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THE ARISE-COP30 CONTINUUM FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES

As we prepare to come together at COP30 - the global climate negotiation and decision-making forum in Belém, Brazil, in mid-November 2025, the moment demands more than promise.

Through the dedicated Cities & Regions Hub co-convened by UN-Habitat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, cities and regions are given a distinct and central space within the COP framework — signalling a shift from negotiators-only to ‘implementation’ focus. This hub serves as the melting pot of ideas, solutions, and discussions on the multilevel climate agenda and cities aligning with the ambitions and targets laid down by their respective national governments through NDC 3.0.

At this juncture, the Global South’s voice must resonate more strongly than ever. With their rapid urbanisation, bold commitments, and community-led innovations, cities in South Asia and the Asia Pacific are already charting pathways that the world can learn from.

And, ICLEI South Asia is proud to stand at the forefront of these efforts.

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SPOTLIGHT

THE DELHI DECLARATION

FROM BHARAT TO BELÉM: IDEAS TO IMPLEMENTATION



The ‘Delhi Declaration’ on Local Action for Global Climate Goals emerged as the key outcome of the first ARISE Cities Forum 2025 co-hosted by ICLEI South Asia and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The Delhi Declaration unites voices from across the Global South in a shared call for stronger, multilevel cooperation and accelerated urban climate action, setting the stage for the upcoming COP30 at Belém, Brazil.

By aligning with COP30’s Action Agenda and echoing the outcomes of the Global Stocktake, it signals that urban leadership is central to achieving the Paris Agreement’s goals. It strengthens the LGMs’ long-standing advocacy for recognising subnational contributors through enhanced NDCs 3.0, equitable access to climate finance, and systemic inclusion of local priorities in global policy.

As this document travels from Delhi to Belém, it carries the unified call of cities — not just to be heard at COP, but to be recognised as partners shaping the decisions, resources, and resilience frameworks that define our shared climate future.

[READ THE DELHI DECLARATION HERE](#)

ACTION ON THE GROUND



SHOWCASING BOLD URBAN SOLUTIONS: ICLEI AND ICLEI SOUTH ASIA AT ASUF 2025

ICLEI South Asia and the ICLEI World Secretariat created an impactful presence at the second ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) in Kuala Lumpur. The team co-convened high-level dialogues and training sessions, and showcased innovative approaches to green and resilient urban development across the Asia-Pacific region. ICLEI’s participation underscored the importance of local innovation, inclusive governance, and climate leadership in driving sustainable urban transitions, while also strengthening partnerships and capacity-building support for cities in the region.

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TAMIL NADU STRENGTHENS GREEN COMMITMENTS WITH CHENNAI’S CBI LAUNCH

In a major step towards strengthening its biodiversity conservation efforts, Chennai released its City Biodiversity Index (CBI) in the presence of Hortile Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M. K. Stalin. ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company and relevant State and city departments, developed this CBI. By also announcing the development of additional CBIs across the state, the Tamil Nadu Government has reaffirmed its commitment to global and national frameworks, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the SDGs, and India’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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AHMEDABAD LEADS THE WAY IN NET-ZERO CLIMATE ACTION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL URBAN CONCLAVE AND MAYORAL SUMMIT 2025

Ahmedabad hosted the National Urban Conclave and Mayor’s Summit, bringing together over 80 city leaders from 35+ Indian cities to celebrate the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and discuss sustainable urban governance. Eminent Kumar Sanjay Datta, ICLEI South Asia, shared Ahmedabad’s experience in implementing its Net-Zero Climate Resilient City Action Plan, highlighting best practices in climate action planning, green finance, green infrastructure, and embedding sustainability into municipal budgets. The session also showcased ICLEI’s support to cities in scaling low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development across India.

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BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A NET-ZERO ASIA: ALP CHARTS PATHWAYS TO RESILIENT ENERGY AND MOBILITY

At the ‘2025 Exchange Forum on the Asia Low Emission Development Strategies Partnership’ in Chengdu, China, the Asia LEED Partnership Secretariat highlighted the region’s successes, challenges, and support needs in its path to achieving the 2050 net-zero goal. The Forum continued ALP’s mission of promoting policy dialogue, sharing practical experience, and strengthening regional cooperation on decarbonisation and green growth, in line with COP30’s focus areas. ALP aims to support countries to develop country-led strategic plans to accelerate resilient, just, and inclusive low-emission and net-zero development across Asia.

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VADODRA STRENGTHENS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP WITH LAUNCH OF CAPACITY PHASE III

Vadodra Municipal Corporation and ICLEI South Asia signed an MoU for Phase III of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-funded CapaCITIES project. This phase of the project will support the city’s Net-zero and Climate Cell, develop sector-wise action plans under the Net-zero CRCAP 2070, and prepare a Climate Investment Plan 2030. Building on Phase II achievements, including the Miyawaki urban forest initiative, Vadodra continues its path toward a net-zero, climate-resilient future with ICLEI South Asia’s technical support.

