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THE GREEN BLUEPRINT

Program of Sustainable



Cities at the Frontline: COP Must Evolve to Empower Local Climate Action

December brings a moment to reflect on what COP30 in Belém offered, proof that global climate ambition is alive—but delivery remains overdue. Now, ambition must turn into implementation. The Presidency's leadership on fossil fuel transition, deforestation roadmaps and just transitions was commendable. Yet, while outcomes were welcome, important gaps remain.


At ICLEI, we continue to strongly advocate for multilateral climate action, understanding that the impactful climate action that the world needs can start at the meeting tables of our cities.

A significant development at COP30 was the launch of the implementation phase of the 'Global Multirisk against Extreme Heat' that the World, led by the United Nations Environment Programme. As a member of the Cool Coalition's Steering Committee, ICLEI is collaborating with 180 cities and 80+ partners, including development banks, city networks, civil society organisations and the private sector, on this critical initiative.

While the COP30 Presidency and many Parties recognised the value of multilevel governance and the achievements of local actors, this acknowledgment needs to translate into meaningful structural inclusion. It is time for the COP process to evolve and equip them with the formal recognition, resources and cooperation frameworks required to scale this impact, and most importantly, for them to have a seat at the decision-making table.

READ THE FULL MESSAGE

SPOTLIGHT



SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE

WHERE IDEAS ARE SIMPLY TOLD

UNDERSTANDING NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

with
NIKHIL KOLSEPATIL
Program Coordinator, Energy & Climate
ICLEI South Asia

ICLEI South Asia presents Episode 3 of 'SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE', our explainer series designed to unpack and simplify key concepts that are shaping a greener, more resilient future.

In this episode, **Nikhil Kolsapatil**, Program Coordinator – Energy & Climate at ICLEI South Asia, breaks down what Net Zero Emissions really means, why it is a crucial milestone in global climate action, and how ICLEI South Asia is helping cities chart practical, science-aligned pathways to achieve it.

WATCH NOW

20 Years of Urban Sustainability: ICLEI South Asia Launches Key Publications at COP30

ICLEI South Asia released its Annual Report 2024-25 and a special publication marking 20 years of ICLEI South Asia at the Cities & Regions Hub Pavilion at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

This year's Annual Report captures our journey marked by accelerated climate action, deeper collaboration with local and subnational governments, and scaling of innovative climate solutions across South Asia.

The 20-year anniversary book titled "Two Decades of ICLEI South Asia" reflects on two decades of our work—celebrating key milestones, partnerships, and the evolution of ICLEI South Asia as a trusted technical and knowledge partner for urban sustainability.


A special thank you to our partners, members, and colleagues across the ICLEI network for their continuous collaboration and commitment.





READ THE PUBLICATIONS HERE

ACTION ON THE GROUND




17 November 2025

SCALING CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE CITIES: INSIGHTS ON DRR INTEGRATION FROM COP30

At the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) Pavilion at COP30 in Belém, ICLEI South Asia convened a session on integrating disaster risk reduction into climate action, held with partners including SDG, CDKN, and ICGL South Asia. The discussion brought global experts together to share practical city experiences and explore scalable approaches for urban resilience. The session highlighted the importance of aligning education, migration considerations, and ecosystem-based solutions and concluded with a call to strengthen regional cooperation and support cities in advancing integrated, equitable climate strategies.

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10 and 13 November 2025

AT COP30, ALP SHOWS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING GCAP CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA

At COP30 in Belém, ICLEI South Asia, as the secretariat of the Asia LEIS Partnership VLP, participated in two GCAP-led side events focused on accelerating DRR implementation and scaling climate action. ALP highlighted its regional contributions across transport, energy, finance, and subnational integration, including peer learning and targeted technical assistance. Country experiences, such as the Philippines' renewable energy planning support, showcased how ALP is helping translate global climate ambition into practical, on-ground impact across Asia.

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24 November 2025

SCALING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH BUNDLED URBAN PROJECTS: ICLEI SOUTH ASIA CALL AT THE CPFF LAUNCH

As a technical partner of the Climate Projects Preparation Facility (CPFF), ICLEI South Asia joined its launch in New Delhi. Established by AUDA with support from NAREIL and HECO, CPFF aims to help cities prepare bankable, climate-resilient infrastructure projects. In a roundtable discussion on collaboration and financing, ICLEI South Asia stressed the need for regional, bundled approaches to enhance scale and bankability.

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8 October 2025

SECOND URBANSHIFT NATIONAL LOCAL DIALOGUE ADVANCES INNOVATION AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Cities, experts, national agencies, and global partners came together in New Delhi for the second UrbanShift National Local Dialogue, organised by ICLEI South Asia. From improved electric waste collection in Gurantur to Bhopla's solar-charged e-buses and Mahesh's circular waste model, the Dialogue kicked with ideas for action, learning, and collaboration. Discussions centred on how cities can scale innovation, rethink mobility, and adopt transit-oriented development as India urbanises rapidly.

