

Highlights Report

Prepared by:

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability—Africa

Official closing and key highlights of the
***‘Local Renewables: South-south cooperation between cities in
India, Indonesia and South Africa’***
South African Project.

And Launch of the
***‘Promoting Urban Low Emission Development Strategies in
emerging economy countries’ (Urban-LEDS)***
South African Project.

Hosted by Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
OR Tambo Narrative Centre, Benoni, South Africa
26-27 February 2013

South African municipalities commit towards taking action for a sustainable urban energy future

ICLEI Africa launched its flagship urban low-emission development project together with national partners during the 'Local Renewables Initiative' closing event in South Africa.

On 26-27 February 2013, over 45 delegates from all spheres of government, NGO's, researchers and members of the private sector gathered to participate in a highlights sharing session of the South African component of ICLEI's Local Renewables Initiative entitled: **'Local Renewables: South-south cooperation between cities in India, Indonesia and South Africa.'** During the special event ICLEI Africa also launched its flagship global project with 7 participating South African municipalities entitled: **'Promoting Urban Low Emission Development Strategies in emerging economy countries'** (Urban-LEDS).



The event was hosted by Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality at the OR Tambo Narrative Centre in the picturesque setting of the Leeupan Wetland in Benoni, Gauteng. Participants were treated to site visits including a tour of this brand new building which incorporates cutting edge green building design.

This report outlines the main outcomes of the event, key highlights of the Local Renewables Initiative and provides further information about ICLEI's exciting new global low emission development project, Urban-LEDS.

Local Renewables Initiative: SA Project Closing and Key Highlights

The ICLEI Local Renewables Initiative, funded by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) was launched globally in December 2011 by the lead project partners: ICLEI South Asia, ICLEI South East Asia and ICLEI Africa, in close cooperation with project cities: Coimbatore Corporation in India, Yogyakarta City in Indonesia and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in South Africa.

Through the project, Ekurhuleni undertook local level sustainable energy actions by following the steps of the global Local Renewables Initiative, which guides local governments through a process to integrate renewable energy generation and energy efficiency into municipal planning and development.



Key highlights of the initiative presented during the closing event included:

- Updates to the Ekurhuleni Urban Energy profile for 2011
- Showcasing of the 'Actonville Training Centre' retrofitting pilot project
- Highlights of the South African Solar City Guidebook
- The objectives of the Local Renewables Resource Centre housed within the OR Tambo Narrative Centre.

Further details on the project can be found on the [ICLEI Africa project website](#).



Sustainable Energy Action in Ekurhuleni

During the afternoon of 26 February, delegates had the opportunity to visit some of the renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives recently implemented in Ekurhuleni.

- The OR Tambo Cultural Precinct showcases green and sustainable buildings constructed from natural and low carbon materials, making use of solar energy, bio gas, water harvesting and water recycling and the usage of natural solar bulbs for optimal use of natural lighting.
- The Bertha Gxowa Hospital (also known as Germiston Hospital) PV roof plant panels were damaged by a strong hail storm at the end of 2012. However despite the damage, the function of the PV panels, which is to generate electricity for the hospital water boilers, was not affected. The site visit demonstrated the potential vulnerability of renewable technologies designed to mitigate emissions, to the impacts of climatic events. The hospital shared lessons learnt including the importance of having insurance measures and policies in place for high risk events and associated impacts.
- And lastly the “Actonville Training Centre” Pilot Project (see box below)



The Actonville Training Centre pilot project: Through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership’s (REEEP) support, ICLEI Africa and Ekurhuleni implemented a pilot project with the aim of reducing energy use through the introduction of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

The Actonville Training Centre is an educational institute for special needs children, which has seen rapid expansion of the last few years. An energy assessment identified cooling and heating, water heating, refrigeration and lighting as the main energy usages in the school buildings. The project funds were used to install solar water geysers, energy efficient air-conditioning units, and an energy star rated refrigerator to support the needs of the 555 students.

As a result of the momentum gathered by the pilot project, Ekurhuleni’s Energy Services Department secured funds towards the additional installation and retrofitting of the buildings lighting systems to more energy efficient lighting bulbs and fittings.

ICLEI Africa and Ekurhuleni, together with the school staff members, will be monitoring the energy use of the school over the next three months to analyse the energy usage and savings from the installation of the renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.



The Member of the Mayoral Committee for Energy and Water of Ekurhuleni, Cllr Aubrey Nxumalo, formally closed the South African component of the Local Renewables Initiative and highlighted Ekurhuleni’s efforts towards becoming a municipality “that develops in a smart and creative way, and to be counted as the best among cities across the world.”

As a further demonstration of Ekurhuleni’s commitment towards climate action, Cllr Nxumalo signed the ‘Global Covenant on Climate Change: The Mexico City Pact’ in the closing session of the event. Ekurhuleni joins a group of 286 signatories across the world, who have demonstrated their commitment to work together to reduce emissions and foster city-to-city cooperation.



Click [here](#) for further information about the Mexico City Pact.

