

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.1

Post travel report by Councillor Arron Wood: 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), Paris, December 2015

16 February 2016

Presenter: Councillor Arron Wood

Purpose and background

1. To report to the Future Melbourne Committee (Committee) on the travel undertaken by Councillor Arron Wood to Paris, France to attend the 2015 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) between 1 and 11 December 2015.
2. On 10 November 2015, the Committee approved the proposal for Councillor Wood to travel to participate in COP21.
3. COP 21 was also the meeting time and location for a major gathering of C40 cities, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and 100 Resilient Cities. The City of Melbourne is a member of all three networks.
4. Councillor Cathy Oke and Kate Vinot, Director, City Strategy and Place also attended COP 21.

Key issues

5. In his capacity as Environment Portfolio Chair, Councillor Wood attended COP21 to participate in discussions and forums involving representatives from over 140 of the world's major cities.
6. The role and influence of cities will be significant and at the forefront of the impacts of, and the solutions to, climate change. Currently 53 per cent of the world's population live in cities, with that percentage expected to grow to over 70 per cent by 2050.
7. Participation in COP 21 enabled the City of Melbourne to achieve three key objectives:
 - 7.1. Co-representation (with over 140 of the world's major cities) to demonstrate the important role of cities in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The gathering of city representatives successfully influenced formal recognition of the role of cities within the final COP 21 agreement.
 - 7.2. Presentation by the City of Melbourne to audiences at more than ten events at Le Bourget (green and blue zones) and the Hotel de Ville, to illustrate the initiatives taken by our city.
 - 7.3. Meetings with the mayors, councillors and administration representatives from over 50 cities to share best practice, lessons learned and planned initiatives to combat climate change and increase resilience. The meetings also built relationships and networks for future information exchanges.
8. Councillor Wood was a speaker at a number of forums and meetings and these and other gatherings provided a good opportunity to exchange experience and insight with numerous peer cities. Further details on key activities, benefits and outcomes are included as Attachment 2.

Recommendation

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the report by Councillor Arron Wood on City of Melbourne participation in COP21 in Paris between 1 and 11 December 2015.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 8)
2. Key activities, benefits and outcomes (page 3 of 8)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The cost associated with participation by Councillor Wood was partially funded by C40. The cost to Council was \$10,926.35 which included airfare (\$7,441.55) accommodation (\$2,783.75) and incidental costs (\$701.05).

Conflict of interest

2. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Relation to Council policy

3. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
4. Participation by Councillor Wood at COP21 supported Council advancing delivery of the Eco-City goal.
5. Melbourne is a member of C40 cities, ICLEI and 100 Resilient Cities, all of which held major meetings during COP21.

Environmental sustainability

6. Involvement in COP21 provided opportunities to further Council's sustainability objectives and promotion of Melbourne's reputation as a global leader.
7. The purchase of carbon offsets reduced the carbon emissions impact of the flights.

KEY ACTIVITIES, BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

21st Conference of Parties (Cop 21), Paris, France, December 2015

1. Background

The formal COP 21 meeting was held at Le Bourget which comprised nation-state negotiators and nationally-supported trade shows in the Blue Zone, with further trade shows nearby in the Green Zone. Other city events were held at the Hotel de Ville (Paris Town Hall).

COP 21 was also the meeting time and location for a major gathering of C40 cities, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and 100 Resilient Cities

Councillor Wood attended events and made numerous formal and informal presentations at both locations. He also attended additional trade shows at the Stade de France and the Bassin de la Villette and the forecourt of the Hotel de Ville, and functions at the Australian Embassy, the Eiffel Tower and at various meeting places.

2. Key benefits of participation

The benefits for the City of Melbourne of achieving the aforementioned objectives include:

- International recognition of some of the innovative approaches that the City of Melbourne is adopting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt our city to the possible impacts of climate change
- Recognition of our support for, and contribution to, key international city networks such as C40, ICLEI and 100 Resilient Cities
- Insight into the specific initiatives of other cities' approaches to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including what has worked and not worked for them (lessons learned etc)
- Reinforcement of international networks of peers to continue to share knowledge and insight into climate change and related city challenges.

Associated meetings, trade shows and exhibitions provided Councillors and administration with ideas for further exploration for their relevance to the Melbourne context including initiatives around freight trams; electric share vehicles and public charging stations; green walls and roofs; micro wind generation; affordable housing; co-procurement of renewable energy; revitalisation of indigenous vegetation; public composting services; key focus areas for enhanced urban resilience.

3. Speaking roles at key meetings and forums

➤ C40/ARUP Opportunity for Action – What's next for cities?

