investment rather than a cost. In fact, adaptation is particularly valid during the financial crisis as it is about cost reduction in the medium term, and can create new jobs in the short term.

What is Europe's global responsibility to fight climate change?

It is the EU's responsibility to cut our own emissions and to encourage others to do the same, offering leadership in the multilateral negotiations. That is why we have pledged to cut our green house gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020, and why we are willing to go even further if other major emitters do the same.

We are looking for a legally binding global deal on climate change. We also have to help the most vulnerable countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and the EU is the leading donor to developing countries in this regard. Cities have to play their part through local activities. The climate and energy package sets strict national targets for greenhouse gas emissions that national governments will need to implement. To achieve these targets, many measures such as targets for cities to address their own emissions are vital.

As chair of the EU Adaptation Steering Group, what do you expect the group to offer?

The aim is to assist the EC in formulating its adaptation policies in view of the planned Adaptation Strategy. The group should identify key challenges, exchange information on national adaptation strategies, exchange, on a voluntary basis, best practice examples and support the integration of climate change into the different EU policies. Local government networks like ICLEI can give an insight into the problems cities are facing, share experiences and best practice examples with other members of the group and discuss specific topics, which will then be integrated into the Strategy.

Vitoria-Gasteiz and Nantes announced as European Green Capitals

The European Green Capital Award winners for 2012 and 2013 were announced at the inaugural European Green Capital Conference in Stockholm (Sweden), in October 2010.

Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment unveiled **Vitoria-Gasteiz** (Spain) as the 2012 Green Capital with **Nantes** (France) to have the honour for 2013. Five of the six shortlisted cities were ICLEI members: Nantes, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Barcelona (Spain), Malmö (Sweden) and Reykjavík (Iceland). Nuremberg (Germany) completes the list.



ICLEI member Vitoria-Gasteiz, is awarded the title of European Green Capital for 2012

Regional Director of ICLEI Europe, Gino Van Begin was a member of the jury and said, "The triumph of Nantes and Vitoria-Gasteiz encourages other medium sized cities to invest in comprehensive green initiatives."

Vitoria-Gasteiz impressed with its long-term coherent set of policies and actions. Nantes Métropole is a member of the Covenant of Mayors and Local Agenda 21. The French city caught the jury's attention by aiming to cut its CO₂ emissions by a quarter by 2020.

For more information, visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital>.

Dublin develops Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Dublin (Ireland) is working with energy agency Codema to achieve a carbon emission reduction of 33 percent by 2020. The ICLEI member city details its proposed actions in its new Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

The Plan shows how over the next 20 years, the introduction of carbon neutral and low-energy buildings, improvements in information technology and the development of a low-carbon transport system could lead to the city reducing its carbon emissions by 50 percent. Local authorities will also increase their use of renewable energy.

Dublin City Council produces renewable electricity locally at Fr Collins Park, which opened as Ireland's first wholly sustainable urban park in 2009. The city also signed up to the Covenant of Mayors in 2009.



Fr Collins Park is Ireland's first sustainable park and produces renewable energy on site

Lord Mayor Emer Costello said, "We are extremely proud of our solid commitment to make Dublin an energy-smart city over the next 10 to 20 years. Our long-term vision for the city is one of smart buildings complemented by smart behaviour".

For more information, visit:

<http://www.codema.ie>.

Zero emissions district to be built in Heidelberg

ICLEI member city Heidelberg (Germany) has launched an ambitious plan to build a large, zero-emissions city district, to be known as Bahnstadt. The new district will be centrally located and cover 116 hectares.

Buildings will be constructed according to passive house standards and renewable energy will be supplied by district heating from biomass thermal power plants and deep geothermal systems. The district will be the largest passive housing area in the world.



Heidelberg is building a zero-emissions city district as one of its sustainable initiatives

Heidelberg also runs a project for sustainable management in small and medium-sized enterprises. Coordinated by the Office of Environmental Protection, Trade Supervision and Energy it helps companies, which employ from 10 to 250 people to introduce environmental management systems.

Workshops on sustainable management are held throughout the year and more than 90 companies have been involved in the project so far, with each successfully installing an environmental management system.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.heidelberg-bahnstadt.de/index.php?id=55>.

Nordhausen wins Zeitzeichen, the German Sustainability Award

At the 2010 Zeitzeichen German Sustainability Awards, the Municipalities category was won by ICLEI member city Nordhausen (Germany). Nordhausen has been working towards increased sustainability in the city since 1997.

