

## Urban-LEDS Newsletter # 3 - February 2015

This first Urban-LEDS newsletter of 2015 focuses on local action and accomplishments in the project to date. It does not offer a complete review of progress in all focus areas. The articles do not discuss, for example, national-local policy dialogue regarding upscaling and replication in the target countries. A comprehensive update will be featured in the Urban-LEDS Annual Report, which is currently under development. We hope you enjoy reading!

### Advocacy

## Urban-LEDS supports international climate advocacy at COP20

**The Local Government Climate Roadmap received a boost during the Climate Change Talks in Lima, 20th Conference of Parties - COP20 - to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), from the (re)presentation of Urban-LEDS cities and their local climate actions.**

On Tuesday, 9th December 2014, the official COP20 side-event of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) 'From Vision to Action Plan- Raising the Global Level of Ambition through National and Local Action' took place in Lima, Peru ([see here](#) for short event video).

The panel was well equipped with numerous city representatives, including Geraldo Júlio, Mayor, of Brazilian City of Recife, which is also a Model City of the international flagship project Urban-LEDS. The Mayor of Recife shared his city's

experience in developing green spaces, and mentioned drainage plans and plans for the reuse of water and solid waste as next steps for the city to mitigate emissions contributing to climate change. He underlined clearly that without local government involvement, there would be greater challenges in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and stressed the importance of cities' participation in the climate change debate. Geraldo Júlio also pledged his city's support of the newly released '[Lima Communiqué](#)', which includes calls for an inclusive and ambitious

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post-2015 climate regime, and the inclusion of local-level actions in the formulation of national adaptation programmes of action and national adaptation plans. The Communiqué also commits mayors and local-level leaders to accelerate global advocacy and raise climate ambitions.

Another Urban-LEDS city from Brazil, Belo Horizonte, also actively supported the call for acknowledgement and increased support for local governments by actively contributing to the debate by sharing their experiences and ambitions on local climate action. Vice Mayor of Brazilian Belo Horizonte, Délio Malheiros, was invited to be on the panel of the historic launch of the new Standard Protocol to measure cities' emissions in a harmonized and consistent way – the **Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC)**, launched at Lima City hall on 8th December. As one of the 35 pilot cities that tested earlier drafts of the Protocol, Belo Horizonte recently compiled its first greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory following the GPC guidance. The inventory will support the city's efforts of a 20% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 (based on 2007 levels). To share best practice and pass on its acquired knowledge, Belo Horizonte also hosted a training event for other Brazilian cities on the GPC Methodology at a national event this November. Interesting to note here is that 55% of the 29 Urban-LEDS cities from Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa, have recently completed their first GHG inventory or are close to finalizing these. All these inventories have been guided by the previous version of the GPC, and will be aligned to the new standard soon.

These cities from emerging economy countries are using climate change mitigation as a “driver”, they are addressing energy security, access to affordable and sustainable energy, using local renewable energy resources, involving people, organizations and various levels of governments, and building skills – to work together to outline an urban low emission development strategy (urban LEDS). The vision of the program is to coordinate interests at the international, regional, national and local levels, prepare methods and guidance that supports developing LED Strategies (LEDS) and build capacity in-country. (To see a video of the GPC launch, including interview sequences with the Vice Mayor, as well as a general explanation of the GPC, please [click here](#)).



Another highlight concerning showing and scaling up local climate action was the launch of the official UNFCCC on-line platform - **The Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)** - on 18th December, showing the actions that cities, companies, regions and investors are taking to address climate change. The portal aims to demonstrate the strategic action being taken by non-state actors either individually or as part of cooperative initiatives. It displays thousands of climate action data, many of which have been supplied by ICLEI's carbonn Climate

Registry, the world's leading reporting platform for local and subnational climate action. Other data have been gathered from reporting platforms, sustainability reports and individual commitments.

The Vice Mayor of Belo Horizonte praised the new portal and stressed that these recorded actions need to be recognized and supported to further multiply local climate action: “The NAZCA platform and the carbonn Climate Registry both provide the evidence base that local leaders are urgently acting and actively collaborating to fight climate change. But we can do more. We can scale up actions and be even more ambitious. With due acknowledgment and more access to resources, we can ensure that the actions on these platforms are doubled, quadrupled and multiplied many times over.”

