

“GREEN CITIES: NEW APPROACHES TO CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE”

OECD Workshop, Alfredo Kraus Auditorium, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Thursday 11 June. 9:00 to 19:00

Background and objective of the meeting

City governments play a critical role in addressing the global challenge of climate change. Though output in cities is responsible for the majority of global carbon emissions, a groundswell of local initiatives has placed local government on the front lines of environmental management. Cities in many ways are bellwethers and testing grounds for emerging trends in climate solutions. In light of these developments, during the 2008 OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers, Secretary-General Gurría proposed, “Momentum is building to mainstream policies for the ‘green economy’ and climate smart cities....How cities develop will determine our collective ability to address climate change....The time has come to bring the experience and the capacity of cities to deal with the development and climate change challenge to the front of the climate debate. We need to empower cities to do the right things on climate change and we need to learn from their experience.”

Despite widespread experimentation and rhetorical endorsement, the actual implementation of climate change planning remains confined to a few pioneering cities. A variety of factors ranging from inadequate budgeting to lacklustre public support has prevented the mainstreaming of climate change planning at the local level. “Green cities” have also not been immune from the effects of the economic crisis: a tight credit market has limited the range of environmental projects that governments can realistically pursue. At a moment when momentum has been building for cities to “go green”, it is unclear how their governments can attain the necessary funds to engage more actively in climate change adaptation and mitigation projects or if they can (within the context of allocation of funds from the national fiscal stimulus package), priorities could be given on short term objectives ignoring long term challenges.

This workshop aims to respond to this call by exploring practical tools cities can use to fight climate change and catalyze their economies. These tools all have concrete objectives: the production of “green collar” jobs, increased national support, enhanced financing of “eco-solutions”, water conservation, and more climate friendly operation of ports. Throughout this workshop, attention will be given to collaborative frameworks, both those that foster inter-departmental co-operation within cities and those that generate synergies between regional and national bodies.

This one-day workshop is organised by the OECD and the City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with the support of the government of Spain.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

<p>9:00 – 10:00</p>	<p>Registration and Coffee</p>
<p>10:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Opening Speeches and Welcoming Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jerónimo Saavedra Acevedo, Mayor, City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain • Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division, OECD • Mr. José Miguel Pérez García, President of Gran Canaria’s Council, Spain • Mr. Don Paulino Rivero Baute, President of the Government of the Canary Islands • Mrs. Carolina Darías San Sebastián, Delegate of the Government in the Canary Islands
<p>11:00 – 12:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 1-A</p> <p><i>Inside the “Green” Policy Toolbox: Innovations in Urban Planning and Governance</i></p> <p>Cities and regions have been leaders in addressing climate change. Many are adapting to the “green economy” with programs relating to recycling, waste prevention, brownfields redevelopment, green building, sustainable public transit, and jobs in “clean-tech” sectors. Mayors and regional leaders around the world are reducing their city’s carbon footprint by renewing investment in public transit and enforcing land use provisions that make cities more dense and walkable. Local authorities have mandated renewable energy requirements, recycling standards, clean energy service provision, and limits on urban sprawl. This session will address innovations in planning tools that attempt to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. Such tools encompass: local climate change action plans, ecosystem planning, green development codes and zoning ordinances, subsidizing green architecture, building materials, and roofs, pedestrian and bicycle planning, energy-efficient street lighting, urban landscaping, densification, and the “greening” of schools and government buildings. These changes also call for an adaption of the current urban governance systems and modes. Cities have experimented with a wide variety of management structures to build environmental competence throughout an administration and create a common vocabulary of sustainability across departments. The competence for climate change policy is almost always concentrated in a city’s department of the environment raises issues of collaboration with other departments</p>