Audience: open to the public as well as C40 and Arup guests and partners

C40's Opportunities report sets out where cities go from Paris into 2016 and beyond, framing the vast volume of climate action yet to be taken and prioritising future actions. The report demonstrates that without cross sector collaboration, cities cannot overcome challenges and realise this potential. The aim of the event was to launch the report and to invite expressions of interest from stakeholders who can deliver and enable climate action in cities and to be involved in the second phase of the work planned for 2016.

Councillor Wood addressed the session on the following:

- the challenges Melbourne faces in taking climate action and the solutions implemented.
- as a C40 city member leading on climate action the key priorities and successes for Melbourne.
- the main challenges that prevent Melbourne from being even more ambitious.
- how national governments, private sector and civil society work in Melbourne to unlock more climate action.

➤ **Carbon Market Institute's Spotlight on Australia**

Audience: approximately 100 – Australian delegates, international business and government representatives

1. Spotlight on Australia – Policy, Business & Markets

The session focussed on:

- current state of play in Australia and developments at a state level
- the Government's plan to meet 2030 targets
- how the Emissions Reduction Fund is operating
- Australia's domestic carbon market and the way businesses are starting to carve out leadership positions

2. Climate Action at the state and municipal level

The session offered the opportunity to share Melbourne's insight and experience with a focus on key actions and challenges.

➤ **Compact of Mayors UNFCCC Official side event (ICLEI core partner)**

The Compact establishes a common platform to capture the impact of cities' collective actions through standardised measurement of emissions and climate risk, and consistent, public reporting of their efforts. The side event presented an opportunity to update the UNFCCC negotiators with the achievements of the Compact of Mayors over time. The event also aimed to create an opportunity of dialogue to explore options for enhanced engagement of local and subnational governments in raising the level of ambition and accelerating climate action at all levels based on the outcomes of the COP21 in Paris.

Session II : Voices of Mayors Committed and Complying with Compact of Mayors

- This was an opportunity for Councillor Wood to update the forum on Melbourne's actions and achievements to date to comply with the Compact of Mayors. Melbourne's Zero Net Emissions target by 2020 is one of the most ambitious goals in the C40 Climate Leadership Group of 78 cities.



4. Specific insights and lessons for sharing:

City energy efficiency initiatives

- Nanjing has financed 5000 new buses this year; London has identified that it is possible to have 100 per cent electric double decker buses and costs have fallen 10 per cent since last year.
- LED lighting is common now, and a number of cities have moved to extract from fossil fuel investments (e.g. Portland, Oregon).
- Paris using electric share vehicles.
- Paris proposes to use water from the Seine to provide city heater exchangers and demonstrated some innovative wind generation structures and heat exchangers for use in ICT rooms.



- Copenhagen has centralised heating and cooling using river water at 70 per cent GHG saving.
- Tshwane, South Africa using biomass fuel and CNG buses; in-line hydro power; and green procurement.
- Norway pushing for hydro and geothermal energy production.
- Mayor Parks Tau, Johannesburg, spoke of auditing the entire building stock in the city with the aim of getting them to do retrofits. They are taking a partnership rather than regulatory approach with residential building property owners. CNG/hybrid buses being converted to biogas.
- Mayor of Shimba, India, spoke of already having 55% urban forest and aiming for zero emissions. They prevent people from buying cars if they do not have parking spaces (with the support of the court).
- Sustainability Victoria spoke about their initiatives to achieve energy efficiency in city buildings.
- C40 announced an award next year for the best copy of someone else's idea.

Financing climate change reduction and adaptation

- Elon Musk spoke about removing tax and other economic incentives that encourage negative behaviour
- President Francois Hollande spoke about the need for green fund to finance projects
- Mark Watts (C40) – 70 per cent of reported city climate initiatives have been funded by the cities themselves, this needs to change and new funding models need to be identified. Dan Fenger of Bloomberg Philanthropies spoke of leveraging the private sector, entrepreneurial funding, risk capital rather than adopting a “development bank” type approach.
- Portland, Oregon using green bonds; while Johannesburg's partnership with the stock exchange to raise money through green bonds was 150 times over-subscribed. It enabled the city to do larger projects than they could normally have envisaged.
- Flood insurance, other insurance can be better harnessed to guide appropriate investment (New Orleans)
- Washington DC imposing fees for impervious services to finance stormwater infrastructure, and developer fees going into a green building fund as well as green roofs in schools. They have also received strong support through the Green Building Act. Washington DC also putting cafes and a hotel into some parks to raise revenue. They have raised significant general revenue and have to rethink the levels for new parks. Bag fee pays for polluted water restoration and education.
- Washington DC embarking on their second round of collective renewable energy purchase according to Zoe Sprigings, C40, and they have lessons learned to share from their first round.
- Seoul Mayor Lee Hae-Sik explained that they needed to focus on energy efficiency in preference to feed-in tariffs.
- Green Ribbon initiative in Boston, initiated by Council, funded by philanthropy, and led by business groups. Strong representation, with good speakers and significant meaningful contribution in terms of green infrastructure, green bonds, renewable energy from the members.