The city of Nordhausen is concentrating on reaching the goals of Agenda21 and the Thuringian action plan for the United Nations decade on sustainable development. Numerous awareness raising actions such as exhibitions, competitions or campaigns took place. The award honoured Nordhausen's high level of civic engagement, its innovative and successful ideas and the synergetic effect of its sustainable actions.



Image: Flickr: Rob

The town hall in long-time ICLEI member the city of Nordhausen

Through their long-standing commitment Nordhausen became a trendsetter for other initiatives in Thüringen and Germany. Nordhausen participates in the Managing Urban Europe 25 project, which ICLEI is a partner in and has been involved in *ecoBUDGET* since the nineties. The awards ceremony took place within the 4th German Network Congress for local Initiatives in October 2010.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.netzwerk21kongress.de>.

Applications for ICLEI membership:

- Pitesti, Romania
- Montpellier, France
- Hondschoote, France
- CEDEF-Central European Development Forum, Serbia
- Cernusco sul Naviglio, Italy
- Grand Nancy, Communauté Urbaine, France



Imprint

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

Copies are available on request.

Editors:
 Ruud Schuthof (responsible),
 Ailish O'Donoghue.

Layout: Stephan Köhler.
 Images: cover - Noam Armonn/
 dreamstime.com, 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*.

European Capitals of Biodiversity 2010 winners awarded at City Biodiversity Summit

Europe has four new Capitals of Biodiversity, with cities in France, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain recognised for their outstanding efforts in fighting the loss of biodiversity.



Kobie Brand congratulates Levente Mürkl, Environmental Expert for the City of Tata

The 2010 winners were ICLEI member city Grande Synthe (France), with the cities of Tata (Hungary), El Real Sitio de San Ildefonso (Spain), and Želiezovce (Slovakia) winning in their countries. The cities were guests at the City Biodiversity Summit (CBS), coorganised by ICLEI and held in Nagoya (Japan), in parallel to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in October 2010.

The cities, whose population varies from 5,000 to 24,000, were given their awards by Kobie Brand, ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Coordinator, who said they proved that small municipalities can also be leaders in biodiversity preservation. Other ICLEI members to receive honours were Miskolc, which won the above 100,000 inhabitants category in Hungary and Vitoria-Gasteiz which won the category for above 30,000 inhabitants in Spain.

To apply for the 2011 competition, visit:
<http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu>.

Training kit to help cities manage water more sustainably

Whether it's leaking pipes, overflowing sewers, flooded town centres, or reservoirs running dry, when water appears in the news it is rarely for the right reasons. So what's going on with water management in Europe's cities? Are all these problems due to a lack of investment in infrastructure? A changing climate? Or are they simply a consequence of bad management?

These questions were addressed by the global research project, SWITCH – Managing Water for the City of the Future. The more than 30 universities, research institutions, ICLEI and other expert organisations in the water sector, have been working with local stakeholders in cities worldwide to explore the feasibility of alternative, more sustainable options for dealing with water in an urban context over the last five years.



SWITCH concluded that instead of relying on conventional large-scale infrastructure, the answer is more likely to be found in 'greener' and more flexible technologies identified through holistic and participatory planning.

Cities can now benefit from the SWITCH Training Kit developed by ICLEI and produced for staff from local governments and utilities. The Training Kit is made up of a series of modules that challenge cities to question current approaches and adopt more sustainable water management practices.



Green infrastructure serving drainage purposes and the enhancement of the urban environment and biodiversity in a housing project in Hamburg (Farmsener Trabrennbahn)

If, for example, a city considers stormwater to be a nuisance, wastewater a constraint and freshwater an unlimited reserve, the Kit will show how stormwater and wastewater are in fact valuable resources, while the reduction of water demand is often preferable to increasing supply.

The Training Kit not only covers the practical aspects of integrated urban water management, but also the role of strategic planning, improved governance and informed decision-making in managing a city's water cycle more sustainably.

The modules and summary booklet are now available free of charge from the SWITCH Training Desk website or on CD-ROM by sending a request to water@iclei.org. Tailored training workshops can also be arranged. Coming to its end in April 2011, the SWITCH project was led by UNESCO-

IHE and part-funded by the Directorate General Research of the European Commission.

For more information, visit:

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

The Kit is downloadable from the SWITCH Training Desk, available at: <http://www.switchtraining.eu>.

World Water Day 2011 shifts focus to urban water management

The focus of this year's World Water Day on 22 March 2011 is Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Water Challenge.

