ICLEI involved in sustainable tourism

Since the beginning of the year, ICLEI in Europe has seen a marked rise in its involvement in Sustainable Tourism activities, inputting European and world-wide discussions, as well as involving itself in more networking and project activities.

UNEP/ICLEI “Tourism and Local Agenda 21” booklet now available

Following the CSD Session on Sustainable Tourism (held in 1999), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and ICLEI have jointly produced and published a booklet entitled “Tourism and Local Agenda 21 – The Role of Local Authorities in Sustainable Tourism”. Besides linking the role of local authorities to the wider context of sustainable tourism activities, the booklet explains the key components of a Local Agenda 21 for Sustainable Tourism and supports these with practical examples from the five case studies that complete the publication.

The booklet is available from UNEP’s online bookshop www.earthprint.com.

Communication of the European Commission open for consultation

The 5th meeting of the Steering Committee for the definition and preparation of the “European Agenda 21 for Tourism” was held in April. On behalf of ICLEI, Executive Director Wolfgang Teubner was present when the European Commission Directorate General Enterprise presented a first draft for a future Commission Communication on “Basic orientations for the sustainability of European tourism” to the Steering Committee. The draft follows discussions held in the Steering Committee after the European Tourism Forum in December 2002.

The draft is now open for consultation by a wider audience interested in the topic. Of course, many representatives from the tourism industry will actively comment on the draft. In order to maintain the importance given to local authorities as actors in the consultation process and to keep the focus on sustainability, you are invited to submit your comments.

Further information is provided under:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/services/tourism/consultation/index.htm

Network of Cities for Sustainable Tourism

A meeting of the Network of Cities for Sustainable Tourism facilitated by ICLEI took place on 24 January 2003, parallel to the conference “Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Mediterranean Tourist Regions”, Calviá, Mallorca, Spain. Partners confirmed that the network is an important tool for cooperation. Work is currently concentrating on the basic set-up, in particular on identifying concrete fields of common interest.
Detailed information about the work and the interests of each partner is being collected to establish an information base to identify funding opportunities for network projects and to share policy development. This will constitute a valuable foundation in case to identify funding opportunities or to express the network’s opinion on any of the topics.

Potential main topics are:

- tourism education and tourists’ awareness raising (production and dissemination of material for tourists)
- indicators
- eco-purchasing (both from local government and the local business perspective)
- measurement and “accounting” of external environmental factors
- carrying capacity and seasonality

The Network is still open to new partners!

For further information about the Network contact:
Ms Ilaria De Altin, Network Coordinator, tourism@iclei-europe.org tel: +49/761-3689220, fax: +49/761-368 92 29, www.iclei.org/europe/tourism

Should you be interested to know more about the conference or the LIFE project of the municipality of Calvià and the Province of Rimini (Italy) that supported it, please feel free to check the following webpages:
http://www.calvia.com/iczm/
http://www.life.sustainable-tourism.org/

ICLEI on VISIT Project Advisory Board

The ICLEI European Secretariat, represented by Executive Director Wolfgang Teubner, took part in the first Advisory Group meeting of the VISIT Project in Brussels in December 2002 to discuss first results and to give input to the further direction of the project. The project is funded by the EU’s LIFE Programme and aims at building a platform for the cooperation of existing eco-labels in the field of tourism and at developing a common quality standard for the eco-labels that join the platform in order to enhance reliability and credibility. Further, a set of indicators for sustainable tourism destinations should be developed.

The participating labels are mostly concerned with accommodation, including campsites. The key question asks how the common standards will look and how they will be applied in the accreditation process to the VISIT platform. ECOTRANS, one of the partners, has assessed the compliance of the participating labels with the VISIT standards and these standards are now largely agreed upon. It will now be discussed how the standards should be communicated to the tour operators and other interested parties, and how they might need to be adapted. A first draft set of indicators for sustainable tourism destinations has also been presented, but not yet discussed.

Further information and interesting links can be found under: http://www.yourvisit.info

Further Labels and Certificates for Sustainable Tourism under development

The VISIT project is only one of several activities leading in the same direction and currently being undertaken in parallel. The European Commission is working on the development of criteria for a EU flower for environmentally friendly/sustainable tourism accommodation. Furthermore, the Rainforest Alliance has completed a feasibility study for the establishment of an International Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council (STSC), following the successful model of the Forest Stewardship Council. The objective would be to promote globally recognised, high quality certification programmes for sustainable tourism and eco-tourism through a process of information sharing, marketing, and assessment of standards.

However, for the time being it is not yet clear how the standard implied by the different labels will relate to each other. To avoid confusion on the part of tour operators and clients, some coordination and clarification will be needed.

For further information visit http://www.rainforestalliance.org/programs/sv/stsc.html
European Sustainable City Award 2003 sees seven ICLEI member cities shortlisted!

On 5-6 May, 12 shortlisted candidates for the Sustainable Cities Award 2003 gathered in Verona, Italy to orally support their shortlisted written applications and to present their exemplary activities to an independent jury for final selection. The final award winners will be invited to Brussels to receive their European Sustainable City Award from Commissioner Margot Wallström during the Green Week on 5 June. Seven of the shortlisted candidates are ICLEI members, namely Ferrara, (Italy), Heidelberg (Germany), Helsinki, (Finland), Kolding (Denmark), Nikolaev (Ukraine), Oslo (Norway) and Ramnica Velcî (Romania). Congratulations on an excellent sustainability performance!

The European Sustainable City Award 2003 aims to recognise and award the progress realized by European local authorities in the field of sustainable development, raise awareness on local sustainable development and mobilise support within communities, highlight examples of good practices and encourage the exchange of experience, and finally to assess and disseminate innovative approaches enabling efficient action towards/sustainability in certain fields.

The award is supported by the European Commission - DG Environment, Landeshauptstadt Hannover, Ajuntament y Diputació de Barcelona, Malmö Stad, Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane and jointly organised by the networks which are active in the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. An initial evaluation of the submitted applications was undertaken by the Campaign networks and the Campaign Office in March, resulting in the selection of 12 cities as finalists.

