

[View this email in your browser](#)



Penang Island Green City Action Plan (GCAP) officially approved, marking a significant step towards sustainable urban development and climate resilience.

E-Newsletter - March 2025



Dear Readers,

February proved to be a milestone month for ICLEI South Asia - with our work on climate action plans. Ahmedabad in Gujarat, took a major step by introducing India's first dedicated climate chapter in its municipal budget. This climate budget, which is aligned with India's net zero emissions goal, builds upon the Climate Resilient City Action Plan developed with our support and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). This was a significant win in our effort to bring in a holistic approach to our climate work - from planning, to budgeting, and now implementation being the next.

Other than the Ahmedabad success, we continued our hands-on efforts, reinforcing our commitment to building stronger, more sustainable, and more inclusive cities in India and globally, by supporting climate planning, strengthening capacities, sharing our ground experiences through forums and international visits.

At Bangkok, we supported the Asian Institute of Technology-Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP) in conducting a three-day Regional Training Workshop under the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) 2030 initiative. Representatives from 13 local governments across seven countries came together to discuss ways to integrate climate resilience into urban planning. The training focused on using different tools for cities to undertake actions to reduce the impacts of climate and other disasters, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Meanwhile, in Malaysia, Penang's Green City Action Plan (GCAP) was signed and approved at a meeting of the State Executive Council for Infrastructure and Transport, Penang State Government with representatives from ICLEI South Asia, the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Two workshops were also organised that focused on training and discussions to support the implementation of the GCAP.

In India, our work under the CapaCITIES project received recognition from a visiting SDC delegation in Rajkot. The delegation, led by Head of Cooperation, SDC India, Philippe Sas and Co-Head of the Climate, Risk Reduction and Environment Section, SDC Berne, Chantal Felder appreciated the city's efforts in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge and solar energy adoption, which have become examples for sustainable urban planning.

We also shared our experiences at two important events, the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit and the Step Change workshop in Tanzania, and spoke about the value of community-led climate solutions. At the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit, we highlighted collaborative climate action with the state government and its cities, focusing on three Climate Resilient City Action Plans developed for Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirappalli as part of the CapaCITIES project. At the Step Change workshop, we shared valuable insights from our work on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction across Nepal, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka.

As part of our ongoing commitment to climate planning, we are working with Kakinada, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to develop Climate-Resilient City Action Plans. These cities are focusing on cutting emissions, increasing the use of renewable energy, and using nature-based solutions, turning plans into action.

The future is in our hands—let's make it a sustainable one through continued action and commitment, one step at a time.

Warm regards,

Emani Kumar

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Advancing Green City Action Plan Implementation in Penang

The Penang State Government of Malaysia approved the Penang Island GCAP on 19 February 2025. The meeting focused on executing priority projects, including floating solar PV, green mobility, wastewater reuse, waste management, flood warning, land asset monetisation, and energy audits. From 19-20 February 2025, ICLEI South Asia, IMT-GT JBC, and the ADB organised workshops at Penang Institute where city officials and experts discussed urban assessments, climate risks, emissions inventory, and GCAP project execution. The engagement reinforced collaboration and resource mobilisation, turning plans into action for sustainable urban development.

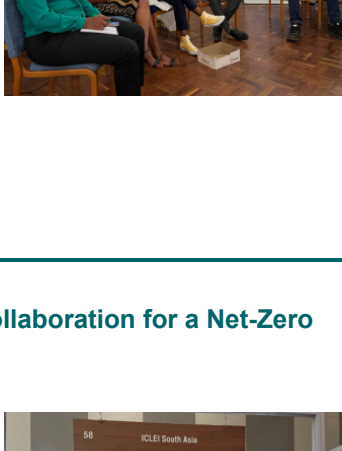
[Read More](#)



Swiss Delegation Visits Rajkot to Explore Sustainable Urban Solutions and Climate Initiatives

On 4 February 2025, a SDC delegation visited Rajkot to review its key projects carried out by ICLEI South Asia under the CapaCITIES project. They explored the groundwater recharge structure, solar energy systems at water treatment plants, and the green mobility zone implemented or supported under the project. The delegation also discussed Rajkot's Net-Zero Climate Resilient City Action Plan and ways to improve coordination and resource mobilisation with city officials.

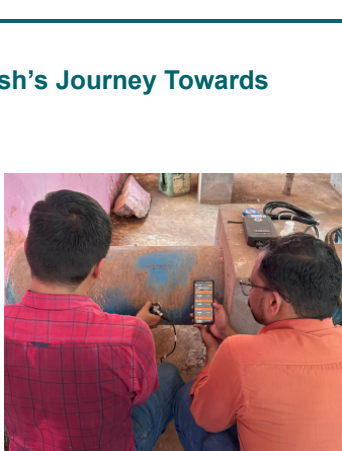
[Read More](#)



Regional Training Workshop on Enhancing Climate and Disaster Risk Resilient Cities in Asia and the Pacific

From 18-20 February 2025, ICLEI South Asia supported the Asian Institute of Technology - RRCAP in hosting a regional training in Bangkok under MCR 2030. Officials from local governments from South and Southeast Asia participated in the hands-on training on climate resilience, gender inclusivity, and disaster risk planning. Vijayawada Municipal Corporation shared insights on Net Zero Vision-2047, and participants committed to local resilience actions.

