



LG Action

2nd European Local Government Positioning on Climate and Energy

April 2010

PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This document, following the 1st Positioning paper compiled in June 2009, provides a **summary of input received from representatives of European local governments (LGs) and their networks / associations** on topics relevant to energy and climate.

Through the **LG Action** project (www.lg-action.eu), and with the support of several European and national local government networks and associations, a **call for input** was made to LGs and their networks / associations in the EU-27 Member States, Croatia, Liechtenstein and Norway between June and November 2009. This resulted in **around 800 positioning items collected**, reflecting issues they raised as important in the context of the ongoing international and European climate negotiations for the post-2012 era.

The results have been fed into, and should be read alongside the International Local Government Responses addressing issues under negotiation for the post-2012 climate agreement. The 'responses' document includes issues such as shared vision, adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/lg-input) – not all of which are explicitly addressed through **LG Action**. The 'responses' document elaborates on the strategic call for direction, supported by many local governments across the globe made prior to and during the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15), while this document presents a summary of input received from European LGs and their networks / associations.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

This publication is produced within the project '**Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate**' (**LG Action**). The project is co-funded by Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme of the European Commission, managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation (EACI). Details on the IEE programme and EACI are available on <http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>.

For information on the **LG Action** project please visit www.lg-action.eu.

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1. KEY MESSAGES AND CONTEXT

Europe Local Government Positioning - key messages until December 2009

a) Growing interest in climate change and sustainable energy

Using energy as entry point to tackle climate change, as it relates to sustainable urban development and economic growth - with the latter both being core mandates of local governments (LGs).

b) Needs identified – finances and technology in focus

The main barriers of addressing climate change and drive the transition to sustainable energy tends to arise from the unavailability of finances for low-carbon technology and infrastructure.

c) Interest in climate negotiations and the wider context

Mostly LGs that are larger, active in international or cross-border exchange, facing energy security concerns and / or where the impact of climate change is already visible, are closely following the climate negotiations.

The Covenant of Mayors¹ is the **major policy initiative of the European Union (EU) to mitigate communities' impact on climate change and empower local governments (LGs) to act in the area of sustainable energy.**

Covenant on Mayors

The Covenant is based upon the unconditional formal commitment of participating cities and towns to go beyond the EU carbon dioxide (CO₂) reduction objective (at least a 20% CO₂ reduction by 2020), which is justified by the development and implementation of the signatories' Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).

So far (as of 15 March 2010), more than 1,300 LGs have signed up to the Covenant, and a sizeable number of LGs have developed or are busy developing their SEAPs. The current signatories represent around 140 million inhabitants of Europe (out of nearly 500 million), with extensive CO₂ mitigation potential.

In the framework of this bottom-up initiative, the **European Commission (EC), together with LGs and their networks have developed a methodological framework to increase the capacity of LGs to act.**

This framework includes guidelines for the development of SEAPs, the calculation of baseline emission inventories (respecting the range of methodologies used in practise, and linking to the possible extent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change {UNFCCC} standards), and a system for monitoring progress made.

In addition to this, through the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility², more than 1 billion Euro is expected to be mobilised during 2010 in GHG mitigation investments due to technical assistance provided to LGs, targeting sustainable energy projects.

The solidity of this approach is confirmed by rising interest by LGs in countries outside the EU to join the initiative.

¹ www.eumayors.eu

² www.eib.org/elena

International climate negotiation process

The UNFCCC process addresses nations (the 'Parties') which agreed to commitments in the Kyoto Protocol. The **European Union (EU) and its Member States are fully engaged in the negotiation process** and have already put forward their commitments and proposals under the "2007 EU Energy Package" and subsequent climate relevant decisions³. The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2007 in Bali, Indonesia (COP 13), determined a **roadmap for nations towards a post-Kyoto framework on climate change for the period after 2012**.

Towards a post-2012 international agreement

The post-2012 international agreement is under negotiation. The **Copenhagen Accord is one of the outcomes from the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15)** held in Copenhagen in December 2009⁴, as a step in this process. No formal final post-2012 agreement has as yet been concluded.

Local Government Climate Roadmap

LGs are not explicitly mentioned in the Kyoto Protocol or in the international post-2012 negotiation process, despite their importance in joining other levels of government in addressing climate protection on a comprehensive scale. In 2007 a **LG roadmap process was started in parallel to the roadmap for nations** - this process is called the Local Government Climate Roadmap⁵. It aimed at mobilising LGs to engage in local climate and energy action, as well as feeding their perspectives into the COPs (from Bali 2007 to Poznan 2008 to Copenhagen 2009). The specific focus was to draw attention to the important role LGs play in guiding and implementing local climate and energy action – in their own operations and that of their local community.