For further information please contact Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, at gino.van.begin@iclei-europe.org

Conférence Nationale „Agendas Locaux 21“ in Paris

On 17 January 2003, ICLEI Regional Director for Europe Gino Van Begin provided an overview on the development of Local Agenda 21 within Europe to senators and other government representatives who attended a high level national conference in the French Senate, Paris, which was dedicated to Local Agenda 21 in France. During the last two years, legal developments instituted by national government have been helping to set a more demanding and supportive framework for local action from the perspective of French local entities to promote sustainable development. ICLEI’s Local Agenda 21 programme follows with great interest these developments in France and will seek concrete cooperation with French cities and towns active in this field.

For further information please contact Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, at gino.van.begin@iclei-europe.org

Update on ASIA URBS projects

Double kick-off for Hyderabad water management project (HyWaMIS)

With the support of the EU ASIA URBS Programme, the City of Mödling, Austria, will develop and implement an integrated Water Management Information System for the City of Hyderabad (HyWaMIS). Further partners in this project are the ICLEI member City of Venice, Italy, the City of Hyderabad, India, and several technical partners, including ICLEI. One of the results will be a
framework software to support the system. It is intended to create a substantial basis for sustainable water management in the region.

**Pre-kick-off meeting in Mödling**

The City of Mödling invited the City of Venice and the European subcontractors, including the ICLEI European Secretariat (ES), for a pre-kick-off meeting in order to prepare the field trip to Hyderabad. Following a warm welcome by Mayor Harald Lowatschek and the introduction of the partners, the meeting focussed on project management issues. As the ceremonial highlight of the meeting, a formal partnership agreement between the City of Mödling and the City of Venice was signed in the presence of representatives from the Indian embassy and Italian trade commission.

**Official kick-off meeting in Hyderabad**

The kick-Ooff Meeting in Hyderabad was generously hosted by the Birla Science Centre, the local project partner on behalf of the City of Hyderabad. Politicians from Mödling, accompanied by representatives of the City of Venice and all technical partners, made up the European delegation. ICLEI was represented by the member City of Venice and European Secretariat Executive Director Wolfgang Teubner. To celebrate the start of the programme, a partnership agreement between the City of Hyderabad represented by Mr. Gopal, Managing Director of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and the European Partners Mödling and Venice was signed in the presence of both television and press. A series of meetings with all relevant local actors to prepare the project implementation of the coming two years and a one-day field trip completed the working programme. The aim of the visit was to allow the European partners to gain an impression of the local situation regarding water supply and water management. At the end of a busy week, all partners were pleased with the results and the new contacts. The Europeans especially returned home full of new experiences and impressed by the hospitality and friendliness of the Indian hosts in Hyderabad.

It was obvious that all local officials are highly aware of the problems and are set for action. Water scarcity can be felt everywhere. In the average Hyderabad household, drinking water supply is only available for one or two hours per day, whereas in the outskirts it can be even as little as once a week. Further, the quality of the drinking water supply is not comparable to European standards and would most likely cause health problems for the average European. In the local newspapers, even the quality of bottled drinking water was questioned.
Problems are, however, not limited to scarce resources, but are very much caused by the pollution of these resources by household sewage, industrial pollution, and agricultural activities. There are many surface water reservoirs and lakes around the City, but most of them are heavily polluted. Up to now, only 10% of the sewage water is treated in three treatment plants. Further, there are conflicts and discussions regarding the main sources of pollution and their responsibilities, especially between industry and agriculture. Industrial pollution, still a major problem for the water resources, both for surface water and groundwater, will be the focus of the HyWaMIS project, with special reference to the Pattancheru/Bolaram industrial area. Even though a treatment plant for industrial waste water is available for the Pattancheru area, only a part of industrial sewage can be treated there. The rest is only separated, pre-treated and stored on the different industrial sites.

Regarding solutions, plans for new sewage treatment plants are ready and investments are underway. Activities have been started to clean up the surface water and to improve the resource situation. In particular, many small projects have been started, for example a “women in environment” programme that creates employment and income sources for women and thereby helps poverty alleviation. The women are employed in nursering that they can do at home, and in a tree planting programme for rainwater harvesting.

A positive feature is that the availability of relevant data concerning water quantities, quality and pollution is good. Yet there is no single focal point for all the data and it is scattered between different bodies and institutions belonging to several levels of government. Cooperation has been started, but needs still to be improved. The first stakeholder meeting finally served to overview problems and conditions, and served to prepare the two-day stakeholder workshop planned for September under the responsibility of the City of Venice.

Further information will soon be available on the project website, linked to the ICLEI Water Campaign site.

**ECOPROFIT study postponed due to SARS**

With the support of the EU ASIA URBS Programme, the ICLEI member cities of Graz, Austria, and Hannover, Germany, will cooperate with the City of Panzhihua in China to explore the possibilities of transferring the ECOPROFIT methodology to Chinese cities. ECOPROFIT is an approach targeted at the reduction of environmental impacts from the local economy while at the same time supporting sustainable economic development at the local level. It has been successfully applied in many European cities and has in many cases managed to involve business in Local Agenda 21 activities.

Unfortunately, the study visit of the European project partners to the City of Panzhihua, envisaged to learn about the local framework partners for testing ECOPROFIT in a Chinese City has been postponed due to the SARS outbreak. However, the partners are optimistic that the European Commission will accept the situation in China as constituting a valid reason to extend the project period until the situation has improved.
2003: The International Year of Freshwater

ICLEI member city Hannover takes part with „Aktion H2O“

The United Nations declared the year 2003 to be the „International Year of Freshwater“. Major objectives are the protection of freshwater resources and sustainable water management. UN member states as well as NGOs and the private sector are encouraged to contribute on the local, national and international level. Hannover’s Agenda 21 office has joined together with institutions and organisations to form the „Aktion H2O“. An interesting programme with diverse events on the subject has been organised. It’s also the intention to use these events as an opportunity to inform about and collect donations for a water project in Hannover’s twin city Blantyre, Malawi. A programme was published back to back with a brochure called „Hannover fairführt-sustainable living in Hannover“.