Therefore, ICLEI is encouraging its members to take advantage of this opportunity to draw attention to the most critical challenges concerning water in their cities.

Possible actions include publicity events, promotional activities, public commitments and any other means which can raise interest and awareness on how citizens can contribute to tackling these challenges.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.worldwaterday.org>.

Resources

ACCESSanitation website online

ACCESSanitation works with cities in India and the Philippines to tackle inadequate urban sanitation.

The website is available at: <http://www.accessanitation.org>.

Regional Director for ICLEI Europe, Gino Van Begin looks back at 2010 and the challenges ahead in 2011

2010 was a year marked by several important international successes, innovation and initiatives and most of all cooperation with members, other organisations and networks and local and national governments.

During the year, ICLEI Europe worked with its members in more than 40 projects to foster sustainability in the governance, management and purchasing capacities of their cities, and to seek innovation in a variety of local policy topics such as integrated water management, climate protection and adaptation, sustainable energy supply and efficiency, waste management and urban mobility.

A number of important events also took place in 2010. In May ICLEI member **Dunkerque** (France), hosted the largest European event dedicated to local sustainable development, with more than 1,800 participants from over 50 different countries attending the 6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference.

Dunkerque 2010 was a resounding success that showed how cooperation between the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign partners, French local government networks and

the host city, could produce an event which is a key milestone in the history of European local sustainability.

Two political declarations that aim to shape the role of local governments in European policy-making in years were adopted at the event. The Dunkerque 2010 Local Sustainability Declaration and the Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action were approved by acclamation during the closing plenary and presented to high level representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament and the EU Presidency.

They were also delivered to several national governments, with specific requests to use the Declarations in their respective work and policy-making in Europe. The Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action served as the major “demand” document of local government advocacy towards the intergovernmental climate negotiations in 2010, following COP15 in Copenhagen (Denmark).

The Call was distributed to all national delegations and international organisation representatives and discussed during the advocacy



Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Regional Director for Europe addresses participants of Dunkerque 2010 at the opening plenary of the event

meetings prior to and at COP16 in Cancun (Mexico) in December. In November, the Mexico City Pact (the Global Cities Covenant on Climate) and the Cities Climate Change Registry in Mexico City were launched a week prior to COP16 in Cancun.

Its success was followed on by that of the local government advocacy delegation, which accomplished the unprecedented when states adopted the Cancun Agreements, which now include a recognition of the role of local and subnational governments as “governmental stakeholders” in combating climate change and make references to local and subnational government in adaptation, capacity building and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

The team was led by ICLEI President David Cadman who is extremely proud of the team’s success, which comes after 17 years of advocacy work. In addition, future and better exchange on climate with local governments as governmental stakeholders is planned as part of a separate COP decision; and finally, city wide programmes will be included from now onwards in CDM studies.

The advocacy campaign was crowned with a local government side-event and, for the first time, a high-level plenary of cities and parliamentarians with the COP16 President as chair.





From left: Christiana Figueres Executive Secretary of the UNFCC and COP16 President Patricia Espinosa , Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the UN

Special thanks go to the European ICLEI members that were part of the local government advocacy delegation: Copenhagen (Denmark), Dunkerque (France), Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium), Nantes as spokesperson for UCLG, the Norwegian association of local governments, as well as Mexico City (Mexico), Melbourne (Australia), Durban (South Africa), North Little Rock, Arkansas (USA) and Vancouver (Canada).

ICLEI Europe was also represented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10). The event took place in Aichi/Nagoya, Japan in October, and saw ground breaking support for local governments, through the endorsement of a new Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).



COP16 President Patricia Espinosa, presented the Cancun Accords to a standing ovation

The Plan provides non-prescriptive guidelines to assist national governments in aiding local governments to imple-

ment the objectives of the CBD. Its adoption is another clear demonstration of national governments' commitment to work with local governments. ICLEI played a central role in supporting its uptake and coorganised the largest side event of the CBD COP10, the Aichi/Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit.



Josep Puxeu, former President of the Biodiversity Foundation awards Spanish winner, the city of El Real Sitio de San Ildefonso

The event was an ideal platform for our European members Malmö and Stockholm (Sweden), Heidelberg and Bonn (Germany), Barcelona (Spain), Montpellier (France) and Brussels Capital Region to showcase their outstanding biodiversity approaches. It is now up to cities and local governments worldwide to take advantage of this momentum, to engage with their national governments and to be proactive contributors to the global management of ecosystems and biodiversity through local action.

