



# URBAN LEDS

URBAN LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

## ACCELERATING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN CITIES USING A COHERENT APPROACH

# GLOBAL TREND, GLOBAL ACTION

Today the term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) is a concept used in the international climate change negotiations and by nations around the globe.

## THE URBAN-LEDS PROJECT

The Urban-LEDS project, *Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries*, funded by the European Commission, and implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), aims to enhance the transition to low-emissions urban development in emerging economy countries **Brazil, Indonesia, India and South Africa**.

Using a comprehensive methodological framework (GreenClimateCities methodology) selected local governments can integrate low-carbon strategies into all sectors of urban planning and development, defining and approving Urban Low Emissions Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS).

*"We need to demonstrate that shifting urban development to a low emissions path can offer both a better urban livelihood to billions of people and yield immediate, direct, cost-effective and scalable greenhouse gas emissions reductions."*

**Gino Van Begin**, Secretary General,  
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

## CITIES AND LEDS

*"Through urban low-emissions development strategies that promote improved urban planning, mobility, energy, water and solid waste management, this project will allow us to promote more sustainable patterns for urban development."*

**Joan Clos**, Executive Director,  
UN-Habitat

Urban-LEDS focus on the local community level. This is a key area where strategies and actions can effectively be implemented in a process led by local governments.

Based on years of intensive advocacy efforts, **local governments are now recognized as "governmental stakeholders"** of the global climate regime.

Their planning and implementation of low emissions development will not only support national plans but also effectively contribute to global climate change mitigation as well as resulting in multiple local benefits.

## WHAT ARE LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LEDS)?

LEDS are:

*"...indispensable to sustainable development."*

(The Copenhagen Accord of 2009)

*"...integrated climate and (low-carbon) development government strategies that cover the intersection of development and greenhouse gas mitigation."*

(ERC, 2011)

*"...economic development plans or strategies that encompass low-emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth."*

(OECD, 2010)

# URBAN-LEDS - A PATHWAY TO **TRANSITION**

An Urban Low Emissions Development Strategy (Urban-LEDS), or Low Emissions Urban Development Strategy, defines a pathway to transition a city to a low emission, green and inclusive urban economy, through its integration into city development plans and processes.

## ACTIVITIES, APPROACHES AND TOOLS

### Capacity building

- Offer tailor-made training to local governments
- Organise study tours
- Offer workshops and webinars

### Resources and tools

- ICLEI's GreenClimateCities methodology, guidance and tools - [www.iclei.org/gcc](http://www.iclei.org/gcc)
- HEAT+ greenhouse gas emissions quantification and monitoring software - <http://heat.iclei.org>
- Global reporting platform, the carbonn Cities climate Registry (cCCR) - <http://citiesclimateregistry.org>

### Technical and financial solutions

- Access to the Urban-LEDS Pool of Experts
- Access to the Solutions Gateway for guidance on LED options

### Global networking

- Establish South-South-North exchanges among project cities
- Link to the LEDSGP - <http://ledsgp.org>
- Create the Urban-LEDS global network - [www.urban-leds.org](http://www.urban-leds.org)

### Advocacy

- Encourage integration of local action in the new global climate regime
- Launch the Local Government Climate Roadmap - [www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap](http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap)
- Ensure appropriate verification processes are established (MRV - Measurable, Reportable, Verifiable)

Two pilot Model Cities and several Satellite Cities in each of the target countries are guided through the Urban-LEDS process.

# WHY URBAN-LEDS?

## MAIN OUTPUTS AND BENEFITS:

- Stakeholder identification and engagement plan
- Low Emissions Development (LED) benchmarking assessment
- Greenhouse gas inventory (baseline and monitoring)
- Business-as-usual emissions projection and future scenarios
- Identify development needs and opportunities
- Prioritize development needs and opportunities
- Study visits and exchanges with selected European cities
- Solutions for LED identified both at sectorial and cross-sectorial level
- Assessment of alternative low emission development solutions
- Workshops and project briefs from experts and service providers
- Local Urban-LED strategy and Action Plan
- Identification of financing models and opportunities
- Meetings with possible funders/investors
- City profiled in online platform supporting a global network of cities committed to LED
- Local actions, commitments and inventories reported in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)
- Third party verification of inventory and GHG emissions reduction
- Exploration of integration of local action with NAMAs and other national processes

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