	<p>calling for innovative institutional solutions.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Vincent Fouchier, Vice President OECD Working Party on Urban Areas, IAURIF, Director for the Master Plan for the Region Paris –Ile-de-France, France <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michael Donovan, Urban Specialist, OECD • Mr. Masashi Mori, Mayor Toyama City, Japan • Ms. Hélène de Largentaye, Sustainable Development Adviser, Paris City Council, France • Mrs. Marlene Potthoff, Deputy Director, Climate Protection Agency Region of Hanover, Germany • Mr. Eduardo Jorge Martins Alves Sobrinho, Secretary for Green and Environment, City Hall of Sao Paulo, Brazil • Dr. Ayman I.K. El-Hefnawi, Vice Chairman of General Organization for Physical Planning, Egypt • Mr. Fredrich Kahrl, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can urban planning strategies reduce a city’s vulnerability to climate change by directing new development away from areas at greatest risk, and by adopting land use practices that mitigate climate change impacts (e.g. urban forestry and green spaces, compact cities, use of more light-reflecting urban surfaces, etc.)? 2. How cities are adapting their current urban governance system to deal with climate change issues? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches? When a department is responsible for climate change policy, how does it coordinate with other departments? What are the best innovative institutional solutions? 3. To what extent have climate change plans been followed by active enforcement? What types of plans are heavy on implementation and light on rhetoric? What have been the main obstacles for implementation? 4. What role can local governments play to sensitize and engage citizens and the business sector in sustainable energy use and local-scale adaptation efforts? What other local actors and knowledge resources need to be engaged? 5. What types of new private/public partnerships with private companies has “green” urbanism produced? What have been the advantages of these types of partnerships and joint ventures? 6. In the context of a privatization of public utilities, to what extent can municipalities have a significant impact on local climate change action through energy, transport, water and waste services? 7. Standards and codes dictate virtually all aspects of urban development. How have cities changed existing zoning and building codes to accommodate more sustainable cities? What legal obstacles prevent such changes? 8. What is the state of inter-municipal cooperation around climate change compared to other issues like transportation, economic development, and
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	<p>financing? How widespread are resource-pooling strategies, such as projects to purchase energy-efficient products or pool scientific know-how to lower policy development costs?</p>
<p>11:00-12:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 1-B <i>The Potential of the Green Economy</i></p> <p>The dialogue on climate change needs to directly address scepticism by demonstrating that protecting against climate change can provide an opportunity to maintain and enhance the competitive posture of urban regions. A group of pioneering cities have demonstrated that energy efficiency conserves natural resources, strengthens resilience to meteorological disruptions, and leads to substantial savings in fossil fuel. However, it remains less clear how cities have transcended the trendiness of this field to build lasting jobs and markets that benefit industries outside of “cleantech” sectors. In other words, what is the second move of the “first-movers”? The seemingly contradictory local government reaction to the current economic crisis has added confusion. Some have responded by eliminating once promising green building programs while others have justified increased funding for climate solutions in the hopes that its market will generate “green jobs”. A number of questions need to be answered to understand how the innovation in pioneering green cities can have “ripple effects” throughout the larger economy in the context of the current recession.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Keith Thorpe, Head of Urban Policy Support, Cities and Urban Policy Division Department for Communities and Local Government, United Kingdom, UK Delegate to the OECD Working Party on Urban Areas <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Jan Corfee Morlot, Senior Climate Change Analyst, OECD (member of the IPCC Nobel Prize Group) • Dr. Nam-Geon Cho, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Advisor to the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Korea • Mr. Mat Santamouris, Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the European Union-Cool Roof Council (EU-CRC) • Mrs. Christina Raissis, Director, Strategic Growth and Sector Development, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, City of Toronto, Canada • Dr. Fabio Grazi, Senior scientific coordinator of the Spatial Economies, Energy, and Climate Change (SEECC) program, International Research Centre on the Environment and Development (CIRED), Paris, France <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some of the most promising examples of opportunities for linking climate protection measures to efforts to catalyze economic development goals and create new employment opportunities? 2. What financial incentives help engage enterprises in public-private partnerships for addressing climate change goals? 3. What expected and unexpected economic opportunities are present in the supply

	<p>chains for low-carbon technologies, such as renewable energy, recycling equipment, LED lighting, concentrated solar, and clean tech?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. How have cities measured the labour intensity of the green economy? Under what conditions does it produce more or less jobs than traditional sectors? 5. What opportunities exist for green economic strategies to benefit low-income neighbourhoods and distressed areas? Does “greening” leave them behind? 6. How has the green building sector fared amidst declining real estate construction? 7. How can climate change mitigation/adaptation policies be shaped to help ensure that the resulting economic benefits remain rooted within a city's local economy (i.e. that the economic developments are 'place based' and cannot be outsourced to other areas).
<p>12:30 – 14:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH</p>
<p>14:30-16:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 2- A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Green Government: Why Co-operation across Levels of Governments is Essential?</i></p> <p>Given different mandates, expertise, and the multijurisdictional fluidity of most environmental problems, collaboration amongst neighboring municipalities, regions, and the national government, is of paramount importance. This consists of horizontal accords between localities or regions/states along with multi-level frameworks to facilitate cooperation between national, regional, and local governments. For example, some municipal governments often develop joint climate change adaptation plans; others pool their buying power together and negotiate directly with manufacturers of recycling equipment and renewable energy providers. Likewise, national governments can clearly support cities through improved funding and support of a suite of energy saving, locally administered programs. They might also enable by implementing guidelines for local authorities, disseminating information on best-practices, and suggesting voluntary certification schemes. In some situations local governments may assist national governments by participating in emerging carbon markets or even the Kyoto mechanisms, notably by hosting and/or developing joint implementation and Clean Development Mechanism offset projects. In other situations, regional or local authorities are often responsible for the issuance of emission permits and/or for monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions. Holistic approaches involving local, regional, and national government, though necessary, add complexity and generate the questions below.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adam Ostry, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Urban Areas <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Head Urban Development Programme, OECD • Ms. Sara Pasquier, Energy Expert, International Energy Agency • Ms. Beth Jines, Assistant General Manager, Environment L.A., United States • Mr. Juan Carlos Zentella Gomez, Deputy General Director for Land Planning, Mexico