Looking forward to 2011, ICLEI will continue to look into opportunities to expand biodiversity work in cities.

The organisation will also use the momentum of COP16 to pursue its climate and energy work with the Covenant of Mayors and the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign. We will continue to assist cities in conducting GHG inventories and developing necessary action plans.

In addition, I am delighted to invite both ICLEI members and local governments from across the continent to the ICLEI European Convention 2011 taking place from 12-14 September in Brussels (Belgium). The Convention will provide cities with the chance to discuss strategic and political issues, as well as to converse with representatives from the European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and many institutions based in Brussels.

The event seeks to engage participants in a captivating discussion on immediate and future challenges facing European cities to assume a leading role in shaping and implementing the EU 2020 Strategy for a Sustainable Future.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our members on a broad range of current and upcoming initiatives.

On behalf of the entire ICLEI Europe team, I wish you an excellent 2011!

Gino Van Begin
Regional Director for ICLEI Europe

Green Public Procurement Helpdesk offers EU-wide service for public authorities

The EU Helpdesk has been providing support and promoting initiatives on green public procurement (GPP) since it was launched by the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment in January 2010.

The Helpdesk also looks after three other key schemes managed and put forward by the EU - EMAS, the EU Ecolabel and the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs (ECAP).



EU purchasing gets EU support

Although GPP is a voluntary instrument, it has a key role to play in the EU's efforts to develop a more resource-efficient economy and stimulate eco-innovation. The Helpdesk promotes and disseminates information about GPP, and answers stakeholders' queries. Queries may be submitted in English, French and German. ICLEI is working with BIO Intelligence Service to man the GPP Helpdesk service and respond to requests for information.

As part of the work, the EC's GPP website has been updated with new content, including: GPP criteria and background reports for new product groups, information on the policy and legal framework for GPP, links to helpful studies and projects on green and sustainable procurement.

In addition, the GPP News-Alert, a monthly electronic newsletter is being produced, which features one-page case studies about the experiences of public authorities implementing GPP. To submit GPP experiences for publication, contact: abby.semple@iclei.org.

To subscribe to the GPP News-Alert, visit: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/alert_en.htm.

Sustainable Construction and Innovation through Procurement Network now online

The public sector is responsible for 40 percent of EU construction activity, with buildings responsible for 36 percent of the EU's carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, public sector construction needs to be sustainable and innovative. The SCI-Network, sustainable construction and innovation through procurement, was launched in November 2010 and aims to enable this sustainable approach.

The Network brings together public authorities from across Europe to jointly identify new innovative solutions in construction, and examine how innovation can best be encouraged within construction procurement. Participation is free and the Network has established five working groups on topics considered to be relevant for public bodies, particularly local governments.

The groups focus on various different areas: innovation in sustainable renovation, new technical solutions, procuring innovation and whole-life costing and financing and contracting. The Network was launched at the Procura+ Seminar, an annual international event on sustainable

procurement. It was hosted by ICLEI member city Helsinki (Finland), and current chair of the Sustainable Procurement Campaign, Procura+.



Image: istockphoto/ Anastasia Pelikh

Innovation and how public bodies can capitalise on their purchasing power to encourage the production of sustainable goods and services was the topic up for discussion at the Seminar. Representatives from 18 countries shared their knowledge and experiences on the theme of increasing interest to both policy makers and public authorities.

For more information, visit: <http://www.sci-network.eu> or contact: simon.clement@iclei.org.

Ecosistemi partner with ICLEI to increase sustainable procurement action in Italy

ICLEI entered into an agreement with Italian organisation Ecosistemi in July 2010, to strengthen and further increase action on sustainable public procurement (SPP) in Italy through the Sustainable Procurement Campaign, Procura+.

Ecosistemi is one of the leading consultants in Italy working on sustainable development, in particular SPP, with local, regional and national government agencies and ministries. The partnership allows the organisations to work together to provide support for sharing experiences, knowledge, resources and strategies for public entities in Italy on increasing action on SPP.

One of the main activities will be cooperation with the Italian Green Public Pro-



The A-Z information session addressed specific topics on GPP at the Compra Verde conference

curement Information Network, which is coordinated by Ecosistemi. This includes organising events, vice-versa publicity and information exchange.

The GPP Information Network promotes the implementation of GPP nationally and internationally and seeks to break down the barriers preventing action in this area. One of the core elements is building regional networks for GPP in Italy, based on the country's national network - the national GPP Working Group for Local Agenda 21.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.procuraplus.org>,
<http://www.compraverde.it>,
 or contact: Livia Mazzà at:
l.mazzi@ecosistemi-srl.it.

