



ICLEI World Congress 2015
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR AN URBAN FUTURE
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ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

Draft as of 8 April 2015

A5 - Mobilizing citizen engagement for sustainable cities

Date: Thursday, 09 April 2015

Time: 13:30– 15:00

Venue: U: US Building

Room: Seminar Room

Language(s): EN, KO

Session access: Open

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Summary

Citizen Engagement is a two-way process of exchanging opinions, ideas, information and expertise that enables local people to be part of goal setting, addressing problems. At the same time, citizens engagement involves them in the planning and delivery of innovative solutions in the public interest.

Citizens are better engaged at the local level than any other. In democratic societies, people's views and responses whether they find new solutions acceptable are considered side by side with professional decisions. Solutions for many urban problems often depend as much on public acceptance as on technical possibilities.

As societies transition away from fossil fuel driven lifestyles, citizens will need to be meaningfully engaged in order to see sustainable behavioral changes adopted and mainstreamed. This session will unite local governments that have effectively mobilized citizens around infrastructural investments and sustainability policies through highly successful community advocacy campaigns.

Best practices from local governments who have put citizens first across sectors including sustainable transport, smart urban infrastructure, and energy efficiency will share how a high-level of citizen engagement has been a critical success factor in boosting community buy in and performance in sustainability issues.

Experts and local governments present in the session will discuss the challenges and opportunities of deepening citizen engagement.

Objective

Participants will deepen their understanding of:

- Successful approaches to participatory culture in various global cities
- How to foster the participatory culture and political will needed as the basic preconditions for effective citizen engagement
- How to communicate and implement sustainability policies in a way which will foster greater citizen buy in.
- Best practices for complementing bottom up citizen and stakeholder led action with effective communication of sustainability strategies from the top down.

Methodology and timing

- Welcome by the Chair (3 min)
- Introductory remarks from the facilitator (5 minutes max)
- Introductory presentation (10 minutes)
- City presentations (3 x10 minutes)
- Discussion
 - Spotlights from the audience (10 minutes)
- Korean NGO Highlight – at bar table – (20 minutes total)
 - Introductory Statements (6 minutes)
 - Question to NGOs on their experience/similarities to presentations, differences (6 minutes)
 - Question from NGOs to City presenters (3 minutes)
- ICLEI Intervention (5 minutes) – Suwon: what happens next?
- Last question to panel and audience (10 min)
- Conclusion and thanks (facilitator 2 min)

Contributors

Chair

Reinhard Limbach, First Deputy Mayor of Bonn, Germany, City of Bonn, Germany

Facilitator

Susanne Nolden, International Affairs and Global Sustainability Officer, City of Bonn, Germany

Introductory presentation

- **Five years of Carbon Talks: Engaging citizens and key stakeholders in the transition to the low-carbon economy**
Claire Havens, Program Manager / Policy Analyst, *Renewable Cities, Centre for Dialogue - Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada*

City presentations

- **Växjö's green story: Becoming fossil fuel free with citizen and stakeholder involvement**
Bo Frank, *Mayor, City of Växjö, Sweden*
- **City of Yarra – Lessons from our Carbon Management Journey**
Phillip Vlahogiannis, *Mayor, City of Yarra, Australia*
- **Building citizens' engagement through the Green Outreach Programme and the upcoming EHCC Tshwamazing Race**
Dorah Nteo, *Chief Sustainability Specialist, Tshwane Municipality (Pretoria), South Africa*

Korean NGO highlight

- **Promotional Council of Incheon Agenda 21**
Heungryul Park, Secretary General
- **International Climate and Environment Center**
Nakpeong Lim, President
- **Green Korea**
Heaee Kim, Co-Representative

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Methodology

- Three Korean NGOs will join the panel for a 5 minute interaction on their work in focus.
 - Korean NGOs will have the platform to introduce themselves, to reflect on the presentations and on the relevance for their work and to ask a question to the panel:
1. Question allowing introduction of NGO – example:
How do you work with local governments? Do you provide local governments with tools or consultation on how to increase citizen engagement?
 2. Question to reflect on city presentations.
 3. Short Questions from NGO to panelists

What comes next? The EcoMobility World Festival 2013, Suwon, Korea

- Question from the facilitator to Santhosh Kodokula, ICLEI Global Coordinator for EcoMobility
 - You are currently preparing the next EcoMobility World Festival with Johannesburg, South Africa. Which of the lessons learnt in Suwon have been the most beneficial to this and future projects?

Round with questions from the NGOs and questions from the audience

Korean NGOs and audience members ask questions to the cities

Conclusion and Closing