







Urban-LEDS II Newsletter June 2020



Compact KZN, demonstrates that regional platforms for climate change are key places to foster cooperation between actors from different levels of government and different sectors in South Africa © ICLEI Africa

Highlights from this issue...

Project synergies: Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)

City in focus: Aalborg, Denmark

Urban champion: Md. Zannatul Ferdous, Mayor, Singra Municipality, Bangladesh

New project resources (New!) - KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Name: Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS II)

Start Date: 1/4/2017 End Date: 31/03/2021 Duration: 48 months **Total Budget:** 8,000,000 €

Funding mechanism: European Union (DCI-ENV/2017/384-555)

Consortium: UN-Habitat HQ and regional offices in Lao PDR, Rwanda and Colombia, ICLEI World Secretariat and 5 ICLEI regional offices active in Europe, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Rwanda and South Africa



New project resource

This diagram has been produced by the Urban-LEDS project to show the important components of multi-level governance for climate change action. Only by supporting systems of collaboration between and within national and local government can we ensure climate change can be tackled successfully while meeting development goals.

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Urban-LEDS cities prepare impactful pilot projects to demonstrate low emissions development

Despite COVID-19, the Urban-LEDS project is pressing ahead with implementing pilot projects that demonstrate the potential of a lowemission development approach, as well as supporting participating local governments to package projects for larger-scale financing and rollout.

The issue of air quality and low emissions development are closely intertwined. That is why in both Narayanganj, Bangladesh, and in participating cities in Lao PDR, project teams are designing interventions to install ambient air quality monitoring stations to help inform policy making and community action.

Municipal building retrofits are another common area of intervention: as they can act as exemplars for local people and businesses. In Narayanganj, Bangladesh, solar PV and energy efficiency measures are being considered for a local health centre and a community centre; this project is already at feasibility stage. In Rajshahi, Bangladesh, plans are underway for an energy audit of a municipal administrative building and the training of municipal staff on energy management. Municipal buildings are also the focus of pilot projects in Colombia. The LEDS LAB process is supporting cities to develop project ideas and move them towards project feasibility. An evaluation and selection committee recently selected municipal building energy efficiency projects in Envigado and Topaga.



Solar water heaters save electricity and money – here installed on Groutville Care Homes in KwaDukuza, South Africa, as a pilot project implemented by <u>Urban-LEDS</u> in phase 1

In Rajshahi, a pilot project is underway to provide technical assistance to develop a local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as well as encouraging increased groundwater recharge through a watershed catchment area management approach.

Meanwhile the frequency of highintensity rainfall in the Urban-LEDS II model city of Thane, located close to the Arabian Sea in India, is increasing. A combination of such rainfall and high tide is making the city vulnerable to flooding and waterlogging. To address this issue, Thane has commenced a pilot project to establish an early warning system for flooding and waterlogging, with the support of the Urban-LEDS II project. This pilot intervention will help the city to improve its preparedness, reduce the response time of emergency services, and safeguard human health and assets during incidents of flooding. The city intends to use the outcomes and experiences of the Urban-LEDS II pilot project to replicate similar actions to enhance its climate resilience.

Lastly, Nagpur city has identified planning and enhancement of biodiversity and green spaces as a key action in its low emission development strategy. Therefore, the city has commenced a baseline assessment of its floral and faunal wealth, and will develop a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP). The LBSAP will provide strategic guidance to the city government to achieve inclusive governance and support effective management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

These diverse and exciting pilot projects have an important role to play in demonstrating potential and impact. However Urban-LEDS also supports participating local governments to develop larger, strategic projects that can secure funding from other sources. So far in phase II, 32 city projects have been submitted to ICLEI's Transformative Actions Programme (TAP), in Rwanda, this included a project to support ecotourism in the District of Rubavu Mount Rubavu ecotourism for environmental protection and local green economic development. In total, 17 city projects have been submitted to donors and funders to enable the upscaling and deepening of low emission development approaches in project cities.



<u>Rajkot, India,</u> Urban-LEDS project city, has installed a 145kWp solar PV system to help power its Aji water treatment plant

Country News in Brief

Bangladesh: Rajshahi and Narayanganj complete assessments of climate risks, vulnerabilities

Continuing their progress on climate resilience planning, the Urban-LEDS II model cities of Rajshahi and Narayanganj in Bangladesh have finished their climate risks and vulnerability assessments to examine the cities' fragile urban systems through a climate lens to identify their vulnerable areas, hotspots, and populations. **Read the full story here**



CRVA findings being presented at Rajshahi's Shared Learning Dialogue © ICLEI SAS



Heber José de Souza Municipal School, in Belo Horizonte. Disclosure of Belo Horizonte City Hall

Brazil: LEDS Lab identifies city pilot projects to be implemented in Brazil

Through the LEDS Lab project support process, Recife has confirmed the project will support the energy retrofit of the Women's Hospital, and in Belo Horizonte, the energy retrofit of the Heber José de Souza Municipal School. More news will follow soon.