Resources

Agenda+ website and leaflet

Agenda+ brings together local governments with experience in local sustainability policies and processes. The project leaflet is available on the website at: <http://agendaplus.iclei-europe.org>.

Energy for Mayors leaflet

The leaflet is now available in nine languages, at: <http://www.energyformayors.eu>.

Resources

German SMART SPP Guidance Tool now available

The German edition of the SMART SPP Guidance Tool for calculating Life-cycle costing and CO₂ emissions of purchases, at: <http://www.smart-spp.eu/guidance>.

Updated Procura+ Leaflet

The Italian and updated German versions of the Procura+ leaflet at: <http://www.procuraplus.org>.

GPP Monthly News-Alerts

The Alerts and good practice case studies available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/alert_en.htm.

TEEB report released

The TEEB Local and Regional Policy Makers Report is available at: <http://www.teebweb.org>.

Free LAB Guidebook

Join the LABNetwork now and get a free copy of the LAB Guidebook. Contact Local Action for Biodiversity at: lab@iclei.org.

European Roundtable

European Roundtable for Local Sustainability facilitates further development of strategies and services to support local authorities in implementing Local Agenda 21, available at: <http://roundtable.localsustainability.eu>.

DReAMS project

The project aims to link the sustainable use of natural resources with the objective of poverty alleviation, at: <http://dreams.ecobudget.org>.

CIVITAS Plus II Call for Proposals open

The CIVITAS Plus II Call for Proposals has been officially opened by the European Commission. Cities can apply for funding as part of CIVITAS Plus II, the latest phase of CIVITAS, the EU's biggest initiative in support of innovations in sustainable urban transport. The Call has an indicative budget of 18 Million Euro and will close on 12 April 2011.



The winners of the CIVITAS Awards 2010

The funding is envisaged to support cities in designing, deploying and evaluating ambitious new policies and technologies for more sustainable urban transport. The expected impacts of CIVITAS Plus II include the promotion of integrated approaches to urban transport planning and financing, that cities will network to promote dialogue and the development of methods of assessing the cost-effectiveness and long-term viability of integrated packages of mobility measure.

Instructions on how to apply for the Call online are available in the Sustainable Surface Transport Work Programme for 2011. ICLEI is a partner in the current phase of the initiative, CIVITAS Plus. The annual CIVITAS Forum Conference is open to all European cities and will take place in Funchal (Portugal) in October 2011.

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

Toolbox to give guidance to Covenant of Mayors Supporting Structures

The European Commission's Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative continues to gain momentum with the Supporting Structures (SSt) busy examining the current methodologies, tools and practical assistance provided to cities and towns by SSt across Europe.

The partners working within the framework of the Energy for Mayors project, which focuses on the promotion of the CoM. Covenant of Mayors SSt pledge to promote the initiative, liaise with their members and partners to help them fulfil their commitment to reduce their CO₂ emissions and facilitate exchanges of experience and convey the message of the Covenant.



Image: www.sxc.hu

As part of this process, a survey was conducted and a Training Seminar was held for Supporting Structures of the CoM in November 2010 in Huelva (Spain). Coorganised by ICLEI, the Province of Barcelona and the Province of Huelva, the seminar attracted many SSt and organisations eager to exchange their experiences on methodologies and tools that help them to provide high-quality promotional, technical and methodological support to local governments throughout Europe.

As a result of the seminar's open and interactive discussions, as well as further project activities, a portfolio

of good practices, methodologies and tools will be created. This toolbox will be freely available to all SSts in early 2011.

For more information, visit:

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

Developing low carbon regions

With the global economic crisis affecting all areas of life, the development of low-carbon regions becomes more relevant than ever throughout Europe. These regions are cost effective and improve energy efficiency.

ICLEI Europe is helping the Regions for Sustainable Change (RSC) project to update baselines and risk profiles, and to provide workshops as part of the process of producing regionally appropriate low-carbon development scenarios and plans. The lessons learned will be transferred to other regions to help develop similar visions.

For more information visit:

<http://www.rscproject.org> or contact: ccp-europe@iclei.org.

Sustainable Energy Communities NEWS

The new IEE project cluster newsletter, Sustainable Energy Communities NEWS, is now online.

The newsletter is available in English, French, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Spanish.

Available at:

<http://www.regions202020.eu/cms/news>.