Contact Hannover’s Agenda 21 office at Agenda21-Buero@Hannover-Stadt.de

ICLEI INTERNAL

ICLEI’s Executive Committee meets in Sao Paulo, Brazil

From 24-29 March 2003, ICLEI member City of Sao Paulo, Brazil, kindly hosted meetings of ICLEI’s Executive Committee and senior staff. The meetings dealt in particular with the strategy of the organisation in preparation of its World Congress, tackled the positioning of ICLEI and its activities towards the strategies and challenges of Local Action 21 and focussed on internal business matters and progress of the organisation. Members of ICLEI’s Executive Committee and staff also actively participated in the international seminar „Cities and Environment: Making Public Management Ecological“ which was organised by the City of Sao Paulo and ANAMMA.

For further information please contact Gino Van Begin at gino.van.begin@iclei-europe.org

Welcome to the new ICLEI members!

We are happy to welcome the following new ICLEI members to our network:

**Europe:**
- AB Svenska Miljöstyrningsrådet, Sweden (Associate Member)
- Brescia, Italy

**North America:**
- College Park, USA
- Sebastopol, USA
- Jim Marzilli, USA (Associate Member)
- Neal Lewis, USA (Associate Member)
- Sustainable Cities Initiative, Canada (Associate Member)

**Asia/Pacific:**
- Frankston, Australia
- Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea
- Jeonju, Republic of Korea
- Jinhae, Republic of Korea
- Kapiti Coast, New Zealand
- Moonee Valley, Australia
- Whitehorse Australia
- Wyndham, Australia
- Jun Tae Kim, Republic of Korea (Associate Member)
- Muan-gun, Republic of Korea
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (ITC)

Upcoming events:

Local Action 21:
Local Governments Implementing Sustainable Development

ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS, Athens, Greece, 3–7 November 2003

Hosted by the Coalition of 21 Municipalities, in the greater Athens area. more than 500 ICLEI members, ICLEI campaign participants, partner organisations, and other representatives will meet in Athens to exchange their sustainable development challenges and successes as well as to translate Local Action 21 into concrete programmes for the future. These discussions will also inform decisions related to the ICLEI Strategic Plan 2004–2009, which will be the final output of the full ICLEI Council Meeting to take place on this occasion.

The programme for ICLEI's World Congress is currently being developed with input from ICLEI members and ICLEI staff in all world regions.

Further information is available and regularly updated at http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress or contact Ilaria De Altin, Event Coordinator, at world.congress@iclei.org.

E-governance - a helpful tool for local sustainability?

E-governance - e-government - e-administration - these are intensively discussed terms nowadays. Is e-governance able to contribute to local sustainable development? Does it help improve relations with citizens and motivate them for action? Does it make local decisions more transparent and democratic? Can the environmental services of a municipality be better made public via the Internet? These and similar questions will be discussed at the next ICLEI World Congress.

European member cities with experiences and/or a special interest in e-governance are invited to contact the ITC for involvement in putting together a workshop on the topic.

Contact Monika Zimmermann, Director ITC, at world.congress@iclei.org

EcoProcura Göteborg

Mainstreaming Eco-Procurement throughout Europe

Swedish Exhibition Centre, Göteborg, Sweden, 8-10 September 2003

We are pleased to announce that the registration form for the EcoProcura Göteborg 2003 is now available on the Conference webpage http://www.iclei.org/europe/ecoprocura/events/goteborg.htm
A programme overview will soon be added to the available information.

Looking forward to meeting you in Göteborg!
For more information: ecoprocura2003@iclei-europe.org

Get ready for ‘Local Action Planning for Employment’ - register for distance training course now!

ICLEI’s International Training Centre has now opened registration for the training course ‘Local Action Planning for Employment’. The course is in English and targets staff from local government departments for economic and urban development or Local Agenda 21 and public participation. At the end of the course, all participants will have a comprehensive set of tools for developing a Local Action Plan for Employment in their home municipality.
The participants can study from their offices or from home, since the 18 training modules will be delivered through the ICLEI’s Web Training Centre. Continuous support by an e-tutor will be available. In addition, all participants will also meet at three seminars in Freiburg, Germany.

Duration of course: September 2003 to July 2004
Deadline for registration: 30 July 2003
Course fee: 4,800 € for a team of two persons per local government; 2,500 € for individual participants such as Local Agenda21 consultants etc.; early-bird registration fee until 30 June 2003: 300 € discount; ICLEI Members receive a special discount of 15%.
Further costs to be covered by participants: travel, accommodation and meals for attendance of seminars

For more information and to register: www.iclei.org/itic/itcm-employ or contact João Rabaça from the ITC at joao.rabaca@iclei-europe.org.

Chinese cities search European partner cities!

China not only has a rapidly growing economy, but is also a country with increasing environmental awareness on the local level. European cities now have the chance to intensify their relations to Chinese cities with the help of a EU-funded project.

The EU-China Environmental Management Cooperation Programme (EMCP) is one of the most prominent EC-funded projects in the environmental field in China. The general objective of the programme is to develop and improve environmental management (EM) in China and to strengthen the national capacities in this field through increased contacts and exchanges between China and the European Union, with the ultimate objective of promoting sustainable development. One of the four components of this programme is the Local and Municipal Development Project (EMCP-LMD) which is managed by ICLEI.

The purpose of the Local and Municipal Development Project is to develop capacity at local and municipal levels, including intensive professional exchange between Chinese and European cities.

EMCP started in late 2001 and is now entering the phase where Chinese pilot cities are selected and among others – looking for potential European partners for environmental cooperation and twinning relations. European cities interested in cooperation with Chinese cities are sought for

• Environmental partnerships, especially exchange of experiences
• Twinning relations based on common environmental concerns
• Receiving Chinese visitor groups for site visits
• Receiving Chinese colleagues for “internships”
• Providing input for training and capacity building in China (e.g. through presentations in China by municipal staff
• Joint project development for Asia Urbs and Asia Pro Eco (EU funding programmes).

