

Press release

For immediate release

ICLEI's Local Action Counter showcases cities working towards sustainability

Freiburg, Germany, 5 June 2011 – With one year to go to Rio+20 ICLEI has launched an online counter, where individuals can declare their city is working for sustainable development. This global initiative seeks to publicise the vast number of cities already taking action, to show world leaders that cities are key to getting our planet back on track and building a just, sustainable and secure future for all.

Register your city now: www.iclei.org/local2012

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, will take place from 4 – 6 June 2012 and marks the 20th anniversary of the UN Earth Summit, an extraordinary milestone in the global sustainability process and the birthplace of the Local Agenda 21 movement. With the Local Agenda 21 movement now almost 20 years old, it's time to evaluate what local sustainability has achieved. ICLEI, as the initiator of the movement, is strongly involved in the Rio+20 preparatory processes, leading the Local Sustainability 2012 global study, participating in the official UN Rio+20 preparatory meetings and coordinating the input from local authorities.

How do you know if your city or town is working for sustainable development? The most popular definition of sustainable development says that it is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At the local level, it is about saving environmental resources, providing good quality of life for all and developing a healthy economy.

Local governments can contribute to sustainable development in many different ways, from building cycle paths to saving energy and using renewable energy sources. ICLEI aims to mobilise citizens across the world to promote and recognise their city's work by simply entering their details in the counter. When populated, the counter will be one way of reflecting the progress of the Local Agenda 21 movement and provide an inspiring reminder that each small step taken at the local level adds up to something extraordinary globally.

Word count: 325

Background:

The membership of **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is made up of more than 1200 local governments and their associations, representing over 440 million people in 70 countries. ICLEI is a global association of local governments and municipal organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. As a movement, ICLEI runs the world's largest climate program of cities that links local action to national goals and internationally agreed targets. ICLEI provides information, delivers training, organises conferences, facilitates networking and city-to-city exchanges, carries out research and pilot projects, and offers technical services and consultancy.

The **UN Conference on Sustainable Development**, known as the **Rio+20**, is almost here. The year 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, referred to as the Earth Summit, a milestone in the global sustainability process and the birthplace of the Local Agenda 21 movement. www.iclei.org/local2012

More information:

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