Focus of European LG Action

The LG Action project focuses on European developments that address empowering local initiatives to support the achievement of the EU's 20-20-20 targets. It mobilises European LGs to become more active with local climate and energy action, drawing the interest of, and informing local political decision-makers on the range of powers and options that LGs have to move forward in this field. As another element, **LG Action** aims to establish a link to the international Roadmap process, bringing in a European perspective of LGs and their networks / associations.

By working towards unfolding the tremendous potential LGs have to achieve substantial emissions reduction in local areas, in support of reaching national, European and international targets, the **LG Action project focuses on the needs of European LGs and contributes to their input into the European and international endeavour**.

³ In 2007 at the EU Spring Council, Heads of State and Government agreed to reduce EU GHGs by at least 20% by 2020 (against the baseline year of 1990) and, in the case of a global comprehensive agreement, up to 30% by 2020. They further call for global GHG reduction of up to 50% by 2050.eu

⁴ <http://unfccc.int>

⁵ www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap.org

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONING SYNOPSIS

2.1 GROWING INTEREST IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Local governments (LGs) in the 30 primary European countries addressed by **LG Action** are **in most cases not legally required to deal with climate protection** – this is often rather a national and/or state/regional mandate.

Legal mandate

Despite this lack of legal mandate, LGs are implementing climate and energy action plans to reduce emissions. The climate change challenge tends to be addressed – if at all - where the City Council has **formally identified climate change mitigation as a priority**, or where it is addressed in an **ad hoc manner** (for example with single short-term projects, longer term energy planning, etc...). It is often also addressed from another angle (different motivation) such as **sustainable urban development** or to improve **energy security**. Using energy as entry point is often politically easier, as it relates to themes which typically form part of the core mandate of LGs across Europe.

Typical LG response approaches

Local leaders and municipal staff have shown an increased interest in the **learning more about the challenges posed by climate change and energy security**, partly due to the growing attention of the media on these topics, but also as the local impact of climate change is increasingly being experienced. Thus the need for local action is becoming clearer. The **rising levels of awareness** among local political decision-makers and municipal staff also relate to the fact that the government operations of the municipality and the community (local citizens, businesses and industry) are contributing to the acceleration of climate change - through burning fossil fuels, as well as in the way energy is used and wasted in urban areas. This recognition typically results in a **growing interest in finding solutions** - energy savings, energy efficiency and renewable energy. .

Growing awareness on the need to act

Furthermore the interest tends to grow if there are **particular issues that require a solution and the transition to sustainable energy can contribute to this**, such as a high unemployment rate and need for encouraging local entrepreneurship, or where urban renewal is planned and **sustainable energy solutions can provide multiple benefits** such as reducing energy demand and air pollution.

Energy helps solve other problems

However, despite a clearly visible trend of increased awareness, many LG representatives have also stated that the **contradictory information provided over the last few decades (by the media and scientists) has had, and still has, a negative impact**. There are still climate sceptics and people who question whether humans impact on climate change – referring to conflicting information from scientists and the fact that this is a natural phenomenon. This confusion has for example led to a disinterest or general disbelief and/or topic fatigue (information overload) among some people.

Information confusion

In general, there is a clear and growing trend showing an interest in climate and energy as topics. However, in many cases the challenges are not necessarily seen as a **local political / economic / security issues, and the connection to local energy use and potential for change is often underestimated**. In cases when climate sceptics become local leaders they can be in a position to hamper local climate and energy action. When this happens, it is often either done out of belief that it is not a relevant issue (e.g. not really a problem), or considered as a purely 'green' or environmental issue - and thus not regarded as a **mainstream politically relevant theme for communities**. Input received on this item reflects that this does occur across Europe, but on a limited scale as far as could be ascertained. In many cases this is found to be linked to the more traditional political groups where new thematic trends are slower to be adopted. Typically where clear information is provided **perceptions on the nature and local relevance of the climate / energy challenge** transform.