Municipal experts can also act as Short Term Experts for the project (2-4 weeks visits in China). The working language of the project is English. European municipalities with interest in one or several of the above mentioned areas are asked to contact ICLEI’s International Training Centre for more information on the project and on the potential Chinese partners.

Please contact Monika Zimmermann, Director ITC, at training.centre@iclei.org or visit the website www.delchn.cec.eu.int/en/press_and_information/news5.htm
**New facts and figures on Eco-Procurement**

Public procurement can make a key contribution to achieving the European Union’s greenhouse gas reduction targets adopted in the Kyoto Protocol. Just by switching to green electricity, EU public administrations can save greenhouse gas emissions amounting to 18% of the EU Kyoto obligations, providing the market responds to the increased demand for renewable electricity by increasing capacity. This is one of the results of the European research project RELIEF, coordinated by the ICLEI EPP, and supported by the European Commission.

The project, which brings together seven research institutes and six local authorities from across Europe, was started in 2001. It was designed to provide a scientific basis for the development of the concept of green purchasing. One focus of the project was to develop methods of calculating the theoretically achievable environmental benefits of green purchasing among European public authorities – the relief potential. In order to make the figures meaningful, the impacts found were recalculated into so-called person equivalents, to allow easy comparison and an appreciation of the scale of impact. The findings prove that green purchasing is not just a symbolic activity, with marginal practical effects, but can have a significant impact on a range of areas. For example, switching to organic food in public purchasing for canteens and catering would compensate the nutrification impact on European soils and waters of more than 3.5 million inhabitants.

This first step of the calculation was based on the share represented by public sector purchasing in the product market, around 6% for most products covered by the research. However, another focus of the research was on the spill-over effects from public purchasing to the private sector and households. The increase in demand for green products would help to improve the competitiveness of suppliers on the private market, and the example set by public authorities can also assist in changing consumer behaviour. Here, the research found that for some products, the spill-over effect on the whole European market, substituting traditional products with green alternatives, could be as high as 100%. One example of this comes from the field of IT equipment following the announcement by the US federal government in 1993 that only EnergyStar certified computers would be bought. Today, all computers sold around the world meet these requirements. According to the project’s calculations this has already resulted in greenhouse gas reductions equivalent to around 1,000,000 inhabitants. If the next generation of energy-efficient computers were to be supported in a similar way, another 982,000 person equivalents could be avoided in Europe alone.

The implications of this research are clear. If green public purchasing were to be systematically implemented, it would have a significant impact on a range of environmental problems. The challenge for public authorities is now to integrate the environment into their purchasing policies and to use their power on the market to encourage the development of more sustainable products and services. Green public purchasing has recently been a topic of debate within the European Union because the European Directives on public purchasing are currently under revision. Furthermore, a recent ruling of the European Court of Justice has strengthened the opportunities for green purchasing by making clear that applying strong environmental standards is compatible with European purchasing law.

A background document to the above information as well as substantial additional information can be downloaded from [www.iclei.org/ecoprocura/relief](http://www.iclei.org/ecoprocura/relief)

---

1 A “person equivalent” is calculated by dividing total emissions of a substance from a given geographic area, for example Europe, by that area’s population. This gives the average “emission” per person, which can then be compared with the reductions generated by green purchasing
BIG-Net meeting June 2003, Greece

ICLEI’s EPP together with the ICLEI member and BIB-Net chair City of Kolding have begun to organise the next meeting of the "Buy it green" -Network of municipal purchasers (BIG-Net), scheduled to take place on 12/13 June in Athens, Greece. The BIG-Net meeting will be a gathering of eco-procurement pioneers from across Europe to exchange best-practice approaches in green procurement undertaken in their cities. The meeting will take place back-to-back with a Greek national seminar introducing green procurement and guidelines on defining a green product.

For more information please contact Amalia Ochoa, Project Officer EPP, at amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org

Publications for green procurement

“Buying into the Environment”

“The vision is here in these pages: now the journey must begin” these are the words of Dr. Timothy O’Riordan, Professor at the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, used after reading “Buying into the Environment: Experiences, Opportunities and Potential for Eco-Procurement”! The results of the research segment of the RELIEF project on eco-procurement have now been published, highlighting the eco-procurement work of ICLEI member cities.

The book, developed by ICLEI, analyses tested national approaches to eco-procurement, and provides in-depth surveys on the projects pioneer cities such as Kolding, Malmö, Hamburg and Zürich. Particular attention is given to city-specific hurdles that have been faced and overcome. The most relevant product groups for eco-procurement such as construction, transport, energy, information technology, furniture and food are also analysed. Uniquely, the book also provides calculations on the environmental benefits potentially achievable through greener purchasing. Tools were developed and tested by the RELIEF researchers on the environmental assessment of products, public buying power and on evaluations of market conditions in order to provide scenarios for the application of green purchasing at a European level. The results are complemented by new ideas on how best to foster innovation in public contractual arrangements - to encourage the development of products such as super-energy-efficient computers and fuel cells - and how the legal system may require adaptation and reform.

The results presented in this book will provide an indispensable resource for municipalities, governments, researchers and business practitioners looking for answers on how public procurement can have a fundamental and manifestly positive effect on the environment.

To place an order for this publication or to view the “Introduction: Public purchasing: a new, old policy tool” by ICLEI’s Christoph Erdmenger, please visit the Greenleaf Publishing website at: [http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/catalogue/buying.htm](http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/catalogue/buying.htm)

Manual for Green Public Purchasing

Following the completion of the scientific phase of the RELIEF project (see above), with the delivery of figures on the European relief potential of green purchasing, work has begun on the writing of a manual for European Green Public Purchasing. This manual is intended for use by those interested in green purchasing at all levels of public administration, and will specifically act as the basis for a European green purchasing campaign to be launched later this year. It will provide simple guidance on how to approach the implementation of green public purchasing, offering amongst other things
specific key criteria relating to six important product groups, and an analysis of organisational and procedural requirements.

