An Urban Low Emission Development Strategy (Urban-LEDS) outlines a pathway for a city to transition to a low emission, green and inclusive urban economy.

**The Urban-LEDS II project (2017 – 2021)**

After the success of the Urban-LEDS I project, UN-Habitat and ICLEI are expanding and accelerating their work on low emission and climate resilient development.

The objective is to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – as energy access expands and urban areas develop further – with an enhanced focus on adaptation and climate resilience to ensure a comprehensive climate and development approach to advance the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa we want.

### Urban-LEDS II project at a glance

- **Project name:** Urban-LEDS II
- **Full title:** Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies
- **Funded by:** The European Union
- **Project duration:** Four years – April 2017 to March 2021
- **Project countries in Africa:** South Africa (from phase I) & Rwanda (new in phase II)

### Urban-LEDS II project partners

- **Contact us**
  
  Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
  
  The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting action to combat climate change and move to a low emission, resilient society.

  ICLEI Africa is partnering with a number of institutions on the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) initiative, funded by the European Union, and closely aligned with the Urban-LEDS II project. African cities can benefit from the CoM SSA Initiative through the sharing of good practices and knowledge exchange activities through network and peer-to-peer exchanges in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as technical assistance.

  To find out more, or to be part of the CoM SSA Initiative, please contact the central helpdesk in Accra at helpdesk@comssa.org.

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Find more info here: [https://iclei.org/en/Green_Climate_Cities_Program.html](https://iclei.org/en/Green_Climate_Cities_Program.html)

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**GreenClimateCities methodology**

**ACCELERATE**

1. Define
2. Set targets
3. Identify barriers
4. Implement
5. Monitor

**ANALYZE**

1. Collect and analyze data on the current situation
2. Assess the baseline
3. Identify urban transformation needs

**ACT**

1. Develop, implement, and scale up urban transformation projects
2. Monitor, inspire, and replicate

[Find more info here](https://iclei.org/en/Green_Climate_Cities_Program.html)
The solutions provided must be:

- **Clean**
  - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit harmful emissions of pollutants for improved air quality and health

- **Safe**
  - To ensure the energy used does not put people at communities at risk

- **Affordable & Accessible**
  - To ensure everyone benefits from the energy transition

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**What to expect from Urban-LEDS II**

- Mainstreaming of climate action into existing policies
- Improved multi-level governance
- Improved capacity for innovative financing of climate projects

**Why Low Emission Development in Africa?**

Enabling increased energy access, while supporting sustainable and resilient urban resource management is essential to realise the potential of African cities. Innovative resource management and service delivery solutions that meet the needs of African cities must be supported and scaled up. Cities need innovative finance solutions that unlock the necessary resources for transformative climate action.

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**Project objectives**

Urban-LEDS II aims to:

- Enhance vertical and horizontal integration of climate action in support of national and local strategies and policies.
- Support and guide local governments in developing and approving Urban Low Emission Development Strategies. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience.
- Promote international, regional, national and subnational government cooperation on urban climate action, leading to an increase in urban stakeholders’ capacity to implement climate change action.

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**Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies in Africa**

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**Project cities in Africa**

In South Africa, the project is implemented by ICLEI Africa in KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mogale City Local Municipality, City of uMhlathuze, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality and Overberg District Municipality.

In Rwanda, ICLEI Africa is implementing the project in partnership with the UN Habitat Regional Office for Africa in the City of Kigali, the District of Rubavu and the District of Muhanga.

These cities will join an international Urban-LEDS community comprised of over 60 cities across Brazil, Columbia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Bangladesh and India.