Mainstreaming local climate and energy

LGs in the frontline

There is an emerging realisation among LGs that they are the **level of government in the frontline that need to deal with the impact on and the impact of climate change**, and that this is very likely a long term process. This realisation is more prevalent in areas that have recently faced disasters attributed to climate change (e.g. rising sea level, droughts, flooding, severe storms). The attention of political leaders and their communities tends to be more focused in a period of crisis and when responding to emergencies. More broadly this realisation is also being responded to by LGs considering how to **improve the resilience of energy, building and transport infrastructure** (for example ensuring that energy services are not interrupted or improving building standards to address changes in temperature e.g. warmer average summer temperature requiring cooling). The focus is also on mitigating the human impact on climate change. Overall LGs aim to ensure that citizens are protected and in general ensuring that communities remain 'liveable'.

Taking responsibility and identifying appropriate action

There are also still many local political leaders and municipal staff that regard the climate-energy issue as a **scientific-technical problem to be 'solved by others'**. This tends to occur as LG representatives are not necessarily climate change or energy experts – i.e. no in-depth knowledge. **Behaviour change is to a large degree linked to acceptance of responsibility**. Where there is a recognition of the connection between global challenges and the local contribution to these (i.e. local release of GHGs), there tends to be a commensurate feeling of responsibility. This can be improved by **targeted information and clarification in terms that lay-people (non-experts) can understand**.

Roles of LGs

As the **closest level of governance to citizens**, LGs are aware that they can lead, guide and accelerate behavioural and policy change, improve regulations, conduct awareness-raising activities, implement projects and monitor developments in communities. These are important roles when considering the urgency to step up climate protection and sustainable energy action. There are **two key areas of local action that an LG should address**:

- **changing energy use in municipal operations** (referred to as the 'government' or 'corporate' sector e.g. own fleets or municipally-owned buildings),
- **leading and guiding change in the 'community sector'** – the whole community, including citizens, businesses and the local industry.

Wide-scale action needed

European LGs that are active in local climate and energy action cover a significant share of population (for example formally committing by signing up to the Covenant of Mayors initiative - see also collection of commitments in the City Climate Catalogue⁶). Nevertheless, it is **important to continue convincing and encouraging the engagement of the largest possible number of people and their municipalities** in this area. Considering that there are more than 100.000 LGs across Europe – many of them small and medium-sized – there is still extensive for their involvement in a formal, wide-scale manner (e.g. strategy).

Need for tailored and targeted information

Linking to the issue of taking on responsibility, among quite a large group of politicians, staff and citizens - as far as can be estimated from the input received - there tends to be a rather vague recognition that 'something must be done' to mitigate the impact on climate change, but the practical meaning of what this entails is not yet comprehensively explored and implemented. It is also an **activity that is widely underestimated in terms of planning and capacity needed**. This implies the need for more targeted, and more tailor-made information and know-how on what to do in terms of energy savings, EE and switching to RES, also how to develop a SEAP and monitor developments. This in turn will support and promote widespread implementation.

⁶ www.climate-catalogue.org

This should include clear, concise information to reinforce the potential for local action and to share practical action ideas and examples that inspire replication⁷.

The need for technical knowledge at two levels was highlighted as important during input collection:

- On the one hand, there is the **link between energy and the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, with most lay-people accepting the statement of experts that there is a connection (also refer to the above mentioned item on information confusion). LG representatives have stated that they require correct and updated information on which they can base decisions, plan and take action. This impacts on the development and implementation of a SEAP.
- On a second level LGs also require **technical know-how, for example on how to conduct a CO₂ inventory**, so that they can set a baseline and further monitor local developments in terms of GHGs released in their territory. Other important issues are how to conduct **local resource assessments, select an appropriate technologies, and ensure high quality implementation**.

Quite often staff working in an energy / climate department are **too few to deal with all the relevant (new) issues**, and are frequently over-burdened with normal day-to-day work. They also tend not to be in a position to acquire (additional) personal technical know-how due to time-task pressures. This creates a capacity gap that directly impacts on the planning, implementation and monitoring of a SEAP.

The potential for change at community level is vast, and is recognised by many LGs active in the field of climate and energy. With **around 80% of the European population living in urban areas**, these are areas with significant potential for change in the generation, distribution and use of energy - for electricity as well as heating and/or cooling in buildings, transport, waste and water management sectors.

There are **exemplary LG activities from all over Europe** addressing policy and strategy development / improvement, technology selection and implementation, and/or effective approaches to changing user behaviour. **Many good practice cases are made publically available** e.g. ManagEnergy, Covenant of Mayors, as well as from European and national local government networks, including the **LG Action** website. However, the actual **analysis of success factors and replication potential** is not always clear or readily available – in particular making it difficult to estimate the relevance and applicability in other contexts. LGs need more specific/tailored information that would allow them to select the most appropriate responses, based on a 'success recipe' that can be adapted to their local circumstances (local climate, available resources, staff capacity, financing, etc.).