For more insight into Urban-LEDS Model Cities' local climate action and their first GHG inventory, please see the latest **'Cities in Action' brochure**.

For a summary of local government's importance, visibility and actions at COP20 in Lima, please see [this video](#).





## Panaji supports spatial planning expert recommendations

On January 9th 2015 the Commissioner Sanjit Rodrigues officially acknowledged the successful completion of the spatial planning assistance mission and reiterated the commitment of Panaji to use the expert recommendations to strengthen the City Development Plan (CDP), as well as the Masterplan for the Holistic Development of the City (Holistic Plan).



As part of the Urban-LEDS project, the partnership between UN-Habitat and ICLEI has provided the opportunity for technical assistance in spatial planning, using the expertise of an ISOCARP accredited urban planner, through an agreement between UN-Habitat and ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners). The Corporation of the City of Panaji applied for the technical assistance and received guidance of a certified ISOCARP expert with the goals of streamlining low emission development strategies in the CDP and Holistic Plan, and to build a more integrated planning vision for the City. Panaji is the first satellite city to receive the Urban-LEDS Spatial Planning technical assistance and the first mission to Panaji took place in July 2014 (you can read more about it [here](#)).

After two missions to Panaji, the expert's report outlines specific suggestions to integrate low-emission development principles to the CDP and Holistic Plan, ranking

recommendations in three degrees of urgency. The most urgent ones consist in the inclusion of new chapters in updating the current edition of the Holistic Plan with new chapters on sustainability, urban growth and socio-economic development.

The proposed chapter on sustainability refers to all of the initiatives undertaken by Panaji in terms of biodiversity, resilience, GHG emissions, urban vulnerability and solar power generation. Meanwhile, the chapter on urban growth exposes different scenarios and strategic options for sustainable urban growth. Finally, the chapter on socio-economic development provides an understanding of the economic dynamics of the city and the desired trajectory of its economic development. Since the Holistic Plan is a vision document for the development of the city, the new chapters give a clearer guidance for further development of city-wide low emission strategies. Regarding the

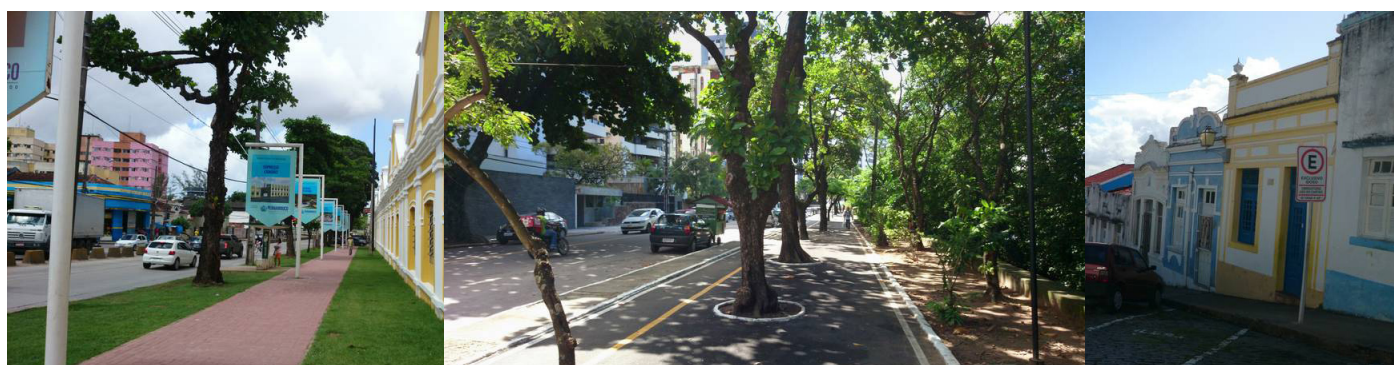
CDP, significant changes to its content list are proposed to reflect the City's intentions and aspirations towards a Low Emission Development Strategy such as bridging the gap between current spatial planning and urban growth vision, as well as preparation of financing strategies for physical, environmental and institutional aspects of urban planning.