BOOK REVIEW: Sustainable Event Management: A Practical Guide

Each year millions of events of all sizes take place, consuming resources, generating emissions and producing large quantities of waste. If events were prepared and implemented following sustainable and greening principles, the outcome would be impressive.

Whereas the Green Meeting Guide 2009, produced by ICLEI in cooperation with UNEP, focuses on smaller events and meetings, this publication expands to large-scale events such as festivals, stadium concerts, expos and sporting occasions. All aspects of event management are examined, from energy, transport, water, waste materials purchasing and procurement, to marketing and communication.

Jones suggests several ways to reduce emissions and supports her recommendations with an extensive list of checklists, tools and reliable methods, as well as material for monitoring, compliance and feedback and review. Global examples and case studies illustrate key points including how to avoid common pitfalls. This is an indispensable guide for organisers that want to deliver events sustainably.

M. Jones,
Earthscan, 2010,
ISBN-978-1-84407-739-7

Resources

Local Sustainable Energy Strategies/Opportunities and Challenges study

The Study was made by the Ecologic Institute (Berlin), REC and ICLEI, available at: <http://www.cor.europa.eu>.

Bydgoszcz climate action plan approved

The city of Bydgoszcz (Poland), is tackling climate change and adopted a new climate action plan in November 2010. The plan demonstrates Bydgoszcz's commitment to concrete climate action and will help to ensure that its energy efficiency and renewable energy targets are met. Bydgoszcz is also aiming to reduce GHG emissions by 18.7 percent by 2020.

The detailed strategy identifies the capacities that Bydgoszcz will need to fulfil the goals which are complementary to EU policy. The new climate protection action plan recommends that the existing municipal management structure allows the responsibilities for energy and emissions to be improved.



The extensive tram system in Bydgoszcz is an important part of the city's public transport system

Other actions include novel strategic policies and information campaigns, and the continuation of current ecological education programmes. The city has made these commitments as part of its involvement in the Local Accountability for Kyoto Goals (LAKs) project, which is funded by LIFE+ and coordinated by Reggio Emilia (Italy).

Bydgoszcz has implemented a wide range of activities, including organising training sessions for decision-makers and municipal staff and developing

a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory using the LAKs-CCP GHG inventory tool that has been improved for local governments in Italy, Spain and Poland by ICLEI Europe.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.municipio.re.it/retcevica/urp/pes.nsf/web/Lks?opendocument> or contact: ccp-europe@iclei.org.

Conversion of energy systems high on the agenda in Germany

Many cities and towns are looking into achieving energy independence by generating heat and electricity with 100 percent renewable energy. In Germany, the movement towards fundamental change is taking place through decentralised energy generation.

To examine these ideas in detail, the 100% Renewable Energy Regions conference took place from 29-30 September 2010 in Kassel, (Germany), and offered a platform for exchange and networking. A number of topics were discussed, including new biomass technologies.

It was clear that the topics dealt with can contribute to the economic success of local governments through improved salaries, taxes, profits at local level. Dr. Peter Moser, coordinator of the Network for decentralised energy technologies (deNEet) in Germany, pointed out that more than 50 percent of Germany's total land area is intended to be used for generating renewable energy.

The decentralised conversion of the energy system is a rapidly growing movement, which demonstrates the political will of the many local authorities that are implementing RE, exchanging experiences and making links at national and international level.

The RE Regions project cooperates with deNEet and contributes from the scientific angle. A group of junior researchers led by Dr. Chantal Ruppert-Winkel investigate various aspects of the transformation process.



Image: Dreamstime

Within the framework of this interdisciplinary study, the scientists work on various topics in five modules, including decision and communication processes of stakeholders during conversion to RE, technical options of local/regional energy supply with a focus on using bioenergy. The results of these modules will be compiled in a guide when the project ends.

RE Regions will hold a conference entitled Changing the Energy System to Renewable Energy Self-Sufficiency (RESS) – An Inter- and Transdisciplinary Approach, in Freiburg (Germany) in September 2011. The event will encourage scientific discussion on the transition to more sustainable energy systems.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ee-regionen.de> and <http://www.100-ee-kongress.de/startseite.html>.

Local level action in 2010

Cities across Europe continued to break boundaries in 2010, as they worked with ICLEI to develop their governance and management practices for sustainability.

The cities of **Aalborg** (Denmark), **Amsterdam** (The Netherlands), **Almada** (Portugal), **Bologna** (Italy), **Hannover** (Germany), **Knowsley** (UK), **Turku** (Finland), **Växjö** (Sweden) are part of the agenda+ network of advanced cities and met at their annual seminar in Brussels (Belgium) in October 2010.

