

ICLEI Local Action Summit 2008 - North America

Experience. Leadership. Solutions.

ALBUQUERQUE, May 14th, German/US Partnership Project

The aim is to foster transatlantic cooperation and an exchange of best practices. The workshop will even discuss a newly developed climate benchmark system for cities and communities.

- 4.00 pm 40% - Climate Reduction Target of the Federal Government (Diana Nissler, Federal Environmental Agency, Germany)
- 4.10 pm Presentation of the partnership's idea of the Heinrich - Boell – Foundation (Arne Jungjohann, Heinrich – Boell – Foundation, Washington)
- 4.20 pm Presentation of the benchmark project (Hans Hertle, IFEU-Institute Heidelberg, Germany)
- 4.40 pm Leadership, Vision, Innovation, Partnership (David O'Donnell, City of Chicago Department of Environment - solicited)
- 4.50 pm The Hamburg Strategy to Combat Climate Change (Dr. Thomas Baehr, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Germany)
- 5:00 pm Discussion

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Local Governments Climate Partnership (LGCP)

Cities in Germany, Japan and the USA join forces to combat climate Change

Learning from each other and undertaking joint action in mitigating climate change are at the centre of the Local Governments Climate Partnerships initiative. Germany, the USA and Japan belong to the mightiest industrial nations of the G8 and are responsible for about 30 per cent of the worldwide CO₂ emissions. The per capita emissions range from 9.9 tons of CO₂ in Japan, 11.6 tons of CO₂ in Germany to 23.5 tons of CO₂ in the US. So exceptionally effective climate protection measures are needed to achieve the necessary emission reductions. The local level plays an essential role in this context.

Local Climate Protection goes transnational!

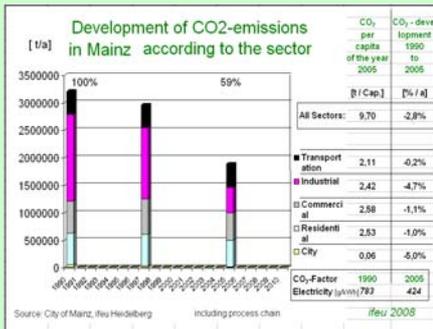
The LGCP initiative aims at supporting the elaboration and further development of town twinning in the field of climate protection. Representatives of the German cities participating in the project expressed that they expect a substantial expansion of their existing town twinning and socialising with cities in Japan and the USA. Furthermore benchmarking is seen as a chance for more commitment in climate protection and as an opportunity for exchange among the participating cities.

The LGCP Benchmark at a glance



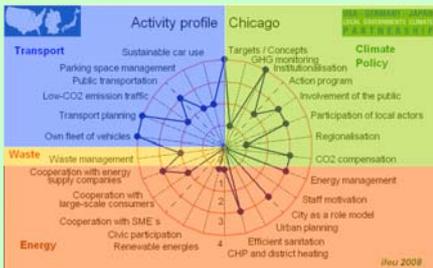
A new benchmarking system helps to assess local climate protection strategies under the different national framework conditions in Germany, Japan and the USA and reveals the most successful and efficient measures. As a result, a list of prior fields of action and instruments for initiating new and as many as possible joint climate change activities will be set up. Therefore the benchmarking is definitively not meant to rank the cities, but to enhance exchange of experience and to initiate joint action.

CO₂ Emission Display



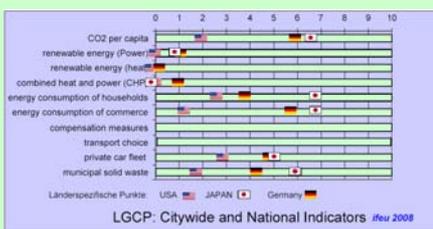
The historic development of city wide emissions is a major indicator concerning climate issues. The cities report data according to the main sector's industry, commerce, households, transport and waste. By also reporting energy consumption, major variations in CO₂ emission can be traced back to fluctuating industrial or commercial activities, a change in energy carriers or an effective increase in energy efficiency. The main challenge here will be the comparison of different results in spite of different balancing approaches in Germany, Japan and the U.S.

