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From smog to spark—Baddi takes its first electric leap toward a cleaner, greener industrial future!

E-Newsletter - April 2025



Dear Readers,

Sustainability is no longer just a catchphrase. It is a critical imperative requiring action from governments, businesses, and the people for a healthier planet and equitable development. One of the key principles driving sustainability initiatives globally is circularity, which encourages us to rethink traditional linear approaches to production, consumption, and waste management.

At ICLEI South Asia, we champion circular development, which is one of our five strategic pathways that provide guidance to local and regional governments on sustainable urban development. In India, we have spearheaded several zero-waste initiatives across the region for an impactful transition towards zero-waste cities and municipalities, in alignment with the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission and the P-3 or 'Pro Planet People' approach, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

[ICLEI Circulars](#) is our global platform for cities and regions, which focuses on the five Rs of our Circular Cities Action Framework: Rethink, Regenerate, Reduce, Reuse, and Recover. We offer cities and regions in different stages of their circular journey relevant technical support, training and knowledge to enter or accelerate their transition to becoming a circular city or region, while advocating for the rights of cities and subnational governments in international fora, such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (Global Plastics Treaty).

In line with our support to governments for meeting such national and global sustainability commitments, we actively participated in the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, held in Jaipur in March, and reaffirmed our leadership in driving resource-efficient, low-carbon, and climate-resilient urban systems. In different sessions at the event, we highlighted ICLEI's contributions in water circularity worldwide and the importance of robust policy frameworks and multistakeholder collaborations to support local governments in waste management.

At the Forum, Honourable Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar announced the setting up of the 'Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3),' a multi-nation alliance for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships for promoting circularity. We welcome this initiative by the Government of India to promote resource efficiency and sustainable material consumption through this platform and are committed to providing all support to the formation of the working group of member nations to finalise C-3's structure and operational framework.

Another event of note in March was an Electric Vehicle (EV) sensitisation workshop that we organised jointly with the Directorate of Transport, Shimla, and the Regional Transport Office, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh. The workshop focused on increasing awareness about EV adoption, its role in reducing pollution, and on solutions, particularly for electrifying freight transport.

Please check out our social media channels for our regular updates, as well as coverage of some exciting developments in the weeks ahead.

Emami Kumar
Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Circular Economy Conversations in Asia-Pacific: ICLEI South Asia at 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Jaipur

What happens to our waste matters more than we think. ICLEI South Asia joined the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Jaipur, sharing ideas on waste, water, and circular practices. Experts spoke on policy and on-ground action. ICLEI South Asia's booth drew strong interest from officials and partners, highlighting its work in helping cities manage waste and use resources better.



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Driving Sustainability: Electric Vehicle Sensitisation Workshop in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh

In smog-choked Baddi, where industry fuels livelihoods, every breath feels heavier. An EV Sensitisation Workshop brought together officials, industry leaders, and experts to talk about cleaner transport. The event focused on electric vehicles, charging systems, and how to reduce pollution while keeping business moving in the region.



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Charging Ahead: Himachal's Green Drive Gets a Boost

In a big leap toward clean travel, Himachal Pradesh will install EV chargers at 402 government sites, making it easier for electric cars—and tourists—to power up in the hills. With support from ICLEI South Asia, the state is steering toward a future that's greener, smarter, and truly electrifying.



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उदयपुर को चाहिए अपना हीट एक्शन प्लान !

भारत में इस साल भीषण गर्मी पड़ेगी, खासकर उत्तर-पश्चिमी राज्यों में तू के दिनों की संख्या दोगुनी हो सकती है। राजस्थान में मार्च २०२५ में ही तापमान ४०°C पार कर चुका है, जो सामान्य से ५°C अधिक है। उदयपुर, कोटा जैसे शहरों में तापमान लगातार बढ़ रहा है, जिससे जल संकट और बिजली कटौती की समस्या गहरा रही है। स्वास्थ्य पर भी बुरा असर पड़ा है, खासकर बच्चों, मजदूरों और बुजुर्गों पर। जलाशयों का जलस्तर गिर रहा है और जंगलों में आग लगने की घटनाएं बढ़ रही हैं। ऐसे में शहरी क्षेत्रों को हीट एक्शन प्लान लागू करने की जरूरत है।



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HOT OFF THE PRESS



Coimbatore

Mumbai


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Coimbatore corporation begins work to identify urban heat islands

Anushka Juliet / Apr 2, 2025, 01:05 IST



Coimbatore: The city corporation has initiated mapping of urban heat islands in the city.

An urban heat island is an area significantly warmer than its surroundings with limited green cover, where surfaces like roads, buildings and parking lots absorb and retain heat.

Localities such as Gandhipuram and Ganapathy have been identified as urban heat island in the city, thanks to increased built-up areas and minimal vegetation.

Now that a preliminary ward-wise assessment of total area and green cover percentage has been completed, findings indicate that the central zone has the least green cover, whereas areas along the Noyyal river have dense vegetation. Based on these insights, the city corporation aims to enhance green cover across its limits.

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- "Leaving the known, entering the unknown": AI Gore's warning at Climate Reality Training in Paris
- Supporting energy equity: The role of energy efficiency in tackling energy poverty and burden

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About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for zero emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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