There is as yet no widespread perception that an **embedded climate and sustainable energy approach is needed throughout LG structures, approaches, and activities** – again quite often leading to ad hoc responses. Where LGs have taken on an **integrated management approach**, this has effective over the medium to long term as the approach is embedded in the structures and systems throughout the municipality. The initial positive impact from such a change is expected to continue over the longer term. It is also a more cost effective approach, with **buy-in of the leaders and staff**. The importance of a coherent, comprehensive approach to sustainable energy and climate change is increasingly realised, but the inter-connections between sectors and complexity of a comprehensive response package require more expertise in management, planning and technical know-how in the energy sector (e.g. addressing energy availability, stability, safety). LGs have stated that the lack of expertise has led to a delay in response planning and implementation.

⁷ Many examples of implemented activities are available, e.g. on the Covenant of Mayors website (http://www.eumayors.eu/benchmarks_of_excellence/index_en.htm), the ManagEnergy website (<http://www.managenergy.net/gp.html>), and on European and national local government networks and communities websites.

Need for technical know-how and capacity

Capacity to deal with issues

Urban potential for change

Following 'success recipes'

Embedded approach needed

2.2 NEEDS IDENTIFIED – FOCUSING ON FINANCES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Beacons and mainstreaming

Leading LGs have shown they can effectively engage in GHG reduction and improve community resilience by addressing energy – in many different sectors and areas – also **acting as beacons to motivate others** (see examples – Beacon Scheme in the United Kingdom⁸, Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign Awards⁹, **LG Action** analysed case studies¹⁰). Yet, many more LGs need to become motivated, engaged, develop capacity to act, and identify how best they can act in this field and with which stakeholders action can be implemented and monitored. The mainstreaming of sustainable energy remains a challenge, still often regarded as an ‘alternative’ option, and not an essential approach. **Re-prioritising is needed at the political level and technical selection level.**

Need for enabling framework

LGs do not act in isolation and require support. Even LGs advanced with local energy and climate action have indicated that there is a **significant need for improved framework conditions to assist local action**, from the national, European and international levels. These refer to a wide variety of needs, including:

- regular, concise, and easy-to-find **information** updates,
- **involvement** in strategic planning and discussions with national / other state levels,
- improved **legislation** and directives that encourage or do not actively block implementation,
- **financing** (referring to fair budget share from tax income versus mandate and tasks, financing of actions, financing of capacity to act¹¹), as well as
- **capacity** development of municipal staff and local decision-makers.

Response to economic crisis

The impact of the global economic crisis on LGs is increasingly becoming visible, in particular resulting in reduced available financial resources – this requires a re-prioritising. Councils in such a situation tend to **respond in one of two ways**:

- either using it as an excuse to **further reduce climate change mitigation actions** (only found to occur in a very few instances – used as an excuse for non-action),
- or using it as **an incentive to become more efficient and strongly focused** on climate change mitigation (in particular energy savings and EE), although those with a longer term view also address the increased use of renewable energy sources (RES) to produce clean, sustainable energy and focus on energy security at the same time.

Finances are key

Representatives of LGs have reiterated the need for finances as a core issue requiring urgent attention. The interest in addressing climate change and the transition to sustainable energy tends to rise with the availability of finances. This is linked to the perception that technology and infrastructure changes (that are expensive) form the core of local change. This remains one of the main perceived barriers to local action by LGs, and is linked to a **need for clear, easy-to-find, accessible financing information on a national basis (national language)**. There are many available sources, but indeed these are too diverse, and not-easy-to-find, appropriate information specifically for LGs. Available solutions need to be packaged and presented in such a way to make it easy to find, assess and use by municipal staff – regardless of whether at regional, national or EU level.

Changing behaviour - key to unlock potential

The huge potential of changing energy users’ behaviour is vastly underestimated by LGs as there have been very few surveys conducted in this field. On the other hand the financial costs needed for informing and engaging the community is often overestimated –there are cases that illustrate the cost-benefit potential effectively.

⁸ www.beacons.idea.gov.uk

⁹ www.sustenergy.org

¹⁰ www.lg-action.eu

¹¹ In this respect, the ELENA facility can provide an option for developing investments projects.