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Meinte de Hoogh, Sr. Policy Officer, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Directorate Spatial Planning, Climate Adaptation Department, Netherlands <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should be the respective institutional role of national and local levels for climate change policies? 2. What explains the divergence between those regional governments that have assumed leadership in environmental projects and others that have done relatively little? 3. How can regional authorities become more involved in environmental monitoring and reporting? What are the risks? 4. What types of cooperative arrangements between different levels of governments could be adapted to pursue climate-change mitigation and adaptation objectives? 5. What are some key examples of climate change response measures that can lead to benefits for other important realms of urban governance, for instance, related to housing and sanitation, health and security, and economic growth? 6. What are some key areas of potential conflict between climate change response measures and policies/programs for other core urban governance needs? 7. How existing regional and urban policies implemented by national governments are being adapted and reframed to foster climate friendly policies?
<p>14:30:16:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 2B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Financing climate friendly initiatives</i></p> <p>Perhaps the most common obstacle to the growth of the “green city”, especially during the current economic crisis, is the lack of funding for environmentally friendly infrastructure. Urban climate change policies will have consequences for city’s budgets for which new solutions are required. Because sustainable building practices and energy offers cost benefits in the long-term rather than the short-term, ecologically sound practices are often bypassed in favour of more carbon-intensive programs. In response to this situation, city governments have assembled a creative suite of green financial arrangements and additional financial tools designed to generate capital for environmental projects. These include a range of fees and charges to reduce waste, congestion, pollution, revolving loan funds, building financial partnerships, and the use of clean venture capital. Current urban finance systems can also be made considerably greener, since they are often biased towards developing land, sprawl and car transportation, but fail to encourage reduction of energy and waste, brownfield redevelopment and urban densification. Greening taxes and fees can provide more incentives for sustainable local development. To make existing programmes more fiscally and environmentally sound, city governments have illustrated the savings of sustainable practices by energy efficient purchasing, green procurement, pooling financial resources to increase buying powers and financial incentives for engaging enterprises in public-private partnerships for addressing climate change goals. The possible wider application of sub-national cap-and-trade schemes could be linked to the design of intergovernmental transfers to sub-national governments. In</p>

	<p>light of the credit crunch, a number of questions come to light.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Olaf Merk, Economist, Urban Development Programme, OECD <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Brian Field, Urban Planning and Development Adviser, European Investment Bank • Mr. Ola Göransson, Head of Section, Division for Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden • Mr. Jonathan Koehn, Environmental Affairs Director, City of Boulder, Colorado, United States • Ms. Mila Freire, Senior Urban Analyst, World Bank • Mr. José Sánchez Ruano, Technician for the Commerce, Industry and Navigation Chamber of Las Palmas <p><u>Questions for discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does climate change imply for the budgets of cities? To what extent are the costs of retrofitting infrastructure to adapt to climate change integrated into municipal finance? 2. Municipalities often depend on revenue from gas, road tolls, property taxes, parking, and building applications that are based on carbon-intensive forms. How does the current financial system award environmentally damaging practices and how can this be reversed to create more sustainable urban environments? 3. What new instruments could be used to finance climate friendly projects? 4. What does the introduction of sub-national cap-and-trade schemes imply for current urban finance mechanism, in particular intergovernmental transfer design? 5. How could environmental pricing and other environmental fiscal instruments (EFIs) reform the current urban taxation system? 6. How can local governments effectively track their environmental footprint through green tendering and budgeting? What initiatives have succeeded and why? Which initiatives have failed and why?
16:00 – 16:15	COFEE BREAK

