



Press release

Two key messages from Local Governments during the Green Week



Local governments show the way forward - Mobilising local climate action through the international Local Government Climate Roadmap

Brussels, 19.06.2009: With Green Week 2009 focusing on climate protection, the urgent need for local climate action and the key role of local governments (LGs) in this, will be highlighted in the Green Week session “Mobilising local authorities”, taking place on 23 June 2009. European cities are contributing to the acceleration of climate change through the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and they should certainly be part of the solution. By reducing emissions, switching to sustainable energy solutions, and improving community resilience in a changing climate, communities can point their national governments in the right direction.

1st message - Local governments want to be part of the solution

From Bali to Copenhagen

Moving forward from Bali in December 2007, one of the key events of the Local Government Climate Roadmap - the **Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit** - took place in Copenhagen from 2 to 4 June 2009. Gathering more than 700 people from 60 countries - representing municipalities, regions and national governments - this event provided input towards LG positioning for the COP 15.

“It is the citizens and local authorities that are affected by the consequences of climate change. Therefore, we want to be a part of the solution,” said **Henning Jensen**, Chairman of the International Committee of Local Governments Denmark (LGDK) during the Summit opening. The Summit resulted in a call for action, inclusion and recognition of the role of local and regional governments in national climate strategies and plans. The call can be found on the website: www.kl.dk/localclimatesummit.



At the Copenhagen Summit held in June at the Bella Centre (from left to right): Lars Løkke Rasmussen, the Danish Prime Minister; Henning Jensen of LGDK; Erik Fabrin, President of LGDK; Paco Mancayo, former Mayor of Quito (Ecuador); and Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris (France).

The event demonstrated the impact of the **Local Government Climate Roadmap**, which is calling for a strong and comprehensive post-2012 climate regime and drawing attention to the crucial role and interest of local governments (LGs) in climate protection (*see box below*).

LG Action – Activating the voice of European Local Governments

In Europe there are more than 100.000 LGs – their voices also need to be heard in this process, as they have a vital role to play in the local climate mitigation and adaptation action. The project ‘**LG Action**’ (**Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate**), helps to facilitate this voice for European LGs. The project is coordinated by the European Secretariat of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), with the partners Local Government Denmark (LGDK); Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling sustainable Resource management (ACR+); The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC); and Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane (CA21L).

LG Action is conducted in cooperation with many other European and national LG associations and networks, to inform, mobilise and listen to LGs – and to help shape positions they feel are important elements for the European and international climate and energy debate. The project is co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and runs for 26 months from May 2009 (www.lg-action.eu).

Green Week Session – Don't miss it

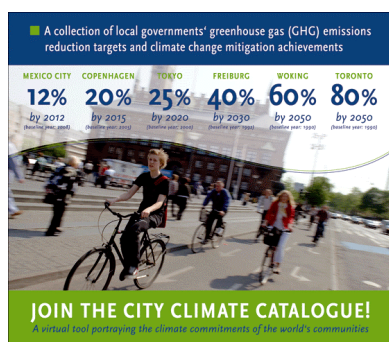
During the **Green Week session: Mobilising local authorities** (Tuesday 23 June 2009, 16.30 to 18.00, Charlemagne building, Room DUR1) key developments will be shared. This interactive session aims to clarify the needs and views of European LGs on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular from a sustainable energy perspective. A presentation of the Roadmap will be followed by a high-level panel discussion, featuring **Michel Delebarre**, Vice President, Committee of the Regions and President of the Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque (France), and **Jeff Huntington** of the European Environment Agency, Head of Programme, Air and Climate Change. In conclusion a public debate on the next steps in local climate action will take place.

What is the Local Government Climate Roadmap?

This roadmap was launched in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007 at the Local Government Climate Sessions held in parallel to the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference – the Conference of the Parties (COP). It is an accompanying process to the international negotiations leading up to COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009, where the post-2012 climate agreement shall be negotiated and hopefully adopted. The international partners are leading local government associations worldwide, working closely with their regional and national networks and representing communities around the globe:

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Metropolis
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
- C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40)
- World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC)

2nd message – Local governments are setting ambitious CO₂ reduction targets



The City Climate Catalogue – a global collection of climate targets that shows local climate action in practice

Many communities around the world have identified climate change as one of the crucial challenges of our century. A growing number of local governments are addressing this challenge and are busy reducing their municipal and community greenhouse gas emissions - focusing on energy savings, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. The City Climate Catalogue is a growing collection of excellent examples – open to all communities around the globe, to pool their targets and local climate action

results. (www.iclei.org/climate-commitments)

Invitation:

Visit the ICLEI stand at the Green Week 2009 and find out more about LG Action and the Local Government Climate Roadmap!

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The LG Action consortium:



LG Action is co-funded by:



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