

LOCAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Show leadership Support your community Get equipped for the future

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Urban-LEDS (low emission development strategies) project, funded by the European Commission, and implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI, has the objective of **enhancing the transition to low emission urban development in emerging economy countries**. It supports selected local governments in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa with a comprehensive methodological framework, known as the GreenClimateCities methodology, to integrate low-carbon strategies into all sectors of urban planning and development within their municipalities.

The project was launched in South Africa in February 2013 and the seven participating cities have been working with the Urban-LEDS team to compile baseline reports, participate in training workshops, develop strategies and implement projects. The first phase of the project will come to an end in June 2015, although a second phase is currently being motivated based on the success of phase one.



With two years of groundwork in place and seven months to completion of the first phase, we are now busy with project implementation, which will act as a showcase for moving forward. The aim is to have a community showcase project in each of the seven municipalities, while also working close with the mayors on a personal level so that they can show leadership and commitment.

While we do have funding for implementation, we are also looking for **collaboration partners** who would like to support this initiative through providing support in-kind, knowledge transfer, financial support or by providing sponsorship of goods or services.

For more information please visit the Urban LEADS project website (<http://urbanleds.iclei.org/>) or refer to the attached brochure and summary of activities over the last two years. Twitter handle is @urban_leds.



2 THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Local Leadership Initiative forms part of the overall Urban-LEDS project and specifically focuses on the mayors of these seven municipalities to provide them with an opportunity to connect and interact informally with each other, while encouraging positive change through pro-active leadership in their homes and local communities.

Some of the **key milestones** achieved by Urban LEDS in South Africa over the last two years include:

- Establishment of National Project Advisory Group, including various national governmental and non-governmental partners
- Training of staff on energy efficiency, climate change and implementing low emissions development strategies;
- Learning exchange between local municipalities on green building practices;
- Scenario planning and strategic visions developed for Steve Tshwete and KwaDukuza;
- Compilation of GHG inventories for Steve Tshwete, KwaDukuza and Nelson Mandela Bay;
- Draft low emission strategic frameworks for Steve Tshwete and KwaDukuza;
- Small scale project implementation including roll-out of 500 passive insulated cookers, development of a marketing video and implementing a paper recycling system in municipal offices in KwaDukuza.



To build on the work already implementing it is proposed that the local leadership initiative focus specifically on Mayoral engagement, and the implementation of showcase projects within the local community, as outlined below.

2.1 Leadership programme:

Over the next 7 months the 7 mayors from the 7 municipalities will be participating in a leadership programme, which aims to provide them with an opportunity to connect and interact informally with each other and encourage positive change.

The main focus is on what it means to be a leader in the urban context, unpacking the requirements for implementing sustainability and low emissions development strategies. The objective is to inspire the transformation of leadership for sustainability.



Photos from My Green Home (www.mygreenhome.org.za)

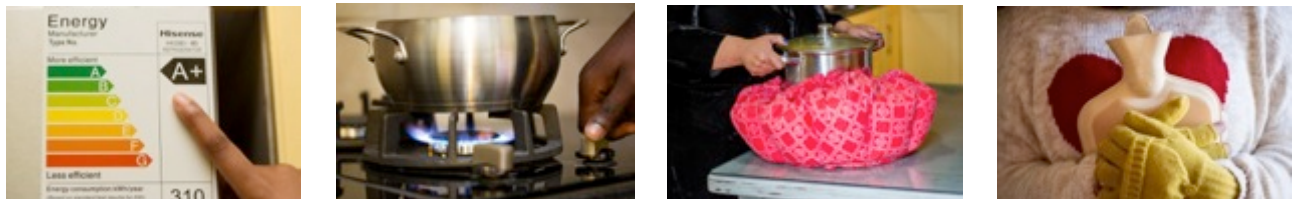
2.2 Leadership showcase:

Prominent local leaders will “walk the talk” through **committing to have an eco audit done of their home** to determine what how they can reduce their energy and water consumption, as well as reduce waste to landfill. This eco audit will include **recommendations and training** on what they can do to implement change through no-cost, low cost and invest to save options.

They will each receive a **retrofit plan and guidance on implementing** this, although the implementation of the retrofit will be at their own cost. To encourage action we would like to try to arrange discounted prices and financing support where possible.

The concept for the leadership showcase is based on the success **My Green Home Project**, implemented by the Green Building Council of SA (GBCSA), with main co-funding from the German government through the South African-German Energy Programme (SAGEN) as part of the bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Germany. A high consuming household participated in an eco audit to determine a baseline, participated in training to encourage behaviour change and then did a retrofit to implement energy efficient technologies.

The Ngewana family has made significant savings with 53% reduction in electricity consumption, 44% reducing in water and 81% reduction in waste to landfill. The project was awarded the Energy Efficiency Awareness Award at the 2014 Eskom eta Awards. A website was developed for the general public to follow the journey and have access to resources to implement change in their own homes (mygreenhome.org.za).



Photos from My Green Home (www.mygreenhome.org.za)

2.3 Community showcase:

While it is important to get the leadership involved and excited, the main project implementation is within the broader community of the different municipalities. Local community groups, identified by need and impact, will be supported through the process outlined below. Potential sites of intervention include local orphanages, environmental education centres, community centres, buildings utilised by faith communities, schools or other educational buildings.