Living with climate change risk

- Counterparts at the City of Paris spoke of two significant resilience risks for the city, namely a major flood and social cohesion.
- The Mayors of Rotterdam and New Orleans gave an impressive exchange on their approach to living with water risk rather than fighting against it – floating forests, floating houses, plazas to store water then pump out later, three floors of garages over two floors of water storage basin to pump out later. Rotterdam's populations cannot flee flood waters except to high buildings and it needs to design for this.
- Philippines representative spoke of being in typhoon corridor. A low lying coastal area with rapid urbanisation has experienced five super typhoons in 2015.
- Important to avoid urban sprawl to reduce extra energy demand.

Freight trams and urbanism

Councillor Wood attended an exhibition in front of the Hotel de Ville which included images depicting an imagined future state with urban forests, revitalised urban waterways, micro-energy generation and double-decked trams (with underground power) and freight trams.



City of Paris officials explained that they had trialled freight trams and learned a number of things from the initiative that they were willing to share..

Wuhan's aim is for 60 per cent of transport to be public transport.

Several strong calls for sustainable and integrated urban planning.

City Health Dashboard

Discussion explored with a number of cities on how they measure and report on how well their city is going. C40's focus was more on numbers of actions and implementation, not on "state" indicators.

C40 (with ICLEI) has developed a new reporting tool for adaptation planning and implementation.

Veolia is looking at sensor cities and city dashboards and inform that Portland, London and Boston have a form of "smart city dashboards".

City indigenous initiatives

Discussion with City of Washington DC centred on how they worked to recognise indigenous heritage (plants and people) of their city. This had been done extensively for native vegetation with good results, but they had not focussed on recognition of their Native American heritage. Replanting of native vegetation, seed give-aways etc.

They are using camera traps to educate/raise awareness and engage the community on the value that is being generated and what is being protected. They have engaged community members to be 'frog listeners' and are sending reporters out with a bird spotter; have positive stories of the benefits of the feral cat program.

City compost and carbon sequestration initiatives

San Francisco had a simple sustainability approach:

Goal	Measure
0	Waste
50	% Sustainable trips
100	% Renewable energy by 2050
Roots	Carbon sequestration

Returning soil carbon to agricultural areas around the city – already 83% diversion from landfill.

Affordable Housing

Washington DC did a 24hr Hackathon on a zero waste public-private-partnership business model, and has “inclusionary zoning” for 8 per cent affordable housing (30 per cent of housing on government land for development must be affordable housing, they have three levels: <80 per cent of median income; <60 per cent of median income and <30 per cent of median income and time restrictions on how much you can sell it for.

5. List of key meetings, forums and other activities

Outlined below is a list of some of the key meetings, forums and activities attended. Where appropriate, a web link is included for further information and reference.

- **Executive Secretary's Paris Dialogues**
http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/meeting/8926/php/view/dailyprogramme.php
- **Climate Summit for Local Leaders**
<http://climatesummitlocalleaders.paris/>
- **C40 Forum**
<http://www.c40.org/>
- **2015 C40 Cities Awards** – The City of Melbourne was shortlisted in the two categories, namely 'Adaptation Planning and Assessment' and 'Smart Cities and Smart Community Engagement' categories
<http://www.c40.org/awards>
- **Carbon neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) event**
<http://usdn.org/public/page/13/CNCA>
- **C40/Yale Climate Dialogue Event: Cities and Climate Change – Energising Climate Action through Commitments and City Climate Finance**
http://www.c40.org/blog_posts/c40-and-yale-team-up-at-cop21-to-energize-city-scale-financing-in-order-to-deliver-more-climate-action
- **LPAA Focus: Renewable Energy forum**
<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/about/>
- **100% Renewable Energy Cities and Regions on stage, jointly hosted by ICLEI, Renewable Cities and World Future Council**
http://e-lib.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/100RE_CitesRegions_Network_BROCHURE-web.pdf
- **100 Resilient Cities event**
<http://www.100resilientcities.org/#/-/>
- **C40/Realdania: Compact of Mayors event**
<http://www.compactofmayors.org/>
- **Copenhagen-Vancouver joint COP21 event**
- **Meeting with San Francisco officials** - representative of San Francisco Department of Environment
- **Meeting with City of Paris officials** - management of issues associated with lovelocks bridges
- **Meetings with Australian officials** - included reception and meetings with representatives including Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australian Ambassador to France and Cultural Attaché of the Australian Embassy