Energy savings and efficiency improvements are the starting point for most LGs engaging in climate and energy action, with a **particular interest in cost savings over the longer term and addressing energy security - mostly from a sufficiency and stability perspective**. They address improved energy efficiency technologies and behaviour change to reduce energy wastage and thus energy demand. A developing trend is the need to also consider energy in the lifecycle of products and materials, although information is not yet widely available and the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions is regarded as complex.

Engagement potential

There is a growing interest in using **renewable energy sources (RES) to replace other fossil and depleting fuel resources**, in particular if there is some form of dependency on imported fuels or instability in the grid system. This is also **dependent on whether the LG has the power to develop and apply its own energy solutions**. This is not the case in all European countries (e.g. due to national restrictions, or where energy monopolies exist). In many cases the energy utilities were sold off many years ago, leaving LGs with a limited or no possibility to influence in redirecting the energy strategy.

Climate action drivers

The need for information is again highlighted when it comes to technical options. Reliable and accessible information is needed – not having to wade through unnecessary masses of data, but rather **finding the right information at right place and right moment. Confidence in the data and its extensiveness is needed**.

Technological information

Ideally a single entry point to assist the ease of searching and finding the right options, which could be decentralised at local level. Useful selection criteria for identifying the most appropriate responses are also required. This is a particular request regarding technical information, considering that the staff and local leaders working in this field are not necessarily technical experts.

2.3 INTEREST IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE WIDER CONTEXT

There is a **growing interest in the international and European climate negotiations, typically by LGs that are larger, active in international or cross-national border exchange**. The latter for example refers to energy implementation projects or peer-to-peer training), especially in those involved in sustainable energy implementation or facing energy security concerns and/or where the impact of climate change is already visible. Those with an international department – again mostly larger cities – tend to be more interested in exchange.

Beyond local borders

Apart from LGs already active in the climate and energy fields, and are generally well informed, there are **two typical main groups of LGs**:

- The first group is characterised by a **general disinterest** – often where there is a limited recognition of the importance of local climate and energy action (or disinterested / not taking on responsibility / too far away from local developments).
- The second typical group are LGs that have a **lack of capacity** (time and/or staff) to monitor all political developments. They look towards the LG associations and networks to monitor this and let them know of relevant developments. Smaller cities and towns in particular are just overwhelmed with ‘normal’ work.

Perceptions and the role of networks

In both cases this points to the need for general mobilisation and information sharing, to the extent an LG can deal with it. Some LGs have indicated that there is a **perception that international, or even European climate and energy negotiations will not directly impact on or influence their roles, work and mandates**. Considering the support needed to reach EU 20-20-20 targets, this links to the need for more information and capacity development required to mainstream local climate and energy action. The role of the **LG networks and associations – both at European and national level – is thus important in responding to these needs and gaps**.

Policy impacts

Many European LGs are participating in the process of the Local Government Climate Roadmap (e.g. Copenhagen, Nantes, Almada, Dunkerque, etc...) and advocate for a **strong, comprehensive and global post-2012 global climate agreement** that includes ambitious reduction targets, as well as support for implementation of climate and energy action. Furthermore, they call for the **international recognition of the key role of LGs in tackling climate change, and for improved enabling framework conditions that will empower and resource Local Climate Action** to in turn help national governments in the implementation of international and European agreements.

Specific areas for action that impact on climate and energy include the **development and implementation of policy that can influence and direct local change in the energy (electricity, heating, cooling), building, transport, waste and water sectors**. However, as LGs do not work in isolation the national legislative context is also highly relevant for local action, as **national legislation can either stimulate, or passively allow, or actively block action**. Further to this the international context – including any international climate agreement for the post-2012 era – will also impact on the local level, considering the **20-20-20 targets set by the European Union (EU)**, to be even more ambitious (rising to 30%) when an agreement is reached that includes the USA and other main GHG emitters