- The first step will be to identify the most suitable project through doing a **feasibility study**.
- Each selected project will then participate in an **eco audit with retrofit recommendations**. This will be done with local representatives to allow for knowledge transfer and continuity.
- **Implementation of the retrofit plan** will be based on the available budget and timeframes. This could include interventions such as solar water heater, heat pump, PV panels, energy efficient lights, ceiling insulation, efficient cookstoves, “hotboxes”, water saving devices, recycling systems etc.

- **Engagement** with the building users will focus on what can be done through behavior change and monitoring of the interventions, to place an emphasis on no-cost and low-cost implementation.

Due to the limited timeframe it is essential that the projects are already established in a formal structure and have support over the long-term. We are thus seeking project partners that are keen to work with us so that we can provide top up funding that specifically addresses energy efficiency or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The following potential projects have already been identified:

- 20 Care Homes for foster kids in the KwaDukuza district that require solar water heaters, roof insulation and development of food gardens;
- Energy efficiency interventions such as a solar water heater and heat pump at a newly developed Environmental Education Centre (due for completion in March 2015) in Nelson Mandela Bay;
- Installation of solar water heater and LED lights at a school or local clinic in Magaliesburg (Mogale);
- Supporting a feeding scheme to encourage food security through more effective cooking solutions in the Richards Bay municipal area;

We are currently busy working with the various local municipalities to identify suitable projects and will be able to provide additional information as the project unfolds.

3 BENEFITS

We believe that these leadership and community showcases will assist to demonstrate that **resource efficiency and sustainability is relevant (and beneficial) for people across the socio-economic spectrum**, contributing to a local and global effort to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

For collaboration partners:

- It provides an opportunity to **work with ICLEI and UN Habitat** on an international project which will share learning exchanges with Brazil, India and Indonesia;
- It provides an opportunity to **work with local municipalities** on a project which showcases support to energy efficiency and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- It will **strengthen relationships** with ICLEI Africa and the local municipalities and their communities;
- It is an easy entry point for **gaining significant exposure** on projects that have already gone through a feasibility process, and the Urban LEADS team will manage project implementation.
- It can provide **marketing opportunities** for partners or sponsored products that are used in the implementation;
- It could lead to involvement in the development of **phase 2 of the Urban LEADS project** and future implementation strategies; and
- It will provide **exposure through being formally recognized** by ICLEI Africa and the Urban LEADS project through inclusion of their logo's and other benefits based on sponsorship tiers.

For the municipality and its political leadership:

- It provides an opportunity to **demonstrate personal and institutional commitment** to low emission development, thereby creating awareness and fostering aspirations among citizens and businesses for a lower carbon and resilient community.
- It will **strengthen the understanding** of these critical issues at local political level;
- It will **facilitate inward investment** to local communities and help them to reduce costs and save resources which can contribute to local development and service delivery objectives; and
- It will provide **local media attention** that can help raise the profile of the local municipality.

For the local communities and businesses:

- It will bring **direct investments** which will enable selected beneficiaries to become more energy and water secure, increase comfort, save money and increase the availability of essential energy services;
- It will provide **access to information** regarding ways in which the wider community can take action;
- It will be a **showcase for the broader community** on the practical benefits and lessons learnt.

4 THE TIMELINES

The timeline of the project is anticipated as follows:

4.1 Phase 1: Dec 2014 – Feb 2015

- Commitment of municipalities, set-up, initiation, identification of local leaders and feasibility studies of community projects.
- Commitment and clarity on potential involvement is required by the end of phase 1 to allow participation in phase 2 and 3 of this specific initiative in the overall project.

4.2 Phase 2: March to April 2015

- Stakeholder consultation, building audits and needs assessment to allow for budget allocation.
- Sustainability leadership training course.

4.3 Phase 3: May to June 2015

- Retrofit installations for local leaders and community projects.
- Project showcase and formal unveiling at Urban-LEDS project national stakeholder closing workshop.
- Project wrap up and final reporting.

4.4 Ongoing from January to June 2015

- January to June 2015: A continual communication, media and educational component will be run during the initiative.

5 THE TEAM

The ICLEI Africa Secretariat is the African regional office for ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; the world’s leading association of more than 1000 metropolises, cities, urban regions and towns representing over 660 million people in 88 countries. 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.

ICLEI Africa is the implementing agent, in partnership with UN-Habitat, for the European Commission funded project “Promoting urban low emission development strategies in emerging economy countries”.

For more information about ICLEI Africa visit <http://africa.iclei.org/>

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Grace Steadfast, from Steadfast Greening, has been working as a sustainability strategist for the last fourteen years. She started her career in local government, but now also works closely with larger corporations to promote sustainability principles and practices. She recently coordinated the implementation of My Green Home Project (www.mygreenhome.org.za) for the Green Building Council of SA (GBCSA). She will be working close with the Urban-LEADS team to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

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6 Way forward

Grace Stead will be making contact with various potential collaboration partners, but if any additional information is required please feel free to contact her directly.

Cape Town, 9 January 2015