Update on NaBesI project

The German research project NaBesI (Potentiale Nachhaltiger Beschaffung und Instrumente zu ihrer Umsetzung) has published a first overview on the project’s results. Among these are calculations on the potential of green public procurement potential in Germany. The results partly substantiate the European results achieved in the RELIEF project. Additional to the calculations carried out for Europe, the NaBesI project has also produced results on public buildings, based on the assumption that all public buildings in Germany would meet the Passive-House standard. In this case, 15 Mio t CO2eq could be avoided every year!

The 12-page update, available in German language, can be downloaded from www.iclei.org/ecoprocura/nabesi

“Regional Cycles - Regions Towards Sustainable Economy”, conference report

A report on the conference “Regional Cycles - Regions Towards Sustainable Economy” that took place in Leipzig from 31 October - 2 November 2002 is now available. This report gives an overview of the outcomes of the conference; a number of selected projects that were presented at the conference are described in detail.

To order a copy please contact economy@iclei-europe.org or download your own copy from www.iclei.org/economy/conference

“State of Play” of Green Public Procurement in the European Union

In January this year several thousand public authorities on a variety of levels across the 15 EU Member States were contacted as part of the survey to evaluate the state of play of green public procurement in the European Union. Public authorities were sent a questionnaire where procurers were asked amongst other things about their inclusion of environmental criteria in their calls for tender. The survey’s first phase has resulted in approximately 600 responses, whereby approximately 85% of the responses received show that green procurement is being practised in the public authority. The final results of the survey will be disseminated in June this year.

For more information please contact Amalia Ochoa, Project Officer EPP, at amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org.

Hamburg’s water-saving good practice example in eco-procurement

Within the RELIEF project (see above), the City of Hamburg, Germany, is one of six municipalities to share its avant-garde green procurement know-how. The following is the third of a small series, in which we would like to present some examples of good practice such as those in Hamburg

At the beginning of the 1980s, it was recognised in Hamburg that ground-water resources were being seriously endangered by increasing water consumption and soil contamination. To solve this problem on the demand side water-saving measures were necessary. Following a number of pilot-projects in different fields, the Senate of Hamburg (a regional German government) issued a directive in 1996 describing in detail how water has to be saved in public buildings. On the basis of this Handlungsanweisung (directive to action), water-saving devices have to be installed in every new public building. Moreover, there are programmes led by a department of the environmental administration to replace old toilets, washbasins and showers in existing buildings. Together with the building departments of the seven districts of Hamburg, this department made a tender for the purchase and installation of water-saving devices at very reasonable prices. So for about five years now replacement has been taking place on a large scale. Old nine-litre flush toilets are being replaced by toilets with a two-flush-system using six or three litres. There are also ongoing pilot-projects using four litre-toilets. For water-basins the outflow is being reduced to three to six litres per minute instead
of the previous up to 12 litres. Devices to reduce the outflow are also being installed in showers, where nine litres are the new standard instead of 15 to 20 litres before.

In 2001 Hamburg invested 722,000 € in these programmes. This investment has lead to a saving of 23,000 cms a year. The costs of a cubic-metre of water in Hamburg (including sewage-fee) is 4.05 €. Although this price has been stable for the last six years, one can see that these water-saving measures are not only ecological but economic as well. The annual savings of about 93,000 € will have exceeded the investment after eight years. However, a toilet for example lasts for at least ten years; it is not normally replaced before 20 years.

In total, Hamburg has reduced the water consumption of public buildings since the 1980s by half, which adds up to nearly 2.5 million cms a year. This means that Hamburg today would pay a 10 million € higher water-bill every year if the city had not changed to a water-saving policy!

For more information: ecoprocura@iclei-europe.org

LOCAL AGENDA 21

LASALA goes on-line!

Fully automated self-assessment of local sustainability efforts

ICLEI's European Local Agenda 21 team has recently started to upgrade the LASALA tool, a set of questionnaires that enable local authorities to take stock of their local sustainability processes. The LASALA-online project focuses its efforts on widening the thematic scope of the assessment and establishing an automated on-line facility for data entry and report output. Building on 150 sets of data already available from cities participating in the previous LASALA project - many of them ICLEI members -, the database will develop into a valuable information source for the comparative evaluation of local sustainability throughout Europe.

Reports generated automatically from data entered through a web interface will analyse the strengths and shortcomings of a city's local sustainability process and benchmark it against a database of information sets from local authorities across Europe. Translation into 20 languages will make it possible for local authorities in all European Union countries and several Accession countries to carry out the assessment in their own language.

The new LASALA tool is developed in close cooperation with other city networks in the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, notably Healthy Cities, EUROCITIES and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions who are represented on the project's Advisory Panel. Both the Campaign Office and the European Common Indicators Initiative will act as consultation partners to the project.

The existing LASALA website can be accessed at http://www.iclei.org/europe/lasala. If you wish to be informed of the availability of the new tool (foreseen for early 2004), please send an e-mail to Silke Moschitz, responsible Project Officer, silke.moschitz@iclei-europe.org.
CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION (CCP)

Competitive Tendering in Public Transport

‘Sustainability in the public urban transport market’ (SIPTRAM) is the name of a project being developed by ICLEI’s European Eco-Procurement Programme and Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. The project is being funded by the European Commission, Directorate General Environment - Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development.

In all European countries there is increasing pressure to open public transport markets. Experience from Sweden and Denmark indicates that increased efficiency together with high procurement standards can lead to better quality and cheaper public transport services. The issue is highly disputed at a local level in political discussions and many technical questions remain unanswered.

SIPTRAM is about assessing the opportunities to integrate social and environmental criteria in the competitive tendering process for public transport services. The project aims to promote competitive tendering in public urban transport as a chance (rather than a threat) to improve environmental and social standards. The first workshop of SIPTRAM took place on 24 and 25 February 2003 in Freiburg, Germany, and brought together the partners from the Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD, Germany) and Transport & Environment (T&E, Belgium).

The workshop served to discuss the general project framework, as well as concrete steps to undertake in the various work packages. The project, that concludes in February 2005, offers a framework for action for local authorities and a chance for transport authorities and companies to discuss technical questions and to be showcased in a good practice guide. Politicians are invited to develop a position balancing risks and opportunities. Comparison of subsidies for public transport and motorised private transport and a benchmarking process between authorities will also be undertaken. The opportunity for cities to join the project is still available. The project has been divided into four different initiatives to enable cities to take part in one or several of these.