Together with Professor Keith Shaw of Northumbria University (UK) and Dr Robert Lukesch of Öar Regionalberatung (Austria), the cities discussed how enhancing organisational adaptive capacity can contribute to resilience, particularly when tackling climate change and promoting a low-carbon economy.



Participants from the city of Aiud, Romania exploring a Local Evaluation 21 questionnaire

The County of **Kronoberg** (Sweden), is streamlining sustainable development in its municipalities. ICLEI experts recently presented an integrated management framework and discussed aspects of sustainable procurement, climate and energy relevant to the area.

Transport issues in Eastern European cities, such as **Chisinau** (Moldova) and **Sevastopol** (Ukraine), pose a challenge to sustainable growth in the region. ICLEI has conducted research on the sector, its policy trends and best

practices in the EU, as well as on criteria for sustainable investments to serve as a guideline for neighbouring states.

Ludwigsburg (Germany) showed the value of stakeholder engagement, including in-depth dialogue with citizens and collaboration with the regional university, in forming a foundation for developing and implementing a local sustainable energy action plan (SEAP). ICLEI coached the city throughout the process.

Increasing energy efficiency in buildings through retro-fitting is a priority for **Miskolc** (Hungary) and forms a cornerstone of its local SEAP. The framework for the city's energy strategy is the result of a learning process between Miskolc, Woking Borough Council (UK) and ICLEI.

The 13 municipalities of **Comunita Montana** (Italy), held a public event in which the framework for the development of the area's local SEAP, with guidance from ICLEI, was presented and discussed with various stakeholders.

Meanwhile, **Tallinn** (Estonia) prepared a Sustainable Energy Action Plan. During a workshop facilitated by ICLEI, representatives of city departments discussed how to achieve its targets. In Lithuania, **Kaunas** is planning to renovate its original 1930s funicular as part of its sustainable mobility plan.

The Municipality of **Hauenstein** (Germany) has set an energy autonomy and CO₂-neutrality target by 2030. ICLEI's Carsten Rothballe says, "citizens are thrilled and the local economic sector is enthusiastic enough to scale up the bio-energy supply from the regional forest and bring solar power into living rooms."

The city of **Lahti** (Finland) developed a new set of city development targets



The Kaunas funicular in motion

according to the Aalborg Commitments with ICLEI supporting the process through an interactive workshop on citizen involvement in policy development.

In Germany, the county of **Soltau Fallingbostal** is working on sustainable forestry. In December 2010, an ICLEI workshop supported the adaptation process of a risk management manual for storm damage.

Cities and towns inspired by these stories can get active and get on the road to advanced sustainability by contacting ICLEI.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.localsustainability.eu> or contact: urban.governance@iclei.org.

Informed Cities on tour

Informed Cities workshops have taken place in Poland, Czech Republic, Romania and Belgium. However, there are still opportunities to further debate and share experiences and expectations on evaluating local sustainability by joining one of the upcoming workshops.

For more information, visit:

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

Electrifying insight, innovation and interaction at Local Renewables Freiburg 2010

E-mobility is part of, but not the sole solution to solving transport problems in cities. This was the main conclusion drawn at the Local Renewables Freiburg 2010 Conference, organised by ICLEI and the City of Freiburg, on 14-15 October 2010 in Freiburg (Germany).



Participants visit the stands at Local Renewables Freiburg 2010

The event brought together local governments, business, energy and transport providers and researchers to find solutions to the current challenge of integrating renewable energy in urban mobility plans. Much of the discussion was on the role of the e-car, with Eicke Weber from the Fraunhofer Institute summarising the fascinating range of technological innovations around e-cars by saying, "the race is on".

However, it's clear that the race is a long way from over, with many of the experts from the industry and analysts like Lew Fulton from the IEA Paris agreeing that e-cars will need to be accompanied by new solutions in fuel cell technology and sustainable biofuels, especially when buses and transport vehicles come into play. All experts were in agreement that regardless of the technology the future of mobility must be renewable.

With e-vehicles the hot topic, local was another buzz word at the event,

speakers from ICLEI member cities **Bremen** (Germany), and **Stockholm** (Sweden), showed that technology and new fuels have to be locally embedded into an overall integrated management strategy for carbon responsible urban mobility and transport.