South African launch of the Urban-LEDS project

Following the Local Renewables Project closing session, ICLEI Africa together with partners, officially launched the South African component of its flagship global project entitled: **'Promoting Urban Low Emission Development Strategies in emerging economy countries'** (Urban-LEDS). The Urban-LEDS project is implemented in partnership with UN Habitat and funded by the European Commission.



During the launch Mayors and Councillors from the 7 South African participating municipalities were officially inaugurated into the project by project partners, ICLEI Africa and UN Habitat. Each political representative expressed their excitement at setting off on this journey together, in the presence of key partners such as SALGA, Sustainable Energy Africa, the Department for Environmental Affairs) and more.

Francois Schippers (left), Mayor of Saldanha Bay Municipality, commented: *"We believe that with the help of ICLEI and international local governments who have had good experiences, we too can have success"*.

On the second day of the Urban-LEDS launch (27 February) project municipalities gathered together for the first Urban-LEDS project kick-off workshop.

The workshop commenced with a range of scene setting discussions and presentations including Maria Joe Coetzee, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who highlighted the opportunities for municipalities to integrate climate change into municipal development and planning, stating that: *"Unless councils make strong statements on integrating climate change into municipal policy, it will not be translated into planning processes"*.

During the breakaway sessions, technical representatives from the municipalities discussed a wide range of topics including

- The key opportunities and priority areas presented by the project:
 - Strong stakeholder engagement with national government, national and international experts, private sector, donor aid agencies and city-to-city peer learning;
 - Unpacking themes such as Green Buildings, the Urban Green Economy, Financing Mechanisms and more;
- Sharing of previous experiences of working with the private sector to deliver on low emission goals
- Working with other departments in their municipality to further understanding of the importance of low emission development.

In a parallel session focused on local leadership, the political representatives of the project municipalities had the opportunity to discuss the benefits associated with driving forward service delivery in a clean and efficient way that valued natural resources appropriately, and to discuss their role as political champions. Local challenges, experiences and solutions were discussed around the table with emphasis on those affecting the delivery of services to the local communities. The priority services identified by the participating municipal leaders were water supply, provision of energy, handling of solid waste and integrated transport systems. The value of open discussion forums and information sharing was noted, with a call for more sessions that afford this opportunity.

The 7 Urban-LEDS project municipalities are:

- KwaDukuza Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal
- Mogale City Local Municipality, Gauteng
- Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape
- Saldanha Municipality, Western Cape
- Sol Plaatje Municipality, Northern Cape
- Steve Tshwete Municipality, Mpumalanga
- uMhlatuze Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

Right: Urban-LEDS project municipal representatives with ICLEI Africa team members.



- About Us -

About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa www.iclei.org/africa

ICLEI is the world's leading association of cities and local governments dedicated to sustainable development. ICLEI is a powerful movement of 12 mega-cities, 100 super-cities, 450 large cities and urban regions as well as 450 small and medium-sized cities and towns in 83 countries. The ICLEI Africa Secretariat is the African regional office for ICLEI and based in Cape Town in South Africa. ICLEI Africa collaborates closely with the global ICLEI network and other regional offices around the world, in sharing tools, materials and strategies and good practices specifically designed and implemented at the local level.



Local Renewables <http://local-renewables.iclei.org/>

ICLEI, with the support of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), initiated a project on carbon emission reduction through city level local action plans aimed towards integrating renewable energy and energy efficiency measures into city activities. This project entitled 'Local Renewables: South-south cooperation between cities in India, Indonesia and South Africa' is led by the ICLEI South Asia Secretariat in providing experience, knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt from the established ICLEI Local Renewables initiatives successfully implemented in Asia. Through the partnerships with ICLEI South East Asia and ICLEI Africa, an Indian city, Coimbatore Corporation, acted as the 'Local Renewables Resource City', providing guidance and experience to the two implementing project cities or 'Local Renewables Model Cities', which are Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in South Africa and Yogyakarta City in Indonesia.



LR Initiative is funded by Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

<http://www.reeep.org/>



renewable
energy
& energy
efficiency
partnership

Urban-LEDS www.urban-leds.org

ICLEI Africa is the implementing partner for the South African component of a European Commission (EC)-funded project, run in conjunction with UN-HABITAT, which aims to enable cities to lower their emissions as they grow. Two South African model cities will be guided through ICLEI's GreenClimateCities methodology to devise and prepare to implement a low-emissions development strategy. These cities will share their experiences with 5 or more additional satellite cities in South Africa, as well as cities in 3 other emerging economies: Brazil, India, Indonesia, and select cities in Europe. In this way, the project will enhance the transition to low emission urban development in emerging economies, and ensure local level actions to reduce emissions are increasingly recognised, recorded and integrated into decisions and discussions in the global climate regime.



UN-HABITAT www.unhabitat.org

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations' agency for sustainable urban development. Through its World Urban Campaign and technical support it promotes efficient and realistic planning at national, regional and local levels as the most effective way to grow our cities to meet increasing demand for urban shelter and services. UN-Habitat organizes its work around the following areas: urban planning and design; urban legislation, land and governance; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and research and capacity development.



Urban-LEDS Project is funded by European Commission <http://ec.europa.eu/>