For more information please visit the project website at www.iclei.org/europe/ecoprocura/siptram/index.htm. If your city is interested in joining the project please contact Mark Hidson, Project Coordinator, phone: +49-761 / 36 89 2-0 or e-mail: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org.

Sustainable Communities and renewable energy (SusCom)

ICLEI CCP has begun a new project in collaboration with a group of nine partner organisations coordinated by the UK based consultancy Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) Ltd. The Sustainable Communities and renewable energy (SusCom) project, funded by the EU Commission’s Directorate General Energy and Transport programme, aims to develop an understanding of how different local authorities have initiated frameworks and developed policies to promote clean energy in the light of the following factors:
• the growing emphasis on decentralisation of government across the European Union (EU) and the New Accession States (NAS)
• the increasing importance of drivers such as Local Agenda 21,
• energy sector liberalisation and renewable energy obligations

The project will review and develop a better understanding of the policies, mechanisms and strategies used in the EU Member States and NAS, which in turn will lead to improvements in the integration of renewable energy resources, rational use of energy and clean energy for Transport and consequently to sustainable development.

Another aspect of the project is to identify the factors that are critical to the success of developing clean energy – how do local communities become sustainable energy communities? The results of the project will form the basis of recommendations on best practice for use by local authorities, national governments and European Commission programmes. The project will also provide a strategic basis for specifying, developing and selecting future projects under the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme and the 6th European Framework Programme for research and technology.

For more information contact Mark Hidson, Project Coordinator CCP, at mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org

**New coordination in Cities for Climate Protection Europe**

On the 15th January 2003, Mark Hidson from Nottingham, United Kingdom, joined ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) as Project Coordinator.

Mark has worked in local authorities for the last five years specialising in climate change, Local Agenda 21 and mobility management plans. Mark also has a degree in Environmental Science and a masters in Environmental Management.

To contact Mark call +49-761/36892-0 or e-mail mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**ecoBUDGET: "joining up" Lewes District Council**

Ian Kedge, Head of the Environmental Health Department at Lewes District Council (LDC), United Kingdom, believes ecoBUDGET is helping to improve "joined up thinking" across the Council’s various departments and functions.

ecoBUDGET is being piloted in Lewes as part of a LIFE Project "European ecoBUDGET that also includes local authorities from Italy, Greece, Sweden and Germany. The ecoBUDGET method involves a cyclic management system utilising indicators and targets to manage natural resources. The joined up thinking that Mr Kedge is supporting is possible because ecoBUDGET manages resources, not just issues.

From 14-17 April, Holger Robrecht and Timothy Phillips from ICLEI Europe's Environmental Management Programme...
visited LDC. The main focus of the visit was to train the Local Implementation Team (LIT) on the budget balance procedures of ecoBUDGET. LDC passed its first master budget late last year and are beginning preparations for the budget balance later this year. In addition to training and workshops on ecoBUDGET, the LIT and ICLEI representatives met with senior management and elected members to discuss the status of the project and the integration of ecoBUDGET with other initiatives and programmes. Significantly, LDC has certified Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and ISO 14001 environmental management systems, as well as an established Local Agenda 21 process.

The group also met with the Chief Executive of LDC, John Crawford. Mr Crawford identified departmental coordination and integration as an important focus of the organisation, particularly as LDC is working towards meeting the requirements of Best Value and Comprehensive Performance Assessment coming from the UK Central Government. When discussing sustainability, Mr Crawford further commented, "The idea of sustainability must be reflected in all strategies and be thoroughly understood by elected members, management and staff alike. However, writing the policy is the easy part. Building this acceptance and understanding, and then delivering, this is the real challenge."

LDC is meeting this challenge head on through the commitment to ecoBUDGET project, ensuring that new and innovative approaches to sustainable management are explored!

For more information on the LIFE Project, "European ecoBUDGET" and the ecoBUDGET method please visit the project webpage [www.ecobudget.com/european-ecobudget]

SPECIAL: CHINA HIGHLIGHT

Water under the bridge

David Meyrick has recently returned from a four-week period working in Yangzhou. Yangzhou, P.R. China, is a medium-sized town close to the Yangtze River Delta Corridor between Shanghai and Nanjing: this Corridor has 1% of China’s land area, 6% of its population and generates 20% of national GDP. Now that the Asia Urbs Programme includes P.R. China, we invited David to highlight his work in the country by contributing an article to this edition of the European Circular:

“Don’t forget to use bottled water to clean your teeth”, said the lady at the reception desk as we checked into our hotel. We thanked her for her kindness, and without adding that it was one of our golden rules when travelling in developing countries. Later, as we watched a construction worker drink the water straight from a local canal, it passed my mind that I was becoming too fastidious. It was quickly apparent from a casual stroll around the high quality town centre that China has embraced “the market economy”. The numerous young people on the streets of Yangzhou wore stylish clothing and the department stores had a super-abundance of electrical goods on display. Moreover, the classic symbols of globalisation – McDonald’s and Pizza Hut – were very much in evidence.

But, while China seems to be a consumer society pursuing a market economy, it remains a one-party state and I was intrigued to learn something about the institutional framework, where the power lies, and how decisions are made. We were told that there are four main local institutions: the municipal administration, the Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the People’s Congress, and the Political Coordinating Congress:

- The municipal administration, based on the former Soviet system, comprises the Mayor, a number of Vice-Mayors, and a number of Commissions (chaired by the Mayor) and Bureaux, e.g. the
Environmental Protection Bureau. The Mayor, elected by the local People’s Congress from a short list of candidates drawn up by the CPC, is the Chief Executive of the administration with day-to-day responsibility for action. Policy is strongly influenced by the secretary-general of the CPC and is subject to approval by the People’s Congress.

- The Committee of the CPC has a Secretary-General elected by local members (but influenced by provincial and national considerations). A series of committees (e.g. the Propaganda Committee) feeds views through to the Secretary-General who has frequent and direct contact with the Mayor. Guidance is provided on such matters as the budget, investment in infrastructure, and eco-plans.