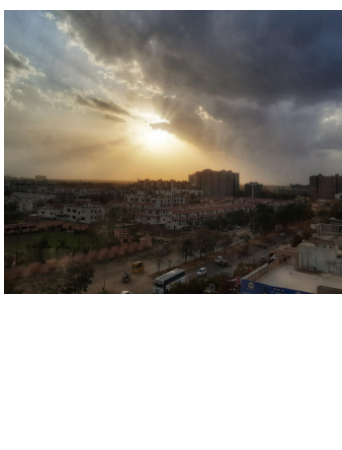
[Read More](#)



Lessons from South Asia: ICLEI South Asia at Step Change Workshop

From 11-14 February 2025, ICLEI South Asia attended the Step Change workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, organised by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN). There, ICLEI South Asia shared experiences from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka on community-led climate adaptation. Discussions highlighted the need for long-term local engagement for effective disaster resilience planning.

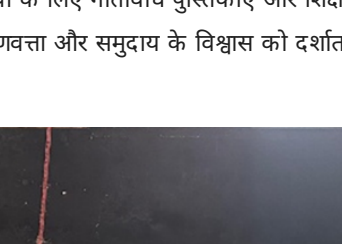
[Read More](#)



ICLEI South Asia at Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0: Driving Collaboration for a Net-Zero Future

On 4 and 5 February 2025, ICLEI South Asia participated in the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0 in Chennai, showcasing climate projects across South Asia. The team highlighted Climate Resilient City Action Plans for Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, and Tiruchirappalli under the CapaCITIES Project. Discussions focused on industrial decarbonisation, climate resilience, and electric mobility.

[Read More](#)



Kakinada, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam Lead Andhra Pradesh's Journey Towards Climate-Resilient and Net-Zero Cities

Kakinada, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam are implementing climate action plans under the "Mainstreaming Climate Action in Three Cities of Andhra Pradesh" project. Key efforts include energy audits, low-carbon building guidelines, heat-resilient infrastructure, and renewable energy integration to cut emissions and improve climate resilience, supporting Andhra Pradesh's goal of net-zero emissions by 2047.

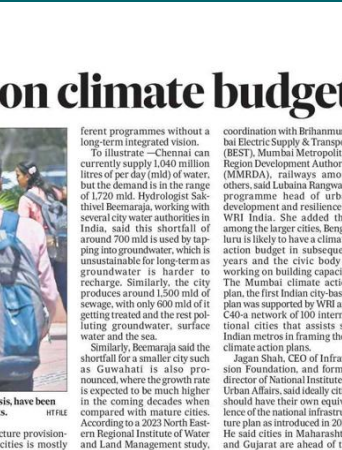
[Read More](#)



Ahmedabad Leads the Way with India's First Dedicated Climate Budget

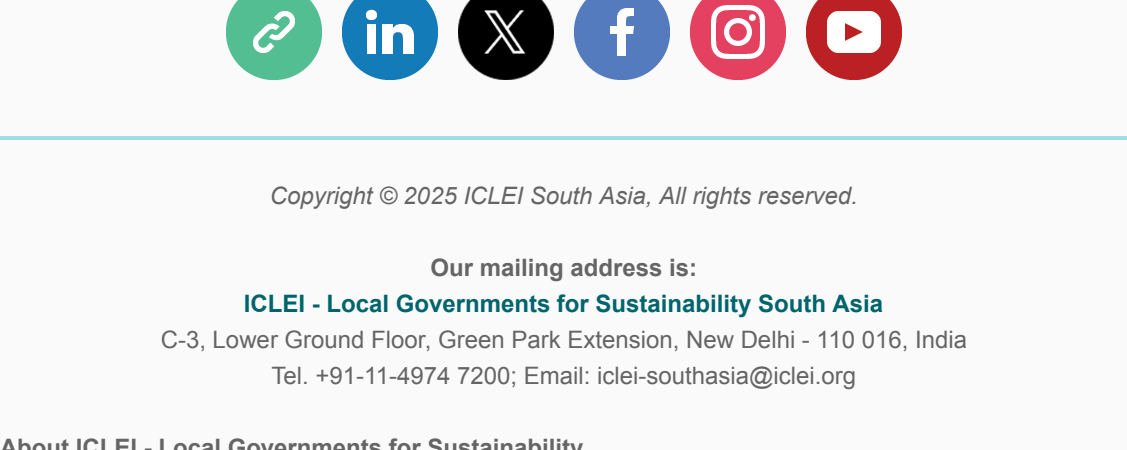
ICLEI South Asia's work on climate budgeting with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has made Ahmedabad the first Indian city to introduce a dedicated climate chapter in its municipal budget. Key areas include renewable energy, waste and water management, green infrastructure, and public transport. The AMC has also set up a dedicated climate cell to coordinate efforts and support India's goal of net zero emissions.

