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ICLEI South Asia E-News

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Greetings!

We are proud to announce that ICLEI has successfully completed the Urban-LEDS: Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries project that helped local governments explore innovative ways to achieve low emission urban development. The four-year programme that supported low emissions development in four emerging economies – India, Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa – involved model cities and satellite cities from the four economies along with supporting cities from European countries. From India, two cities – Rajkot and Thane – were chosen as model cities and six other cities – Coimbatore, Gwalior, Nagpur, Panaji, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Shimla – were selected as satellite cities.

For India who has committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product emission by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 compared to 2005, the achievements from the project have demonstrated the contribution of cities towards this target. Cities have shown the way forward to develop low carbon economies, while ensuring growth at the desired pace.

As a part of the project, funded by the European Commission, several international learning exchanges were organised between the Urban-LEDS cities - both for political representatives and technical staff. Project cities also implemented ambitious pilot projects, to be scaled up in consequent years, as is evident from budgetary allocations put forth by the cities under several schemes. Staff exchanges were also organised to European cities, to enable hands on learning and experience sharing. Project activities have led to significant achievements, through knowledge sharing, technical assistance and implementation support. The success of the project is evident from the political support extended to the developed Low Emission Development Strategies.

Approvals accorded by commissioners and a council to three low emission development strategies are another assurance of the cities' commitment to implement actions outlined in the LEDS. While the proposed strategy for Panaji has been approved by the city council and commissioner both, the plans for Thane and Rajkot have been sent for council approval after receiving commissioners' nod. We expect them to be approved soon.

Enjoy reading more about the flagship programme!

Overview



Urban LEDS

The Urban-LEDS project, funded by the European Commission and implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI, has the objective of accelerating the transition to low emission urban development in select cities in four emerging economy countries. From March 2012 to March 2016, the Urban-LEDS project has promoted and supported such development in 29 local governments in four emerging economy countries, with the support of eight inspiring European cities. For the purpose of the project, two cities in India were selected as the Urban-LEDS project model cities and six were selected as satellite cities.

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Model cities

Thane shows the way through zero energy schools and street lighting programmes

Guided by ICLEI's GreenClimateCities (GCC) process, Thane in Maharashtra embraced its role as a model city under the programme by adopting a strategic and inclusive approach to identify a set of low emission strategies and undertaking a range of local actions that include city level energy and GHG emissions inventory, introduction of first-of-its-kind "net zero energy municipal school" and trainings for municipal transport bus drivers.

[Read more](#)



Rajkot's journey towards low carbon, sustainable development

This city from Gujarat is known for implementing innovative and pioneering projects and programmes, supported by the local leadership, dedicated to inclusive and sustainable growth of the city. The city, through its association with Urban LEDS, has adopted various tools and resources for strengthening internal capacity, providing innovative financial solutions and promoting peer learning and global networking. Its pilot projects on decentralised wastewater systems and transition from sodium vapour lamps to LED street lighting have set an example for other cities.

[Read more](#)



Six Indian cities benefit from approaches and practices of low-emission urban development

Six emerging cities – Panaji, Gwalior, Shimla, Coimbatore, Nagpur and Pimpri Chinchwad – were chosen as satellite cities in the project. These cities were actively involved in observing, sharing with, and learning from processes implemented in the two model cities. While all cities have prepared their greenhouse gas emissions inventories (with an exception of Nagpur),



Panaji and Gwalior have also initiated pilot projects that are expected to reduce the city's emissions significantly.

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Urban-LEDS: Cities in Action

The 2012-16 final report of the programme has reinstated that by exploring innovative approaches to involve stakeholders, developing low emissions development scenarios and improving institutional capacity to plan, act and monitor, ICLEI and UN-Habitat have guided first steps in several cities. Released in 2016, the report provides a summary of project's highlights and achievements.

[Full report](#)

A mid-term evaluation by an expert



An evaluation conducted by urban development expert Earl Kessler, in 2015, has found that the ICLEI/Urban-LEDS programme in India has established, by design, a focused, vertically integrated programme to promote and implement low emissions development (LED) as presented in the Program Work Packages. "The fortunate cooperation between the model city mayors and their commissioners has produced a positive, results-oriented engagement," said the mid-term review.



'Panaji has benefited immensely from GreenClimateCities programme'



The integrated process has facilitated institutionalization of low carbon development planning process within Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and has been instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of local energy and climate actions, says Shri Dipak Dessai, Commissioner at the Corporation of the City of Panjim (CCP).

[Edited excerpts from his interview](#)

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About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the world's leading association of more than 1000 metropolises, cities, urban regions and towns representing over 660 million people in 86 countries. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart

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infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim of achieving healthy and happy communities. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource- efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

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