- The People’s Congress comprises elected representatives from the local community. Its role is to elect the Mayor, appoint senior staff, keep track of the administration’s performance, examine and approve the budget, approve plans and enact local by-laws.

- The Political Coordinating Congress is an organisation of other political parties in China (usually known as ‘democratic parties’). The PCC acts as a ‘sounding board’ and offers comments and opinions to the administration, e.g. on the content of eco-plans.

Thus, in terms of decision-making, there are two key actors - the Mayor and the local Secretary-General of the CPC. But, concern was expressed to me, that many Mayors and Secretaries-General of the CPC pursue “a single indicator evaluation system”, i.e. GDP growth rates. It was suggested that their own career development hinges on their success (or otherwise) in securing economic growth and relatively high GDP figures. If these concerns have any validity, the overarching objectives of sustainable development, as defined e.g. by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, are seriously undermined.

As good fortune would have it, however, our visit coincided with the 10 th National People’s Congress in Beijing. The party line emphasised environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the CPC argued that the increasing imbalances in China’s population, resources and environment deserve more attention. He went on to say, “all officials at various levels should enhance their awareness of sustainable development which will be a long-term challenge in China. Governments should work with the public and media towards better population, resource and environmental planning.”

Will this intervention on the part of a major national figure within the CPC make any difference at the municipal level? In reality, I just don’t know. It is a bit like drinking water straight from the local canal – you just have to wait and see what happens.

Contact: David Meyrick, 106307.556@compuserve.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Books in English

Building Sustainable Communities

The revised edition of this book is based on a Schumacher Society Seminar on Community Economic Transformations. It presents, with contributions from C. George Benello, Robert Swann and Shann Turnbull, the underlying ideas and essential instructions for building sustainable communities.

The three major sections of the book deal with community land trusts and other forms of community ownership of natural resources, with worker-managed enterprises, and other techniques of community self-management; and community currency and banking. The book also includes a lexicon of social capitalism and a bibliography of key works on self-reliant economic change.

The authors propose courses of action and illustrate with examples how economic reforms could take place. Although not all of the proposals the authors make are realistic in the short run, it contains some extraordinary ideas and stimulates thinking on economic development towards sustainability on the local level.

The Winners and Losers in Global Competition

The study “The Winners and Losers in Global Competition” explains, through the example of 44 case studies why nations who use their natural capital efficiently will be among the winners in the struggle for global competitiveness.

The authors base their analysis on a measure of a nation’s use of ecological assets called the ecological footprint. They show how the world as a whole is already transgressing its ecological long-term possibilities, and how this could be remediated using appropriate economic incentives. The book thus argues how countries’ ecological performances will increasingly affect their economic competitiveness. The figures and tables of the book document how the 44 nations analysed perform today and what their chances are for success in the future.

This alternative approach of assessing countries’ competitiveness presents an interesting way of identifying opportunities within global competition outside the mainstream economic theory. This knowledge also should be interesting for local authorities, as they are also players in this game.


Greening the Budget

The book „Greening the Budget“ regards the fundamental cause of environmental degradation as government and market failure and proposes the use of budgets as an instrument of environmental policy to rectify this problem. The book focuses on the elements of the public budget which currently affect the environment and explores the scope for greening both revenue and expenditure through specific measures.

The authors begin by considering the effects of removing environmentally damaging subsides and the potentials for correcting market failure by way of appropriate pricing. They go on to examine the introduction of new taxes following the ‘polluter pays’ principle and, in contrast, the allocation of incentive for those who take the environmentally preferred course of action. They also explore the environmental and budgetary implication of the European Union financial transfers by looking at a case study of the agriculture sector.

The book concludes by addressing public purchasing and administration. It will be of particular interest and value to practitioners on all public levels, i.e. the local level, and policy makers.


A Solar Manifesto

Since the Rio ‘Earth Summit’ the response of the world’s governments and authorities to the threats to the global environment has been to enforce the reduction of energy consumption and harmful emissions. The solutions sought are mainly based on conventional energy resources and conventional thinking, which for the author has in no way been enough.

He passionately attacks the lack of political will to find answers and proposes instead a radical move towards a solar based society.


Building on the Kyoto Protocol

Starting with a review on the how and what of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), this book then progresses to develop options to go beyond Kyoto
and to move towards further exploring the options of international climate protection process to be a suitable mechanism for equity and sustainable development.

Produced by the World Resources Institute, this book is a product of the Climate of Trust project. Climate of Trust is a solution oriented collaboration of institutions and individuals from around the world dedicated to bridging the North-South divide on climate change. This book is highly recommended for all those interested and involved in (equitable) climate protection. Its language is such that also those not as familiar with the UN FCCC and Kyoto process can understand, without compromising its value for those who have followed the process more closely.

K. Baumert / O. Blanchard / S. Llosa / J. F. Perkaus (eds.) Building on the Kyoto Protocol - Options for Protecting the Climate, WIR, 2002

**Energy and the Environment in the EU**

What is the state of the environment when looking at energy consumption and energy use per unit output? A collection of indicators and explanatory text, this book provides a quick overview of trends in energy and environmental issues for the EU and each of its Member States and is a useful reference book.

Office des Publications Officielles des Communautés Européennes, Energy and the Environment in the EU, 2002

**Energy Law in Germany**

The book provides a first introduction to German energy law in the English language. Besides the synoptical rendition of the most import jurisdical texts in German and English, the volume contains a detailed introduction to the German „Energiewirtschaftsrecht“ as well as a short introduction to the translated laws. A listing of important internet-links allows access to further information.

The book „Energy Law in Germany“ provides a good overview and detailed explanations of the current legal situation and also attempts to outline the further development of the German energy law. Furthermore, it explains the most important German ordinances, EU-Guidelines, intergovernmental contracts, and agreements in the energy field.

This is a good book for everybody dealing with questions of German energy law and bound to the English Language.