[Read More](#)



शहरी आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों का 'सूरत' मॉडल

सूरत का 'मॉडल आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र' शहरी क्षेत्रों के लिए एक आदर्श बन चुका है। यहाँ के केंद्रों में बच्चों के लिए ६ घंटे का कार्यकाल, पोषाहार, खेल सामग्री, और आयु अनुसार गतिविधियाँ प्रदान की जाती हैं। ८५% केंद्र स्थायी भवनों में संचालित होते हैं, जहाँ केंद्र कार्यकर्ता और सहायिका संचयी रूप से बच्चों के विकास पर ध्यान देती हैं। हर केंद्र में बच्चों के लिए गतिविधि पुस्तिकाएँ और शिक्षा सामग्री भी होती है। सूरत में बच्चों के उपस्थिति ८०% से अधिक रहती है, जो केंद्र की गुणवत्ता और समुदाय के विश्वास का दर्शाता है। यह मॉडल अन्य शहरों के लिए प्रेरणा है।



[Read More](#)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

CLIMATE RESILIENT ACTION PLAN | MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Ahmedabad first urban centre to focus on climate budget

Summary/Challenges: Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has introduced a dedicated climate chapter in its municipal budget for the financial year 2025-26, marking a significant milestone as the first Indian city to do so. The budget allocates ₹100 crore (approx. \$12.5 million) towards climate resilience and sustainable urban development initiatives. Key areas include renewable energy, waste and water management, green infrastructure, and public transport. The AMC has also set up a dedicated climate cell to coordinate efforts and support India's goal of net zero emissions.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES: Ahmedabad faces significant environmental challenges, including air pollution, water scarcity, and urban heat island effect. The city's rapid urbanization and industrial growth have exacerbated these issues, leading to increased vulnerability to climate change impacts. The dedicated climate budget aims to address these challenges through a holistic approach, integrating climate resilience into all municipal planning and development activities.

Lessons from Ahmedabad: The success of Ahmedabad's climate budget lies in its comprehensive nature, covering various sectors and allocating substantial resources. The city's leadership in introducing a dedicated climate chapter sets a precedent for other Indian cities, demonstrating the feasibility and importance of integrating climate resilience into municipal budgets. The dedicated climate cell will play a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of the budget and ensuring that the allocated funds are effectively utilized for climate resilience projects.

Impact and Future Outlook: The introduction of a dedicated climate budget in Ahmedabad is a landmark achievement that signifies the city's commitment to sustainable urban development and climate resilience. It paves the way for other Indian cities to follow suit, fostering a nationwide movement towards climate-resilient urban planning. The dedicated climate budget is expected to have a positive impact on the city's environment, economy, and the well-being of its residents, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for Ahmedabad.

How local infrastructure projects can help: Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure is crucial for enhancing a city's ability to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In Ahmedabad, key infrastructure projects include the development of green spaces, rainwater harvesting systems, and sustainable public transport. These projects not only improve the city's resilience but also contribute to a healthier and more sustainable urban environment. By prioritizing climate-resilient infrastructure, Ahmedabad is taking a proactive approach to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for its citizens.

Supporting programmes without a long-term impact: While the dedicated climate budget is a significant step, it is essential to ensure that the allocated funds are effectively utilized for long-term climate resilience projects. This requires a strong focus on monitoring and evaluation, as well as transparency in the budgeting process. The dedicated climate cell will be responsible for tracking the progress of the budget implementation and reporting on the impact of the various projects. By ensuring that the budget is effectively implemented, Ahmedabad can maximize the long-term benefits of its climate resilience efforts and contribute to the global goal of net zero emissions.

coordination with the government: The introduction of a dedicated climate budget in Ahmedabad is a landmark achievement that signifies the city's commitment to sustainable urban development and climate resilience. It paves the way for other Indian cities to follow suit, fostering a nationwide movement towards climate-resilient urban planning. The dedicated climate budget is expected to have a positive impact on the city's environment, economy, and the well-being of its residents, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for Ahmedabad.

MORE FROM ICLEI ACROSS THE GLOBE

- Global sustainability agendas: 10 things we're watching for in 2025
- Healing the Australian landscape: The wisdom of First Peoples and cultural burning

Copyright © 2025 ICLEI South Asia, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia
C-3, New Ground Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi - 110 016, India
Tel. +91-11-4974 7200; Email: iclei-southasia@iclei.org

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.

Want to change how these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