The technical assistance in spatial planning provided through the Urban-LEDS project helped the city identify untapped potential and objectives that had not been included yet in the planning documents. The endorsement of Panaji's Commissioner reflects the success of the Urban-LEDS Spatial Planning technical assistance and most significantly the commitment of Panaji to low-emission development.



## Recife has potential for 'made in Recife' low emission development exploring spatial planning

The first Model City in the Urban-LEDS project to receive technical assistance on spatial planning, Recife in Brazil, received a series of recommendations from the selected expert. The final report expresses a high level of confidence in Recife's low-carbon development process. It evaluates the city as incredibly privileged by urban, natural, social and historical attributes which would allow it to develop and implement dynamic "made in Recife" low emission development strategies.



In December 2013, Recife applied for technical assistance in developing guidelines for integration of low carbon strategies in the City Master Plan. Within the Urban-LEDS project, an ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners) accredited spatial planner has analyzed and recommended strategies for Recife's mobility and new urban infrastructure. The objective was to analyze and develop guidelines to revise the City's Master Plan and integrate sustainable low-carbon strategies in mobility and new urban infrastructure.

During his first mission the ISOCARP expert met with over 40 city and civil

society representatives to identify priorities for this task. During his second mission he presented the low-emission development potential of Recife to an audience of over 200 people, including city representatives, technical secretariats, urbanists and experts. During this workshop he showed the strengths of Recife in a creative and innovative manner, by comparing the many spatial configurations that Recife shares with other world metropolises such as Shenzhen, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Kigali, etc.. The highly participative nature of the workshop helped the expert identify city stakeholders' preference for "no-nonsense low-carbon solutions for economic development" and a creating a "pleasant livable city". Based on these preferences, the expert made concrete recommendations along five low-carbon themes: public transport systems, bicycle infrastructure, urban ecology networks, mixed urban development and sustainable energy

networks.

One of the flagship recommendations presented by the expert to city stakeholders in his report is the creation of a new zoning category for Recife: the Zona de Desenvolvimento Urbano de Baixa Emissão (ZDUBE – Low-Emission Development Zone). The ZDUBE would be a one-of-a-kind zone in Brazil and the world. In Recife, the expert recommends drawing geographic boundaries that would include 15% of the city's total area. In the ZDUBE the city's current efforts in bus rapid transit, natural resource conservation and urban densification would be furthered. The expert also encourages the city to prioritize re-appropriation of the public space to allow for more low-carbon transport, re-greening, water storage and sustainable energy.





## Inspired by Copenhagen: Municipal Council of Recife approves Green Roof Law

**On 16 December 2014, the Municipal Council of Recife, Brazil, approved the Green Roof Law. This law requires buildings with more than four floors to have their roofs covered with native vegetation. The law also applies to any commercial building with more than 400 square meters.**



Torre Charles Darwin (photo by Rio Ave)

While attending the Urban-LEDS [European Study Tour](#) last April, Evelyne Labanca, President of Recife's Planning Institute and responsible for coordination of the project, has been inspired by Copenhagen's [Green Roof Policy and Planning](#) shared in one of the presentations during that Tour. This tangible result of the Tour proves the success of the Urban-LEDS projects' ambition and objective of facilitating exchange of best practices between cities and thus sparking new ideas for low emission development strategies.

The first example of a building with a "green roof" in Recife will be the Torre Charles Darwin, a 35-storey building under construction in the center of the

city. The building will have a cover crop of 2.8 million square feet, along with a tank to capture rainwater, which will be used to power the air conditioning system.

This initiative builds on previous work in Recife. Recife is one of two Urban-LEDS model cities in Brazil. As much as 46 percent of Recife's total area is green, 60 percent of which is protected under conservation laws. An Urban Afforestation plan aims at preserving and increasing this unique environment. The Apibaribe River Navigability Project is focused on ensuring that the six rivers and 66 canals of the city are used as alternative sustainable routes. A planned increase in bike lanes and the creation of bus corridors to facilitate commuters and reduce private transport are other initiatives undertaken by the city government to reduce its impact on the environment and overall CO2 emissions.

For more information, please read the [Recife entries on ICLEI's CityTalk blog](#).



## Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo win 2015 Sustainable Transport Award

**ICLEI Members Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo have been jointly awarded the 2015 Sustainable Transport Award.**

Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro are also Satellite Cities of the flagship Urban-LEDS project, which supports 29 cities from emerging economies in implement urban Low Emission Development Strategies (urban LEDS).



Representatives of the three cities attended an awards ceremony in Washington, DC, on Tuesday 13 January 2015. This first ever three-way tie recognizes the scale and substance of Brazil's achievements in increasing mobility and enhancing quality of life in its major cities.

In 2014, Belo Horizonte implemented the first projects of their comprehensive Mobility Plan: a new, gold-standard bus rapid transit system, MOVE BRT began operating in two corridors covering 23 kilometers. The city also revitalized its downtown area, creating pedestrian-only streets and implementing 27 kilometers of their planned bikeway network.

Mayor Lacerda of Belo Horizonte thanked the committee for recognizing Belo Horizonte's

achievements. "We in Belo Horizonte are working every day to make life better. We understand that good transport is fundamental to improving life for everyone in our city. This award means so much to us because it indicates that we are getting better, and that the work is worth it."

Rio de Janeiro has massively invested in public transportation over the past few years. In 2014, the city opened the second of four BRT systems planned ahead of the 2016 Olympics, Transcarioca. The new 39 kilometer corridor draws 270,000 daily users, keeping the city on track to achieve the goals of its mobility plan by 2016.

At the ceremony, Mr. Aguiar demonstrated the massive work the city has accomplished already, and how much more was planned. "Rio is transforming. By 2016, 60 percent of Cariocas will have access to mass transportation. In 2009, that number was only 18 percent. Every day we are building more BRT, more LRT, more metro, connecting the city, and making it better for everyone."

São Paulo massively expanded its cycling network in 2014, and implemented 320 kilometers of exclusive bus lanes, increasing average bus speeds by 21 percent. The city is on track to have 400 kilometers of cycle lanes implemented in 2015, part of an overall 500 kilometer network. These are just the first steps in an ambitious

master plan, which has made São Paulo the first megacity to eliminate parking minimums and replace them with parking maximums citywide.

When accepting the award, Mr. Biderman commented that lack of money is not always what prevents this type of progress. "Too many cities say they don't have enough money for transport projects, but it isn't about the money. Building bike lanes doesn't cost much. It's about being willing to have the fight to get it done. It's about political will."

Established in 2005, the Sustainable Transport Award has been given annually to a city that has implemented innovative and sustainable transportation projects in the past year. These strategies must improve mobility for all residents, reduce transportation greenhouse and air pollution emissions, as well as improve safety and access for cyclists and pedestrians. Finalists are selected by an international committee of development experts and organizations working on sustainable transportation (the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), EMBARQ, World Bank, GIZ, Clean Air Institute, Clean Air Asia, ICLEI's EcoMobility Alliance, Transportation Research Laboratory (TRL) and Despacio). The committee looks for projects completed in the previous year that demonstrate innovation and success in improving sustainable transportation.

Past winners of the Sustainable Transport Award are: Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014); Mexico City, Mexico (2013); Medellin, Colombia and San Francisco, United States (2012); Guangzhou, China (2011); Ahmedabad, India (2010); New York City, USA (2009); London, UK (2008); Paris, France (2008); Guayaquil, Ecuador (2007); Seoul, South Korea (2006), and Bogotá, Colombia (2005).



## All four Urban-LEDS countries represented in Earth Hour City Challenge Finalists

**Six of the forty-four finalist cities of the Earth Hour City Challenge are Urban-LEDS cities, representing all four project countries.**

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) recently selected the finalists for its Earth Hour City Challenge, the winner of which will be announced at the **ICLEI World Congress 2015** in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Cities from all four of the emerging economy countries that are part of the **Urban-LEDS project** were selected. From Brazil, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro were selected; from India, Rajkot and Thane; from South Africa, Nelson Mandela Bay; and from Indonesia, Balikpapan. All six Urban-LEDS cities report their climate actions and targets to the **carbonsn Climate Registry** – the world's leading climate reporting platform for local governments.

The **Earth Hour City Challenge** is a year-long competition among cities to promote renewable energy and prepare for climate change. It builds on and



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_18607](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_18607)