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FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION: ICLEI SOUTH ASIA SUPPORTS PENANG’S GCAP MILESTONE

ICLEI South Asia participated in the Penang Green City Action Plan (GCAP) Poster Exhibition in Malaysia, which showcased the city’s journey in developing sustainable climate action plans. The exhibition highlighted the GCAP methodology, project financing, and findings on urban systems, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate risks. The Penang Island GCAP serving as a roadmap for resilient growth, outlines 11 goals, 24 strategies, and 57 actions across 11 sectors to advance low-carbon development and strengthen the city’s climate resilience.

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BUILDING A CLIMATE-SMART AMARAVATI: STAKEHOLDERS UNITE FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAPITAL CITY

ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), convened a multi-stakeholder consultation in Amravati to review the city’s Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). Stakeholders assessed Amravati’s climate risks and sectoral priorities, identifying pathways for renewable energy integration, sustainable mobility, and nature-based solutions to build a low-carbon, climate-resilient capital. Feedback from participants will inform the revision of the CCAP, shaping Amravati’s transition towards a net-zero and sustainable urban future.

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STRENGTHENING SOUTH ASIAN CITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE: COKN BEGINS YEAR-LONG TRAINING INITIATIVE

ICLEI South Asia organised a two-day training and peer-exchange workshop on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in New Delhi, launching a year-long capacity-building initiative for city officials under the third phase of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) – Accelerating Inclusive Action programme. City officials from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka engaged in hands-on sessions on resilience planning, DRR, sustainable SWM, and inclusive urban governance. The programme aims to strengthen local capacities for planning, financing, and implementing climate-resilient actions, fostering peer learning and practical knowledge exchange across South Asian cities.

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TRAINING ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING FOR SELECTED CITIES IN NEPAL

ICLEI South Asia conducted a training programme on solid waste management (SWM) in Nepal to strengthen the capacity of local governments and practitioners. Held under the SIRA project, the training covered key aspects of SWM, including the fundamentals, national policies, participatory planning, and technology options. The participants shared that the sessions were highly relevant to their daily work and appreciated the focus on practical exercises and peer exchange.

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INNOVATION IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE: ICLEI SOUTH ASIA LEVERAGES CSR FUND TO ELECTRIFY SHIMLA’S SWM

Shimla Municipal Corporation, with ICLEI South Asia and CSR support from Sanku ji Vidyut Nigam (SVN) Limited, inducted two electric solid waste collection vehicles—the first in Himachal Pradesh’s solid waste management (SWM) fleet. The pilot demonstrates climate-smart urban service delivery, reducing emissions and operational costs, while providing evidence for scaling EV adoption across municipal fleets. ICLEI South Asia supported project design, financing, and implementation, highlighting pathways for hill cities and other ULBs to transition to low-emission municipal services.

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UPSILLING FOR A CLEAN MOBILITY FUTURE: HIMACHAL PRADESH CONDUCTS TRAINING ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES

To strengthen electric mobility skills in Himachal Pradesh, ICLEI South Asia, with support from the State Transport Department, organised a week-long Electric Vehicle (EV) training programme at ITI Mandi. The programme upskilled 12 ITI instructors through theoretical and hands-on sessions on EV design, components, charging systems, and maintenance. The training, part of ICLEI’s initiative to accelerate e-mobility adoption, aimed to build technical capacity for a growing EV ecosystem, promote sustainable transport, and contribute to the SDGs on quality education, clean energy, innovation, and climate action.

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INTEGRATING LOCAL PRIORITIES INTO GLOBAL GOALS: WORK BEGINS FOR UTTARAKHAND’S BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board and UNDP India, convened a stakeholder workshop in Dehradun to launch the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) for Uttarakhand. Bringing together over 40 representatives from the state government, academia, and civil society, the consultation identified key themes and priority sectors for biodiversity conservation. These discussions will guide the next phase of work, which will entail assessing the current status of biodiversity in the state and identifying gaps.

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ICLEI SOUTH ASIA CHAMPIONS PEOPLE-CENTRED, CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES AT THE LOW CARBON CITIES FORUM IN BANGKOK

ICLEI South Asia participated in the ‘S3’ International Forum on Low Carbon Cities & 2025 Regional Partners Forum on Sustainable Urban Development’ held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum brought together representatives from national and local governments, international organisations, academia, and civil society to deliberate on the theme ‘Low-Carbon Cities and Demographic Change’. ICLEI South Asia highlighted that policies need to be contextualised to the realities of the Global South. While policymakers should embrace technology-based solutions, they must ensure inclusivity to make certain that no one is left behind.

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BUILDING YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN FUTURES

At the 2025 TYA Conference in Singapore, themed ‘Inspire, Empower, Sustain: Youth for 2030’ and organised by the Tzu Chi Foundation, ICLEI South Asia engaged with youth leaders from 14 countries to advance dialogue on climate action, sustainable cities, and community resilience. Through its Youth and Sustainability programme and initiatives such as the Youth for Climate Hackathon, launched at the ARISE Cities Forum in October 2025 in New Delhi, ICLEI highlighted the role of young people in driving innovative, locally relevant climate solutions. The conference strengthened youth-stakeholder partnerships, enhanced capacity to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and emphasised the importance of mental well-being in sustaining long-term engagement.

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