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25 November 2025

FLOATING SOLAR POWER IN COIMBATORE BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY AMBITIONS

Coimbatore's clean energy ambitions just got a major push! The city launched a new 14 MW floating solar power plant on Periyasam Lake—the first of its kind by a municipal corporation in Tamil Nadu, implemented by Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation and co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Endorsed by Switzerland to India under the CapCITIES programme, the setup is expected to cut CO₂ emissions by around 140 tonnes per year. The initiative marks a bold stride in sustainable urban infrastructure and Tamil Nadu's clean-energy transformation.

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14 November 2025

GREEN INVESTMENT FOR GROWING CITIES: AMARAVATI CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IN FOCUS

At the 30th CE Partnership Summit, Emani Kumar underscored the increased need for bankable GCAPs to cater to the sustainable growth of Indian cities. He highlighted this under the guidance of ICLEI South Asia. Amaravati is drafting a new Climate Action Plan that outlines a ₹32,000 crore climate investment pipeline, with major opportunities in renewable energy, green buildings, transport electrification, urban greening, waste, and water systems. With its comprehensive GCAP, Amaravati aims to set a new benchmark for cities in India.

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15 November 2025

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA ADVOCATES CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE PUBLIC FINANCE AT ANDHRA PRADESH SUMMIT 2025

ICLEI South Asia called for climate-responsive public finance frameworks as part of the Andhra Pradesh Resilient Public Finance Summit 2025. Speaking at the event, Emani Kumar underscored that translating climate plans into on-ground action depends heavily on finance and administrative systems. ICLEI South Asia urged state and municipal stakeholders to integrate climate resilience into local planning for unlocking funding streams that can turn climate ambitions into resilient urban realities.

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3-7 November 2025

VADDARA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND ICLEI SOUTH ASIA STRENGTHEN SANITATION WORKFORCE THROUGH CITYWIDE ZONAL MICRO TRAININGS

Vaddara Municipal Corporation, in partnership with ICLEI South Asia under the SDG-funded CapCITIES Phase III Project, conducted Zonal Micro Trainings for over 200 sanitation personnel across all city zones. The sessions aimed to strengthen their skills in waste segregation, safe handling, PPE use, and efficient collection practices, supporting Vaddara's net-zero and solid waste management goals. Delivered through practical demonstrations, the trainings received strong appreciation and reinforced the city's commitment to clean, safe, and sustainable urban services.

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5-6 November 2025

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA CONDUCTS TRAINING ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ORISSA, BANGLADESH

Vaddara Municipal Corporation, in partnership with ICLEI South Asia under the SDG-funded CapCITIES Phase III Project, conducted Zonal Micro Trainings for over 200 sanitation personnel across all city zones. The sessions aimed to strengthen their skills in waste segregation, safe handling, PPE use, and efficient collection practices, supporting Vaddara's net-zero and solid waste management goals. Delivered through practical demonstrations, the trainings received strong appreciation and reinforced the city's commitment to clean, safe, and sustainable urban services.

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26-28 November 2025

STRENGTHENING URBAN WASTE PLANNING: ICLEI SOUTH ASIA TRAINS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN NEPAL

ICLEI South Asia conducted an in-person local waste management training in Dharaghat, Nepal, under the SDG project funded by UK Aid and DfID, Canada through the CLARE programme. Twenty-nine officials from ten municipalities participated in the sessions on SWM challenges, frameworks, and planning tools, in addition to a field visit to local waste facilities. The training strengthened municipal capacities in source segregation, circular practices, and inclusive, climate-resilient waste management, with participants affirming strong interest in the continued support.

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19 November 2025

FROM WASTE TO RESILIENCE: CITIES EXCHANGE IDEAS FOR CLIMATE AND WASTE ACTION UNDER CITIES PEER LEARNING PROGRAMME

ICLEI South Asia conducted a webinar on Solid Waste Management and Circular City under COWA's year-long training and peer-exchange programme. Eighteen officials from eleven municipalities across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka discussed challenges in source segregation, recovery, and circular waste-to-source solutions. Participants reported a better understanding and welcomed continued capacity-building through the upcoming webinars.

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1 and 5 November 2025

TAMIL NADU ACCELERATES DISTRICT-LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION: ICLEI SOUTH ASIA DRIVES TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

ICLEI South Asia contributed to Tamil Nadu's advancing climate agenda through its participation in CCCDM's seminar on climate science and the workshop on understanding District Climate Action Plans (DCAPs) in Chennai. The team showcased tools for data-driven, district-level climate planning and shared insights from the SDG-funded CapCITIES project on adaptation and water resilience. With strong engagement from government, partners, and youth, the event reinforced Tamil Nadu's push for structured, science-based climate action across districts.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

Amazon India, ICLEI South Asia collaborate to establish 25 urban food gardens in Karnataka schools by 2027

November 21, 2025 **ACADEMIC** 3 minute read



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