Activity Profiles



Activity profiles are used to scan the present state of the city's climate protection activities. The underlying matrix of activities includes 26 action fields in the categories "climate policy", "energy", "transport" and "waste". Each activity has been divided into four levels from beginners to climate leaders.

Set of Indicators



A set of 17 indicators completes the benchmarking system, gathering hard facts about the city's climate impact and revealing in what fields the city has achieved significant progress and which actions fields should be enforced. The result is given by a point scale from 0-10.

Additional Information

http://www.ifeu.org/english/index.php?bereich=ene&seite=climate_partnership

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Opportunities for Exchange of Experience

Cities in Germany, Japan and the US can be involved in the LGCP initiative as follows:

- All municipalities that want to participate in the benchmarking will provide their reports and concepts with data and activities.
- German municipalities which have twin towns in the USA and Japan and would like to deepen their partnership in the area of protecting the environment can contact them and invite them to participate in this venture.
- All municipalities that are or want to be dedicated to climate protection and want to work with a city in one of these countries, the benchmarking helps to find an adequate partner.

Cities with “common climate protection experiences” like Heidelberg and Kumamoto or Munich and Sapporo already have good connection factors. Among most partner cities, there already exist activities that could be used as a basis – for example business development in the field of environmental studies, ecological exhibitions and fairs or cooperation at universities.

Several workshops focus on the question how local authorities can benefit from mutual assistance and motivate each other in strengthening local action. The principle aim is to work out recommendations to local (resp. regional or national) governments in order to strengthen climate change policies on the local level. Results will contribute to a better understanding of requirements and difficulties.

A highlight of this project, but at the same time a starting point for many joint climate protection activities of the partner cities is the conference in June 2008 in Germany with German and Japanese Cities.

Until today, more than 60 cities have joined the Local Governments Climate Partnership initiative:

Germany

Augsburg, Bonn, Dresden, Frankfurt am Main, Freiburg im Breisgau, Friedrichshafen, Esslingen am Neckar, Hamburg, Hannover, Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Köln, Lübeck, Mainz, München, Münster, Offenbach am Main

USA

Boston, Davenport, Madison, San Francisco, Seattle, Cincinnati, Chicago

Japan

Amongst others: Hiroshima, Kawasaki, Kitakyushu, Kobe, Kumamoto, Matsumoto, Matsuyama, Nagahama, Nagoya, Sapporo, Shizuoka, Tajimi, Tsuchiura, Yokohama, Yokosuka and the Prefectures of Fukui

Come and join the Local Governments Climate Partnership!



Further information

www.climatealliance.org

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The Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) is a non-profit organization striving to promote democracy, a civil society, human rights, and a global healthy environment. It is affiliated with the German Green Party. Headquartered in Berlin, it has 25 offices worldwide. The Washington D.C. office of HBF was created in 1998.

In 2008 HBF launched the Transatlantic Climate Policy Group, a two year program that aims at fostering transatlantic dialogue on climate and energy policies. The Transatlantic Climate Policy Group seeks to engage policymakers, research analysts, experts, and media on both sides of the Atlantic in order to identify common ground for transatlantic cooperation and collaboration on a multilevel policy approach (regional, state and federal).

More information can be found at <http://www.boell.org/ClimatePolicy>

For the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) it is of crucial importance to encourage the transatlantic exchange of best practices in climate policies on the city level.

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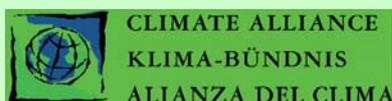


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IFEU – Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Heidelberg is a nonprofit private company founded 1978. Its expertise covers areas like environmental implications of transport, energy supply and renewable energy sources, life cycle assessment, air pollution control, sustainable development, environmental impact assessment, and environmental management.

IFEU is responsible for developing the Benchmark of the LGCP project.

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The Climate Alliance supports its 1500 European member cities and municipalities in the development and implementation as well as in the evaluation and monitoring of measures to mitigate climate change.

The Climate Alliance is promoting the climate partnership of communities within the LGCP project.



The aim of the research and development project is an active exchange of local climate change policies among German municipalities and their sister cities in Japan and the US on behalf of the German Federal Environment Agency.



ICLEI USA is supporting the American workshop of the LGCP project in Albuquerque.