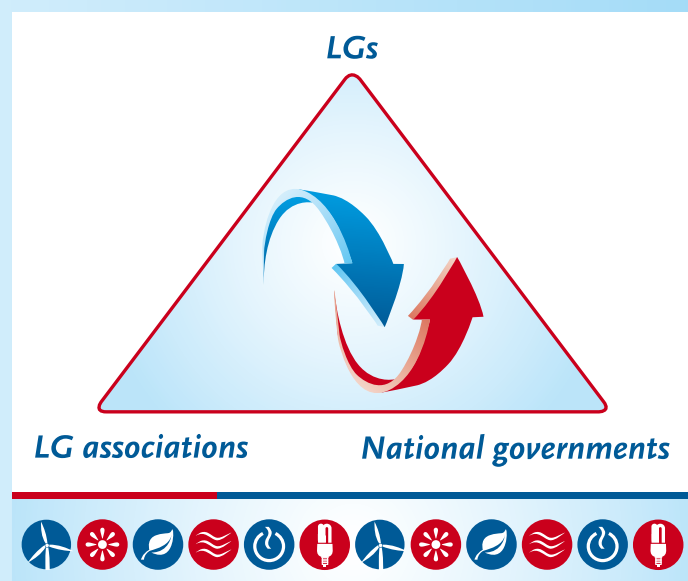
Introducing the LG Action project:

Climate protection and the transition to a sustainable energy future are currently two major priorities - particularly for local governments. **LG Action** is a European networking action that aims to involve Local Governments in the EU27 European and international energy and climate debate. It will provide information, mobilise and support the positioning of local governments (LGs), and call for greater recognition of their essential role in climate protection and sustainable energy roll-out.

The project **LG Action** “Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate” is an important local government (LG) networking action aimed at presenting LG positions relevant to climate and energy to a range of actors: local government associations, the Covenant of Mayors and national governments feeding results into the post-2012 climate negotiations.

LG Action addresses:

- Local governments (LGs)
- Local government associations and networks
- National governments



3. NEXT STEPS - CALL FOR INPUT 2010!

The positioning collection process continues in 2010. Local governments and LG networks / associations across Europe are invited to share their views, needs and perceptions of challenges and developments on climate and energy issues. Your views are important!

The **LG Action** project essentially aims to explore until early 2011, the positions of European LGs on accelerating local climate and energy work. The results collected will be presented to Member States and other LGs, and represents a collection of some European local government views provided towards the European climate debate. This action is conducted with a view to support, and work in synergy with, the Covenant of Mayors, other European sustainable energy initiatives and LG networks.

Please visit the **LG Action** website (www.lg-action.eu) for more details and use the online questionnaire, or post your items to lg-action@iclei.org.

COLLECTION FOCUS:

a) Current status of local climate and energy planning and implementation:

Capturing the state-of-art and level of interest and engagement of local governments.

- City objectives / targets and motivation / interest
- Current policy framework
- Status of existing urban planning and implementation

b) Exploring local potentials for climate and energy action:

Identifying political and technical options for replication.

- Potential areas for action - low cost / easy action
- Potential fields for action - sectoral (e.g. buildings, transport, waste)
- Main needs and gaps

c) What works well (available support / action) and what does not (blocks action):

Identifying any issues that support or prevent local climate and energy action.

- EU & national level policies
- Local level policies
- Intra-municipal interest and support (e.g. cooperation of municipal departments)
- Finances and impact of economic crisis
- Implementation of action (e.g. interest from community, support of business sector, cooperation with twinned cities, etc)
- Citizens: awareness and engagement (e.g. is there any interest in climate protection)

d) Where are opportunities to be further explored:

Mapping opportunities on a per country basis.

- Dialogues with national government
- Access to funding
- Public-Private Partnerships
- City to city cooperation / twinning
- Support needed from networks / associations

Join us! Share your input today.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability,
European Secretariat, Germany

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI Europe is leading this project consortium.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Local Government Denmark (LGDK)

LGDK is the interest group and member authority of Danish municipalities. LGDK supports the municipalities with consulting services and information to enable them to attend to their tasks in the best possible way. The membership organisation also assists regional networks in order to support political cooperation between the municipalities.

The Association of Cities and Regions for
Recycling and sustainable Resource
management (ACR+)

ACR+ is an international network of nearly 100 members with the shared aim of promoting the sustainable consumption of resources and the management of municipal waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. ACR+ membership mainly consists of local and regional public authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing more than 1100 municipalities around Europe (EU-27 + candidate countries) and neighbourhood policy countries.

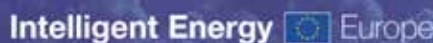
The Regional Environmental Center for Central
and Eastern Europe (REC)

REC is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems. The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among governments, nongovernmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

Italian Local Agenda 21 Association (CA21L)

CA21L is a non-profit national association that spreads the Local Agenda 21 concept and promotes sustainable development models. Members of the association are municipalities, provinces, regions and other local authorities, as well as all protected areas where a Local Agenda 21 Action Plan is promoted, adopted or considered in the short term.

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