Dr. C. Corino, Energy Law in Germany, Verlag Ch. Beck, München 2003

**Reviving Democracy**

Is democracy failing? This book explores the views of ordinary citizens, researched in 47 Commonwealth countries, on what constitutes a 'good' society and therefore a mutually acceptable form of governance. Interesting reading for anyone working in governance, the words of people across the world are inspiring for those who believe that politics needs a new direction. The way forward for democracy in a globalising world is argued here as a need to strengthen participation, to welcome open and honest debate, and to accept and value criticism. In addition, the three basic components of a good society - participation, association and the provision of minimum basic needs have been identified in common by citizens all over the world.


**Participatory Workshops**

Do you dread the thought of workshops? Never fear, help is at hand. Robert Chalmers’ *Participatory Workshops* describes all the methods you need to know, and even cheerfully lists 21 of his own most common mistakes, instantly making you feel at home. Funny and serious at the same time, his
descriptions of facilitation methods are presented as sets of 21 ideas, activity descriptions and tips with regard to timing, seating, learning and much more. Drawing on a rich variety of experience, this book will help you to plan and enjoy your next workshop.

R. Chalmers, Participatory Workshops, Earthscan, London 2002

**Books in German**

**Regenerative Energieträger**

Wie können regenerative Energieträger am effektivsten und effizientesten gefördert werden und welchen Beitrag sie innerhalb einer an Nachhaltigkeitskriterien ausgerichteten Energiewirtschaft leisten können. Aus verschiedenen Forschungsprojekten zu dieser Fragestellung ist der vorliegende Band entstanden und gibt einen Überblick über aktuelle Ergebnisse und Diskussionen in der Forschung.

Wietschel / Fichter / Rentz (Hrsg.) Regenerative Energieträger - Der Beitrag und die Förderung regenerativer Energieträger im Rahmen einer nachhaltigen Energieversorgung. Reihe Umweltforschung in Baden-Württemberg, ecomed Verlag, Landsberg 2002

**Lokal Handeln für nachhaltige Mobilität**

Der im Rahmen der Reihe "Berichte des Umweltbundesamtes" erschienene Band 5/01 zur nachhaltigen Mobilitätsentwicklung ist eine Studie, die die Rechtslage in Deutschland zu kommunaler Verkehrsplanung beleuchtet. Trotz drängender Verkehrsspanen bestehen jedoch Einwände gegen den adäquaten rechtlicher Rahmen zur Bewältigung dieses Problems auf Kommunaler Ebene. Nach intensiver Bearbeitung der relevanten Themenbereiche, die die Verkehrsplanung beeinflussen, wird ein Entwurf für ein Gemeindeverkehrsplanungsgesetz vorgelegt. Experteneinflussnahmen dazu, von Experten verschiedener Themenbereiche wie der Raumplanung (Prof. Wilfried Erbguth) oder auch des Deutschen Städtetages (Axel Welge) werden im Anhang geführt. Damit ergibt sich ein lohnender Diskurs zum Thema. (AW)


**Neue Wege zum integrierten Arbeits- und Umweltschutz im Betrieb**


Das Buch beschreibt, dass traditionelle Gegensätze zwischen Arbeits- und Umweltschutz durch eine integrierte Betrachtungsweise aufgelöst werden können.


Die These und deren Potentiale werden anhand von vielen Praxisbeispielen, die vorwiegend auf private Unternehmen bezogen sind, verdeutlicht. Trotzdem ist der Band auch für Kommunen und kommunale Unternehmen interessant, die Umweltschutz in der Verwaltung damit verbinden wollen, Arbeitsbedingungen für die Mitarbeiter/innen zu verbessern.

M. Große Ophoff / J. Kossmann (Hrsg.), Neue Wege zum integrierten Arbeits- und Umweltschutz im Betrieb, Erich Schmidt Verlag, Berlin 2001
Normung und Umweltschutz im Europäischen Gemeinschaftsrecht

Technische Normen besitzen seit jeher eine große Bedeutung als Instrument im Umweltrecht. Dies gilt auch und gerade für das Europäische Umweltrecht, insbesondere im Bereich des produktbezogenen Umweltrechts bzw. der integrierten Produktpolitik.

Christain Sobczak stellt in seinem, auf einer Dissertation an der Universität Trier basierenden, Buch die Grundlagen der europäischen Umweltnormung dar, analysiert wie die europäische Normung heute schon das gemeinschaftliche Umweltrecht beeinflusst und zeigt potentielle künftige Einsatzmöglichkeiten auf.


C. Sobczak, Normung und Umweltschutz im Europäischen Gemeinschaftsrecht, Erich Schmidt Verlag, Berlin 2002

Daten zur Umwelt

Das deutsche Umweltbundesamt veröffentlicht regelmäßig dieses inhaltsreiche Kompendium von Umweltdataien. Die reichhaltige Auswahl, die im Vergleich zu entsprechenden Europäischen Datensammlungen wesentlich detaillreicher ausfällt. Der schnelle Zugriff wird durch die beigefügte CD noch erleichtert, die alle Daten elektronisch enthält - wenn auch nicht in einer Datenbank integriert, sondern nebeneinander. Wer Vergleichsmaßstäbe, Argumente oder Anhaltspunkte braucht: Die Daten zur Umwelt liefern sie.

Umweltbundesamt (Hrsg.), Daten zur Umwelt 2000 – Der Zustand der Umwelt in Deutschland, Erich Schmidt Verlag, Berlin 2001

Handbuch Steuerung der Arbeitsmarktpolitik


Viel wert wurde auf eine nutzerfreundliche Gestaltung des Handbuchs gelegt - Register, fortlaufende Randtexte und Hinweisboxen erleichtern die Orientierung, ein Glossar erläutert grundlegende Begriffe. Das Handbuch Steuerung der Arbeitsmarktpolitik ist weniger eine Einführung in die kommunale Beschäftigungsförderung als eine Anregung für diejenigen, die sich seit längerem auf diesem Feld betätigen und sich neue Ideen, neue Motivation wünschen.


For any comments or questions regarding the European Circular, please contact: Stefanie Lay, Coordinator Information Services, information.services@iclei-europe.org