<p>16:15-17:45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 3A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blue is the New Green: Emerging Trends in Water Management</i></p> <p>How will climate change effect water resources and how can the public sector adapt its water management to these changes? Water resource issues interact with a wide range of socio-economic and environmental sectors, including health, agriculture, energy, biodiversity, industry and navigation. Indeed, there are few activities that do not in some way depend on water resources. This sector is also a particular concern because many cities around the world are already facing significant water stresses, due to competing demands (of urban/industrial, agricultural, recreational and ecological protection purposes), pollution of surface water sources, and over-exploitation of groundwater sources. Climate change is likely to greatly exacerbate this situation, as shrinking glaciers and snowpacks (a primary source of freshwater for many areas) shrink, as rising sea levels lead to salt-water intrusion that contaminates groundwater aquifers, and as more extreme cycles of precipitation and drought make it more difficult for water managers to make planning and investment decisions.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gregoire Allix, Journalist, <i>Le Monde</i>, France <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Aziza Akhmouch, Expert, Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division , OECD • Mr. Wouter Jonkhoff, Advisor to the Commissioner of the Waterboard of Rijnland Economist, the Netherlands • Mr. Antonio Paruzzolo, President of Thetis, Venice, Italy • Mr. Paul Hickey, Head of Environmental Services, Anglian Water, United Kingdom • Mr. Mohamed Cherif Fourti, Director of the Environment Observatory, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Tunisia • Ms. Laura Grape, Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, United States • Mr. Iñigo Joaquín de la Serna Hernáiz, Mayor of Santander – President of Sustainable Development Commission of the Municipalities and Regions, Spanish Federation <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What types of ‘adaptive management’ practices can urban water resource managers use to effectively cope with the uncertainties arising from changing and more extreme hydrological patterns? 2. What are the most effective methods of encouraging water conservation among key players within an urban environment (households, business and industry, etc)? 3. What types of improvements to urban water management infrastructure are most critical for reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts (e.g. for water conservation measures, preventing saltwater intrusion, managing stormwater
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	<p>overflow events)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What feedbacks between climate change and urban water resource management may be possible, <i>e.g.</i> will warmer temperatures increase water demand? 5. What is the state of the art in wastewater recycling systems, anaerobic sewage treatment, and tidal energy projects? To what extent have these projects benefitted from assistance from national governments? 6. How can adaptive water resource management strategies help cities to prepare for climate change impacts on water quality and quantity and to avoid subsidence and exacerbation of flood risk?
<p>16:15 – 17:45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 3B <i>Managing port cities</i></p> <p>A large share of the world population lives in port cities, which are both victims of climate change’s rising sea levels and contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The maritime sector has often been cited for producing pollution, which particularly affects surrounding residents. The maritime transport industry's contribution to global greenhouse gas emission, for example, is estimated to be between 1.5% and 4.5%. There is a need for port-cities to adapt to climate change: CO₂ emissions of ports and the maritime sector could be reduced with 30% by 2020, by more renewable fuel use, reducing speeds, and modernizing ships, cargo-handling equipment and trucks. Ports and port-city authorities have a crucial role in effectuating this change. Momentum is building for port initiatives connected to climate change, illustrated for example by the “World Ports Climate Declaration” that was signed by around 55 global ports. A certain trade-off between climate change activities and cost competitiveness of ports could form a rationale for international coordination of climate change actions related to ports, so as to avoid a “race to the bottom”. Environmental conservation could, however, also form a competitive advantage. However, the different economic aims of a port on the one hand and the city region on the other hand, often creates tension. This emphasises the need for effective regional governance mechanisms.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Néstor Hernández López, Deputy Mayor, Urban Planning, Housing, Environment and Water <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Javier Sánchez-Simón Muñoz, President of the Port Authority of Las Palmas, Spain • Mr. Faustino García Marquez, Architect – President for Ideas Contest for the Collaboration of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Coastline, Spain • Mr. Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, Director of Casa Africa / Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain • Mr. Joan Alemany y Llovera, Director of RETE Ports / International Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities, Spain <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the progress made with respect to climate change mitigation by

	<p>different global ports within the OECD?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How can ports combine climate change awareness and global competitiveness? What mechanisms could avoid a “race to the bottom”? 3. To what extent can advances in climate change adaptation and mitigations provide a competitive advantage to ports? 4. What can city and regional authorities do to balance port competitiveness and environmental sustainability? Which governance mechanisms are helpful in finding this balance? 5. What have ports done to minimize their environmental footprint—either through adopting more sustainable technologies on land or limiting idling and fuel consumption on water?
<p>17:45-18:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jerónimo Saavedra Acevedo, Mayor of Las Palmas, Spain • Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division, OECD • Mr. José Miguel Pérez García, President of Gran Canaria’s Council, Las Palmas, Spain • Mr. Paulino Rivero Baute, President of the Government of the Canary Islands • Mrs. Carolina Darias San Sebastián, Delegate of the Government on the Canary Islands