The rich and stimulating discussion between the experts and participants, demonstrates the intense interest in this topic. The interest will be carried through to the upcoming ICLEI European Convention in Brussels (Belgium) from 12-14 September 2011. Next year's Local Renewables conference will once again take place in Freiburg, in October 2011 (tbc). More information will be available soon.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.local-renewables-conference.org> or contact: events.europe@iclei.org.

Steering change towards more sustainable approaches in urban water management

The role of stakeholders, politicians and media in steering change towards more sustainable approaches in urban water management was at the core of the Sustainable Water Management in Cities conference.

The event took place in Zaragoza (Spain), in December 2010. Almost 160 participants gave comments on the draft of the statement that will be conveyed by UN Water at the World Water Day 2011, this time focusing on the theme of Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Water Challenge.

A roundtable of politicians, which was coorganised by ICLEI involved nearly 20 mayors, vice-mayors, councillors and other high-level decision-makers from



Zaragoza also hosted the 2008 International Expo on Water and Sustainable Development

local and national governments, and was a highlight of the conference.

The politicians re-confirmed their belief that the role of local stakeholders is indispensable when it comes to tackling the complex challenges of urban water management. They also stressed the importance of making citizens more aware of the value of water in all domains of life.

For more information, visit:

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/swm_cities_zaragoza_2010.

Other upcoming events

Global City 2011
15-17 March 2011
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

UN Climate Change Talks
6-17 June 2011
Bonn, Germany

Local Renewables 2011
October 2011
Freiburg, Germany

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

2011

Resilient Cities 2011

3 - 5 June 2011
Bonn, Germany

06

Adaptation breakthroughs are constantly being made in urban areas, to counter the implications of climate change. The innovative strategies, approaches and policy-making behind these breakthroughs will be shared at Resilient Cities 2011. Following on from the 2010 event, this second world congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change will be a platform for learning, cooperation and networking on all aspects of urban resilience.



Resilient Cities 2011

The conference will offer excellent networking opportunities for all participants. Representatives from local governments, UN and international agencies, national governments, financial and insurance institutions, the urban infrastructure industry and NGOs will converse with city planners, urban researchers, consultants and academics about urban climate change adaptation.

The Mayors Adaptation Forum 2011 (MAF) runs from 4-5 June 2011 and forms the Mayors' segment of Resilient Cities 2011. Elaborating on the technical discussions, local decision-makers back the congress with their political leadership. The Forum will be a space for local leaders to engage with the highest representatives of multilateral institutions dealing with adaptation.

For more information, visit:

<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2011>
or contact: bonn2011@iclei.org.

ICLEI European Convention 2011

12 - 14 September 2011
Brussels, Belgium

09

Have European cities achieved the goals established in Rio 1992 through Local Agenda 21 and how can we ensure we take the next steps needed to move Europe and its cities forward in the light of Rio+20. The ICLEI European Membership 2011 will delve into these issues and more when ICLEI members and partners and members join cities from across the continent for discussions and debate.

Participants will have the chance to interact with colleagues from all over Europe and representatives from European institutions at the member representation offices in Brussels and follow up the outcomes of the last European Sustainable Cities and Town Conference in Dunkerque in 2010. They can also step aboard the city of Hamburg's Train of Ideas on its stop off in Brussels.



As the European Green Capital for 2011, Hamburg's train will travel throughout the continent. Participants can also discover the recent environmental achievements of ICLEI member the Brussels Capital Region, through site visits in the area and the exhibition, Brussels, Sustainable City.

For more information, visit:

<http://convention2011.iclei-europe.org>
or contact: convention.europe@iclei.org.

EcoMobility World Congress

22 - 24 October 2011
Changwon, Republic of Korea

10

The world's first EcoMobility World Congress will gather experts, practitioners and participants from across the globe to examine many the multi-facted topic of ecomobility. Ecomobility refers to environmentally sustainable mobility which combines the use of public transportation with non-motorised transportation such as walking, cycling and skating.



The event gives participants the opportunity to exchange with decision-makers, practitioners, public sector officials, researchers, product designers, manufacturers, communication experts and advocates on good practices and experiences in cities. They can also join the EcoMobility Cities Network, and participate in the EcoMobility Planning on the spot workshop. There will also be a range of products and services that can help cities become ecomobility friendly on display.

The Global Alliance for EcoMobility is an international non-profit partnership that works to reduce citizens' dependency on private motorised vehicles. It consists of global and regional-level organisations representing businesses, governmental organisations, users of EcoMobility and experts.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.iclei.org/ecomobility2011>
or contact: ecomobility2011@iclei.org.