Colombia: Tópaga and Envigado selected cities for LEDS Lab to develop financeable projects

The LEDS Lab initiative aims to improve the installed capacity of city halls in the elaboration of financeable projects with a clear climate approach. Read the full story here



City of Envigado. © Fredy Amariles García



Water logging in low-lying area at Panchpadki in Thane city during monsoon © ICLEI SAS

India: Thane commences pilot action to strengthen climate resilience

Thane has commenced a pilot intervention to establish an early warning system for flooding that will help the city to improve its preparedness, reduce the response time of emergency services, and safeguard human health and assets during incidents of flooding. **Read the full story here**

Country News in Brief

Indonesia: Balikpapan City awards ICLEI SEAS for its Outstanding Contributions to Sustainable Development

The ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Southeast Asia Secretariat received the "Outstanding Development Figure Award" during Balikpapan's 123rd Anniversary for its unwavering support and proactive role in shaping the City's sustainable development. **Read the full story here**



Mayor Rizal Effendi handing the award to ICLEI SEAS represented by Senior Project Officer Selamet Daroyni ICLEI SEAS



Meeting the participants at the District Office of Pakse city © ICLEI SEAS

Lao PDR: Urban-LEDS II conducts GHG emissions inventory and climate risk vulnerability assessment for Lao Cities

ICLEI Lao PDR Project Office supported and guided the review of integrated climate action plans in model cities, Pakse and Kaysone Phomvihane. **Read the full story here**

Rwanda: Three Rwandan districts drives local climate action planning

New research completed in three Rwandan districts drives new insight and vigour for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning. **Read the full story here.**

The ICLEI Africa team meets with city officials in Rwanda to discuss the Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory and Risk and Vulnerability Assessments that were done by The Green House © ICLEI Africa



South Africa: Twelve local climate solutions in five communities in South Africa to implement at community-level: African solutions that really work

Through the Urban-LEDS Phase I project, ICLEI Africa assisted local communities at five locations in South Africa to implement climate and energy solutions in community buildings. Three years later, we revisit them to find out if the solutions were, in fact, sustainable. **Read the full story here**.



Doornkop Community Centre benefited so much from the solar panels installed on the roof, they are now able to provide aftercare services where the students can not only do their homework, but also learn about solar PV. © ICLEI Africa.

Project synergies: Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) is a comprehensive support mechanism to participating cities of the Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (SC-IAP) program. The GPSC is designed to help cities address the





peer learning, city academies, webinars, workshops, and a range of tools and knowledge products. Urban-LEDS cities have benefited from these activities. City activities have included the participation of Kigali and Recife in GPSC events, as well

challenges of urban growth, development, and infrastructure and comprises of 28 cities across 11 countries, including Brazil, India, and South Africa. In its new phase (GEF 7), the Sustainable Cities Impact Program (SCIP) will include Rwanda and Indonesia.

As a Resource Partner, ICLEI is providing strategic guidance and capacity building for participating cities through peer-toas a webinar on fundraising and project pitching in <u>November</u> 2019. In 2020, a GPSC webinar will feature Bogor Regency sharing good practice. Recife also won the GPSC Sustainable Cities Award and its Climate Action Plan will integrate nature-based solutions, addressing both Urban-LEDs and GPSC project aims.

City in focus: Aalborg's affordable energy transition dream



View of Aalborg, Denmark ${\rm I}\!\!\!\!{\rm C}$ Rahbek Media on Unsplash

We need energy for almost all aspects of our daily lives. When looking for ambitious examples of redesigning local energy supply systems, city planners and Urban-LEDS cities had to look no further than the Danish municipality of Aalborg. Aalborg is one of the European resource cities in the a focus on district thermal network solutions. As a result, the municipality is now looking at an extensive district energy network covering around 80 % of the municipalities' heat demand. Providing for flexibility in integrating volatile renewable sources, the thermal Sustainability Strategy. The current strategy was formulated in close consultation with citizens, civil society, educational institutions, business and industry, supporting initiatives such the <u>Green Shops</u> scheme to sustain competitiveness of local companies and

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